

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Planning consultation: Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)  
**Date:** 01 November 2016 11:12:56  
**Attachments:** [196646 NE Response.pdf](#)  
[196646 NE Feedback Form.pdf](#)

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Dear Sir/Madam,

**Planning consultation: Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)**

Please find Natural England's response in relation to the above mentioned consultation attached herewith.

Kind regards

Kayleigh Cheese  
Planning Lead Adviser  
Northamptonshire Local Delivery Team  
Essex, Herts, Beds, Cambs, Northants  
Natural England  
[REDACTED]  
[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.

**Natural England offers two chargeable services – The Discretionary Advice Service ([DAS](#)) provides pre-application, pre-determination and post-consent advice on proposals to developers and consultants as well as pre-licensing species advice and pre-assent and consent advice. The Pre-submission Screening Service ([PSS](#)) provides advice for protected species mitigation licence applications.**

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Date: 01 November 2016  
Our ref: 196646  
Your ref: Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) Options Documents



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Planning consultation: Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 19 September 2016.

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.

**Question 2**

Natural England welcomes Objective 12 Green Infrastructure, which can perform a range of functions including improved flood risk management, provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and biodiversity enhancement. GI can be designed to maximise the benefits needed for this development, such as promoting opportunities for recreation, improving links between communities and promoting sustainable transport.

However, Natural England advises that this objective could either be strengthened or a new objective should be included for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, in line with para 109 of the NPPF.

**Question 18**

Natural England welcomes the development management policies relating to the natural environment:

- Landscape
- Development within and in close proximity to Conservation Areas
- Green Infrastructure and Open Spaces and New Development
- Biodiversity and Trees

We are pleased to see a policy for development within and in close proximity to conservation areas, following on from our advice in our letter dated 10 June 2016 our ref: 184406, to ensure that increased recreational pressure at the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA), resulting from housing growth is addressed. The Northampton Plan will bring forward housing which could increase pressure upon The Washlands part of the SPA when developments are located within 3km of the site. This impact will need to be fully assessed through the HRA and will require appropriate mitigation to be developed and included within the plan policy.

## **Sustainability Appraisal**

SA objectives 9 and 10 (Biodiversity and Landscape) have resulted in a couple of local plan (part 2 ) objectives showing a potential minor negative effect and uncertain (-?), stating it will depend on how and where the housing and employment development is delivered across the Borough. As we previously commented at the SA scoping stage, where elements of uncertainty exist Natural England would expect to see evidence that negative effects on important environmental assets can be avoided before sites and policies are committed to, in Local Plan documents. All relevant constraints should be clearly identified prior to assessment to allow informed decisions to be made. We would expect to see this addressed in the SA which accompanies the Local plan part 2 draft.

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 Kayleigh Cheese on 02080 260981. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours faithfully

Miss Kayleigh Cheese  
Northamptonshire Local Delivery Team