

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE STURMINSTER MARSHALL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINER: Andrew Mead BSc (Hons) MRTPI MIQ

Alison Clothier  
Clerk to Sturminster Marshall Parish Council

Philip Reese  
Senior Planning Policy Officer  
Dorset Council

Via email

Examination Ref:03/AM/SMNP

8 April 2024

Dear Ms Clothier and Mr Reese

Thank you for your responses of 2 April to my Examiner questions of 18 March 2024.

As a result of my further consideration of the Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan, I have an additional question for Sturminster Marshall Parish Council and Dorset Council.

I do not appear to have evidence of any response(s) from Natural England (NE) about the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) reports prepared for the Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan.

The Consultation Statement indicates that NE were consulted on the Plan at the Regulation 14 stage but no comments are recorded. Historic England and the Environment Agency did make Regulation 16 responses, from which it can be deduced that they had no adverse comments about the SEA. Therefore, I would be grateful if the Parish Council and Dorset Council could confirm that NE was consulted on the SEA and HRA reports and what comments were received, if any.

It would be most helpful if I were to receive a written response by **Monday 15 April 2024**.

In the interests of transparency, may I prevail upon you to ensure that a copy of this letter is placed on both the Parish Council and Dorset Council websites, along with an any response(s) you provide.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

*Andy Mead*

Examiner