

07 October 2013

Our ref: 96316

Your ref:



Purbeck Planning Policy Team
Purbeck District Council

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Dear Sir/Madam

Planning consultation: Neighbourhood Development Plan – Area Designation Consultation
Location: Arne Parish, Purbeck District Council

Thank you for your consultation dated 30 August 2013, which we received on the same day.

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.

Having examined the proposed neighbourhood plan area, Natural England has no comments to make on their boundaries or their statements of intent. However we would like to draw your attention to the existence of significant areas of nationally and internationally protected nature conservation sites within the neighbourhood plan area. These sites, including links to their citations or conservation objectives, are listed below:

- Arne SSSI (http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1000151.pdf),
- Hartland Moor SSSI (http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1002993.pdf)
- Poole Harbour SSSI (http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1000110.pdf)
- The Moors SSSI (http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1000240.pdf)
- Stoborough and Creech Heath SSSI
(http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1003232.pdf)
- Wareham Meadows SSSI
(http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1002338.pdf)
- River Frome SSSI (http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/2000220.pdf)
- Worgret Heath SSSI (http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1003084.pdf)
- Dorset Heath Ramsar (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11021.pdf>)
- Dorset Heath SPA (http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/UK9010101-Dorset-Heathlands-SPA_tcm6-32252.pdf)
- Dorset Heath and Studland SAC ([http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/UK0030038-Dorset-Heaths-\(Purbeck-and-Wareham\)-and-Studland-Dunes-SAC_tcm6-31974.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/UK0030038-Dorset-Heaths-(Purbeck-and-Wareham)-and-Studland-Dunes-SAC_tcm6-31974.pdf))
- Poole Harbour Ramsar (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11054.pdf>)
- Poole Harbour SPA (http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/UK9010111-Poole-Harbour-SPA_tcm6-32287.pdf)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Allocations and policies within the neighbourhood plan should comply with the NPPF, which states that developments likely to significantly effect a SSSI interest feature should not be permitted. Where an adverse effect on the site's notified special interest features is likely, an exception should only be made

where the benefits of the development, at that site, outweigh the impacts on the features of the site.

As part of the development plan, Neighbourhood Plans require screening to determine whether they require Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This screening exercise should examine potential adverse effects on the SSSI interest features and any other potential environmental impacts.

Natura 2000 sites

In accordance with Regulation 102A of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), the competent authority should also undertake a screening assessment to determine whether the neighbourhood plan would have a likely significant effect upon a Natura 2000 site. A Neighbourhood Plan cannot progress if it would result in a likely significant effect on any European Site (see Schedule 2, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012). Therefore reduction and/or avoidance measures may need to be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

Policies and allocations which promote development or determine their location are more likely to significantly affect a Natura 2000 site.

Local Wildlife Sites

The neighbourhood plan area contains six local wildlife sites (Isolation Cottage, Cobbs Leg, Dory's Farm, South Middlebere, Worgret Heath, and Worgret Junction). In accordance with the NPPF, the plan making body should ensure that adverse effects upon these sites is avoided, mitigated, or, as last resort compensated for.

For any queries relating to this consultation only you are welcome to contact me directly - telephone: 0300 060 4129 or email: john.king2@naturalengland.org.uk. For all other consultations and correspondence, please contact the above address.

Yours faithfully

John King
Land Use Operations