

Date: 04 November 2019  
Our ref: 295153



Customer Services

[REDACTED]  
Local Plan Team  
Planning  
Transportation and Highways  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear [REDACTED]

**Planning consultation: Steeton with Eastburn and Silsden Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation**

Thank you for your consultation on the above which was received by Natural England on 17 September 2019

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.

We have reviewed the above plan and associated SEA and HRA screening reports, and have the following comments to make.

**SEA screening**

Table 1: Establishing the Need for SEA

This table draws inconclusive results, and the overall conclusions with some question marks in place of yes or no conclusions of no SEA cannot be ruled out without clear answers to the questions posed. The screening continues to provide more details and reaches the conclusion that no SEA is required, it may be that some additional wording is required to explain more clearly how the uncertainties in Table 1 have been addressed.

**HRA Screening**

Natural England agrees with the conclusions of the HRA screening.

**Policies**

Although there are no specific allocations in this Neighbourhood Plan, Policy SWES1 Housing development within the existing urban area of Steeton with Eastburn and Silsden supports development, and it is unclear what level of development could potentially be supported or where, if known more detail should be included in the plan.

Natural England notes the proximity of the plan area to the South Pennine Moors (Phase 2) Special Protection Area (SPA), South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the findings of the Bradford Core Strategy

Habitats Regulations Assessment with regards to development in proximity to these designations. We would like to see a specific reference to the constraints to development provided by the South Pennine Moors designations and a cross reference to the Bradford Core Strategy Core Policy SC8 which sets out policy with regards to this.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#).

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 relating to the specific advice in this letter please contact [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Area