

Date: 18 January 2016
Our ref: 173106
Your ref: Draft Astbury and Moreton Neighbourhood Plan



Newbold Astbury and Moreton Parish Council
npreg14@astbury-parish.org.uk

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning consultation: Draft Newbold Astbury and Moreton Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 30 November 2015.

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.

Although the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is advancing ahead of the Cheshire East Local Plan, and as such cannot rely on policies within the Local Plan, the NP does not allocate any development therefore Natural England does not have any specific comments.

Please note that page 15 states that there is one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the NP boundary, this is incorrect, there are 2 SSSIs: Roe Park Woods SSSI and Gannister Quarry SSSI.

Opportunities for enhancing the natural environment

Opportunities to incorporate features into new build or retro fitted buildings which are beneficial to wildlife, such as the incorporation of roosting opportunities for bats or the installation of bird nest boxes should also be considered as part of any new development proposals.

Protected species

You should consider whether your plan or proposal has any impacts on protected species. To help you do this, Natural England has produced standing advice to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected or Biodiversity Action Plan species should they be identified as an issue. The standing advice also sets out when, following receipt of survey information, you should undertake further consultation with Natural England.

[Natural England Standing Advice](#)

Best Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services (ecosystem services) for society, for example as a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, as a store for carbon and water, as a reservoir of biodiversity and as a buffer against pollution. You should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality.

If the Neighbourhood Plan changes and there is the potential for environmental impacts Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening



exercises may need to be undertaken.

Should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment then, in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England should be consulted again at consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter please contact Kathryn Kelsall on 020 802 68397 or via email at Kathryn.kelsall@naturalengland.org.uk. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to 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 faithfully

Miss Kathryn Kelsall
Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire Area Team