



Saltburn Conservation Area Local Development Order

Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment

This statement sets out the Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council's determination of the need for a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) under European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora (the 'Habitats Directive') and associated Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 ('Habitat Regulations') for the Saltburn Conservation Area Local Development Order (LDO).

1. Introduction

1.1. Regulation 61(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 requires that:

"A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which:

a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site, must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives."

1.2. The screening stage is the first stage in the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) process for a plan or programme, not directly connected to the necessary management of a European site. This stage is to establish whether a "significant effect" upon the conservation objectives of the site is likely. A significant effect is "any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may affect the conservation action objectives of the features for which the site was designated, but excluding trivial or inconsequential effects".

1.3. This statement has been prepared to set out the Council's determination as to whether the Saltburn Conservation Area Local Development Order is likely to have a significant effect on a European site and whether it should be subject to further stages of the HRA process.

2. The Saltburn Conservation Area Local Development Order

2.1. The LDO covers all properties that are located within Saltburn Conservation Area, with the exception of properties that are listed or within the curtilage of buildings that

are listed. It covers development that affects any external window or door or roof of the properties within this area and will primarily affect development on residential dwellings.

- 2.2. The LDO is proposed alongside an Article 4 Direction for the conservation area that will remove specified existing permitted development rights. The purpose of the LDO is to provide a positive planning tool that will encourage and facilitate sympathetic alterations to properties that will protect or enhance the appearance and character of the Conservation Area.
- 2.3. Development permitted by the LDO is, therefore, restricted to minor alterations to existing buildings within a defined urban area comprising of residential and commercial properties. These alterations were already permitted development until the making of the associated Article 4 Direction for the Conservation Area.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1. The scope of the development permitted by the LDO is restricted to minor alterations to existing buildings within an existing urban area. Permitted developments will not lead to an increase in visitors to any European site, including the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site, and will not result in any land take or other disturbance to any qualifying features of a European site. The Council, therefore, considers that the LDO is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site and would not require an appropriate assessment in the context of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.