

Bletsoe Neighbourhood Plan

The scoping letter for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required by the regulations and was issued, on 6 February 2018, to Historic England, Natural England and The Environment Agency. The original draft of the scoping letter was seen by Sonia Gallagher at Bedford Borough Council, before issue, and following her review a few comments were added in respect of a couple of County Wildlife Sites in the Bletsoe Neighbourhood Plan area. To date, Natural England has responded that it does not have any specific comments on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. English Heritage made representations to the Borough Council during the original screening opinion, so it is very likely that they will make some observations to the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

There is a 5 week consultation period required, and this ends mid March 2018, but in the meantime Woods Hardwick Planning Limited are carrying out the necessary work on the draft SEA so that it can be completed by 31 March 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter, in line with funding timescales. Woods Hardwick will need to reflect in the SEA any representations made by the statutory consultees, if any, and this could require some amendments to the draft Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that any concerns raised are addressed.

I hope that this is helpful.

Kind regards,

Trevor