

Date: 19th February 2015
Our ref: 142103 Kineton NP
Your ref:



Georgina Lowe,
Clerk to Kineton Parish Council,
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Dear Georgina Lowe,

Kineton Neighbourhood Development Plan to 2031 Consultation Draft

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 9th January 2015 which was received by email on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England welcomes the neighbourhood plan and generally approves of its content.

The key environmental assets within the vicinity of Kineton Parish are Oxhouse Farm Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Lobbington Hall Farm Meadow SSSI and the Cotwolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The urban area of Kineton has a hydrological link to the SSSIs via the River Dean. Given the scale of development proposed by the neighbourhood plan and Policy E8 we are confident that the sites put forward could be deliverable but further clarification on what would constitute an '*unacceptable risk to the quality of a water body*' could be used to further insure the integrity of these nationally designated sites of ecological importance.

Natural England considers the environmental policies in the plan to be reasonably comprehensive. Other elements of the plan are considered low risk and we will not therefore be offering further bespoke comments. The lack of more detailed comment from Natural England should not be interpreted as a statement that there are no impacts on the natural environment. Other bodies and individuals may make comments that will help the Parish/Town Council or Neighbourhood Forum to fully take account of the natural environment in the plan-making process.

If, as you develop your plan, you consider that it will significantly impact on designated nature conservation sites or protected species or has other significant impacts on the natural environment then you should consult Natural England again.

For information, Natural England, together with the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Forestry Commission has published joint advice on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at: <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mediafile/100097965/natural-and-historic-environmental-guidance.pdf>

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Jamie Melvin on 2497. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send

your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Mr Jamie Melvin
Planning Adviser
South Mercia Team