

Date: 11 April 2018  
Our ref: 242664  
Your ref: P/18/014/FUL



FAO Andrew King  
Officer: Planning and Development Management

**BY EMAIL ONLY**  
**aking@scilly.gov.uk**

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Andrew

**Planning consultation:** P/18/014/FUL Change of use of agricultural field for the storage and processing of green waste.

**Location:** Parting Carn Farm, Parting Carn Lane, Parting Carn, St Mary's

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received on 22 March 2018

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.

#### **Insufficient information provided**

There is insufficient information to enable Natural England to provide a substantive response to this consultation as required under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. Please provide the information listed below and re-consult Natural England. Please note that you are required to provide a further 21 day consultation period, once this information is received by Natural England, for us to respond.

#### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

No assessment has been provided of the potential impacts the proposal will have on the Higher and Lower Moors SSSIs.

These sites are special because of their plant interest. Further information can be found at [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk).

#### **Air Quality**

Composting sites are a major source of emissions of ammonia, which is directly toxic to vegetation and especially to lower plants (mosses, liverworts and lichens). Ammonia is also a major contributor to the deposition of nitrogen, which reduces habitat biodiversity by promoting the growth of a relatively small number of the more vigorous plant species which then out-compete the other species present.

The interest features of the sites listed above are sensitive to impacts from aerial pollutants, such as those emitted from this proposed development which is only 300m away and there is no indication of the total tonnage of green waste to be composted annually. For composting facilities up to 500 tonnes per year there are potential air quality risks up to 500m away. The consultation documents provided do not include any assessment of air quality impacts. We advise you to obtain the following information:

Natural England advises that an initial screening for air quality impacts should be completed prior to determination of this application. Simple screening tools are available via the internet such as the SCAIL screening model <http://www.scail.ceh.ac.uk/cgi-bin/agriculture/input.pl>. The results of this screening should inform the need for any further, more detailed assessment which may be required to fully assess the impacts of the proposal. Where screening results indicate a more detailed assessment is necessary this should be carried out and completed prior to determination.

### **Water quality**

Composting facilities can result in water run-off that may contain high levels of nutrients and other substances that could damage the plant interest of the Higher and Lower Moors SSSI in a similar way to that described above. The compost resulting from this processing is also to be spread in fields near to the SSSI which could result in run-off. The consultation documents provided do mention some potential mitigation measures but do not include sufficient assessment of potential water quality impacts.

Natural England advises that further details of any proposed mitigation measures should be provided that demonstrate that there is no risk of water run-off from the proposal reaching the SSSI.

Please note that we are not seeking further information on other aspects of the natural environment, although we may make comments on other issues in our final response.

On receipt of the information requested, we will aim to provide a full response within 21 days of receipt. Please be aware that if the information requested is not supplied, Natural England may need to consider objecting to the proposal on the basis of potential harm to the above designated sites.

Should the developer wish to explore options for avoiding or mitigating effects on the natural environment with Natural England, we recommend that they use our [Discretionary Advice Service](#).

Please send further correspondence, marked for my attention, to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk) quoting our reference 214289

Yours sincerely

Mark Wills.  
Lead Adviser, West Cornwall Team.  
07970932854