

Natural England welcomes the proposed programme of activities designed to secure a more sustainable future for water and wastewater services on the Isles of Scilly in the interest of public health and the local tourist economy, but also for safeguarding the environment into the future. While we have no preference for which company might deliver improvements to water and wastewater services on the islands, we welcome the proposals from South West Water to become the authority for the Isles of Scilly.

Investigating and tackling potential water pollution was one of the priority measures outlined for the improvement of the conservation status of the Isles of Scilly protected areas, in work undertaken as part of the national IPENS (Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites) project which reported in 2014. In particular we welcome the proposal to install a suitable wastewater treatment facility on St Mary's to ensure that raw sewage is no longer discharged direct to the marine environment.