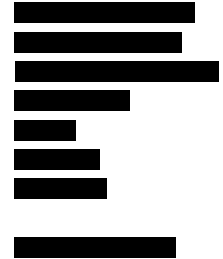


Date: 13 June 2018
Our ref: 246607



Edward Gerry
North Dorset District Council

BY EMAIL ONLY



Dear Ed,

Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16(b) consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 11 May 2018 which was received by Natural England on the same date. Please find below specific comments regarding the contents and proposals put forward by the Neighbourhood Plan.

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.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Town and country Planning (General Development Procedure Order) 1995, Article 10
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, regulation 63
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Section 28 (G) and (I)

Dorset Biodiversity Protocol

Natural England welcome the inclusion of policies relating to biodiversity, specifically the requirement for an approved Biodiversity Mitigation Plan for allocated sites and have the following recommendations;

- Amend text to show the updated name of “Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plan”. This better indicates the requirement of development to enhance the natural environment, in line with NPPF paragraphs 7, 109 and 118.
- The Dorset Biodiversity Protocol is recommended for all development sites over 0.1ha or where there is likely adverse impact to biodiversity, regardless of the proposed use. As such we recommend that Policy MEN is amended to reflect this requirement.

Localised biodiversity enhancement opportunities

The Neighbourhood Plan states that it does not cover all subjects and lists protection of wildlife as one of those already covered in the North Dorset Local Plan. In this case, we advise that there are specific, localised environmental objectives that the North Dorset Local Plan is unlikely to detail in its next iteration which would be better suited for inclusion in the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan.

Natural England have identified a species (protected under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006, section 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 and is an ICUN Red Data Book species listed as Endangered), the Barberry Carpet moth, which is nationally scarce and has a stronghold in the area around Pimperne. Through various channels we and other

nature conservation organisations are working to strengthen the remaining populations of this very rare species, which includes planting of Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*). We would encourage you to consider this unique aspect of the biodiversity of the Neighbourhood Plan area and the potential for enhancement and expansion of the species through requirement or highlighting of the benefits of planting of Barberry in future developments within the plan area.

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 Emily Greaves on [REDACTED]. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Emily Greaves
Sustainable Development Adviser
Natural England - Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight

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