

Dear Lynda

I can confirm that if your development site is not hydrologically connected to the Somerset Levels and Moors protected area, either through waste water treatment or being within the fluvial catchment, then the LPA will not need to undertake an HRA due to phosphates. The information provided appears to demonstrate that is the case. In addition, as you say, there is no nutrients requirement in relation to the Stour.

Kind regards
Simon

Simon Stonehouse
Senior Planning Adviser
Wessex team
Natural England

Horizon House
Deanery Road
Bristol BS1 5AH

tel: 020 802 66915 mob: 07900 608072



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The Discretionary Advice Service ([DAS](#)) provides a range of advice on development proposals and the Pre-submission Screening Service ([PSS](#)) provides advice for protected species mitigation licence applications.

From: Lynda Newbold <Lynda.Newbold@aspect-ecology.com>

Sent: 20 November 2020 13:25

To: Stonehouse, Simon <Simon.Stonehouse@naturalengland.org.uk>

Cc: Dan Simpson <dan.simpson@aspect-ecology.com>

Subject: Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar site & planning advice - proposals at Templecombe

Dear Simon,

I am writing regarding a site in Templecombe, Somerset, proposed for 60 new residential units. Our client has been advised that there is the potential for the planning application (ref. 19/03416/OUT) to be impacted by Natural England's recent advice regarding the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar

site and phosphate levels. It is understood that new development which add phosphates to the catchment (as per the attached plans) are likely to have a significant effect on the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar site, including residential development due to the increased waste water production.

Attached is a plan showing the site location, the location of the sewage treatment works which will serve the development and the Somerset Levels and Moors surface water catchment to the west. As you will see, both the site and the sewage treatment works are located outside of the catchment. Wessex Water have also confirmed that the Templecombe Sewage Treatment Works, which will serve the site, discharge to the Dorset Stour River Catchment. As such, the proposed development would not increase Phosphate levels within the catchment of the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar site and therefore there would be no likely significant effect on the qualifying features of the Ramsar site.

The Dorset Stour catchment within which the Templecombe Sewage Treatment works is located discharges to Christchurch Harbour which is not subject to any European/ international designations. In addition, the confluence with the River Avon is downstream of the Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar site. As such, the proposals would not have a likely significant effect on other European designations with regard to nutrient loading.

It is therefore our opinion that the proposed development at Templecombe would not require an HRA or Appropriate Assessment with regard to nutrient loading. We would be very grateful if you could confirm whether you are in agreement with this conclusion?

Kind regards,

Lynda Newbold

Senior Ecologist

t: 01295 279721 | e: lynda.newbold@aspect-ecology.com

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