



Mr Mark Williams,
Falmouth Town Council,
The Old Post Office,
The Moor,
Falmouth
TR11 3QA
By email

Date: 5 July 2019

Dear Mark,

Falmouth Neighbourhood Development Plan – SEA and HRA Screening Decision

As requested, I have screened the Falmouth Neighbourhood Development Plan (the NDP) to establish whether Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required in order for the NDP to be legally compliant.

As you are aware, both Natural England and Historic England raised several issues during consultation on the screening report. The steering group has worked on the evidence base and the policy wording to provide either evidence, or adjustments to policy wording, to ensure that the NDP does not cause significant environmental effects. I can confirm that, following considerable work and rescreening of the NDP, the consultation bodies are now satisfied.

Appropriate Assessment has been carried out due to the potential for significant effects on a European Site, the Fal and Helford SAC, through the pathways of recreational disturbance and impacts on water quality. A strategic solution exists in Policy 22 of the Cornwall Local Plan for the mitigation of recreational impacts. Changes have been made to policy wording in the NDP to ensure mitigation against water quality impacts.

Heritage Impact Assessment has been carried out to support regeneration of sites within the development boundary and to inform those development policies.

The additional evidence has been made available to the consultation bodies and the NDP has been rescreened. Cornwall Council is of the opinion that SEA is not required for the Falmouth NDP. The attached SEA and HRA Screening report, incorporating Appropriate Assessment, provides detail of the screening assessment.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sarah Furley
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Planning and Sustainable Development
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