

From: sturminstermarshall@dorset-aptc.gov.uk <sturminstermarshall@dorset-aptc.gov.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 3:46 PM

To: 'Steve Carnaby'

Subject: RE: Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan - Examiner Supplementary Question

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your email. Please could you pass the following on to the Examiner:

AECOM consulted Natural England on the Scoping report in 2021 and received the attached response. The Parish Council consulted NE on the Regulation 14 consultation in June 2023 with a follow up email in September 2023, both with no response. Dorset Council then consulted Natural England on the Regulation 16 consultation and also received no response.

Kind Regards

Alison



Parish Clerk

Sturminster Marshall Parish Council

Date: 11 November 2021
Our ref: 369085



Ryan Putt
[REDACTED]@aecom.com

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Putt,

Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report Consultation Request

Thank you for your consultation dated 27th September 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.

Dorset Heaths

Proposed residential development within the Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan (SMNP) is within 5 km of Corfe Mullen Pastures which is notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) for the special interest of its heathland habitats and associated plant and animal species. Corfe Mullen Pastures SSSI is also part of the Dorset Heathlands Special Protection Area (SPA) and Dorset Heaths Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar.

Natural England advises the neighbourhood plan group that, when considering the locations where development may be allocated, they should also engage with local landowners to facilitate the provision of additional land in locations appropriate to local residents. Such land, to be secured in perpetuity, may also provide multiple greenspace benefits for local people including natural greenspace etc. Natural England can provide advice on other acceptable uses if requested.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) will become mandatory for most developments in England. Under the Environment Bill, both Town and Country Planning Act and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project developments will need to deliver a minimum 10 per cent BNG. This is a significant opportunity to ensure that developments provide lasting benefits for wildlife and to people's ability to experience nature where they live and work.

Natural England advises the neighbourhood plan group that because BNG must be considered from the outset of a project your group should consider the most appropriate locations and desirable habitats which could be prioritised locally. It may be useful to refer to the features in Walnut Tree LNR as an example of what outcomes might be secured. It would be helpful to ensure that the plan directs applicants, such that when planning

application for development is submitted, a biodiversity net gain plan is and that the applicant should consider the BNG requirements as early in the development process as possible.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact myself on [REDACTED]. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

James Gale

Lead Adviser, Sustainable Development

Dorset Team

Wessex Area Team

Natural England, W4, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ