

# **STATUTORY CONSULTEES REPRESENTATIONS**

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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**From:** NIBLETT, Robert <Robert.NIBLETT@gloucestershire.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 05 May 2023 11:39:28 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London  
**To:** 'Down Ampney Neighbourhood-Plan' <Down.Ampney.NDP@outlook.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Down Ampney Neighbourhood Plan - Second Regulation 14 Consultation

Good morning

Thank you for consulting Gloucestershire County Council on this matter. The only additional officer comments we have to make are as follows.

It appears that our previous comments haven't been incorporated as we can't see any data from the Historic Environment Record incorporated into the plan or mentioned, as Historic England guidance suggests (link previously supplied). This can be provided by contacting the Historic Environment Record, [her@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:her@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

We have looked at the new Design Guidance and Codes document and note at 2.3 a section on landscape and ecology. At 2.3.2 (Green Infrastructure) the fourth bullet point should just refer to priority habitat areas and delete phrase "UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)". This is because the UK BAP is no longer an active document but under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 wood-pasture and parkland is still a habitat of principal importance in England (English List).

If you would like further information or clarification on any of the above points please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cheers

Rob Niblett  
Senior Planning Officer 01452 425695

# HISTORIC ENGLAND

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**From:** Stuart, David <David.Stuart@HistoricEngland.org.uk>

**Sent:** 03 May 2023 15:36:35 (UTC+00:00) Dublin,  
Edinburgh, Lisbon, London **To:** Down Ampney  
Neighbourhood-Plan <Down.Ampney.NDP@outlook.com>

**Subject:** Down Ampney Neighbourhood Plan - Second Regulation 14 Consultation

Dear Down Ampney Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

Thank you for your consultation on the Second Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

In our response to the first Regulation 14 consultation we confirmed that there were no issues associated with the Plan upon which we wished to comment.

That remains the case as far as the main Plan document is concerned, but to this we would like to add our congratulations and support for the new Design Guidance which has since been produced and provides the basis of this second consultation. In its identification of those aspects of the area's local distinctiveness and historic character and their value the Guide can only be a valuable tool in ensuring that these are preserved and enhanced when used in conjunction with the Plan.

We wish your community well in the making of its Plan.

Kind regards

David

David Stuart | Historic Places Adviser

I now work only 2 days a week, usually Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Historic England | South West

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924 0316 <https://historicengland.org.uk/southwest>

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Historic England

# NATURAL ENGLAND

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Date: 05 May 2023  
Our ref: 428104  
Your ref: Down Ampney Neighbourhood Plan



Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group  
Down Ampney Parish Council

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

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

[Down.Ampney.NDP@outlook.com](mailto:Down.Ampney.NDP@outlook.com)

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir/Madam

**Down Ampney Neighbourhood Plan - Second Regulation 14 Consultation**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 29 March 2023.

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.

Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made.

**Natural England does not have any specific comments on the Down Ampney Neighbourhood Plan.**

However, we refer you to the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

For any further consultations on your plan, please contact:  
[consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Sally Wintle Consultations Team

# Annex 1 - Neighbourhood planning and the natural environment: information, issues and opportunities

## Natural environment information sources

The [Magic](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/)<sup>1</sup> website will provide you with much of the nationally held natural environment data for your plan area. The most relevant layers for you to consider are: **Agricultural Land Classification, Ancient Woodland, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Nature Reserves, National Parks (England), National Trails, Priority Habitat Inventory, public rights of way (on the Ordnance Survey base map) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (including their impact risk zones)**. Local environmental record centres may hold a range of additional information on the natural environment. A list of local record centres is available [here](#)<sup>2</sup>.

**Priority habitats** are those habitats of particular importance for nature conservation, and the list of them can be found [here](#)<sup>3</sup>. Most of these will be mapped either as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**, on the Magic website or as **Local Wildlife Sites**. Your local planning authority should be able to supply you with the locations of Local Wildlife Sites.

**National Character Areas** (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each character area is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. NCA profiles contain descriptions of the area and statements of environmental opportunity, which may be useful to inform proposals in your plan. NCA information can be found [here](#)<sup>4</sup>.

There may also be a local **landscape character assessment** covering your area. This is a tool to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identify the features that give it a sense of place. It can help to inform, plan and manage change in the area. Your local planning authority should be able to help you access these if you can't find them online.

If your neighbourhood planning area is within or adjacent to a **National Park** or **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB), the relevant National Park/AONB Management Plan for the area will set out useful information about the protected landscape. You can access the plans on from the relevant National Park Authority or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website.

General mapped information on **soil types** and **Agricultural Land Classification** is available (under 'landscape') on the [Magic](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/)<sup>5</sup> website and also from the [LandIS website](http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm)<sup>6</sup>, which contains more information about obtaining soil data.

## Natural environment issues to consider

The [National Planning Policy Framework](#)<sup>7</sup> sets out national planning policy on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. [Planning Practice Guidance](#)<sup>8</sup> sets out supporting guidance.

**Your local planning authority should be able to provide you with further advice on the potential impacts of your plan or order on the natural environment and the need for any environmental assessments.**

<sup>1</sup> <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk/nfbr.php>

<sup>3</sup> <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

<sup>5</sup> <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm>

<sup>7</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/807247/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807247/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/>

## Landscape

Your plans or orders may present opportunities to protect and enhance locally valued landscapes. You may want to consider identifying distinctive local landscape features or characteristics such as ponds, woodland or dry stone walls and think about how any new development proposals can respect and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness.

If you are proposing development within or close to a protected landscape (National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) or other sensitive location, we recommend that you carry out a landscape assessment of the proposal. Landscape assessments can help you to choose the most appropriate sites for development and help to avoid or minimise impacts of development on the landscape through careful siting, design and landscaping.

## Wildlife habitats

Some proposals can have adverse impacts on designated wildlife sites or other priority habitats (listed [here](#)<sup>9</sup>), such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or [Ancient woodland](#)<sup>10</sup>. If there are likely to be any adverse impacts you'll need to think about how such impacts can be avoided, mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for.

## Priority and protected species

You'll also want to consider whether any proposals might affect priority species (listed [here](#)<sup>11</sup>) or protected species. To help you do this, Natural England has produced advice [here](#)<sup>12</sup> to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected species.

## Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services for society. It is a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, a store for carbon and water, a reservoir of biodiversity and a buffer against pollution. If you are proposing development, you should seek to use areas of poorer quality agricultural land in preference to that of a higher quality in line with National Planning Policy Framework para 171. For more information, see our publication [Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land](#)<sup>13</sup>.

# Improving your natural environment

Your plan or order can offer exciting opportunities to enhance your local environment. If you are setting out policies on new development or proposing sites for development, you may wish to consider identifying what environmental features you want to be retained or enhanced or new features you would like to see created as part of any new development. Examples might include:

- Providing a new footpath through the new development to link into existing rights of way.
- Restoring a neglected hedgerow.
- Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the site.
- Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.
- Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.
- Incorporating swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of new buildings.
- Think about how lighting can be best managed to encourage wildlife.
- Adding a green roof to new buildings.

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<sup>9</sup><http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences>

<sup>11</sup> <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

<sup>13</sup> <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012>

You may also want to consider enhancing your local area in other ways, for example by:

- Setting out in your plan how you would like to implement elements of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy (if one exists) in your community.
- Assessing needs for accessible greenspace and setting out proposals to address any deficiencies or enhance provision.
- Identifying green areas of particular importance for special protection through Local Green Space designation (see [Planning Practice Guidance on this](#) <sup>14</sup>).
- Managing existing (and new) public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g. by sowing wild flower strips in less used parts of parks, changing hedge cutting timings and frequency).
- Planting additional street trees.
- Identifying any improvements to the existing public right of way network, e.g. cutting back hedges, improving the surface, clearing litter or installing kissing gates) or extending the network to create missing links.
- Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g. coppicing a prominent hedge that is in poor condition, or clearing away an eyesore).

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – MINERALS AND WASTE PLANNING AUTHORITY

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL | MINERALS AND WASTE PLANNING AUTHORITY | CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM



This response is provided by officers of the County Council acting only in its capacity as the minerals and waste planning authority for Gloucestershire. Further notifications to the County Council in respect of its other regulatory responsibilities may still be necessary in order to establish a holistic view from Gloucestershire County Council.

GCC M&W Reference:	PR2023/0056/1/NDP	Notifiers Reference (if provided):		Notifying Organisation:	Down Ampney Parish Council
GCC M&W Responding Officer:	Laura Burford	Date of GCC M&W Response:	04/05/2023	Type of Consultation:	Neighbourhood Development Plan
Consultation Title:	Down Ampney Neighbourhood Development Plan   Public Consultation				

'X' in a box represents the officer-level response given at this time

M&W officers have reviewed the consultation information and have **no further comments to make.**

X

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES REGARDING THIS CONSULTATION RESPONSE PROVIDED BY THE MINERAL & WASTE PLANNING AUTHORITY PLEASE CONTACT:  
[m-wplans@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:m-wplans@gloucestershire.gov.uk) A MEMBER OF THE TEAM WILL GET BACK TO YOU AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE TO DO SO.