

Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination Statement

This determination statement has been produced to comply with Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The Regulations implement European Directive 2001/42/EC. This requires that the effect on the environment of certain plans and programmes should be assessed; including plans prepared for town and country planning or land use. An exception is made for plans that determine the use of a small area at a local level, if the responsible authority has determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. This determination statement sets out the reasons why Dorset Council (the responsible authority) considers that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required with respect to the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Dorset Council January 2018. The Screening Report takes into account the criteria specified in Schedule 1 of the Regulations. On 2nd January 2018 this report was made available to the statutory consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and Environment Agency), as required by Regulation 9(2)(b).

The District Council received responses from all of the statutory consultation bodies by 9th February 2018 (see Appendix). Having considered these responses, and taken into account the criteria specified in Schedule 1 to the regulations, as required by Regulation 9(2)(a), the District Council considers that an SEA of the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan is required for the following reasons:

- The environmental sensitivity of the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area, particularly with respect to cultural heritage, flooding and biodiversity, and the scale of development which the plan is likely to come forward, it is considered that the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to result in significant effects on the environment.

NOTE: The statement is based on the information provided. If the contents of the plan are revised and/or there is a material change in the environmental characteristics in the locality (e.g. the designation of any additional nature conservation or other environmental sites), then the comments contained in this statement would need to be reconsidered in order to take account of the changes.

APPENDIX

SEA Statutory Consultation Bodies Responses

Environment Agency – received 09/02/2018

Natural England – received 02/09/2018

Historic England – received 22/01/2018

Mr Oliver Rendle - Environmental
Assessment Officer
West Dorset District Council
Planning Policy Division
Stratton House
High West Street
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1UZ

Our ref: WX/2006/000265/OR-
18/IS1-L01
Your ref: SEA
Date: 09 February 2018

Dear Mr Rendle

Puddletown Strategic Environmental Assessment

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the above mentioned Strategic Environment Assessment Screening Report. Apologies for the delay in responding.

We have considered the information within the document and from our remit can agree with the conclusions that the plan could impact on sensitive areas, such as flood risk, and therefore could, if your Authority determine, require a full SEA.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL HOLM
Planning Advisor - Sustainable Places

[Redacted signature block]

Date: 02 February 2018

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 234927

FAO: Oliver Rendle

By email only

Planning Ref: Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening report

Location:

Dear Mr Rendle

Thank you for your consultation on the above, dated and received by Natural England on the 2nd January 2018.

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening report for the Puddletown Area Neighbourhood Plan. Where Neighbourhood Plans could have significant environmental effects, they may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance at:

<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmentalassessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirementsforneighbourhood-plans>

While Natural England cannot give a legal opinion of the requirement for an SEA, given the housing allocations being brought forward by the Puddletown NP, and the natural and cultural assets in or adjacent to the plan area, the conclusion that a full SEA will be required would appear the best decision. Natural England, therefore, concur with the recommendation for a full SEA.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise. In the meantime, if you have any queries please get in touch with us.

For any queries regarding the advice in this letter only, please contact Matt Low on [REDACTED]. For any new consultations and to provide further information relating to this consultation please send your correspondence to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

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 future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Yours sincerely

Matt Low
Natural England
Dorset, Hants and Isle of Wight Area Team
Dorset Coast Team

From: Stuart, David [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2018 15:00
To: Oliver Rendle
Subject: Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan: SEA screening report

Dear Oliver

Thank you for your consultation on the SEA Screening Report for the emerging Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan.

This is to confirm that based on the information within the Report we agree with its conclusion that a full SEA is necessary.

Kind regards
David

David Stuart | Historic Places Adviser South West
Direct Line: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]
Historic England | 29 Queen Square | Bristol | BS1 4ND
<https://historicengland.org.uk/southwest>