

28th November 2023

Our ref:

Your ref:



Natural England
Parkside Court
Hall Park Way
Telford, TF3 4LR

T 02080261226
F

Ms Trudi Barrett
Town Clerk
Much Wenlock Town Council
The Corn Exchange
High Street
Much Wenlock
Shropshire
TF13 6AE

E-mail Only

Dear Ms Barrett

PROPOSAL TO DECLARE WINDMILL HILL AS A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

I am writing regarding the proposal to declare Windmill Hill a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended).

Natural England's purpose is to conserve and enhance the natural environment for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people and the economic prosperity that it brings. Windmill Hill, managed according to the management plan is of value to both local wildlife and the local community. As such, Natural England is delighted to support the declaration of the site as a LNR. Protecting this site and its habitats will allow it to continue to be used and valued by local people for recreation and enjoyment of the natural environment.

From the consultation information provided to Natural England there is no mention of signage. If signage is already provided, this will need reviewing to ensure it includes information about the site, emergency contact details, interpretation, way marking and maps, ownership, and maintenance responsibilities etc. If there is no signage in place this needs providing in appropriate locations with the information above.

In addition, there is no mention in the consultation of provision for rubbish bins, if appropriate, these should be located at key locations such as entrances and seating areas.

While the site is utilised by adult learners with Additional Needs, you should also consider, topography and site constraints allowing, provision for disabled access. For example, catering for groups with mobility or visual impairment.

Natural England confirms that it has been consulted on your proposal to declare Windmill Hill a nature reserve under the provisions of Sections 19 and 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended). The requirements for consultation contained in Section 21(6) of that Act have therefore been met. As a member of the West Midlands Local Delivery Team, I would like to formally welcome these proposals on behalf of Natural England.

The next step is for Much Wenlock Town Council under delegated powers from Shropshire Council to make the necessary arrangements for the formal declaration of the reserve. This can be limited to the issuing of public notices or can be extended to include an event to celebrate the declaration.

Once the declaration is complete, we will need confirmation of the declaration date, and a copy of the declaration papers and a map showing the exact boundaries of the declared area. The site will also be

promoted through Natural England's internet site finder. To ensure our records are up to date, I would be grateful if you could also complete and return to me the attached Local Nature Reserve Fact Sheet once the site has been declared.

If you are unsure about any part of the declaration process, please refer to the guidance booklet from our website (<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/31039?category=15005>) or contact me using the details below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Loat', written in a cursive style.

Peter Loat Local Delivery Team
peter.w.loat@naturalengland.org.uk