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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Heather

**Planning consultation:** Strategic Environmental Assessment of draft Linton Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 29 May 2014

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.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Natural England advise that Linton Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies within the Linton Neighbourhood Plan area.

Where Neighbourhood Plans could have significant environmental effects, they may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance at:

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-neighbourhood-plans/>

Based on the information provided Natural England do not consider that the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through the sustainability appraisal of the Leeds Core Strategy.

However we note that Leeds Core Strategy has not yet been adopted and that there is therefore potential for the Linton Neighbourhood Plan to progress before the Core Strategy is adopted. We suggest that the compliance of the draft Neighbourhood Plan with Leeds Core Strategy is reviewed once the Core Strategy is adopted.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and



biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

#### Neighbourhood Plan

Natural England have received a separate consultation directly from the Parish Council which we will be responding to in due course.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise and 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 please contact Merlin Ash on 0300 060 4271. 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 sincerely

Merlin Ash  
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Area Team