

Consultee Response for Belgravia Neighbourhood Plan (Submission Version)



HNL Sustainable Places <HNLsustainablePlaces@environment-agency.gov.uk>

To Neighbourhood, Planning: WCC

Cc Avery, Brandon: WCC



Wed 07/06/2023 10:15

Blue category

Follow up. Start by 07 June 2023. Due by 07 June 2023.



RE: Draft Belgravia Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Outlook item



HNL NP advice note.pdf
704 KB

Dear Brandon,

We have had to prioritise our limited resource and focus on strategic plans where the environmental risks and opportunities are highest. We attach our advice note which sets out our substantive response to Neighbourhood Plan consultations.

We recognise that Neighbourhood Plans provide a unique opportunity to deliver enhancements to the natural environment at the local level. This advice note sets out the key environmental issues, within our remit, which should be considered. It also references sources of data you can use to check environmental features.

Regarding biodiversity, we are pleased to see reference to providing a minimum 10% net biodiversity gain under Policy BEL12 and that provision of green space is required for major development under Policy BEL14. It is worth noting that, from November 2023, development proposals must secure a net gain in biodiversity value with on-site measures being prioritised. This applies to all areas of biodiversity and is not limited to trees. We understand Section C of Policy BEL12 provides criteria for replacement trees, however, we recommend including that the tree species must be native to the local area to ensure no negative impacts on native wildlife. Further information relating to Biodiversity Net Gain can be found online here [Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain).

I have also attached our response to the Neighbourhood Plan's SEA consultation which includes additional comments related to flood risk, aquifers, and wastewater infrastructure.

We hope this is helpful as you prepare evidence and the Neighbourhood Plan itself.

Kind regards,

Isabel Smith

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I am dyslexic. If my email has any errors which make it unclear, please do give me a call.

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