

Date: 20 June 2017  
Our ref: 215322  
Your ref: West Chiltington Neighbourhood Plan



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear West Chiltington NP Team

**Planning consultation:** West Chiltington Parish Council Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan Reg 14 consultation

**Location:** West Chiltington, Horsham District

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 10 May 2017.

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.

#### General

We recognise the hard work being done by West Chiltington Parish Council in developing such a detailed Neighbourhood Plan and we welcome being consulted on this pre-submission draft. West Chiltington parish supports a rich and diverse natural environment. A small area of the Parish falls within the South Downs National Park and Hurston Warren SSSI lies within the Parish. These are designations of national importance.

We welcome this comprehensive plan, and in particular the allocations of local green spaces, identification of biodiversity corridors and the settlement and housing design policies, aimed at steering new development to the most appropriate locations within this rich natural environment.

#### Biodiversity

There is recognition in the draft Neighbourhood Plan of Priority Habitats, with policies to prevent the loss of trees, hedgerows, traditional orchards and ancient woodland with the aim of protecting and enhancing the overall biodiversity network within the area. Natural England welcomes the inclusion of these policies in the plan.

Opportunities to incorporate features beneficial to wildlife into development such as green roofs, bird and bat boxes could also be considered as part of any new development and could be secured through the Neighbourhood Plan policies.

#### Green Infrastructure & Ecosystem Services

The important role of green infrastructure and ecosystem services in neighbourhood planning is highlighted. GI can perform a range of functions including improved flood risk management, provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and biodiversity enhancement.

Additional evidence and case studies on green infrastructure, including the economic benefits of GI can be found on the Natural England [Green Infrastructure web pages](#).

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 me on 0208 026 7504. 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).

Yours faithfully

Moira Manners  
Lead Advisor