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COMPLETE

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IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

Q1 Your contact details

Name
Organisation (where applicable)
Address
Address 2
City/Town
Postcode
Email Address



Q2 If you would like to be notified of the Council's decision on whether to accept the Independent Examiner's recommendation and future progress with the plan, then please tick here.

Yes, I would like to be notified

Page 2

Q3 Which part of the Plan does this comment relate to? **Other**

Q4 Please state the page and paragraph number (if applicable)

Respondent skipped this question

Q5 Do you support, support with changes, object, or wish to comment on this part of the Plan?

Have comments

Q6 Please give details of your reasons for support/objection, or make other comments here:

Date: 26 September 2019
Our ref: 295620
Your ref: None

[REDACTED]
Derbyshire Dales District Council
<http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/kirkiretonnp>

Kirk Ireton Neighbourhood Development Plan

BY EMAIL ONLY

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning consultation: Draft Kirk Ireton Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 20 September 2019 which was received by Natural England on 23 September 2019

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.

Natural England has reviewed the Draft Kirk Ireton Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) and has the following comments.

We welcome the Plan's commitment to sustainable development as expressed in the recognition of the value of the local landscape character of the town and the application of the 'Landscape Sensitivity Study (2015)'.

Natural England notes the plan area includes rich ecological assets, many of which are Priority Habitats. Priority habitats are of particular importance for nature conservation. There are several areas of the Priority Habitat deciduous woodland, and two of which, Greenhill Wood and Bottom Wood, are designated as Local Wildlife Sites. There are also small areas of the Priority Habitat good quality semi-improved grassland. Such areas are important components of the ecological network.

We would recommend that an inventory of natural assets is produced which identifies to future developers opportunities for enhancements to green infrastructure and net gain to biodiversity. An example would be to name and map areas of Priority Habitat such as deciduous woodland and good improved semi natural grassland.

Advice on where to seek further information is detailed in Annex A to this letter.

Natural England formed part of a partnership that has produced a planning toolkit aimed at supporting neighbourhood planning groups developing neighbourhood plans which shape development and land use change in their community. The guide includes: opportunities to enhance the environment and how this can be achieved in plan-making; important issues to consider, including legislative requirements; where to find out more; good practice and real life examples and a checklist to use when developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

The 'Neighbourhood Planning for the Environment' toolkit is available here.

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

Yours sincerely


Click here to enter text.

Planning Adviser
East Midlands team

Annex - Generic advice on natural environment impacts and opportunities

Biodiversity duty

Your planning authority has a duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their decision making. Conserving biodiversity can also include restoration or enhancement to a population or habitat. Further information is available [here](#).

Protected Species

Natural England has produced standing advice to help planning authorities understand the impact of particular developments on protected species.

Local sites and priority habitats and species

The impacts of proposed development on any local wildlife or geodiversity sites should be considered, in line with paragraphs 171 and 174 of the NPPF and any relevant development plan policy. There may also be opportunities to enhance local sites and improve their connectivity. Natural England does not hold locally specific information on local sites and recommends further information is obtained from appropriate bodies such as the local records centre, wildlife trust, geo-conservation groups or recording societies.

Priority habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. The list of priority habitats and species can be found [here](#). Natural England does not routinely hold species data, such data should be collected when impacts on priority habitats or species are considered likely. Consideration should also be given to the potential environmental value of brownfield sites, often found in urban areas and former industrial land, further information including links to the open mosaic habitats inventory can be found [here](#).

Ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees

the impacts of proposed development on ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees should be considered in line with paragraph 175 of the NPPF. Natural England maintains the Ancient Woodland Inventory which can help identify ancient woodland. Natural England and the Forestry Commission have produced standing advice for planning authorities in relation to ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees. It should be taken into account by planning authorities when determining relevant planning applications

Landscape

Paragraph 170 of the NPPF highlights the need to protect and enhance valued landscapes through the planning system. Proposed developments may present opportunities to protect and enhance locally valued landscapes. You may want to consider whether any local landscape features or characteristics (such as ponds, woodland or dry stone walls) could be incorporated into any proposed development in order to respect and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness, in line with any local landscape character assessments. Where the impacts of development are likely to be significant, a Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment should be provided with the proposal to inform decision making. We refer you to the Landscape Institute Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment for further guidance.

Access and Recreation

Kirk Ireton Neighbourhood Development Plan

Natural England encourages any proposal to incorporate measures to help improve people's access to the natural environment. Measures such as reinstating existing footpaths together with the creation of new footpaths and bridleways should be considered. Links to other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure. Relevant aspects of local authority green infrastructure strategies should be delivered where appropriate.

Environmental enhancement

Development provides opportunities to secure net gains for biodiversity and wider environmental gains, as outlined in the NPPF (paragraphs 8, 72, 102, 118, 170, 171, 174 and 175). The application of the mitigation hierarchy as set out in paragraph 175 of the NPPF is a useful tool. It advises to firstly consider what existing environmental features on and around the site can be retained or enhanced or what new features could be incorporated into the development proposal. Where onsite measures are not possible, off site measures can be considered. Opportunities for enhancement might include:

- Providing a new footpath through the new development to link into existing rights of way.
- Restoring a neglected hedgerow.
- Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the site.
- Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.
- Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.
- Incorporating swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of new buildings.
- Designing lighting to encourage wildlife.
- Adding a green roof to new buildings.

Proposed development can also contribute to the wider environment and help implement elements of any Landscape, Green Infrastructure or Biodiversity Strategy in place in your area. For example:

- Links to existing greenspace and/or opportunities to enhance and improve access.
- Identifying opportunities for new greenspace and managing existing (and new) public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g. by sowing wild flower strips)
- Planting additional street trees.
- Identifying any improvements to the existing public right of way network or using the opportunity of new development to extend the network to create missing links.

Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g. coppicing a prominent hedge that is in poor condition or clearing away an eyesore).

Date: 26 September 2019

Our ref: 295620

Your ref: None


Policy Manager

Derbyshire Dales District Council

<http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/kirkiretonnp>

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