

Date: 26 January 2022  
Our ref: 380789  
Your ref: HRA and SEA Screening opinion Perranzabuloe NDP



Ms Colleen O'Sullivan  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**  
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Dear Colleen,

**CONSULTATION: Perranzabuloe Neighbourhood Plan – SEA and HRA Screening**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 19 January 2022.

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.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Natural England notes that your authority, as competent authority, has undertaken an appropriate assessment of the proposal in accordance with regulation 63 of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended). Natural England is a statutory consultee on the appropriate assessment stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process, and a competent authority should have regard to Natural England's advice.

Your appropriate assessment concludes that your authority is able to ascertain that the proposal will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of Penhale Dunes SAC, Fal and Helford SAC, Carrine Common SAC, and Newlyn Downs SAC. We are satisfied with the conclusion of the Appropriate Assessment, and therefore advise that further Habitats Regulations Assessment is not required.

However, for correctness, we do advise that the following minor amendment is made to the Assessment: The correct terminology for the conclusion of the Appropriate Assessment should be 'no adverse effect on integrity' rather than 'unlikely to cause significant impacts on the features...'

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

Natural England agrees with the conclusion that full SEA is not required, on the basis that the Plan is not allocating development sites; and whilst the plan does identify settlement boundaries, those boundaries are drawn tightly to the urban area and are supported by appropriate evidence.

The only minor comment we have to make on the SEA screening report is the recommendation that the following sentence is removed from paragraph 5.4 – “Habitats Regulations Assessment appropriate assessment is not required.” – as it is incorrect and conflicts with the reasoning set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3.

It is our advice, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all

potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Stephanie Parker-Stephenson on 07799438517. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

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