

By email

Date: 30 January 2014

James Wilson
jwa1@hotmail.co.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Dear James,

Determination of the need for a formal Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan

Following recent consultation with Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage to allow us to determine the need for a formal Strategic Environmental Assessment of Earls Barton's neighbourhood plan, we are now pleased to summarise and present our qualified response within this letter.

At this stage, and based upon the information contained within your summary report entitled 'EBNP Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report v2 Oct 2013' we can confirm that no formal Strategic Environmental Assessment will be required in support of your plan. As is our duty under the EU SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 our determination has been informed by the following responses (attached to this letter):

- Letter from Natural England, dated 16 December 2013, confirming that no SEA will be required;
- Letter from English Heritage, dated 19 December 2013, confirming that no SEA will be required; and
- Letter from the Environment Agency, dated 16 January 2014, confirming that no SEA will be required although advice on additional mitigation against environmental effects is included.

As we are aware that your plan is still to be subject of a formal 6 week period of community consultation, under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, we are also aware that it may be subject to change. If any substantive changes are to be made as a result of the consultation exercise we would welcome a discussion to ensure that the determination in this letter remains valid.

In addition, whilst we do not consider that a formal Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan is required, we do still remind you that there is a duty for your plan to demonstrably contribute towards sustainable development. In which case, as a matter of best practice we would encourage the preparation of a proportionate assessment of sustainability that should accompany your plan proposal upon its submission to BCW.



In the meantime, I hope the response within this letter provides sufficient clarity in relation to the need for SEA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Munro', written in a cursive style.

Alex Munro
Neighbourhood Planning Officer

Encs as above