

Date: 15 August 2022
Our ref: 401408



Charnwood Borough Council

BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Seb Wilkins

Planning consultation: Sileby Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 16 & SEA/HRA Screening Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 25 July 2022.

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 Sileby Neighbourhood Plan.

As noted within section 5.1 of the SEA Screening document, Natural England have previously responded at the Regulation 14 stage, noting that SEA and HRA are not necessary for the plan. I can confirm we have no additional comments to this regarding the SEA and HRA; our advice remains the same.

Natural England note the inclusion of a small residential allocation within Sileby (Policy H1). This allocation does not trigger any of Natural England's Impact Risk Zones; as such, we have no concerns regarding potential impacts to nearby Nationally/Internationally Designated sites.

Aside from this, Natural England have no specific comments at this stage. 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. 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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