Date: 02 December 2013
Our ref: 104188
Your ref:

Mrs Sarah Marshall
Solicitor
Legal Unit
Wiltshire Council

BY EMAIL ONLY

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

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sarah

Thank you for your consultation on the proposed Land Drainage Byelaws for Wiltshire Council, which was received by Natural England on 14 November 2013.

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.

In general, the byelaws are likely to have no effect or a potential positive impact on biodiversity. However, there are certain occasions where implementation of a byelaw could affect a SSSI and/or protected species. These would include situations covered by a byelaw which are also covered by the list of Operations Likely to Damage a SSSI and therefore would require consent of assent from Natural England to be carried out.

We would like some assurance that the proposed byelaws provide safeguards where they might conflict with the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs, including consent or assent requirements under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and licensing requirements for species protected under the 1981 act and/or the Habitats Regulations.

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 me on 0300 0604923. 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

Alice Walker
Land Use Operations