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Economic and Environment
County Hall Colliton Park
Dorchester, Dorset
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Our ref: WX/2023/137162/CS-02/SB1-L01
Your ref: Bridport NP

Date: 13 July 2026

Dear Nick

Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan - Submission Consultation (e)

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the above Neighbourhood Plan(NP) and supporting documents. We have reviewed the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and have the following comment.

The main environmental concerns for the Bridport Neighbourhood area is flood risk. We note that there are no specific housing allocation proposed, but have following generic comments;

Flood risk

We support developments proposed in areas with Flood Zones 2 and 3 to be accompanied with site specific Flood risk assessment (FRA). Overall, the FRA should comprehensively evaluate flood risks to people and property including climate allowance, demonstrate that the development will be safe for its lifetime, and ensure that it will not increase flood risk elsewhere.

Main River

We note that there are two main rivers within the Bridport Neighbourhood area. Proposed development and/or activities undertaken within 8 metres of the main river will require an Environmental Permit. Further guidance is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits

Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity Net Gain is already established in the National Planning Policy Framework for new developments and planning policies. We support your plan that considers how these requirements can be met and preferably where they plan go beyond any minimum requirements to deliver environmental net gain through enhancing and protecting the environment.

Strategic Water Planning

In February 2011, the Government signalled its belief that more locally focussed decision-making and action should sit at the heart of improvements to the water environment. This is widely known as the catchment-based approach and has been adopted to deliver requirements under the Water Framework Directive. This seeks to:

- Deliver positive and sustained outcomes for the water environment by promoting a better understanding of the environment at a local level; and
- To encourage local collaboration and more transparent decision-making when both planning and delivering activities to improve the water environment.

Neighbourhood Plans provide an opportunity to deliver multi-functional benefits through linking development with enhancements to the environment. You can find more information on the challenges that threaten the water environment and how these challenges can be managed for your plan area in your River Basin Management Plan.

Drainage And Wastewater Infrastructure

Where your plan proposes development or promotes growth, we recommend early consultation with the relevant water company. Your plan should determine whether there is (or will be prior to occupation) sufficient infrastructure capacity existing for the connection, conveyance, treatment and disposal of quantity and quality of water associated with any proposed development within environmental limits of the receiving waterbody.

Closing

We encourage you to seek ways in which your neighbourhood plan can improve the local environment at the earliest stages. Together with Natural England, English Heritage and Forestry Commission we have published joint guidance on neighbourhood planning, which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environmental into your plan. This is available at:

https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/consider-environment-neighbourhood-plans

Should the aspiration of the plan change, or as the plan progresses please re-consult us, as we may be in a position to provide further comments

Yours sincerely

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