

Date: 28 February 2020
Our ref: 308649
Your ref: Linkinhorne NDP



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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Ms Furley

Linkinhorne Neighbourhood Development Plan - SEA / HRA Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 11 February 2020 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

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.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, 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.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Natural England welcomes the consideration given to the Habitats Regulations. We agree with the conclusion of the report that there will be no direct impact on the integrity of the Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA as a result of the Linkinhorne NDP policies.

For Phoenix United Mine and Crow's Nest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) please ensure the supporting text within the Habitats Regulations Assessment reflects the Site Improvement Plan (SIP) [Site Improvement Plan: Phoenix United Mine and Crow's Nest - SIP173](#). The SIP identifies inappropriate scrub control, a change in land management or air pollution from atmospheric nitrogen as pressures or threats.

Neighbourhood 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 new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Victoria Kirkham
Consultations Team