

Date: 25 August 2015
Our ref: 161119
Your ref:



Malcolm Carter
Project Coordinator

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Malcolm

Ashton Keynes Neighbourhood Plan SA Scoping Report

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 28 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.

We are satisfied that the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report covers the areas of the natural environment Natural England is concerned with. We have the following comments to make regarding the Sustainability Appraisal Framework set out in Appendix C:

- In relation to the biodiversity theme, we advise making reference to the two Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which are outside the Neighbourhood Plan area but adjacent to the Parish, as discussed in the baseline information section of the report.
- The Thames Path National Trail is an important recreational asset running through Ashton Keynes – you may wish to refer to the National Trail specifically in either the landscape or healthy communities sustainability theme, in addition to the existing SA appraisal questions on access and recreation.

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 only please contact Alice Walker on 0300 060 4923. 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

Alice Walker
Somerset, Avon & Wiltshire Sustainable Development Team

