

Porter, Karen

From: SM-NE-Consultations (NE) <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>
Sent: 05 October 2026 14:58
To: _planningadvice
Subject: Natural England Response Email H16-0944-26
Attachments: Annex A..pdf

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Dear Sir or Madam

We will action your request as follows:

- For consultations on Development Management, we will respond within 21 days from the receipt of your email.
- For consultations on Development Plans, we will respond within 6 weeks from the receipt of your email.
- For consultations from regulators relating to marine fisheries management we will respond within 21 days or within timelines agreed with your Natural England primary contact.
- For marine licence applications (including self-service marine licence applications) we will respond within 28 days.
- If you have specified a different deadline or we agree a revised deadline with you, we will respond within the time specified or agreed.
- If you are applying for the Discretionary Advice Service, we will respond to you within 15 working days.
- If you are a member of the public, we will respond to your query within 10 working days from receipt of your email.
- If your consultation relates to a Tree Preservation Order, Advertisement Consent, Hedgerow Removal Notice or Listed Building Consent, there is no requirement to consult us and you will not receive a further response.
- If your e-mail is regarding Agricultural Land Classification you can view both Post 1988 and Provisional ALC data on the www.magic.gov.uk/ website. Provisional data can also be viewed [here](#).

If this is a Development Management consultation that is not a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), EIA development, Minerals and Waste development, development affecting over 20ha of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land or does not trigger an Impact Risk Zone (IRZ), there is no requirement to consult us and you will not receive a further response

Please refer to our general advice in the Annex below.

The lack of comment from Natural England does not imply that there are no impacts on the natural environment, but only that the proposals are not likely to result in significant impacts on statutory designated nature conservation sites or landscapes. It is for the local planning authority to determine whether or not the proposals are consistent with national and local policies on the natural environment. Other bodies and individuals may be able to provide information and advice on the environmental value of sites and the impacts of development proposals to assist the

decision making process. We advise local planning authorities to obtain specialist ecological or other environmental advice when determining the environmental impacts of development.

We strongly recommend that local planning authorities (LPAs) use Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI IRZs) (available from the [Natural England Open Data Geoportal \(arcgis.com\)](https://naturalengland.gov.uk/open-data-geoportal/) and to use on [MAGIC \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/) along with guidance) to decide when to consult Natural England on development proposals that might affect a SSSI.

The SSSI IRZs tool is quick and simple to use and gives instant planning advice as a formal consultation response in certain locations for some development types. Use of the SSSI IRZs avoids the need for a formal email consultation on some development proposals, saving time during the planning process, and helps to reduce the demand on Natural England, enabling more focus on those development proposals with the highest risk to and opportunity for nature recovery.

[Planning and transport authorities: get environmental advice on planning - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/developers-get-environmental-advice-on-your-planning-proposals), <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/developers-get-environmental-advice-on-your-planning-proposals> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/consulting-on-neighbourhood-plans-and-development-orders> provides further guidance on when LPAs must consult Natural England on development proposals.

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