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Our ref: 347118



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Seb Wilkins

Planning consultation: Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan - SEA / HRA Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 17 March 2021.

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.

Where Neighbourhood Plans could have significant environmental effects, they may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended). Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the [planning practice guidance](#).

Planning practice guidance also outlines that if an appropriate assessment is required for your neighbourhood plan this will also engage the need for a SEA. One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European obligations, including those under the SEA Directive. Where a SEA is required it should be prepared in accordance with [regulation 12](#) of the SEA Regulations.

Natural England welcomes the Screening Report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan.

I can confirm that Natural England agrees with this report's conclusion that it is not likely there will be significant environmental effects arising from the policies in the plan, which are not covered in the Charnwood Adopted Core Strategy or the evolving Local Plan. Therefore, the **Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** to be undertaken.

Natural England also agrees that the Plan would be unlikely to result in any significant effect to European Sites, either alone or in combination, and therefore **an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations is not required**.

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 me on 020 8720 4183 or 07767556842. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Robbie Clarey
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