

Ms Julie Fairman
St Stephen in Brannel Parish Council

Date: 16th Dec 2022

Dear Julie,

St Stephen in Brannel Parish Neighbourhood Plan – SEA and HRA Screening

As requested, I have screened the St Stephen in Brannel Parish Neighbourhood Plan to determine whether the plan requires Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

As required by the SEA regulations I produced a screening opinion for the Neighbourhood Plan and consulted the statutory bodies, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. I also asked Natural England to confirm whether or not Appropriate Assessment was required under the Habitats Regulations Directive.

Based on the scale of development proposed and the sensitive nature of the environment in the Neighbourhood Plan area, Cornwall Council is of the opinion that the St Stephen in Brannel Parish Neighbourhood Plan could have a significant impact on the environment and therefore, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required. With regard to European Sites, we are unable to conclude that the Plan will not impact upon St Austell Clay Pits SAC, Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors SAC and the Fal and Helford SAC and as such Appropriate Assessment (HRA) will also be required under the Habitats Regulations Directive. This view is confirmed by the consultation bodies. I have attached the full screening opinion report.

As this is a draft plan, if significant changes or additions are made to your Plan, we would advise you to have it rescreened.

Here is the link to the guidance on our website: [Strategic Environmental Assessment \(cornwall.gov.uk\)](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/strategic-environmental-assessment) which explains a little more about the process and has a link to the funding and technical support available.

Yours sincerely,

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**St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan
SEA and HRA Screening Report**

**St Stephen in Brannel NDP
(Consultation Draft, September 2022)**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment
Habitats Regulations Assessment**

Screening Report

November 2022

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Legislative Background	3
3. Habitats Regulation Assessment	6
4. Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening	11
5. Screening Outcome	22

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan (the NDP) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The report also considers whether Habitats Regulations Assessment is required under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive.
- 1.2 The purpose of the NDP is to set out planning policies to be used as part of the development plan, for determining applications in St Stephen in Brannel parish. The Vision for the NDP is to: *Recognise and respect the distinctive characteristics of the Parish community, including its individual villages and settlements, whilst providing for the future success and ambitions of all who reside within it, as a key part of the 'Green Capital' of Cornwall.*
- 1.3 The Plan identifies eight key settlements within the parish and draws development boundaries to illustrate where infill and rounding off may be acceptable. The Parish has already exceeded the minimum housing target but plans for an additional 255¹ homes to help improve the sustainability of settlements and to provide much needed affordable housing.
- 1.4 In addition, the plan safeguards employment/commercial spaces, local green space and community facilities as well as encouraging Renewable Energy development as well as a suite of other policies designed to protect the historic environment, landscape, natural environment and design quality/sustainability among other things.
- 1.5 The legislative background set out below outlines the regulations that require the need for this screening exercise. Section 4 provides a screening assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Neighbourhood Plan and the need for a full SEA or HRA.

2. Legislative Background

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed Guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005)
- 2.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required Local Authorities to produce Sustainability Appraisals (SA) for all local development documents to meet

¹ Note this is an additional 255 based on completion figures from April 2021

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

the requirement of the EU Directive on SEA. It is considered best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into an SA.

2.3 However, Neighbourhood Plans are not Local Development Documents and are not required to be subject to sustainability appraisal by legislation (although it is advisable to carry out some form of sustainability assessment.) Neighbourhood plans are produced under the Localism Act 2011. In SEA terms, neighbourhood plans are treated as components of Local Plans. National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) advises that in some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. The Localism Act 2011 also requires neighbourhood plans to be compatible with EU and Human rights legislation, therefore, depending on their content, neighbourhood plans may trigger the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and Habitats Directive

2.4 Figure 2.1 shows the SEA screening process, and Box 2.1 shows the criteria to be used for the main test that applies to neighbourhood plans, namely whether the plan is likely to have a significant environmental effect.

2.5 National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) advises that in some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. Potential triggers may be:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan

Habitats Regulation Assessment

2.6 Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is a separate process which is required for all plans and projects which are not wholly directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of a European site's qualifying features. This process also requires screening as a first step to ascertain whether a plan is likely to have significant adverse effects on the integrity of 'European' sites. European sites in Cornwall include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs.).

2.7 HRA focuses on maintaining the 'integrity' of the European Sites, namely their conservation objectives. Table 5.1 lists the European Sites within 10km of the neighbourhood plan; their designated features/habitats; conservation objectives; and vulnerabilities.

Sustainability Appraisal

2.8 The NPPG explains that there is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, a qualifying body must demonstrate how its plan or order

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

will contribute to achieving sustainable development. A sustainability appraisal may be a useful approach for doing this.

2.9 This report therefore includes screening for HRA and SEA . Section 3 sets out the HRA screening, and provides that Appropriate Assessment if required. Section 4 shows the SEA screening process (fig 2.1), and Box 2.1 shows the criteria to be used for the main test that applies to neighbourhood plans, namely whether the plan is likely to have a significant environmental effect.

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

3. Habitats Regulation Assessment

Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is a separate process which is required for all plans and projects which are not wholly directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of a European site's qualifying features. This also requires screening as a first step to ascertain whether a plan is likely to have significant adverse effects on the integrity of 'European' sites. European sites in Cornwall include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs.).

3.2 HRA focuses on maintaining the 'integrity' of the European Sites, namely their conservation objectives. Table 3.1 lists the European Sites within 10km of the neighbourhood plan; their designated features/habitats; conservation objectives; and vulnerabilities.

3.3 HRA screening: Is the Plan, either alone or in combination with other relevant projects and plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon European sites? The table(s) below appraises the effect of allocations or policies within the NDP which have the potential to significantly affect European sites within or with a pathway of impact from the NDP. The precautionary principle must be used when assessing whether adverse effects are significant.

European Site	Designated features	Threats/pressures	Pathways of Impact (arising from development relating to the NDP)	Likely significant effects (including in combination)	Screen in or out
St Austell Clay Pits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western rustwort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate scrub control • Invasive species • Change to site conditions • Habitat fragmentation • Air pollution 	Impact risk zone covering Treviscoe is triggered by residential development over 100 houses. Whilst this is unlikely in Treviscoe itself, there may be in combination/cumulative effects due to development in nearby Foxhole, St Stephen and Nanpean as well as nearby settlements in other parishes such as St Dennis.	Yes – possibility of cumulative/in combination effects of residential development	In

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

			<p>The plan is supportive of renewable energy. Wind and Solar installations do not trigger the need for additional assessment for this site.</p> <p>The plan is also supportive of deep geothermal, which would require further assessment and would not be appropriate in some parts of the parish. However, the plan does not seek to allocate any sites, so this would be done on a case-by-case basis.</p>		
Fal and Helford SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic salt meadows • Estuaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large shallow inlets and bays • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time. • Shore dock Rumex rupestris 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine consents and permits • Invasive species • Water pollution • Public access/disturbance • Siltation • Fisheries • Air pollution 	Yes. The parish is within the zone of influence for public access/disturbance	Yes	In

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

<p>Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors SAC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European dry heaths • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix. (Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath) • Transition mires and quaking bogs. (Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface) • Marsh fritillary butterfly Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergrazing • Inappropriate scrub control • Hydrological changes • Drainage • Wildfire/arson • Habitat fragmentation • Water pollution • Air pollution 	<p>Impact risk zone covering Treviscoe is triggered by residential development over 100 houses. Whilst this is unlikely in Treviscoe itself, there may be in combination/cumulative effects due to development in nearby Foxhole, Whitemoor and Nanpean as well as nearby settlements in other parishes such as Roche, Indian Queens and St Dennis.</p> <p>The plan is supportive of renewable energy. Wind and Solar installations do not trigger the need for additional assessment for this site.</p> <p>The plan is also supportive of deep geothermal, which would require further assessment and would not be appropriate in some parts of the parish. However, the plan does not seek to allocate any sites, so this would be done on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Yes – possibility of cumulative/in combination effects of residential development</p>	<p>In</p>
<p>River Camel SAC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water pollution • Inappropriate weirs • Invasive species • Water abstraction 	<p>No. Impact risk zones and 'river camel catchment area' (shown on map below) do not extend as far</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Out</p>

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • excelsior • European dry heath • Old sessile oak woods • Atlantic salmon • Bullhead • Otter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry and woodland management • Deer 	<p>as the parish.</p> <p>Intranet Mapping - Planning Data (cornwall.gov.uk)</p>		
Newlyn Downs SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix. • European dry heaths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive species • Air pollution • Public Access/disturbance 	No, impact risk zones do not extend as far as the parish.	None	Out
Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black throated Diver • Slavonian Grebe • Great Northern Diver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial fishing, • Fixed/drift net fishery 	No	None	Out

Summary

The HRA of the Cornwall Local Plan revealed the potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on the features of the Fal and Helford SAC due to a possible increase in recreation. Policy 22 of the Local Plan puts in place a strategic solution for the mitigation of recreational impacts. Surveys were carried out over the period of a year to establish the 'Zone of Influence' for recreational impact. St Stephen in Brannel Parish lies within the zone of influence for the Fal and Helford SAC and therefore a financial contribution is taken from new development to fund mitigation measures. However, as the scale of development proposed is above that outlined in the Local Plan, it is not possible to rely on the strategic mitigation and thus Appropriate Assessment will be required for the NDP in relation to this site.

In addition, the SSSI impact risk zones for 'Brenay Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors' and 'St Austell Clay Pits' covering Treviscoe indicate that the sites may be negatively impacted by residential development over 100. It is possible that this figure could be exceeded when

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

considering development cumulatively across other villages and settlements. Therefore, Appropriate Assessment will be required for the NDP in relation to these sites.

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

4. SEA screening

4.1 Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below:

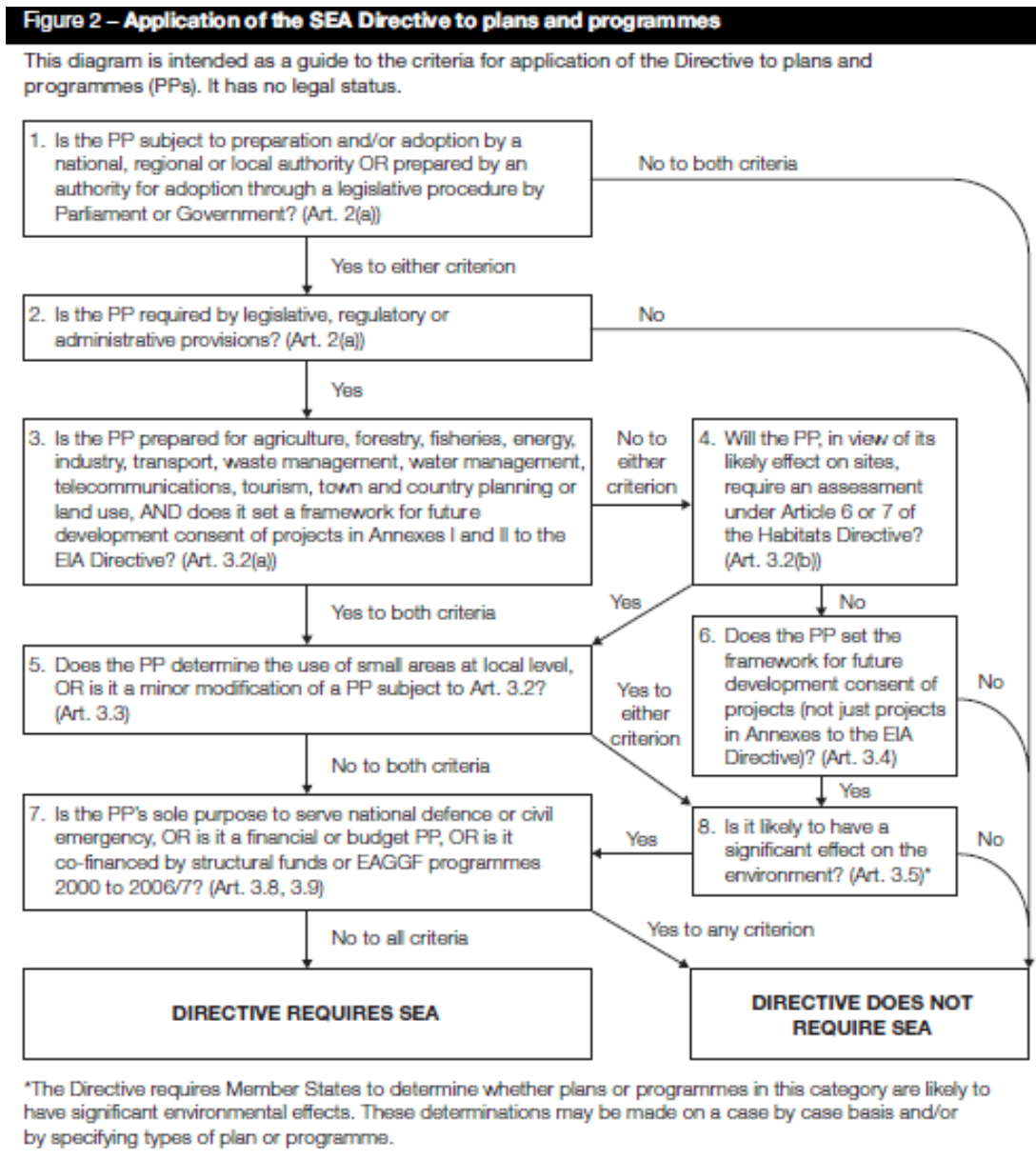
SCHEDULE 1 Regulations 9(2)(a) and 10(4)(a) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT
<p>1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources, - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy, - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development, - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme, - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection). <p>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects, - the cumulative nature of the effects, - the transboundary nature of the effects, - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents), - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected), - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, - intensive land-use, - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Source: Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

Figure 2 SEA screening flowchart

The diagram below illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required².



² Source: A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

Table 4.1 Establishing the Need for SEA		
Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	Will be 'made' by Cornwall Council and used in decision making as part of the development plan.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	Localism Act 2011
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	N	Annex I and II projects are (typically) large scale industrial and commercial processes – the plan does not deal with this scale of development.
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b)) (See para 4.2 above)	Y	See Section 3 on Habitats Regulations Assessment
5. Does the PP Determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Y	The Plan contains land use planning policies to guide development within the parish
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	The NDP will be 'made' and used as part of the development plan for determining planning applications in the Plan area
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	N	
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	Y	See Table 4.2

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

Table 4.2 Likely significant effects on the environment	
SEA requirement	Comments
The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:	
1. the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	The Plan provides local criteria-based policies to control the quality of development within the parish. The Plan identifies eight key settlements within the parish and draws development boundaries to illustrate where infill and rounding off may be acceptable. The Parish has already exceeded the minimum housing target but plans for an additional 255 homes to help improve the sustainability of settlements and to provide much needed affordable housing. <i>It is important to highlight here that the plan uses data from April 2021 and states that 203 houses have been completed since 2010. Current data shows 305 completions, so presumably reducing the total of housing proposed through the NDP from 255 to 153. This should be clarified in the next iteration of the plan.</i>
2. the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan. It does not influence other plans.
3. the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,	The neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan which promote sustainable development. It will be examined against four basic conditions, one of which is whether the plan contributes to sustainable development.
4. environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,	The following environmental problems/sensitivities have been identified in the neighbourhood plan area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fal and Helford SAC (Zone of Influence) • Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moor SAC (impact risk zone) • St Austell Clay Pits SAC • St Austell Clay Pits SSSI • Mid Cornwall Moors SSSI (impact risk zone) • South Terras Mine SSSI • Tregargus Quarries SSSI • Crowhill Valley SSSI • Trelavour Downs SSSI • 5 x County Wildlife sites • Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat • Area of Great Landscape Value • 5 Scheduled monuments • Flooding issues
5. the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the	N/A

**St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan
SEA and HRA Screening Report**

environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:	

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

6. the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,	The plan period runs until 2030, to align with the Cornwall Local Plan. The plan draws 8 development boundaries around key villages in the parish to indicate where residential development is acceptable through in fill and rounding off. The plan also supports very small-scale infill (1 – 2 dwellings) in the hamlets and scattered settlements within the parish. In addition, the plan safeguards employment/commercial spaces, local green space and community facilities as well as encouraging Renewable Energy development as well as a suite of other policies designed to protect the historic environment, landscape, natural environment and design quality/sustainability among other things.
7. the cumulative nature of the effects,	<p>The plan area itself is a rural parish (albeit one with several large villages and the active china clay mining industry) which is not a target for strategic development. Nearby St Austell is one of the main towns identified in the Cornwall Local Plan and has strategic allocations to deliver housing and safeguard employment land are included in the site allocations DPD.</p> <p>The Cornwall Local Plan sets a target of 1,800 new dwellings within the China Clay Community Network Area, which the parish is part of. As of November 2022, 1,421 homes have been delivered within the CNA since 2010, 305 of these are in St Stephen in Brannel Parish. The NDP plans for an additional 255* homes to help improve the sustainability of settlements and to provide much needed affordable housing.</p> <p><i>*It is important to highlight that the plan uses data from April 2021 and states that 203 houses have been completed since 2010, presumably reducing the total of housing proposed through the NDP from 255 to 153. This should be clarified in the next iteration of the plan.</i></p>
8. the transboundary nature of the effects,	N/A
9. the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	N/A
10. the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),	<p>The Parish has an estimated population 7811 (2019) across 8 main settlements. The NDP plans for an additional 255* homes to help improve the sustainability of settlements and to provide much needed affordable housing.</p> <p><i>*It is important to highlight that the plan uses data from April 2021 and states that 203 houses have been completed since 2010. Current data shows 305 completions, so presumably reducing the total of housing proposed through the NDP from 255 to 153. This should be clarified in the next iteration of the plan.</i></p>
11. the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:	<i>Full baseline review can be found in Appendix 1</i>

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

<p>-special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,</p> <p>- exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,</p> <p>- intensive land-use,</p>	<p>Special Areas of Conservation</p> <p>There is one SAC within the plan area, namely St Austell Clay Pits SAC. The general site character is described as: Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (50%); Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites). The qualifying species is a plant called western rustwort.</p>
<p>12. the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>Just over half the plan area falls within the Zone of Influence for the Fal and Helford SAC. This is a sheltered site on the south-west coast of England, with a general site character described as: Marine areas, Sea inlets (60%); Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (35%); Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes (3%); Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair (1%); Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets (1%). The site is designated due to a range of protected habitats and species.</p> <p>Breny Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors SAC is within approx 1km. This lowland site exhibits mosaics of various habitats, including European dry heaths, wet heaths, acid grassland, bog, swamp, fen and open water communities. The soil-structure of these sites reflects past mining operations, which caused poor drainage. The site supports a range of protected habitats and species.</p> <p>The River Camel SAC is within 4km (however the parish is not in the River Camel Catchment Area) and the site character is described as: Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (1%); Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes (0.5%); Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (5%); Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (10%); Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (25%); Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (10%); Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (45%); Mixed woodland (3%); Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice (0.5%). The site is designated due to a range of protected habitats and species.</p> <p>Newlyn Down SAC is within approx 8km. The site has the largest area in Cornwall of heath rich in Dorset heath <i>Erica ciliaris</i> (heather). A significant proportion of the <i>E. ciliaris</i> occurs in wetter situations than at Carrine Common. The sites selected for <i>E. ciliaris</i> heath in Cornwall, where the habitat type is rarer and more fragmented than in Dorset, are important for the representation of the full geographical distribution of Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i>. The site also features European Dry Heath habitat.</p> <p>The HRA in part 3 identifies that 3 SACs have the potential to be negatively affected by the NDP and</p>

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

should be subject to further assessment, namely Appropriate Assessment and SEA. These sites are: Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moor; St Austell Clay Pits; Fal and Helford. Please refer to section 3 for more detail on the screening process.

Special Protection Area

Falmouth to St Austell Bay SPA is within 10km. Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA is on the south coast of Cornwall, covering the marine environment incorporating five shallow, sandy bays; Falmouth Bay, Gerrans Bay, Veryan Bay, Mevagissey Bay and St Austell Bay. It also includes Carrick Roads, an estuarine area which meets the sea between Falmouth and St Mawes, and part of the tidal Helford River. The river complex areas are part of a ria system, typified by steep sides and slow tidal currents, with subtidal rocky shores and exposed intertidal mud on creeks and river branches. The site is designated due to supporting 3 species of wintering birds.

The SPA was scoped out at the Local Plan level and there are no anticipated impacts on the features of the designated site as a result of the NDP.

Site of Special Scientific Interest

There are a large number of SSSIs within/in close proximity to the parish. The Impact Risk Zones that cover the parish are for the following SSSIs:

St Austell Clay Pits – potential for impact due to residential development particularly at the southern end of Treviscoe in combination with development at St Stephen, Nanpean, Foxhole and other settlements outside the parish.

Mid Cornwall Moors - potential for impact due to residential development in Treviscoe in combination with development at Whitemoor, Nanpean and Foxhole (in addition to settlements around the Moors in other parishes such as Indian Queens, Roche and St Dennis).

South Terras Mine - this site will not need further assessment at this stage as the impact risk zone is very small and strategic solutions are in place that can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis if and when necessary.

Tregargus Quarries – this site will not need further assessment at this stage as the impact risk zone is

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

very small and strategic solutions are in place that can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis if and when necessary.

Crowhill Valley - this site will not need further assessment at this stage, as the NDP does not propose any development within the impact risk zones of the scale or type that meet the threshold. St Stephen and Coombe are the closest settlements that will see some housing growth, but the impact risk zone that covers those settlements states it is only rural residential development (i.e. outside of existing settlements) over 100 houses that could trigger a negative impact on the site.

Trelavour Downs - this site will not need further assessment at this stage as the impact risk zone is very small and strategic solutions are in place that can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis if and when necessary.

County Wildlife Sites

There are a number of County Wildlife Sites across the parish:

- Lanjeth Heath
- Bodinnick Wood
- Harvose and Ventonwyn Wood
- Longstone Downs

The natural environment is protected through the plan policies, particularly in section 8, though is also woven throughout other policies in the plan, e.g the business and transport sections. Policies NE3 and NE4 specifically reference county wildlife sites in the supporting text.

Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat

There is Biodiversity Action Plan Woodland scattered throughout the parish. Additionally, there is purple moor grass and rush pastures found to the south of the village of Lanjeth. Some areas of habitat are adjacent to the settlements, however, the natural environment is protected through the plan policies, particularly in section 8, though is also embedded throughout other policies in the plan, e.g the business and transport sections. For example, policies CF3 and NE2 promotes connectivity of habitats and green spaces and policy NE3 requires biodiversity net gain. Additionally, policy NE4 protects existing trees, hedges and hedgerows, specifically referencing biodiversity action plan woodland.

St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

	<p>Tree Preservation Orders</p> <p>TPOs in Coombe, St Stephen, Nanpean and Whitemoor. As noted above, Policy NE4 protects trees, hedges and hedgerows.</p> <p>Area of Great Landscape Value</p> <p>Part of the Fal Valley AGLV falls within the plan area, to the SW of the parish around the village of Coombe.</p> <p>The NDP is supporting of RE, including turbines which may have some landscape impacts. However the NDP draws extensively on Cornwall Council's Renewable Energy Landscape Study to ensure development is appropriate to the landscape setting and of an appropriate size and scale.</p> <p>A whole section of the NDP is dedicated to landscape and the natural environment (Chapter 8). Policy NE1 requires that development proposals <i>'take account of and enhance the characteristic, distinctive and historic landscape features of St Stephen in Brannel Parish, the setting and significance of heritage assets, and key viewpoints or vistas from, across and within the Parish's settlements'</i>.</p> <p>Scheduled Monuments</p> <p>There are 5 scheduled monuments in the plan area which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayside Cross St Stephen Church yard • Resugga Catsle • Tregargus stone grinding mill • St Stephen's Beacon Hillfort • Round SW of St Stephen's Beacon <p>A whole section of the NDP is dedicated to design and the historic environment/heritage (Chapter 7). Policies D1-D6 place a big emphasis on the protection of heritage assets and local character.</p> <p>Listed Buildings</p>
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St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

	<p>There are numerous listed buildings within the plan area. This information is available on the Council's mapping page.</p> <p>A whole section of the NDP is dedicated to design and the historic environment/heritage (Chapter 7). Policies D1-D6 place a big emphasis on the protection of heritage assets and local character.</p> <p>Air Quality</p> <p>Not within the parish, but AQMA in nearby town of St Austell.</p> <p>Flooding</p> <p>The NDP highlights flooding issues experienced in the Parish and this is a theme woven through several policies. For example: Policy CF3 (key recreation spaces and sports pitches) promotes multi-functional uses including flood risk management and habitat; Policy D4 (Sustainable Design) includes SuDS; Policy CF5 (Development infrastructure for growth) developer contributions for flood mitigation and the creation of a climate change plan. There are areas where the plan could be strengthened further and feedback will be provided in this respect.</p>
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St Stephen in Brannel Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Report

5. SEA Screening Outcome

5.1 HRA screening: The assessment in section 3 shows that there is a potential for significant effects on 3 European sites: the Fal and Helford SAC; St Austell Clay Pits SAC; and Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors SAC. Appropriate Assessment is therefore required.

5.2 SEA screening: Regulation 5(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (“the SEA Regulations”) provides that an environmental assessment (an SEA) must be carried out in a number of circumstances, including where the plan or programme, in view of the likely effect on sites, has been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (i.e. appropriate assessment by way of an HRA). Table 4.2 suggests that SEA is required for the St Stephen in Brannel NDP because the cumulative impact of the housing growth proposed (over and above that covered by the local plan) could affect the following environmentally sensitive areas:

- Fal and Helford SAC
- Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moor SAC
- Mid Cornwall Moors SSSI
- St Austell Clay Pits SAC and SSSI

Environmental Baseline: St Stephen in Brannel

Designation/issue	Features	Source	Comments
Ecology/Biodiversity			
Special Area of Conservation	<p>There is one SAC within the plan area, namely St Austell Clay Pits SAC. The general site character is described as: Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (50%); Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites). The qualifying species is a plant called western rustwort.</p> <p>Just over half the plan area falls within the Zone of Influence for the Fal and Helford SAC. This is a sheltered site on the south-west coast of England, with a general site character described as: Marine areas, Sea inlets (60%); Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (35%); Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes (3%); Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair (1%); Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets (1%). The site is designated due to a range of protected habitats and species.</p> <p>Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors SAC is within approx 1km. This lowland site exhibits mosaics of various habitats, including European dry heaths, wet heaths, acid grassland, bog, swamp, fen and open water communities. The soil-structure of these sites reflects past mining</p>	<p>Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping</p> <p>MAGIC mapping site check</p> <p>JNCC</p>	<p>The potential for impact arising from the NDP policies will need to be assessed through HRA Screening.</p>

	<p>operations, which caused poor drainage. The site supports a range of protected habitats and species.</p> <p>The River Camel SAC is within 4km (however the parish is not in the River Camel Catchment Area) and the site character is described as: Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (1%); Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes (0.5%); Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (5%); Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (10%); Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (25%); Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (10%); Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (45%); Mixed woodland (3%); Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice (0.5%). The site is designated due to a range of protected habitats and species.</p> <p>Newlyn Down SAC is within approx 8km. The site has the largest area in Cornwall of heath rich in Dorset heath <i>Erica ciliaris</i> (heather). A significant proportion of the <i>E. ciliaris</i> occurs in wetter situations than at Carrine Common. The sites selected for <i>E. ciliaris</i> heath in Cornwall, where the habitat type is rarer and more fragmented than in Dorset, are important for the representation of the full geographical</p>		
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	<p>distribution of Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i>. The site also features European Dry Heath habitat.</p>		
Special Protection Area	<p>Falmouth to St Austell Bay SPA is within 10km. Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA is on the south coast of Cornwall, covering the marine environment incorporating five shallow, sandy bays; Falmouth Bay, Gerrans Bay, Veryan Bay, Mevagissey Bay and St Austell Bay. It also includes Carrick Roads, an estuarine area which meets the sea between Falmouth and St Mawes, and part of the tidal Helford River. The river complex areas are part of a ria system, typified by steep sides and slow tidal currents, with subtidal rocky shores and exposed intertidal mud on creeks and river branches. The site is designated due to supporting 3 species of wintering birds.</p>	<p>Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping</p> <p>Natural England</p>	<p>The potential for impact arising from the NDP policies will need to be assessed through HRA Screening.</p>
Site of Special Scientific Interest (inc sites designated for geodiversity)	<p>Within the plan area there are several SSSIs, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Austell Clay Pits • South Terras Mine • Tregargus Quarries • Crowhill Valley <p>To the north of the parish Trelavour Downs, Mid Cornwall Moors, River Camel Valley and Roche Rock are also nearby.</p>	<p>Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping</p> <p>MAGIC mapping site check</p>	<p>There are a large number of SSSIs within/in close proximity to the parish. The Impact Risk Zones that cover the parish are for the following SSSIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Austell Clay Pits • South Terras Mine • Tregargus Quarries • Crowhill Valley • Trelavour Downs • Mid Cornwall Moors

	<p>To the east, St Mewan Beacon, Carn Grey Rock and Wheal Martyn SSSIs are within a few km of the parish boundary.</p> <p>To the SW of the Parish is Trehane Barton SSSI.</p>		The potential for impact on these sites will need to be assessed through SEA Screening.
National Nature Reserve	N/A	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	N/A
Local Nature Reserve	N/A	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	N/A
County Wildlife Sites	<p>There are a number of County Wildlife Sites across the parish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lanjeth Heath • Bodinnick Wood • Harvose and Ventonwyn Wood • Longstone Downs 	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	The potential for impact arising from the NDP policies will need to be assessed through SEA Screening.
Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat	<p>There is Biodiversity Action Plan Woodland scattered throughout the parish. Additionally, there is purple moor grass and rush pastures found to the south of the village of Lanjeth.</p>	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	The potential for impact arising from the NDP policies will need to be assessed through SEA Screening.
Tree Preservation Orders	TPOs in Coombe, St Stephen, Nanpean and Whitemoor	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	To be assessed on a site by site basis
Landscape			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	N/A	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	N/A
Area of Great Landscape Value	Part of the Fal Valley AGLV falls within the plan area, to the SW of the parish around the village of Coombe.	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	The potential for impact arising from the NDP policies will need to be assessed through SEA Screening.

Heritage/Historic Environment			
World Heritage Site	N/A	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	N/A
Conservation Area	N/A	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	N/A
Scheduled Monuments	<p>There are 5 scheduled monuments in the plan area which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayside Cross St Stephen Church yard • Resugga Catsle • Tregargus stone grinding mill • St Stephen's Beacon Hillfort • Round SW of St Stephen's Beacon 	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	The potential for impact arising from the NDP policies will need to be assessed through SEA Screening.
Registered Parks and Gardens	N/A	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	N/A
Listed Buildings	There are numerous listed buildings within the plan area. This information is available on the Council's mapping page	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	To be assessed on a site by site basis
Natural Resources			
Air Quality Management Area	Not within the parish, but AQMA in nearby town of St Austell.	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	For context
Agricultural Land Classification	Mix across the parish from grade 2 through to grade 5 and non-agricultural land	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	The potential for impact arising from the NDP policies will need to be assessed through SEA Screening.
Flooding and drainage	Surface water and fluvial flooding issues identified in NDP	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	For context
Socio-economic			
Population size	7,240	ONS, 2011	For context
Completions	305 completions	PowerBI Cornwall Council data	For context

Empty Homes	4.5% across the parish	Cornwall Council Interactive Mapping	For context
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