

From: Dawn Burgess
Sent: 06 January 2023 11:20
Cc: Guy Langton
Subject: Northam Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Screening Opinion for SEA/HRA

Good Morning,

Northam Town Council has requested that Torridge District Council investigate the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) & Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for their draft Neighbourhood Plan. The Town Council have commenced consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan today (6th January 2023).

Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI No.1633) Torridge District Council ('the responsible authority') is required to consult with statutory environmental bodies in determining whether or not the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and will therefore require an SEA and/or a HRA.

I am therefore requesting that you review the [draft neighbourhood plan](#) with regard to the need for a SEA/HRA. If you have any comments I would ask for these to be sent within the next 25 working days. If no reply is received by 10th February it will be assumed that a SEA/HRA is not required with respect to the draft Northam Neighbourhood Plan, but confirmation would be appreciated, if this is the considered position.

Regards

Dawn Burgess Senior Planning Policy Officer
Torridge District Council Riverbank House, Bideford, EX39 2QG
Phone 01237 428719
Email dawn.burgess@torridge.gov.uk

From: SPDC <SPDC@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 January 2023 15:16
To: Dawn Burgess
Subject: RE: Northam Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Screening Opinion for SEA/HRA

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Dear Ms Burgess,

Thank you for your consultation of 6th January 2023 providing us with the opportunity to comment in respect of the Northam Neighbourhood Plan SEA/HRA screening opinion.

In general we consider that it is unlikely that neighbourhood plans will result in any significant environmental effects unless the plan allocates or encourages development over that set out in the Local Plan. Otherwise we consider that any potential for environmental effects from growth in the parish should already have been addressed through the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which supported the adopted Local Plan.

Please note, this is a standard response. If you consider the plan will result in significant environmental effects please reconsult us.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Henderson-Smith
Sustainable Places Planning Specialist
Environment Agency – Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Area

Normal working days Tue-Thu

✉ Manley House, Kestrel Way, Exeter, EX2 7LQ
☎ MS Teams if internal or 07721 683158

From: Dawn Burgess <Dawn.Burgess@torridge.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 January 2023 11:20
Cc: Guy Langton <deputytownclerk@northamtowncouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Northam Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Screening Opinion for SEA/HRA

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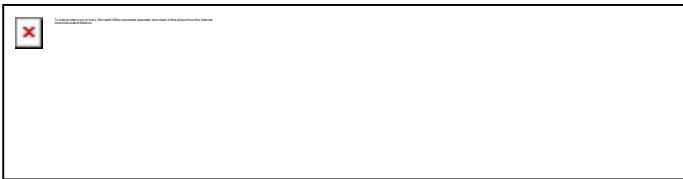
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From: Thompson, Alan <Alan.Thompson@HistoricEngland.org.uk>
Sent: 08 February 2023 12:27
To: Dawn Burgess; deputytownclerk@northamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Subject: Northam Parish Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening Opinion - formal response

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Dear Dawn,

Many thanks for your email of 6 January 2023, inviting us to comment on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion for the Northam Neighbourhood Plan. Our role as a national statutory consultee for Neighbourhood Planning focuses mainly on ensuring there is no risk of undue harm to heritage assets. The most common way that risk of harm emerges in Neighbourhood Plans is when new, site-specific allocations for development are being made.

Where a neighbourhood plan recommends a site to be allocated for development, there is a risk that heritage assets may be harmed as a result of that development. Therefore, when such allocations are proposed, we look to see that they are supported by appropriate evidence to demonstrate conformity with national policy for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Such evidence ought to demonstrate that there is not the potential for significant environmental effects, in terms of harmful impact to heritage assets.

We note that the Northam Parish draft Neighbourhood Plan does not make specific site allocations for development. Furthermore, we cannot detect any obvious cause for concern in the suite of emerging policies. Given this, we concur with your opinion that a full SEA is not required on this occasion.

We have no further comments to make at this point in time. I hope that our response has been helpful. We intend to respond separately to the Regulation 14 pre submission consultation directly to the NP steering group. We look forward to having an opportunity to make further comments at the regulation 16 stage.

Kind Regards,

Alan

Alan Thompson | Historic Places Adviser

Historic England | South West
1st Floor Fermentation North | Finzels Reach | Hawkins Lane | Bristol | BS1 6WQ
Direct Line: 0117 975 0715 | Mobile: 07548 642067
<https://historicengland.org.uk/southwest>



Historic England

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From: SM-NE-Consultations (NE) <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>
Sent: 10 February 2023 06:33
To: Dawn Burgess
Subject: Consultations Response - Northam Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Screening Opinion for SEA/HRA
Attachments: 417091 NE Response.pdf

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Please find Natural England's response in relation to the above mentioned consultation attached.

Kind regards,

Sally Wintle

Adviser
Operations Delivery, Consultations Team
Natural England
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

Tel 0300 0603900

mail to: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

www.gov.uk/natural-england



Natural England offers two chargeable services - the Discretionary Advice Service, which provides pre-application and post-consent advice on planning/licensing proposals to developers and consultants, and the Pre-submission Screening Service for European Protected Species mitigation licence applications. These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.

For further information on the Discretionary Advice Service see [here](#)
For further information on the Pre-submission Screening Service see [here](#)

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From: Dawn Burgess <Dawn.Burgess@torridge.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 March 2023 10:41
To: Parish Clerk - Northam
Subject: SEA/HRA Screening, Northam pre-submission neighbourhood plan
Attachments: Northam Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Screening Opinion for SEAHRA .msg; RE: Northam Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Screening Opinion for SEA/HRA; Consultations Response - Northam Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Screening Opinion for SEA/HRA; Northam Parish Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening Opinion - formal response

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning Guy,

Further to previous discussions and the District Council's comments on the pre-submission neighbourhood plan, I provide the following by way of setting out the need to undertake a strategic environmental assessment/habitats regulations assessment. I refer to the requirements set out [Planning Practice Guidance](#) Paragraph: 051 Reference ID: 41-051-20150209.

I can confirm that as a result of the screening that has been undertaken on the pre-submission Northam Neighbourhood Plan with the statutory agencies: Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England that a SEA/HRA will not be required. As a result of the undertaken consultations it is the view of the District Council that the draft proposals are unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

For your records, I provide the consultation responses that have been received together with the District Council's correspondence with the referenced agencies.

I trust the above is adequate, please indicate if more is required.

Regards

Dawn

Dawn Burgess Senior Planning Policy Officer

Torridge District Council Riverbank House, Bideford, EX39 2QG

Phone 01237 428719

Email dawn.burgess@torridge.gov.uk



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