

A Screening Report for a determination under Regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).

The East Devon National Landscape Management Plan 2025-30 may only be adopted by the relevant local authorities after they have determined that it will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites. This Plan concerns East Devon District Council and Devon County Council who are the competent authorities who must adopt this screening report. These sites contribute to the protection of habitats and species of high nature conservation importance in the European Community.

A strategic level, screening assessment, often referred to in England as a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA), was undertaken on the policies in the Management Plan and highlights where there is a need to undertake additional assessment of actions under the annual Delivery Plan part of the Management Plan.

This report has been prepared by Daniel Wynn, Manager, East Devon National Landscape Partnership and has been based on the previous report prepared by Chris Woodruff in 2019. It has been undertaken with all reasonable skill, care and due diligence.

- 1) Are you responding as a?

Budleigh Salterton Town Council

- 2) Do you have any comments or feedback on the conclusion of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Assessment?

Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EEC requires that 'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.'

Budleigh Salterton Town Council is concerned that no consultation has been undertaken with regard to the impact of EXMO-20 on the East Devon Heaths SPA (Pebblebed Heaths (UK0012602) and East Devon Heaths (UK9010121) and the species of special interest identified in this report. No consultation was carried out with National Landscape in advance of this site being put forward for the development of 750+ houses on the boundary of the SPA. With the preferred and only vehicle access (B3179) being alongside and slightly within the Pebblebed Heath, vehicle and light pollution will have an extreme and cumulative negative effect on this protected sight as well as the impact of increased pedestrian tourism.

No consultation has been carried out with Budleigh Salterton Town Council regarding the impact that an increase in the population of 1,800 people within a mile of the town will have. Budleigh Salterton is a small Tier 3 town in a conservation area with only a population of just over 6,000. Budleigh Salterton is the only town within the National Landscape and it takes its role as custodians of its beautiful East Devon landscape very seriously as set out in its Neighbourhood Plan. It would welcome the opportunity to work with EDNL (and EDDC) to identify

the environmental challenges and finding solutions which best protect the National Landscape.

- 3) Do you have any comments or feedback on chapter 6 (site screening) of the Screening Assessment?

Policies in the National Landscape Management Plan are considered to have the potential for effects on East Devon Heaths SPA (Pebblebed Heaths (UK0012602) and East Devon Heaths UK9010121) and require consideration in the screening assessment. In addition, the Lower Otter Restoration Project (LORP) near Budleigh Salterton is now designated as compensation land for the Exe Estuary and therefore should be treated as if designated as an SPA and Ramsar site.

Relevant authorities⁷ now have a new duty under the Levelling Up & Regeneration Act (LURA) whereby they must 'seek to further the purposes of the NL designation, which is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the National Landscape. When carrying out functions that may affect the National Landscape, even when these functions are carried out outside the National Landscape boundary, the, Management Plan policies may be applied outside the National Landscape boundary. Especially given the new duties placed on relevant authorities. Also, the effects of policies may be observed outside the National Landscape boundary.

BSTC feels that East Devon National Landscape Management Plan 2025-30 has to address the elephant in the room and articulate the remit and objectives defining its relationship with EDDC and Clinton Devon Estates and the impact and conflict of interests caused by the demand for housing development within the East Devon National Landscape and the National Landscapes remit to protect this landscape. It is important that collaboration and compromised is clearly defined and that EDNL collaborates proactively with EDDC, Clinton Devon Estates, impacted towns within the National Landscape such as Budleigh Salterton and local environmental groups to reach the best solutions rather than leaving it to EDDC to determine what is best case in isolation. Only these can Site Screening be set..

- 4) Do you have any comments or feedback on chapter 8 (Description of the National Landscape Management Plan) of the Screening Assessment?

Current Key Objectives within the Management Plan are:

1. 1) Restore or creation 2691ha of new habitat outside protected sites by 2042
2. 2) Bring 80% of SSSIs into favourable condition by 2042
3. 3) All existing Priority Habitat outside of protected sites continues to be managed in favourable condition

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4. 4) Increase tree canopy cover by 807ha by 2050
5. 5) Increase the diversity and abundance of wildlife across the Landscape
6. 6) Improve the water quality of key catchments
7. 7) Support and encourage environmental and renewable energy initiatives where appropriate
8. 8) Sustainable and reliable green infrastructure options for local and visitors alike
9. 9) Work collaboratively to ensure ecosystem services are restored at catchment- and landscape-scale
10. 10) Sustainable tourism opportunities fostering local economic growth in harmony with the Landscape
11. 11) Support and grow a thriving rural economy which balances sustainable land management with food production
12. 12) Collaborate with Local Authorities on green infrastructure and sustainable public transport options
13. 13) EDNLs historic environment is celebrated, valued and protected for future generations
14. 14) EDNL's natural heritage along our coast is celebrated, valued and protected for future generations
15. 15) Planning policy, guidance and new developments enhance the landscape character and qualities
16. 16) The National Landscape is perceived by a greater range of audiences who understand the NL designation, reason for rebranding and purposes of the Partnership

The purpose of the NL Management Plan is to set out the policy of the relevant local authorities towards the NL. Policies are purposefully protective towards the environment and will have varying degrees of influence on the way in which local authorities carry out their duties and functions in general and under other plans, such as the Local Plan, Transport Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and Shoreline/Beach Management Plans etc.

Yes. As above. Budleigh Salterton Town Council recognises the challenges and pressures facing EDDC and would like to work with EDNL, EDDC, Clinton Devon Estates and other local environmental groups such as The OVA and Plastic Free Budleigh to ensure that the key objectives of the East Devon National Landscape Management Plan as set out above are front and centre of EDDC plans for meeting its housing needs. At present EDDC is working in isolation without having consulted with the EDNL at this stage nor at any stage with BSTC despite the impact that its proposed developments

(especially EXMO-20 and EXMO-17) and how this affects the ability of the town council to meet the objectives of its Neighbourhood Plan. It would be better to collaborate and see what can be achieved working together.

- 5) Do you have any comments or feedback on chapter 9 and 10 (Preliminary Considerations and Further Considerations) of the Screening Assessment?

For some policies the decision of No Likely Significant Effect will be obvious, and these can be screened out immediately.

At the other extreme, some policies will very clearly have a Likely Significant Effect. These will need to be taken forward for 'appropriate assessment' or removed from the Management Plan.

In other cases, the judgement about a Likely Significant Effect will be less clear cut. It is in these cases that it is necessary to consider further the nature of the effect, and its likelihood or risk of occurring. These will be taken forward for fuller considerations.

Screening out or removing 'Likely Significant Effects' from the Management Plan is to remove the main challenges that the EDNL faces over the next five years. These should remain within the Management Plan and form the main part of its remit. The reality of our situation over the next few years will be very different and imposed upon us. If so we need strength and determination. Budleigh Salterton Town Council wishes to meet its objectives as set out in its Neighbourhood Plan and wishes to reiterates its wish to work closely with EDNL and EDDC to help protect the town and local landscape from upcoming development and environmental challenges.

Environmental Report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the EDNL Management Plan Consultation

Overview: The aim of this consultation is to get your opinion on the Environment Report which has been prepared as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment undertaken on the East Devon National Landscape Management Plan Consultation Draft 2025-2030, as required under European Directive 2001/42/EC.

Background: The requirement to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is established by the European Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive'). All National Landscape Management Plans require an SEA.

Proposed responses.

Question 1) Are you responding as a:
Budleigh Salterton Town Council

Question 2) Comments or feedback on the conclusion of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report?

The Vision for the National Landscape is founded on the principle of sustainable development, to secure protection for the area's natural beauty and deliver an enhanced landscape which can be enjoyed by and benefit present and future generations. This assertion is supported by the outcome of the assessment.

Whilst in practice there are many organisations that would continue to contribute to the NL's protection, there is no single organisation or regulatory mechanism with a complete overview or wide-reaching influence over everything with potential to impact on the NL. It is possible that without the implementation of the NL Management Plan the cumulative effect of uncoordinated changes in direction in the management of the natural and built environment could threaten the area's environmental quality and distinctiveness – factors central to its designation as a National Landscape.

Budleigh Salterton is concerned that no consultation has been undertaken with regard to the impact of EXMO-20 on the East Devon Heaths SPA (Pebblebed Heaths (UK0012602) and East Devon Heaths UK9010121). None was carried out with National Landscape in advance of this site being put forward for the development of 750+ houses on the boundary of the SPA. With the preferred and only vehicle access (B3179) being alongside and slightly within the Pebblebed Heath, vehicle and light pollution will have an extreme and cumulative negative effect on this protected sight as well as the impact of increased pedestrian tourism.

No consultation has been carried out with Budleigh Salterton Town Council regarding the impact that an increase in the population of (1,800 people) will have situated within a mile of a Tier 3 Town in a conservation area with only a population of just over 6,000). No consultation has been undertaken with the National Landscape or with BSTC with regard to P1 or P2 and the impact this will have firstly on its Neighbourhood

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Plan's ambition to reduce carbon emissions (as well as those ambitions set out in Devon Climate Emergency Plan and EDDC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan)>

Question 3) Do you have any comments or feedback on chapter 4 (Main objectives of the EDNL Management Plan) of the Environmental Report.

Budleigh Salterton Town Council is in full agreement with the 5 key purposes of the Management Plan and in particular point 4) Identifying what needs to be done by who and when in order to achieve the outcomes in the annual Delivery Plan. BSTC has concerns particularly about the WHEN if annual measures of success are found to possibly have shortfalls the developments causing such failings might be too far committed to for change to be possible. BSTC feels that East Devon National Landscape Management Plan 2025-30 has to address the elephant in the room and articulate the remit and objectives defining its relationship with EDDC and Clinton Devon Estates and the impact and conflict of interests caused by the demand for housing development within the East Devon National Landscape and the National Landscapes remit to protect this landscape. It is important that collaboration and compromised is clearly defined and that EDNL collaborates proactively with EDDC, Clinton Devon Estates, impacted towns within the National Landscape such as Budleigh Salterton and local environmental groups to reach the best solutions rather than leaving it to EDDC to determine what is best case in isolation.

4) Do you have any comments or feedback on chapter 5 and 6 (Scope of the SEA and Assessment Methodology) of the Environmental Report?

The Scope and Assessment Methodology are comprehensive and need quantifiable results.

5) Do you have any comments or feedback on chapter 7 (Developing Strategic Alternatives) of the Environmental Report?

BSTC would want to work towards 'Best for Environment' alternative. The rapidly changing landscape, policies and influences means that "Business as Usual" as set out in 2019-2024 are no longer relevant.

6) Do you have any comments or feedback on chapter 8 (Assessment of policies against the SEA objectives) of the Environmental Report.

Yes. The environmental management plan contains a lot of fine words. The reality may well be very different and imposed upon us. If so we need strength and determination. BSTC would like the opportunity to work with East Devon National Landscape and EDDC to identify positive and practical solutions to some of its areas of concern particularly surrounding P1, P2, T1 and T2 but more widely to embrace its unique position to proactively achieve gains in CC1, CEA1-3 and M1.

Town Improvement and Amenities Committee Terms of Reference

BSTC Ways of Working

Appendix 2

Potential new Committee for consideration

Town Improvement and Amenities Committee Terms of Reference

Purpose of the Committee. The Town Improvement and Amenities Committee will review suggestions for improvements throughout the town and the enhancement of public amenities.

It will aim to address the following aspects of the Budleigh Salterton Neighbourhood Plan:

Objective Five: To improve opportunities and infrastructure for developing new and existing business/retail enterprises. See Chapter 8

Objective Six: Enhance and protect community facilities for the benefit and needs of the community. See Chapter 9

Objective Seven: Promote and support the pastoral needs and wellbeing of the community. See Chapter 9

Objective Eight: To enhance and protect green spaces and recreational facilities of value to the community and visitors. See Chapter 9

Funding: The Town Improvement and Amenities Committee may ask the Town Clerk to formulate costed proposals for specific projects. BSTC Full Council retains the final responsibility for decisions about funding, including the use of Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 money.

Membership: The committee shall consist of at least 4 members of Budleigh Salterton Town Council and includes the Town Mayor, as agreed and minuted in a Budleigh Salterton Town Council meeting.

All members are expected to be fully involved the work of the committee.

Appointment of Members: The Annual Meeting of Budleigh Salterton Town Council will determine the membership of the Committee, or on the inauguration of the committee.

Frequency of Meetings: The committee shall meet as often as required, the frequency to be by request of BSTC Full Council, Town Clerk, or the committee. A quorum will be at least 3 members of the committee.

Recording of Meetings: The committee shall ensure an agreed written record of any meetings and actions points are forwarded to the Town Clerk for inclusion at the next BSTC Full Council meeting.

Accountability: The committee is accountable to the Full Council of BSTC and subject to the directions of the Full Council. It is governed by BSTC Standing Orders.

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Town Improvement and Amenities Committee Terms of Reference

Review of Terms of Reference: The Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis after the Annual Meeting and any suggested changes presented to BSTC Full Council.

Liaison with external bodies: To be determined, for example:-

- East Devon District Council, including Streetscene team
- Budleigh in Bloom
- Budleigh Information Centre
- Shop Budleigh
- St Peter's School
- Library
- Arts Forum
- Festivals
- Sports Clubs
- Churches
- Devon County Council Highways