

**CORNWALL COUNCIL AS LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY (LPA)**  
**RECORD OF ASSESSMENT<sup>1</sup> OF THE SCREENING FOR THE**  
**MANAGEMENT TEST AND THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT TEST ON A**  
**EUROPEAN SITE(S)**

<b>Scheme Reference: Maritime Sensor Suite Lizard Point/ Bass Point</b>	
<b>Part 1. Description of the project or plan checklist</b>	<b>✓ or ✗</b>
<b>Have the following features of the project or plan been identified in the planning application?</b>	<b>as appropriate</b>
Size, scale, area, land-take.	✓
Physical changes that will flow from the project or plan (from excavation and dredging).	✓
Resource requirements (water abstraction).	✓
Emissions and waste (disposal to land, water or air).	✓
Transportation requirements	✓
Duration of construction, operation or decommissioning.	✓
<i>Project programme</i>	
Distance from Natura 2000 sites and information on key features of the site(s)	✓
Cumulative impacts with other projects or plans identified ( <i>with indication of assumptions</i> )	✓
Positive and negative effects	✓

<sup>1</sup> “Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites.” Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2002

## LPA Screening Matrix <sup>2</sup>

Scheme Reference:	
<p>1. Brief description of the project or plan.</p>	<p>To install a maritime sensor suite at either Lizard Point Lighthouse or National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) station at Bass Point under contract to the Home Office which will contribute to the UKs maritime domain awareness and enhance safety and security in UK waters for the Maritime Coastguard Agency and other departments.</p> <p>The sensor suite will comprise of either a fixed or mobile mast; the exact configuration will depend on the likely duration and what is assessed as most appropriate for each location. The sensors will include a commercial x-band maritime radar, static cameras, thermal imaging pan-tilt-zoom cameras, small aerials to receive vessels Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) and communications link (e.g., Starlink and 4/5G).</p> <p>Site preference is at Lizard Point Lighthouse which would provide greater sector coverage. The proposal is to install the suite onto an existing mast at the Lighthouse to utilise unused capacity or if this is not feasible locate a new mobile mast on the site.</p> <p>The secondary option at the NCI station at Bass Point would look to install the same sensors onto the station roof.</p>
<p>2. Brief description of the Natura 2000 site(s).</p>	<p>The Lizard Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is located on the Lizard Peninsular and covers an area of approximately 3083 hectares. The site is designated due to presence of Annex 1 habitats, these include: Vegetated Sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts, Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> species, Mediterranean temporary ponds, Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>, European dry heaths and Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with <i>Erica vagans</i>.</p> <p>Lizard Point SAC is a marine site that covers some 13,995 hectares of inshore and offshore areas of submerged bedrock and boulders. This unique geology forms Reefs that are an Annex 1 habitat and the primary reason for designation. There are two areas of upstanding reef extending from 3.5 to 9 km offshore and to depths of 80 meters.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Annex 2 blank assessment forms, EC Guidance 2002

<b>Scheme Reference:</b>	
<p><b>Stage 1 Screening Management Test</b></p> <p><b>Stage 1 Screening Likely Significant Effect Test</b></p> <p><b>Assessment Criteria</b></p> <p>3. Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site.</p>	<p><b>Is the proposal directly connected with or necessary to site management for nature conservation?</b></p> <p>No, the proposal is not connected with or necessary for site management for nature conservation.</p> <p>The project is not considered likely to give rise to impacts on the Annex 1 habitats present within the SACs. At the preferred Lizard Point location there is already an existing mast attached to the light house so the proposal could use any spare capacity on this mast. This option would require no additional construction and would involve operatives carrying the equipment from their vehicle and installing onto the mast.</p> <p>If a mobile mast is installed onto the site, it would be mounted on a trailer and towed to Lizard Point on the access road. The mobile mast would be a maximum height of 20-metres and all equipment is modular and portable. It would be sited on existing hard standing surfaces.</p> <p>At the alternative location at NCI Bass Point the mast would be smaller (approximately 6-10 metres) and would be attached to the side of the building. Access to the station would be via Green Lane with items dropped off and carried by hand across an area of coastal heathland along an existing path. Movement of the equipment could damage and negatively impact this ecologically important feature of the SAC if the existing pathway is not strictly adhered to.</p>
<p>4. Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site(s) by virtue of:</p>	<p><b>Size and scale</b></p> <p>The size and scale of options for the project will have no direct, indirect, or secondary impacts on the Annex 1 habitats at the Lizard Point lighthouse site if the existing mast is used or if a mobile mast is located.</p> <p>If the NCI station is used, then a smaller mast will be used which is proportional to the size of the station. There are no impacts of the project due to its size or scale on site designations.</p> <p><b>Land take</b></p> <p>There are no likely impacts associated with land take from the project on designated features.</p>

<b>Scheme Reference:</b>	
<b>Size and scale;</b> <b>Land-take;</b> <b>Distance from the Natura 2000 site or key features of the site;</b> <b>Resource requirements;</b> <b>Emissions (e.g. disposal to land, water or air);</b> <b>Excavation requirements;</b> <b>Transportation requirements;</b> <b>Duration of construction and operation;</b> <b>Any other relevant considerations.</b>	<p><b>Distance from European Site or key features of the site</b>  The lighthouse site borders the Lizard SAC but is outside of it. It is 100m north of the Lizard Point SAC.</p> <p>The NCI station lies within The Lizard SAC and 100m north of the Lizard Point SAC.</p> <p><b>Resource requirements</b>  The project is not considered to have any resource requirements that are likely to impact either SAC.</p> <p><b>Emissions</b>  The project will not lead to any increase of emissions likely to impact the features of either SAC.</p> <p><b>Excavation requirements</b>  No excavation is required for either site so impacts associated with excavations are not considered likely to impact either SAC.</p> <p><b>Transport requirements</b>  There is a surfaced road to the lighthouse site which provides access for equipment required. Equipment, such a mobile mast can be towed on a trailer directly to the site.</p> <p>Access via Green Lane to the NCI station requires materials to be carried the short distance from the road to the station by hand along a pathway. This crosses an area of coastal heath which may be directly impacted from trampling and damage if the existing pathway is not strictly adhered to.</p> <p><b>Duration of construction</b>  The installation of the equipment is likely to be completed in a single day and therefore have no medium of long term impacts.</p> <p><b>Chemical contamination</b>  The installation of the sensors at either location will not result in any chemical contamination likely to impact the SACs.</p> <p><b>Recreational user impact</b>  There is no increase in recreational user impact on the SAC due to the proposal.</p> <p><b>Production of noise and visual disturbance</b>  The project will not produce any noise or visual disturbance likely to impact the designated features of either SAC.</p>

<b>Scheme Reference:</b>	
	<p><b>Aquatic habitat</b> There are no likely impacts to aquatic habitats in either SAC</p>
<p>5. Describe any likely changes to the site(s) arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of habitat area.</li> <li>• Disturbance to key species.</li> <li>• Habitat or species fragmentation.</li> <li>• Reduction in species density.</li> <li>• Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality).</li> <li>• Climate change.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reduction of habitat areas</b> There will be no reduction of habitat areas within either SAC as a result of the proposal at the light house site.</p> <p>There may be a small loss of coastal heathland if the existing footpath is not strictly adhered to at the NCI site.</p> <p><b>Disturbance to key species</b> None of the available options are likely to disturb key species for which either SAC are designated at the lighthouse site.</p> <p>Plants associated with coastal heathland such as Heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>, Erica species and associated forbs may be disturbed through direct trampling at the NCI site.</p> <p><b>Habitat or species fragmentation</b> There will be no habitat fragmentation as a consequence of the proposal at the lighthouse site.</p> <p>There is some potential for habitat loss and localised species fragmentation as a result of trampling and direct damage to the coastal heathland at the NCI site.</p> <p><b>Reduction of species diversity</b> There will be no loss in species diversity as a result of the project at the lighthouse site.</p> <p>There is unlikely to be a reduction in species diversity at the NCI site if the existing pathways are strictly adhered to.</p> <p><b>Changes in key indicators of conservation value</b> There will be no changes to key indicators of conservation value.</p> <p><b>Water quality</b> Water quality will not be affected by the proposal.</p> <p><b>Climate change</b> The proposal will not affect climate change.</p> <p><b>Other changes</b> No other changes.</p>

Scheme Reference:	
<p>6. Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site(s) as a whole in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site.</li> <li>• Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site</b></p> <p>The structure of the Lizard SAC and Lizard Point SAC sites is defined by the unique geology and mild climatic conditions of the Lizard peninsular which supports a range of marine and coastal habitats as well as lowland heaths and ponds. The proposal is not likely to interfere with the key relationships that define the structure of the sites if the materials are carried by hand using the existing footpaths to ensure no damage is done to the coastal heathland at the NCI site.</p> <p><b>Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site</b></p> <p>The function of the Lizard SAC and Lizard Point SAC sites is the conservation of the Annex 1 habitats which are the primary reason for their designation. The proposal is not likely to interfere with the relationships that define the function of the sites at the lighthouse site as the installation and operation of the sensors will be placed on an existing building or on a mobile unit which can be accessed with directly trampling or damaging coastal heathland.</p>
<p>7. Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of impacts set out above in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of habitat area.</li> <li>• Fragmentation.</li> <li>• Disruption.</li> <li>• Disturbance.</li> <li>• Population Density</li> </ul>	<p><b>Habitat loss</b></p> <p>There will be no loss in habitat area at the light house site as a result of the proposal therefore no indicator is identified.</p> <p>At the NCI site there is potential for damage to the area of coastal heathland from transporting equipment to the station. An indicator of significance would be if there was a loss of coastal heathland cover as a result of moving the equipment across this habitat without mitigation.</p> <p><b>Fragmentation</b></p> <p>There will be no habitat fragmentation at the light house site as a result of the proposal therefore no indicator is identified.</p> <p>As above without mitigation in place to prevent damage to the coastal heathland the decrease in cover of coastal heathland would indicate habitat fragmentation.</p> <p><b>Disruption/Disturbance</b></p> <p>At the lighthouse site there will be no disturbance to the SAC as a result of the proposal therefore no indicator is identified.</p>

<b>Scheme Reference:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Resources</li> <li>• Water Quality</li> </ul>	<p>At the NCI station disturbance to the coastal there may be disturbance to vegetation adjacent the building from carrying equipment from Green Lane.</p> <p><b>Population Density</b> There will be no impacts on population density and therefore no indicators are identified.</p> <p><b>Water Resources</b> The proposal will have no impact on water resources and therefore no indicators are identified.</p>
<p><b>8. Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.</b></p>	<p>The use of the existing mast at the lighthouse as the preferred option will use existing infrastructure and therefore there will be no additional impact of locating the sensors on this structure on the features of the SACs.</p> <p>If a mobile mast is located on the same site, then this will be towed to the site and located on hardstanding. In both circumstances the equipment installation and operation of the masts are unlikely to result in negative impacts on the SACs.</p> <p>At the NCI station, due to reduced accessibility to transport the equipment then a significant negative impact could potentially result damage/disturbance to coastal heath from moving materials from Green Lane to the station. This will be mitigated by carrying the equipment by hand using the existing pathways and strictly adhered to.</p>
<p><b>9. Outcome of screening stage</b></p>	<p>It is not considered that the proposal will have a significant negative on the Annex 1 habitats for which the Lizard SAC or Lizard Point SAC are designated if the mitigation described can be implemented. If the equipment cannot be carried by hand along the exiting pathway to the NCI site then a Stage 2 HRA will be necessary with the work being carried out under a watching brief by a suitably qualified ecologist to ensure no loss of habitat occurs.</p>
<p><b>10. Authorised Officer signature:</b></p>	

**Checklist of Indicative Sources for Impact Identification**  
(adapted from: European Commission, 2002<sup>3</sup>)

<sup>3</sup> See Box 3 EC Guidance; Ibid

<b>Scheme Reference: Single</b>	
<b>Have these sources been consulted?</b>	<b>Delete as appropriate</b>
The Natura 2000 standard data form for the site ( <i>refer to <a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/idt/default.htm">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/idt/default.htm</a> and Natural England citation</i> )	✓
Existing and historical maps	✓
Land-use and other relevant existing plans	✓
Existing site survey material	X
Existing data on hydrogeology	X
Existing data on key species	✓
Environmental statements for similar projects or plans elsewhere	X
State of the environment reports	X
Site management plans	X
Geographical information systems	X
Site history files	X
Environment Agency consents or authorisations	X
Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS)	X
Other, as appropriate (please specify)	n/a