

This file has been cleaned of potential threats.

If you confirm that the file is coming from a trusted source, you can send the following SHA-256 hash value to your admin for the original file.

2ce30e3852d31d5d52d24feb27e2fc9ec59f471e77252c7c1f1aba58737770a0

To view the reconstructed contents, please SCROLL DOWN to next page.

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report on the East Devon National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030

Contents

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report on the East Devon National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030.....	1
1. Responses from East Devon National Landscape and EDDC response	1
2. Key findings:	6
3. Recommendations:	6

1. Responses from East Devon National Landscape and EDDC response

We received 16 comments in total on the draft Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report on the East Devon National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030 public consultation. The responses below are from East Devon National Landscape and East Devon District Council. All responses are anonymous, the responses are dated with when the first comment was made by the consultee/resident, with the earliest comment being first in the list. Consultee comments are not made public for privacy reasons. All respondents who allowed response via commonplace have been replied to on commonplace. If you are unable to find the response to your comment in the list or would like your response emailed to you personally. Please email engagement@eastdevon.gov.uk

East Devon National Landscape and EDDC response	Consultee comment and submission date
Thank you for your comments - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments. We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.	2025-05-10T07:29:13.193Z The comment left agreed with chapter 6,8,9 and 10
Thank you for your comments - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments. Re. use of the term 'appropriate' – we understand your viewpoint. The National Landscape's core duty is to conserve and enhance the landscape. This core purpose combined with other polices will ensure any renewable	2025-05-10T09:14:39.413Z The respondent suggested clearer criteria for environmental and renewable energy initiatives, prioritising land that is not environmentally sensitive or prime

<p>energy scheme avoids prime agricultural land (which is essential to delivering policy F1) and environmentally sensitive areas (essential to delivering the UK Government's Protected Landscape Target's & Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)). These policies will work in combination to protect the landscape.</p> <p>Re. use of term 'enhance' – we understand your perspective. The statutory purpose of the National Landscape, combined with the new duty (under LURA) placed on Local Authorities ensures they must now 'seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the National Landscape'. These duties, in combination with other policies and the PLTOF will ensure that any new development must account for, and enhance all factors of natural beauty.</p> <p>Re. scoring of RE1 – all new renewable energy schemes around, or within the NL, will require their own independent EIA as part of the planning process.</p> <p>Re. scoring of F1 – the policy states that a balance between sustainable land management and food production is necessary to achieve a thriving rural economy, therefore is 'specifically intended to conserve and enhance the natural, geological, built or historic environment'.</p> <p>Re. scoring of AR1 & TO1 – most of the Exe Estuary SPA sits outside the National Landscape boundary except for the compensation site in the Lower Otter (the boundary of which still needs to be determined), so these policies have been determined to not cause likely effects on the qualifying features of the European site by virtue of their specificity, scale or distance from the site.</p> <p>Re. scoring of P1 – addressed in the previous comment.</p> <p>Re. scoring of CEA1 – some educational activities, in large numbers at concentrated times, can cause damage to protected sites depending on the specifics of the qualifying features, as such 4 is a more appropriate score for those sites as the policy itself is worded to not encourage any such activities.</p> <p>Natural England (NE) are the statutory consultee whose sign off is required to approve this HRA report. NE reviewed and approved the scoring as presented.</p> <p>We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>agricultural land. They also recommended firmer planning policies to protect landscape character from being compromised by economic interests. In relation to preliminary screening scores, they proposed higher rankings for several policies to reflect potential adverse environmental and heritage impacts and questioned why some policies scored zero for the Exe Estuary.</p>
<p>Thank you for your feedback - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments. We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>2025-05-10T11:02:53.478Z</p> <p>The respondent did not leave a free text comment.</p>

<p>Thank you for your feedback - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments. We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>2025-05-11T20:27:01.247Z</p> <p>The respondent did not leave a free text comment.</p>
<p>Thank you for your feedback - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments. We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>2025-05-12T11:13:48.215Z</p> <p>The respondent did not leave a free text comment.</p>
<p>Thank you for your feedback - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments. We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>2025-05-14T15:45:17.736Z</p> <p>The respondent did not leave a free text comment.</p>
<p>Thank you for your feedback - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments. We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>2025-05-27T13:14:58.682Z</p> <p>The respondent did not leave a free text comment.</p>
<p>Thank you for your feedback - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments. We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>2025-05-27T17:20:14.452Z</p> <p>The respondent did not leave a free text comment.</p>
<p>Thank you for your feedback - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments. We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>2025-05-28T18:39:39.873Z</p> <p>The respondent did not leave a free text comment.</p>
<p>Thank you for your comments - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments. We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>2025-06-02T11:28:03.943Z</p> <p>The comment left did not agree with chapters 6,8,9 and 10</p>
<p>Thank you for your comments - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments. Planning strategy and policy are not within our remit, nor within our service area, so is outside the scope of this Plan and report. However, we will continue to work with the relevant service area to ensure adherence to the new LURA</p>	<p>2025-06-03T18:40:10.370Z</p> <p>The respondent expressed concern that proposed development on the outskirts of Littleham Village would encroach on the National Landscape, contradicting the plan's vision to protect and enhance the natural</p>

<p>duties. Specific planning applications are also outside the scope.</p> <p>We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>environment. They emphasised the importance of safeguarding open spaces, even with housing pressures.</p>
<p>Thank you for your feedback - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments. We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>2025-06-05T08:07:25.429Z</p> <p>The respondent did not leave a free text comment.</p>
<p>Thank you for your comments - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments.</p> <p>We are sorry you have found this process confusing. You may notice that the assessment uses technical terminology. This level of detail is a mandatory part of the management-plan process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment must follow prescribed legal tests and definitions set out in EU and UK legislation. • Screening decisions depend on precise habitat classifications, species sensitivity criteria and impact pathways, all of which are defined in regulation rather than everyday language. • Consistent use of this terminology ensures the assessment can be checked, compared and audited by statutory consultees and neighbouring authorities. <p>All feedback will be used to refine our signposting and explanatory notes, while preserving the necessary statutory format of the assessment.</p> <p>We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>2025-06-09T18:15:22.108Z</p> <p>The respondent felt the process could be made simpler and easier to follow.</p>
<p>Thank you for your comments - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments.</p> <p>Planning strategy and policy are not within our remit, nor within our service area, so is outside the scope of this Plan and report. However, we will continue to work with the relevant service area to ensure adherence to the new LURA duties. Specific planning applications are also outside the scope.</p> <p>We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>2025-06-12T14:39:20.795Z</p> <p>The respondent highlighted the mental health benefits of accessing areas of outstanding natural beauty and noted their importance for tourism. They expressed concern that development on site Exmo_17 would harm the landscape, reduce visitor appeal, and set a precedent for further loss of National Landscape around East Devon's coastal towns.</p>

<p>Thank you for your comments - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments.</p> <p>Planning strategy and policy are not within our remit, nor within our service area, so is outside the scope of this Plan and report. However, we will continue to work with the relevant service area to ensure adherence to the new LURA duties. Specific planning applications are also outside the scope.</p> <p>Each new project, programme or planning proposal within, or around the National Landscape must undertake their own EIA and HRA as part of the planning process to determine likely impact on the Landscape.</p> <p>We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>2025-06-13T09:30:08.850Z</p> <p>The respondent raised concerns about the lack of consultation on site EXMO-20, noting potential ecological risks to the Pebblebed Heaths Special Protection Area from traffic, light pollution and increased visitor numbers. They emphasised that large-scale housing close to Budleigh Salterton could impact both the protected landscape and the town's character, and called for early, collaborative work between relevant organisations to ensure housing needs are met without undermining environmental protections.</p>
<p>Thank you for your comments - they have been duly considered and shared with the team and other relevant departments.</p> <p>We are sorry you have found this process confusing. You may notice that the assessment uses technical terminology. This level of detail is a mandatory part of the management-plan process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment must follow prescribed legal tests and definitions set out in EU and UK legislation. • Screening decisions depend on precise habitat classifications, species sensitivity criteria and impact pathways, all of which are defined in regulation rather than everyday language. • Consistent use of this terminology ensures the assessment can be checked, compared and audited by statutory consultees and neighbouring authorities. <p>All feedback will be used to refine our signposting and explanatory notes, while preserving the necessary statutory format of the assessment.</p> <p>Planning strategy and policy are not within our remit, nor within our service area, so is outside the scope of this Plan and report. However, we will continue to work with the relevant service area to ensure adherence to the new LURA duties. Specific planning applications are also outside the scope.</p> <p>We would like to thank you for taking the time to respond and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future - input from varied experiences improve our work and reflect the District's priorities.</p>	<p>2025-06-17T13:16:23.939Z</p> <p>The respondent felt the consultation could be easier to follow, with simpler language and separate sections for each topic.</p>

2. Key findings:

2.1 Language and terminology at times confused members of the public. As stated, the format and language of the HRA must follow prescribed legal tests and definitions set out in EU and UK legislation, so that the statutory consultees can review the information and make the best screening decisions. However, we will take these learnings and seek to improve our own communications around the reasoning for this technical language in future consultations, whilst preserving the mandatory format of the technical document.

3. Recommendations:

3.1 The feedback, where relevant to the report, was positive. A proportion of the comments received were in relation to service areas outside of our control and not within the remit of this report. These comments will be fed back to the relevant service area within East Devon District Council. Natural England are the statutory consultee for this report. Natural England have reviewed the revised draft and approved the assessment. Consultation responses support proceeding to adoption of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report on the East Devon National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030. The next report will be in 2030 for the next Management Plan spanning 2030-2035.