

CW&C response:

1. The Council has a Supplementary Planning Document on Parking Standards. This was updated in February 2022 and is available at: [Supplementary Planning Document: Parking Standards - Updated February 2022](#). The car parking standards are 'maximum' rather than 'minimum' standards. Policy T 5 in the Local Plan (Part Two) states the proposals will be supported that "provide sufficient parking facilities to serve the needs of the development and have regard to the Council's latest adopted parking standards for cars and other vehicles as necessary, including cycles". Policy T 5 is considered to be a strategic policy. Decisions on parking are taken using a vision-led approach where sustainable transport modes are prioritised, taking account of the vision for the site, the type of development and its location.
2. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Marine Plan Screening Determination for Blacon Neighbourhood Plan (November 2025) states on page 17 that "The Local Planning Authority will inform the neighbourhood plan group of the outcome of the screening assessment and identify additional work required". This is in the section relating to Marine Plans and only relates to Marine Plans. The conclusion relating to Marine Plans is that the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to impact significantly on the North-West Marine Plan or Welsh Marine Plan. Some policies have the potential for minor indirect negative impacts, and it is highlighted that the Neighbourhood Plan group will need to consider these impacts. The screening determination was forwarded to the Neighbourhood Plan group and as far as the Council are considered, no further work is required on this issue. The conclusion of the SEA screening is set out on page 7 and CW&C consider that it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan. As such, a SEA of the Neighbourhood Plan is not required. The conclusion of the HRA screening is set out on page 14, which confirms that the policies and proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan will not add significantly to the impacts and that the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have an adverse effect on a European site alone or in combination with other plans and projects and as such Appropriate Assessment is not considered to be required.
3. The screening determination was sent to Natural England on 7 November 2025. Natural England responded on 11 December 2025 and their response is provided as an attachment to this letter. Natural England conclude that "It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that significant effects on Habitats Sites are unlikely".

Yours sincerely



Catherine Morgetroyd

Principal Planning Officer (Planning Policy)

Date: 11 December 2025
Our ref: 532883
Your ref: Blacon Neighbourhood Plan



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Ms Morgetroyd

Blacon Neighbourhood Plan - SEA/HRA & Marine Plan Screening Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 07 November 2025.

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.

Screening Request: Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that significant effects on Habitats Sites are unlikely,

The proposed neighbourhood plan is unlikely to significantly affect any Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection areas (SPA), Ramsar wetland or sites in the process of becoming SACs or SPAs ('candidate SACs', 'possible SACs', 'potential SPAs') or a Ramsar wetland.

Where Neighbourhood Plans could have significant environmental effects, they may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended). The Neighbourhood Plan proposals should also be screened to ascertain whether Strategic Environmental Assessment is necessary. Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the [planning practice guidance](#).

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 is contained within the [Planning Practice Guidance](#). This identifies three triggers that may require the production of an SEA:

- 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 may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require an SEA. Further information is included in Natural England's [standing advice](#) on protected species.

Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant an SEA. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission [standing advice](#).

We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a SEA is necessary.

Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If a SEA is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.

Please send any new consultations, or further information on this consultation to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Sally Wintle
Consultations Team