

MP

CD

Jill Riley

From: Consultations (NE) [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk]
Sent: 10 July 2015 12:10
To: Planning
Subject: Planning application: S6/2015/1342/PP 158313
Attachments: 158313 S6 2015 1342 PP NE Response.pdf; 110750 NE Response.pdf; NE Feedback Form June 2015.pdf

Planning consultation: Outline Planning Application for residential development of up to 121 dwellings, associated infrastructure and a change of use from agricultural land to an extension of the King George V playing field

Location: Land to the north east of King George V Playing Fields, Northaw Road East

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.

Kind regards

Aileen Finlayson
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Hornbeam House
Electra Way
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CW1 6GJ

0300 060 3900

Email: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

www.gov.uk/natural-england

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

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Date: 10 July 2015
Our ref: 158313
Your ref: S6/2015/1342/PP

MP CD



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BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning consultation: Outline Planning Application for residential development of up to 121 dwellings, associated infrastructure and a change of use from agricultural land to an extension of the King George V playing field

Location: Land to the north east of King George V Playing Fields, Northaw Road East

Thank you for your consultation dated and received by Natural England on 01 July 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.

Natural England has previously commented on this proposal and made comments to the authority in our letter dated 13 February 2014 (Please find attached copy).

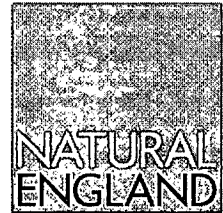
The advice provided in our previous response applies equally to this application although we made no objection to the original proposal.

Should the proposal be amended in a way which **significantly** affects its impact on the natural environment then, in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England should be consulted again.

Yours faithfully
Aileen Finlayson
Consultations Team



Date: 13 February 2014
Our ref: 110750
Your ref: S6/2013/2638/PA



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Dear Sir/Madam,

**Planning consultation: S6/2013/2638/PA Residential development of 120 dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping
Location: Land at Northaw Road East, Cuffley**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 23 January 2014 which was received by Natural England 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 does not consider that this application poses any likely or significant risk to those features of the natural environment¹ for which we would otherwise provide a more detailed consultation response and so does not wish to make specific comment on the details of this consultation.

The lack of case specific 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 Local Planning Authority (LPA) to fully take account of the environmental value of this site in the decision making process.

In particular, we would expect the LPA to assess and consider the possible impacts resulting from this proposal on the following when determining this application:

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. The Standing Advice includes a habitat decision tree which provides advice to planners on deciding if there is a 'reasonable likelihood' of protected species being present. It also provides detailed advice on the protected species most often affected by development, including flow charts for individual species to enable an assessment to be made of a protected species survey and mitigation strategy.

¹ Cases which might affect a SSSI, Natura 2000 site, National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or a large population of a protected species and/or cases or generic issues which affect a large suite of sites or may set a precedent and thereby affect a significant quantity of habitat across the country



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 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 at with details at consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Local wildlife sites

If the proposal site is on or adjacent to a local wildlife site, eg Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) or Local Nature Reserve (LNR) the authority should ensure it has sufficient information to fully understand the impact of the proposal on the local wildlife site, and the importance of this in relation to development plan policies, 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.

If you disagree with our assessment of this proposal as low risk, or should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment, then in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, please consult Natural England again.

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 faithfully

Gordon Wyatt
Lead Adviser, Land Use Operations Team

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