

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for contacting [Natural England](#). 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 you do not receive a response from Natural England (or communication on a revised response date), we have no specific comments to make. 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 recommend that local planning authorities use Natural England's Site of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zones (available on [Magic](#) and as a downloadable [dataset](#)) prior to consultation with Natural England. Further guidance on when to consult Natural England on planning and development proposals is available on gov.uk at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-planning-authorities-get-environmental-advice>

<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>

**Natural England offices will be closed and home working staff unavailable between 4pm on the**

**24th December and will reopen on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>  
January 2021.**

Kind regards  
Natural England Consultations Team

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