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Your ref: P/23/049/COU

**RECEIVED**  
By Liv Rickman at 4:23 pm, Aug 10, 2023



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Liv,

**Planning consultation:** P/23/049/COU

**Location:** Land At Salakee Farm, Salakee, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly.

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 31 July 2023 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

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.

**SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENGLAND'S ADVICE**

**NO OBJECTION**

Based on the plans submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not have significant adverse impacts on designated sites and has no objection.

Natural England's further advice on designated sites/landscapes and advice on other natural environment issues is set out below.

Natural England advise that the proposed development site is located 130 meters from Higher Moors & Porth Hellick Pool (St Mary's) Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and close to other designated sites.

Based on the information submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not damage or destroy the interest features for which the SSSI site has been notified and will not have likely significant effects on any European site and has no objection to the proposed development.

We understand from the submitted information that the proposed development is for a pilot project for food waste recycling and that no waste from the process will be released into the local

environment. We also understand that the completed compost stored on site will not exceed 5 tonnes at any time and will initially be used elsewhere on Salakee Farm land.

We advise that if the relatively small amounts of the completed compost material are used following farming rules and best practice, impacts to designated features is unlikely. If this pilot project proves successfully and is scaled up, further assessment of potential impacts will likely be required.

To meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations, we advise you to record your decision that a likely significant effect can be ruled out.

### **Landscape advice**

The proposed development is for a site within the Isles of Scilly AONB. Natural England advises that the planning authority uses national and local policies, together with local landscape expertise and information to determine the proposal. The policy and statutory framework to guide your decision and the role of local advice are explained below.

Your decision should be guided by paragraphs 176 and 177 of the National Planning Policy Framework which gives the highest status of protection for the 'landscape and scenic beauty' of AONBs and National Parks. For major development proposals paragraph 177 sets out criteria to determine whether the development should exceptionally be permitted within the designated landscape.

Alongside national policy you should also apply landscape policies set out in your development plan, or appropriate saved policies.

We also advise that you consult the relevant AONB Partnership or Conservation Board. Their knowledge of the site and its wider landscape setting, together with the aims and objectives of the AONB's statutory management plan, will be a valuable contribution to the planning decision. Where available, a local Landscape Character Assessment can also be a helpful guide to the landscape's sensitivity to this type of development and its capacity to accommodate the proposed development.

The statutory purpose of the AONB is to conserve and enhance the area's natural beauty. You should assess the application carefully as to whether the proposed development would have a significant impact on or harm that statutory purpose. Relevant to this is the duty on public bodies to 'have regard' for that statutory purpose in carrying out their functions (S85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000). The Planning Practice Guidance confirms that this duty also applies to proposals-outside the designated area but impacting on its natural beauty.

### **Protected Species**

Natural England has produced [standing advice](#)<sup>1</sup> to help planning authorities understand the impact of particular developments on protected species. We advise you to refer to this advice. Natural England will only provide bespoke advice on protected species where they form part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest or in exceptional circumstances.

### **Environmental gains**

Development should provide net gains for biodiversity in line with the NPPF paragraphs 174(d), 179 and 180. Development also provides opportunities to secure wider environmental gains, as outlined in the NPPF (paragraphs 8, 73, 104, 120, 174, 175 and 180). We advise you to follow the mitigation hierarchy as set out in paragraph 180 of the NPPF and firstly consider what existing environmental features on and around the site can be retained or enhanced or what new features could be incorporated into the development proposal.

Natural England's [Biodiversity Metric 4.0](#) may be used to calculate biodiversity losses and gains for

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

terrestrial and intertidal habitats and can be used to inform any development project. For small development sites the [Small Sites Metric](#) may be used. This is a simplified version of [Biodiversity Metric 4.0](#) and is designed for use where certain criteria are met.

Natural England's [Environmental Benefits from Nature tool](#) may be used to identify opportunities to enhance wider benefits from nature and to avoid and minimise any negative impacts. It is designed to work alongside [Biodiversity Metric 4.0](#) and is available as a beta test version.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

For any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

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