

Date: 02 August 2024  
Our ref: 483669  
Your ref: 2022/0115



James Hyde  
Barnsley Council  
PO BOX 634  
Barnsley  
S70 9GG

Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Mr James Hyde

**Planning consultation:** 2022/0115 – Residential development of up to 215 dwellings with associated car parking/garages, landscaping, public open space including both equipped and non-equipped areas of play, SUDS and drainage, with details of a new vehicular access onto Shaw Lane (Outline with all matters reserved apart from means of access)

**Location:** Land north of Shaw Lane, Carlton, Barnsley, S71 3HH

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 30 July 2024 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.

**SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENGLAND'S ADVICE**

**NO OBJECTION - SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE MITIGATION BEING SECURED**

Natural England considers that without appropriate mitigation the application would:

- damage or destroy the interest features for which Dearne Valley Wetlands Site of Special Scientific Interest has been notified.

In order to mitigate these adverse effects and make the development acceptable, the following mitigation measures are required:

- A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

We advise that an appropriate planning condition or obligation is attached to any planning permission to secure these measures.

A lack of objection does not mean that there are no significant environmental impacts. Natural England advises that all environmental impacts and opportunities are fully considered and relevant local bodies are consulted.

Natural England's further advice on designated sites/landscapes and advice on other natural environment issues is set out below.

## Further advice on mitigation

Natural England notes that the application is located in close proximity to Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI. Based on the plans submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development could have potential significant effects on the interest features for which the site has been notified.

Natural England welcome the commitment that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be produced. We advise that the CEMP should consider any potential water quality impacts, to prevent potential impacts to Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI during construction. It should outline suitable mitigation measures which can be implemented to prevent these impacts.

Please note that if your authority is minded to grant planning permission contrary to the advice in this letter, you are required under Section 281 (6) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to notify Natural England of the permission, the terms on which it is proposed to grant it and how, if at all, your authority has taken account of Natural England's advice. You must also allow a further period of 21 days before the operation can commence.

## Other advice

In addition, Natural England would advise on the following issues.

### *Habitat enhancements for the assemblage feature of the Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI*

The [Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI](#) supports a nationally important assemblage of breeding birds. Some of these interest features may also rely on areas outside of the site boundary. These supporting habitats may be used by SSSI bird populations or some individuals of the population for some or all of the time. These supporting habitats can play an essential role in maintaining SSSI species populations, and proposals affecting them may therefore have the potential to affect the SSSI.

The application site is within or in close proximity to an area known to support willow tit, which are part of the breeding bird assemblage feature of the SSSI. Willow tit populations declined by 94% between 1970 and 2012, with habitat fragmentation a key contributor to their decline. To ensure that habitat networks for willow tits and other breeding birds of the SSSI assemblage feature are preserved around the Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI, Natural England advise that any habitat enhancements should emphasise scrub creation and/or maintenance. Both the [Willow Tit Conservation Handbook](#) and [Willow Tit Habitat Guide](#) produced from the [Back from the Brink](#) programme contain useful guidance about willow tits and their habitat preferences, and can be used to inform habitat management and enhancements undertaken on-site.

Further general advice on consideration of protected species and other natural environment issues is provided at Annex A.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me at [elen.squires@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:elen.squires@naturalengland.org.uk).

We would not expect to provide further advice on the discharge of planning conditions or obligations attached to any planning permission.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

Yours sincerely

Elen Squires  
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Area Team  
Natural England