

Date: 17 July 2015
Our ref: 157417
Your ref: Botley Centre SPD – SA Scoping Report



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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Ronan Leydon

Planning consultation: Botley Centre SPD – SA Scoping Report

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 17 June 2015 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

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.

**CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2010, AS AMENDED
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED)
SCHEDULE 2, THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012
THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES REGULATIONS 2004**

Natural England has the following comments to make on the Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal:

In paragraph 3.27 it states that Oxford Meadows is a SSSI. Oxford Meadows is actually the Special Area for Conservation SAC, part of which includes the Port Meadow with Wolvercote Common and Green SSSI.

Under 3.35 the opportunities for Botley Centre are listed. Natural England would advise that there is a huge opportunity to fit Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to both new and existing development within the area. This would help reduce the risk of surface flooding in extreme weather conditions, by holding back the rainwater, as well as improving the attractiveness of the local environment, reduce the urban island heat effect, as well as being beneficial for biodiversity. An example of this being used successfully in an urban area is the Lost Effra project run by the London Wildlife Trust: <http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/lost-effra-project>

Sustainability Objective 7 has the text 'protection and improvement of biodiversity, particularly Special Area of Conservation' struck through. However as explained above the Oxford Meadows is actually an SAC, as well as a SSSI.

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 Charlotte Frizzell on charlotte.frizzell@naturalengland.org.uk or 07824597885. 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 sincerely

Charlotte Frizzell
Sustainable Development and Regulation
Thames Valley Team