

✓
PI (TA)
Stephen Anyanwu

From: Consultations (NE) [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk]
Sent: 04 February 2015 09:42
To: Planning
Subject: N6/2015/0034/MA
Attachments: 143765 NE Response.pdf; Feedback form.pdf; ATT00001.txt

PLANNING
DEPARTMENT

04 FEB 2015

RECEIVED

For the attention of Mr T Allington

Please find Natural England's response in relation to the above mentioned consultation attached herewith.

We welcome your feedback on Natural England's revised standing advice. Please provide comments and suggested improvements regarding usability, quality of content and its clarity and effectiveness as a tool in guiding decision-making using the text box on the attached customer feedback form. Alternatively email your feedback directly to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Regards,

Zoe Bratley
Natural England
Sustainable Development Consultations Team
Electra Way
Crewe Business Park
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ
Tel:0300 060 1204

Consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

www.gov.uk/natural-england

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

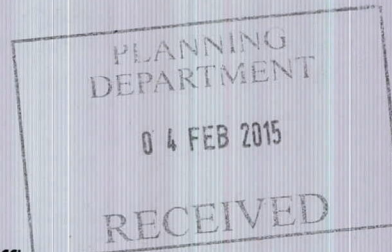
In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid web conferencing.

**CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE**



Natural England is accredited to the Cabinet Office Customer Service Excellence Standard

Date: 04 February 2015
Our ref: 143765
Your ref: N6/2015/0034/MA



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Hertfordshire
AL8 6AE

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Allington,

Planning consultation: Change of use of B1a Business use to C3 (Residential) use and erection of 23 dwellings with associated access, landscaping and ancillary works.

Location: Broadwater House 43 Broadwater Road Welwyn Garden City AL7 3AX

Thank you for your consultation on the above which was dated and received by Natural England on 30 January 2015

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.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)

Natural England's comments in relation to this application are provided in the following sections.

Statutory nature conservation sites – no objection

This application is in close proximity to the Sherrardspark Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Natural England is satisfied that the proposed development being carried out in strict accordance with the details of the application, as submitted, will not damage or destroy the interest features for which the site has been notified. We therefore advise your authority that this SSSI does not represent a constraint in determining this application. Should the details of this application change, Natural England draws your attention to Section 28(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), requiring your authority to re-consult Natural England.

Protected species

We have not assessed this application and associated documents for impacts on protected species.

Natural England has published Standing Advice on protected species.

You should apply our Standing Advice to this application as it is a material consideration in the determination of applications in the same way as any individual response received from Natural England following consultation.

The Standing Advice should not be treated as giving any indication or providing any assurance in respect of European Protected Species (EPS) that the proposed development is unlikely to affect the EPS present on the site; nor should it be interpreted as meaning that Natural England has reached any views as to whether a licence is needed (which is the developer's responsibility) or may be granted.

If you have any specific questions on aspects that are not covered by our Standing Advice for European Protected Species or have difficulty in applying it to this application please contact us with details at consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Green Infrastructure

The proposed development is within an area that Natural England considers could benefit from enhanced green infrastructure (GI) provision. Multi-functional green infrastructure can perform a range of functions including improved flood risk management, provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and biodiversity enhancement. Natural England would encourage the incorporation of GI into this development. Evidence and advice on green infrastructure, including the economic benefits of GI can be found on the Natural England [Green Infrastructure](#) web pages.

Local sites

If the proposal site is on or adjacent to a local site, e.g. Local Wildlife Site, Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site (RIGS) or Local Nature Reserve (LNR) the authority should ensure it has sufficient information to fully understand the impact of the proposal on the local site before it determines the application.

Biodiversity enhancements

This application may provide opportunities to incorporate features into the design which are beneficial to wildlife, such as the incorporation of roosting opportunities for bats or the installation of bird nest boxes. The authority should consider securing measures to enhance the biodiversity of the site from the applicant, if it is minded to grant permission for this application. This is in accordance with Paragraph 118 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Additionally, we would draw your attention to Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) which states that *'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'*. Section 40(3) of the same Act also states that *'conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat'*.

Landscape enhancements

This application may provide opportunities to enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the surrounding natural and built environment; use natural resources more sustainably; and bring benefits for the local community, for example through green space provision and access to and contact with nature. Landscape characterisation and townscape assessments, and associated sensitivity and capacity assessments provide tools for planners and developers to consider new development and ensure that it makes a positive contribution in terms of design, form and location, to the character and functions of the landscape and avoids any unacceptable impacts.

Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Natural England has recently published a set of mapped Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). This helpful GIS tool can be used by LPAs and developers to consider whether a proposed development is likely to affect a SSSI and determine whether they will need to consult Natural England to seek advice on the nature of any potential SSSI impacts and how they might be avoided or mitigated. Further information and guidance on how to access and use the IRZs is available on the [Natural England website](#).

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

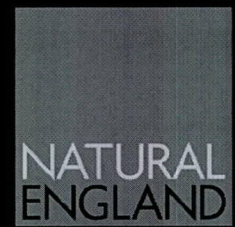
For any queries regarding this letter, for new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

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


Zoe Bratley
Sustainable Development Consultations Team

Planning Consultations and Wildlife Licensing



At Natural England we value our customers and seek to improve the quality of our services based on feedback and suggestions from you. If you would like to let us have your views, we would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to answer these questions and return it to us using the "Submit by Email" button.

County:

Wildlife Licensing [illegible]

j) The timeliness of us negotiating revised deadlines (where applicable)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k) Our response within agreed deadlines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l) The extent to which you felt you had been treated fairly and with respect	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m) The ease of completion of application/renewal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n) The clarity of published guidance for completing an application	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o) The helpfulness of advice from staff on site visit?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Improving the overall quality of our service

3) Please add any suggestions or feedback you may have to improving our service for you, and include the name of anyone who had been particularly helpful to you. If you have responded 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied' for any question we would appreciate further details so we can investigate and improve our service in the future

We would like to update you on any action we have taken following your comments and suggestions. If you would like an update, please add your name and email or telephone number

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views.

Rob Cooke, Director for Sustainable Development.

Using and sharing your information

The data controller is Natural England, Foundry House, 3 Millsands, Riverside Exchange, Sheffield S3 8NH. Your information will be stored and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. This Act gives you, as an individual, the right to know what data we hold on you, how we use it, with whom we share it and for it to be accurate.

Any information you provide will only be used by Natural England for the purposes of service standard monitoring.

Submit by Email