

Date: 03 July 2023
Our ref:439227
Your ref: Staverton Neighbourhood Plan



Cameron Whymer
South Hams District Council
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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Cameron Whymer

Staverton Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 16 Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 16 June 2023.

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 present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England welcomes the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and would like to make the following comments

Neighbourhood Development Plan (March 2023)

As per our comments dated 19th April 2023 as part of the HRA consultation, we would recommend that it is highlighted in the Plan that both of the site allocations in Woolston Green/Landscape (and potentially the light industrial site at Barkingdon, though we have not seen a map for this) are in the South Hams SAC Greater Horseshoe Sustenance Zone. This would be very useful information for prospective developers. Our HRA consultation response suggested the following text was added to allocation site policies (SNP4 and SNP6):

This allocation site is located within the South Hams SAC Greater Horseshoe Sustenance Zone and Habitats Regulations Assessment is required.

The supporting text could state that additionally, advice on surveys and mitigation should be sought from the South Hams SAC Greater Horseshoe Bats Habitats Regulations Assessment Guidance (Devon County Council, 2019).

Please note that the South Hams SAC planning guidance published by Natural England in 2010 was superseded by the South Hams SAC HRA guidance published by Devon County Council in 2019, and so should not be mentioned, for clarity. (This is currently mentioned in SNP11 and paragraph 7.4).

Strategic Environmental Assessment (November 2022)

Natural England has no specific comments on the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any

queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Jemma Short on jemma.short@naturalengland.org.uk. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

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