

Date: 14 December 2016
Our ref: 202010
Your ref:



Graeme Thompson
Planning Policy Officer
East Devon District Council

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

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Graeme

Planning consultation: Revised Draft Honiton Sports Pitch Strategy

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 21 November 2016.

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.

We welcome the revised strategy and the SEA and HRA screening report. We would like to make the following comments.

HRA

We agree that HRA is not required.

SEA

Based on the information as provided we cannot rule out likely significant effects on the environment. Our previous consultation response highlights the environmental issues of concern.

We have not been able to check whether the sites recommended for development fall within the parameters of policy RC2 of the Local Plan, as the maps showing the locations of sites are difficult to read. RC2 covers sites within or adjacent to the development boundary only. A number of sites shown do not adjoin the built up area.

We strongly recommend that as a minimum you prepare robust landscape evidence to underpin the recommendations in the strategy.

SA

In the latest consultation draft strategy summary SA conclusions are shown. The full SA is however not provided with the document. We are therefore unable to comment on the SA and its methodology. Sustainable planning decisions should be underpinned by iterative sustainability appraisal. This strategy provides a stage in the process of directing the development of sports facilities, and it is important that its SA is transparent and robust.

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 Corine Dyke on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [REDACTED].

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Corine Dyke
Lead Adviser
Sustainable Development Team – Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly