---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **SM-Defra-Consultations (NE)** <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>
Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2019 at 16:11
Subject: Cawthorne NDP SEA / HRA Screening Assessment - NE response
To: louisekirkup@kirkwells.co.uk <louisekirkup@kirkwells.co.uk>

Our ref. 275465

Dear Louise Kirkup,

Thank you for your consultation regarding the Cawthorne Neighbourhood plan, and the Draft screening report dated 28 February 2019.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening**

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the [National Planning Practice Guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal). The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

* a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
* the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
* the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

 We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

 We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

 Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SEA is necessary.

 Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

**Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening**

Natural England agrees with the report’s conclusions that the Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.

Kind regards,

Jacqui Salt

Consultations Team

Natural England

Hornbeam House, Electra Way

Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 6GJ

Enquiries line: 0300 060 3900

Email:  consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

[**www.gov.uk/natural-england**](http://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.**

 In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.

**Natural England offers two chargeable services - the Discretionary Advice Service, which provides pre-application and post-consent advice on planning/licensing proposals to developers and consultants, and the Pre-submission Screening Service for European Protected Species mitigation licence applications. These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.**

For further information on the Discretionary Advice Service see [here](https://www.gov.uk/discretionary-advice-service-get-advice-on-planning-proposals-affecting-the-natural-environment-in-england)

For further information on the Pre-submission Screening Service see [here](https://www.gov.uk/pre-submission-screening-service-advice-on-planning-proposals-affecting-protected-species)