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Stogumber Neighbourhood Development Plan HRA and SEA determination

In relation to the examination of Stogumber Neighbourhood Development Plan (SNDP) West Somerset Council, as the competent authority, is required to determine if the Neighbourhood Development Plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).

There are no Natura 2000 sites, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), or Ramsar sites in the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Stogumber Parish Council (the Qualifying Body) consulted Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation and Somerset County Council Ecology, on the draft Stogumber Neighbourhood Development Plan (SNDP).

In addition, an SEA screening report on the SNDP concluded that the SNPD be screened out of SEA. This report was sent to the SEA statutory consultees for comment. Natural England's view was that the SNDP is unlikely to have significant effects on internationally and nationally designated sites, and that they are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan.

The West Somerset Local Plan (WS LP) was subject to Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). That assessment concluded that, the policies contained in the Plan were unlikely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European and / or Ramsar sites. The QB have stated the SNDP does not allocate sites and the Independent Examiner for SNDP policies as concluded that SNDP policies are in general conformity with the WS LP.

Based on this information it is concluded that it is unlikely that SNDP will have significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects and therefore further assessments are not required.

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