

Sandra Hutchings

From: DPD
Subject: FW: 91317_Mid Devon Local Plan Review - Duty to Cooperate & Scoping Consultation
Importance: High

From: Buddle, Zoe (NE)
Sent: 16 August 2013 15:20
To: DPD
Subject: 91317_Mid Devon Local Plan Review - Duty to Cooperate & Scoping Consultation
Importance: High

Dear Forward Planning Department,

Mid Devon Local Plan Review – Duty to Cooperate & Scoping Consultation

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the above consultation.

I believe my colleague Louisa Aspden has recently contacted your department to inform you that Natural England is unable to provide comprehensive comments within the deadline period due to temporary resource constraints. Unfortunately the Forward Planning and Conversation Department were unable to extend the deadline, however we were informed that as the Local Plan review is at an early stage in the review process there would be other opportunities to comment on the Plan.

Below are some initial comments from Natural England, which I hope are helpful. However should you require any further detail or have any specific questions at this time please do not hesitate to contact us.

A number of the themes noted in your letter and mentioned in the National Planning Policy Framework have been picked up in our work on National Character Areas (NCAs)

As part of its responsibilities in delivering the Natural Environment White Paper, Biodiversity 2020 and the European Landscape Convention, Natural England is revising its National Character Area profiles to make environmental evidence and information easily available.

NCA profiles are guidance documents which will help to achieve a more sustainable future for individuals and communities. The profiles include a description of the key ecosystem services provided in each character area and how these benefit people, wildlife and the economy. They identify potential opportunities for positive environmental change and provide the best available information and evidence as a context for local decision making and action.

The following links provide access to full profiles or interim statements of Key Facts and Data:

- Exmoor NCA (Full Profile) (Small part of your District extending to LPAs to the north)
- <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/exmoor.aspx>

- The Culm (Full Profile) (Part of District and LPAs to the west)
 - http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/the_culm.aspx
- Devon Redlands (Full Profile) (Middle part of District and LPAs to the south)
 - http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/devon_redlands.aspx
- Blackdowns (Key Facts and Data) (Part of District and LPAs to the east)
 - <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/blackdowns.aspx>
- Vale of Taunton and Quantock Fringes (Key Facts and Data) (Very small part of District extending to LPAs to the north east)
 - http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/vale_of_taunton_and_quantock_fringes.aspx

I hope these references are helpful and look forward to further discussion on the matters arising.

Kind regards

Zoë Buddle

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