

Dalton Barracks Supplementary Planning Document: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

OCTOBER 2021

SUMMARY

Following consultation with the statutory bodies, Vale of White Horse District Council (the Council) determines that the Dalton Barracks Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or Habitats Regulations Assessment.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Vale of White Horse District Council (the Council) is preparing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to provide additional design and development guidance for the strategic allocation at Dalton Barracks within its Local Plan Part 2¹ (LPP2).
- 1.2. The Council started preparing the SPD in tandem with its LPP2 preparation. The original scope of the SPD meant that the Council needed to subject it to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). However, during the examination in public of the LPP2, the Planning Inspector reduced the spatial extent of the allocation at Dalton Barracks as submitted. This meant that the original SEA screening and scoping assessments of the accompanying SPD were based on a wider site area, and on the premise of being adopted alongside the LPP2.
- 1.3. The Council has therefore reviewed its original screening assessment to determine whether it needs to undertake SEA, taking account of these changes in circumstances. In addition, the Council has also considered whether the change in scope of the SPD would require a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA).
- 1.4. In the screening assessment review, **it is the Council's view that the SPD does not require further a SEA or HRA.**

2. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCREENING?

- 2.1. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)² state that a screening determination should be reached by 'the responsible authority'. In this case, the responsible authority is the Vale of White Horse District Council.

¹ Local Plan 2031 Part 2 Core Policies 8a and 8b

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/contents/made>

- 2.2. The responsible authority must reach a determination in consultation with the statutory consultation bodies designated under the regulations, which are the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England. This was conducted from 6 September 2021 to 11 October 2021. The results of this consultation are detailed in this screening statement.

3. SCREENING METHODOLOGY – SEA

- 3.1. Screening involves giving consideration to the anticipated scope of the plan in question and the nature of environmental issues (including opportunities for enhancement) locally, before coming to a conclusion on the potential for a cause-effect relationship, i.e. the likelihood of the plan leading to ‘significant effects on the environment’.
- 3.2. Screening is ‘Stage A’ in Government’s six stage approach to SEA. If it is determined, through screening, that SEA is not required, then plan-makers need not concern themselves with subsequent stages of the SEA process.³
- 3.3. Where the scope of a plan or programme changes it may be necessary to ‘re-screen’ to assess whether a further SEA is required. This is the case with the Dalton Barracks SPD, where the area it covers has been reduced in size since the original screening was undertaken.
- 3.4. The Council undertook a screening assessment in April 2018 of the SPD, concluding that an SEA was required. At that time the SPD was being produced alongside the LPP2, and it was feasible that the SPD could be adopted at the same time as the LPP2.
- 3.5. During the Examination in Public of the LPP2, the Inspector reduced the scope of the allocation and Green Belt removal from a much larger area capable of accommodating around 4,500 homes. The submission version of the LPP2 made an allocation for 1,200 homes to be delivered in the plan period to 2031 but deferred to the SPD’s masterplan to identify how the wider 4,500 homes could be accommodated. However, the Inspector considered such an approach ran contrary to Green Belt policies within the NPPF and therefore fixed the site’s area and number of dwellings at around 1,200 homes⁴. The policy was also amended to ensure that the SPD could only refer to this figure and smaller site area.
- 3.6. The screening process assessed whether the reduction in site area and adoption of the LPP2 changes the requirement for the SPD to be subject to SEA.

³ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-neighbourhood-plans/>

⁴ <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2019/07/Final-Vale-of-White-Horse-Report-June-2019-LPP2ex.pdf> (See Paragraphs 34 to 55)

- 3.7. Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations lists criteria that should be taken into account when establishing the potential for the plan to result in significant effects. The criteria/issues listed in the Regulations provide a methodological basis for screening.
- 3.8. Finally, it is important to note that guidance on SEA Screening is provided within Government's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). The PPG states that SPDs:

“...do not require a sustainability appraisal but may in exceptional circumstances require a strategic environmental assessment if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been assessed through the preparation of the relevant strategic policies.

A strategic environmental assessment is unlikely to be required where a supplementary planning document deals only with a small area at a local level, [...] unless it is considered that there are likely to be significant environmental effects.⁵”

4. DALTON BARRACKS SPD CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

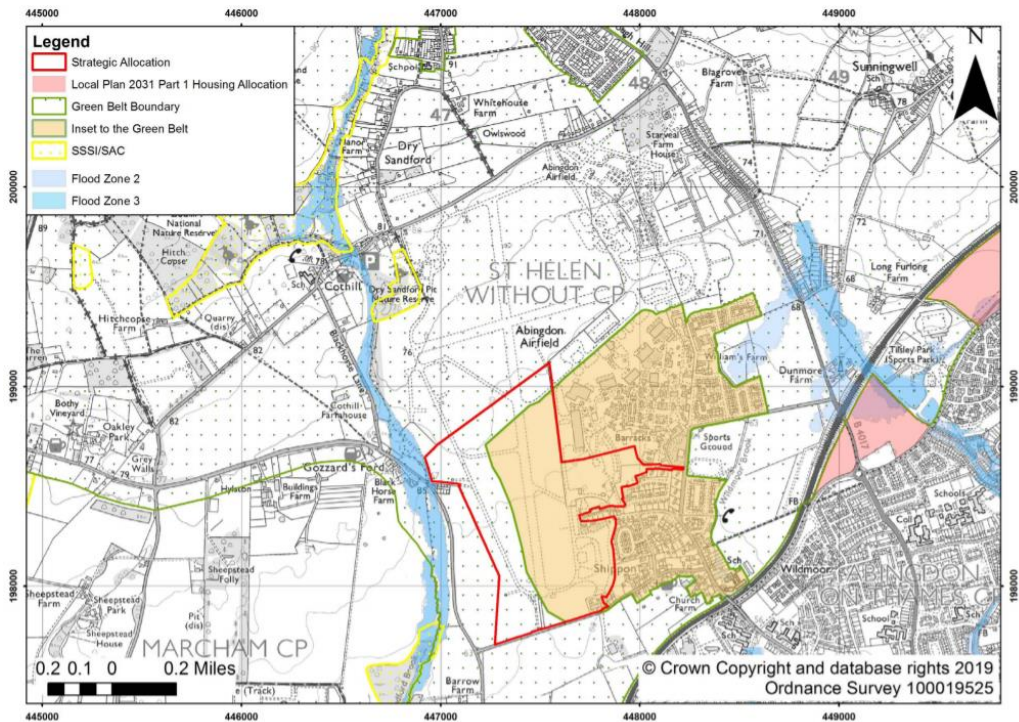
- 4.1. The LPP2 makes a strategic allocation at Dalton Barracks for around 1,200 homes, removing the site from the Oxford Green Belt. Core Policy 8b which provides the strategic direction for the development states:

“The new housing allocated at Dalton Barracks will be provided to an exemplar standard and following Garden Village principles to ensure the potential for highly sustainable and accessible development is fully realised. The development will form a mixed-use community incorporating on-site services and facilities, including education provision, a local centre, providing local opportunities for employment and ensuring excellent public transport, cycle way and footpath connections to Oxford and Abingdon-on-Thames.”

- 4.2. The extent of the allocation in the adopted LPP2 is shown on Figure One below:

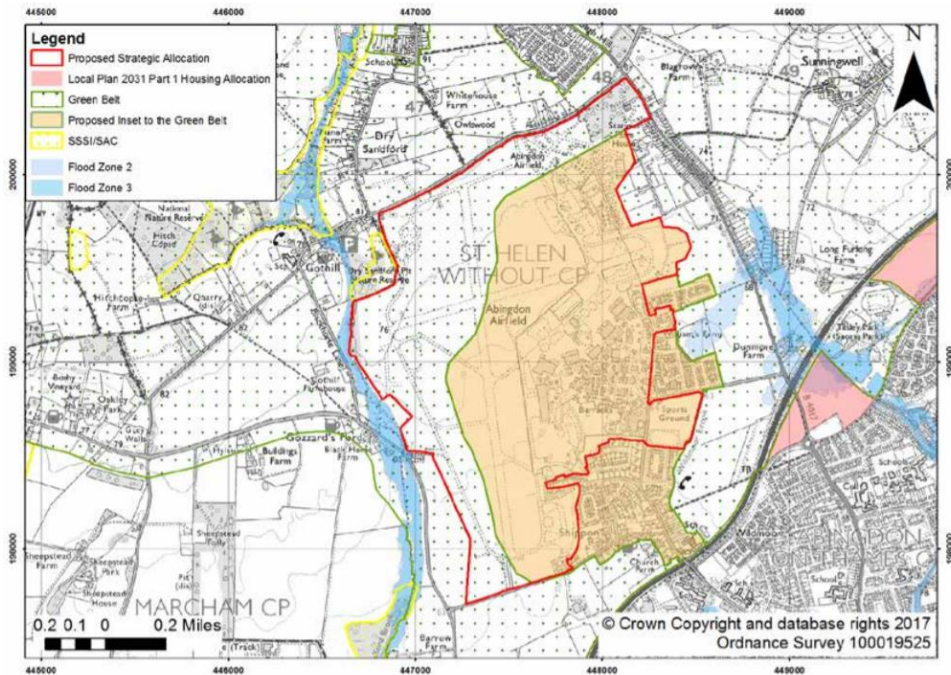
⁵ Planning Practice Guidance, Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 11-008-20140306, available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal#supplementary-planning-document>

Figure One: Dalton Barracks Strategic Allocation in adopted Local Plan 2031 Part 2



- 4.3. Core Policy 8b of the LPP2 states that the Council will prepare an SPD to *“ensure the new housing allocated at Dalton Barracks is considered in the context of a comprehensive approach to the masterplanning of the site”*.
- 4.4. The Council had commenced the preparation of the SPD in tandem with the development of the LPP2 to ensure it was in place to enable a quick determination of any planning application on the site.
- 4.5. Initial work on the SPD was based on a proposed larger allocation at Dalton Barracks however, which was contained within the Regulation 19 (Publication) version of the LPP2 (October 2017). This is shown on Figure Two below:

Figure Two: Proposed allocation in submission version of the Local Plan 2031 Part 2 (superseded by Figure One)



- 4.6. On 13 April 2018 the Council consulted on its initial screening opinion on the emerging Dalton Barracks SPD, covering the area identified in Figure Two above. That initial screening opinion determined that the SPD should be subject to SEA. The Council's consultants Aecom prepared the draft SEA of the Dalton Barracks SPD.
- 4.7. The Council also prepared an HRA, including appropriate assessment, to support the LPP2. This included an assessment of the Dalton Barracks site.
- 4.8. Since the Council's initial screenings for SEA and HRA, the site area covered by the SPD has reduced in size, and the planning circumstances have changed significantly due to the examination and subsequent adoption of the LPP2, with Inspector's Main Modifications. The SPD extent matches that of the site allocation made in the Adopted LPP2. Due to these changes it is necessary to 're-screen' to check whether any further SEA and HRA is required.
- 4.9. Appendix One of this report contains the Council's assessment of the SPD against the criteria set out in Schedule One of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations. The Screening Opinion concluded that the SPD does not require SEA. This opinion has changed since April 2018 when an initial screening assessment was produced. This is because the scope of the SPD has reduced, and it now follows a strategic framework

and strategic site allocation set out in an adopted development plan that itself has been subject to a full sustainability appraisal⁶.

5. HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (HRA)

- 5.1. Despite a reduced site area for the allocation at Dalton Barracks, the LPP2 requires the site to provide 30ha of parkland, which is more than the 22ha identified as necessary by the HRA⁷ prepared for the LPP2 (reflecting the reduced site allocation area, as required by the Inspector's Main Modifications, necessary for the plan to be found sound and capable of adoption), as necessary to provide Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG).
- 5.2. The HRA⁸ for the LPP2 (June 2018) concluded that the Plan, including the Dalton Barracks allocation, would not lead to likely significant effects on Cothill Fen SAC or Oxford Meadows SAC, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. An SA Addendum Report January 2019 screened the main modifications proposed for LPP2, including the reduction in site area for Dalton Barracks, and this found that the conclusions of the HRA still stood.
- 5.3. The Council considers that there are no material changes in circumstances since the adoption of the LPP2 and its corresponding HRA updates. In addition, the SPD will be produced in accordance with the strategic framework of the LPP2 and would not introduce any material changes that would require further HRA at this stage.
- 5.4. Furthermore, the site development template⁹ accompanying the strategic allocation in the LPP2 requires that a future planning application is accompanied by a project level HRA. Hence, repeating HRA at this level, between the strategic allocation and the project based planning application is not necessary.
- 5.5. The Council considers that no further HRA is needed at this stage.

6

https://data.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=1019020231&CODE=334F7060DA83381A5A88EA28BAEF02BA, and
<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2019/07/Sustainability-Appraisal-Report-Addendum-for-Local-Plan-2031-Part-2-LPP2.pdf>

7

https://data.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=1019020226&CODE=334F7060DA83381A94CC34092F597B13 (Paragraph 5.5.22)

8

https://data.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=1019020228&CODE=334F7060DA83381AC37458B0EBC3CE03 (Paragraph 7.5.30)

9

https://data.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=1173080763&CODE=481ECD6ACC86E6C4A6FE38F6391274B7 – See Appendix A of the Local Plan Part 2, Page 12

6. COMMENTS RECEIVED ON SCREENING OPINION CONSULTATION

- 6.1. The Council consulted on its screening opinion with the three statutory consultees between 6 September 2021 and 11 October 2021. These are the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England for the purposes of SEA Screening and only Natural England for the purposes of HRA Screening. The responses in full are presented in Appendix 2.
- 6.2. Both Historic England and Natural England responded to the consultation. Historic England advised that they did not consider that the original screening opinion for the SPD, consulted on in 2018, did require SEA, and that their opinion remains the same. They cited the reduced site area and the fact that the site had now been allocated in the local plan as additional justification for this position.
- 6.3. Natural England cited the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and the National Planning Practice Guidance. They concluded that as the proposals within the SPD will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that have not already been assessed through the SEA and HRA of LPP2.
- 6.4. However, Natural England also highlighted that the Council should provide information relating to significant populations of protected species likely to be affected by the SPD. In doing so, they recommend that the Council seek the views of its own ecological advisers, local records centre, recording centre, or wildlife body, on the landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the SPD.
- 6.5. The Council maintains an extensive GIS database of species that is regularly updated with information from the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre. This database does not show any nationally significant populations of protected species that are within influencing distance of the SPD area. This database is reviewed by the Council's own ecological advisers.
- 6.6. Furthermore, the applicant for the Dalton Barracks development – the Defence Infrastructure Organisation has undertaken extensive site surveys for protected species. Early outcomes of these reports have been shared with the council and confirm that no significant populations of protected species are likely to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposals
- 6.7. During the course of the consultation the Council did however feel it would be helpful to clarify some points made in Appendix 1. These are set out in Appendix 3. They do not change the outcome of the report nor the nature of the assessment, rather they seek to better explain the points made in the original screening opinion consultation.
- 6.8. As a result of the consultation, the Council does not consider that any further changes were necessary to the SEA screening opinion, and **the Council's view remains that SEA is not required for the Dalton Barracks SPD.**

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1. The Council has assessed whether the Dalton Barracks SPD requires SEA and HRA, and considers that both assessments are not necessary at this stage. This opinion has been subjected to consultation with the three statutory consultees who have not objected to this conclusion.
- 7.2. The Council had previously screened the SPD as requiring both SEA and HRA, but this was on the basis that the SPD would be adopted alongside the LPP2, which allocated the site for development. Furthermore, since the original screening assessment, the extent of homes to be provided through the SPD and the geographical scope of the document have reduced, to match the amended site allocation of the LPP2.
- 7.3. The SPD will only add further design guidance to the allocation at Dalton Barracks. It will not, and cannot, go beyond the scope of the allocation contained within the LPP2. That allocation has been subject to a full SA and HRA as part of the plan making process.
- 7.4. Furthermore, the development of Dalton Barracks will likely require an Environmental Impact Assessment, which will cover in detail the same issues as required by SEA, but at a project / planning application level. The LPP2 development template for the site also requires any planning application to be accompanied by an HRA.
- 7.5. For these reasons, the Council does not consider it necessary to undertake SEA or HRA for the Dalton Barracks SPD.

Appendix One: Assessment of Dalton Barracks SPD against Schedule One of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)

Criteria	Significant effect?	Discussion
1. The characteristics of the SPD, having particular regard to:		
(a) the degree to which the SPD sets out a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	No	<p>The Dalton Barracks SPD would, if adopted, be a material consideration in any planning application and as such does contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects. However, the SPD will sit within the wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework and the strategic policies of the Vale of White Horse LPP2, namely Core Policy 8b – Dalton Barracks Strategic Allocation.</p> <p>The SPD provides guidance on the implementation of an adopted allocation. The SPD is not allocating the site for development or determining the amount of development that will take place. That is covered in the VoWH LPP2. The SPD will guide the masterplanning of the site.</p> <p>The reduced site area covered by the SPD does not impact on this criterion.</p> <p>The Council does not consider there to be exceptional circumstances to justify a further assessment of the environmental impacts beyond what has been assessed in the LPP2’s sustainability appraisal.</p>
(b) the degree to which the SPD influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	<p>The SPD provides guidance on an adopted allocation. The SPD must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan 2031 Part 1, LPP2, and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> <p>The SPD would sit below LPP2, but would form a material consideration for any planning applications pertinent to Dalton Barracks. The SPD does not introduce any new policies, nor does the development area within the SPD extend beyond the allocation in the LPP2.</p> <p>The reduced site area covered by the SPD does not impact on this criterion.</p>

Appendix One: Assessment of Dalton Barracks SPD against Schedule One of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)

Criteria	Significant effect?	Discussion
		<p>A future planning application will be needed on this site before development can commence. The scale of the development is likely to require a full environmental impact assessment which will add a further level of consideration of environmental matters before any development can commence. This will take place within the strategic framework set by the LPP2 and its associated sustainability appraisal.</p>
(c) the relevance of the SPD for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	No	<p>Whilst the reduced site area does have impacts in terms of movement, and in particular no longer provides a public transport and cycle link between Dalton Barracks and the Lodge Hill P&R site, this does not lead to the SPD having significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>The number of homes planned for has not changed, although the previous scope of the SPD allowed for it to identify housing beyond that in the draft LPP2.</p>
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	No	<p>The initial SEA screening opinion concluded that there was potential for the SPD to have likely significant effects on the environment: “There is potential for likely significant effects to occur as a result of the proposed redevelopment of Dalton Barracks, including Abingdon airfield to important designations in the area. These include Cothill Fen SAC, Dry Sandford Pit SSSI, and Barrow Farm Fen SSSI. The effects may arise through increased recreational pressure and/or air quality impacts which could affect one or more of these designated sites.” As a result the Council decided that it should proceed with SEA for the Dalton Barracks SPD. It should be noted that this conclusion for the SEA Screening Report was in April 2018 and based on the assumption that the SPD would plan for around 4,500 homes more.</p>

Appendix One: Assessment of Dalton Barracks SPD against Schedule One of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)

Criteria	Significant effect?	Discussion
		<p>The number of homes allocated at Dalton Barracks has not changed in LPP2 (the LPP2 had always planned to allocate for 1,200 homes, but to leave the door open for the SPD to identify land for around 4,500 homes), therefore the conclusions reached with regard to impacts from recreational pressure and air quality as part of LPP2's preparation still stand. The reduced site area does not make these potential impacts any more likely. The strategic allocation at Dalton Barracks is required to provide 30ha of parkland, this is a reduction from 80ha that was part of the proposal when the site area was larger. However, 30ha is more than the 22ha identified as necessary by the LPP2's Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in order to provide Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace, SANG to mitigate the impact of the development (see Paragraph 5.5.22)¹⁰</p> <p>Since this initial screening assessment associated with the original scope of the SPD, the Council has subjected the allocation at Dalton Barracks, both in its larger and adopted smaller extent, to a full sustainability appraisal through the LPP2. The Council does not consider there to be exceptional circumstances to justify a further assessment of the environmental impacts beyond what has been assessed in the LPP2's sustainability appraisal.</p>
(e) the relevance of the plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example plans and programmes related to waste management or water protection)	No	The SPD is unlikely to have significant effects as it sits within a hierarchy of plans and does not go beyond the scope already identified in the LPP2.
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular,		

¹⁰ https://data.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=1019020226&CODE=334F7060DA83381A94CC34092F597B13

Appendix One: Assessment of Dalton Barracks SPD against Schedule One of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)

Criteria	Significant effect?	Discussion
(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	No	<p>The development of the site, guided by the SPD, is very likely to happen. The duration of any environmental harm would begin with site preparation and clearance work, through construction, and after the development has completed and been occupied. The development of the site is likely to be permanent and irreversible.</p> <p>However the SPD does not affect the quantum, the nature or the location of development. Possible impacts have already been assessed through the Council's SA of the allocation through its LPP2. The probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of these effects have already been assessed through its Sustainability Appraisal. The Council does not consider there to be exceptional circumstances to justify a further assessment of the environmental impacts beyond what has been assessed in the LPP2's sustainability appraisal against this criterion.</p>
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	No	<p>The SPD does not affect the quantum, the nature or the location of development. Possible cumulative impacts have already been assessed within the LPP2. The Council does not consider there to be exceptional circumstances to justify a further assessment of the environmental impacts beyond what has been assessed in the LPP2's sustainability appraisal against this criterion.</p>
(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects	No	<p>Not applicable. This relates to international boundaries. The site's development will not be of an international scale.</p>
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accident)	No	<p>The development of the site could impact on human health and the environment. However, these impacts have already been assessed through the Council's SA of the LPP2 and the SPD does not affect the quantum, the nature, or the location of development. The Council does not consider there</p>

Appendix One: Assessment of Dalton Barracks SPD against Schedule One of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)

Criteria	Significant effect?	Discussion
		to be exceptional circumstances to justify a further assessment of the environmental impacts beyond what has been assessed in the LPP2's sustainability appraisal against this criterion.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	<p>The SPD does not affect the quantum, the nature or the location of development. Possible impacts have already been assessed within the LPP2.</p> <p>The Council does not consider there to be exceptional circumstances to justify a further assessment of the environmental impacts beyond what has been assessed in the LPP2's sustainability appraisal against this criterion.</p>
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage ▪ Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values ▪ Intensive land use 	No	<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected by the development will not extend beyond what has already been allocated and assessed in the Council's LPP2.</p> <p>The Council's GIS database is maintained from information from the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC). This database shows there are no significant populations of nationally protected species within the SPD area.</p> <p>The Council does not consider there to be exceptional circumstances to justify a further assessment of the environmental impacts beyond what has been assessed in the LPP2's sustainability appraisal against this criterion.</p>
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	No	The SPD is circa 275m to the east of Barrow Farm Fen SSSI, 700m south of Dry Sandford Pit SSSI, and 1,000m south of Cothill Fen SAC. The impact of the proposed development on these designated areas has been assessed through the Council's LPP2 Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations

Appendix One: Assessment of Dalton Barracks SPD against Schedule One of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)

Criteria	Significant effect?	Discussion
		<p>Assessment. Furthermore, LPP2 requires any future planning application to be accompanied by a project level HRA.</p> <p>The Council does not consider there to be exceptional circumstances to justify a further assessment of the environmental impacts beyond what has been assessed in the LPP2's sustainability appraisal against this criterion.</p>

Appendix Two: Responses received from Statutory Bodies



By email only to: planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Our ref: PL00755822

Your ref:

Main: 020 7973 3700

Direct: 020 7973 3659

e-seast@historicengland.org.uk

edward.winter@historicengland.org.uk

Date: 11/10/2021

Dear Mr Rice

HRA and SEA Screening Opinion Consultation - Dalton Barracks SPD / Vale of White Horse District Council

Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment on the above strategic environmental assessment screening opinion. Historic England agrees with the council's opinion that SEA is not required.

In our letter of 4th May 2018, we were of the opinion that a full SEA was not required, in respect of effects on the historic environment. The area now proposed to be covered by the SPD is significantly reduced, compared to the previous proposals. Furthermore, the site has now been allocated for development in the adopted local plan, which has itself been subject to a sustainability appraisal and the SPD cannot change the quantum of development allocated. Therefore, significant effects on the historic environment are unlikely to result, from the adoption of the SPD.

Yours sincerely

Edward Winter

Historic Environment Planning Adviser



Historic England, 4th Floor, The Atrium, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA

Telephone 020 7973 3700 HistoricEngland.org.uk

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.

Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.



Appendix Two: Responses received from Statutory Bodies

Date: 11 October 2021
Our ref: 366935
Your ref: The Dalton Barracks SPD - SEA & HRA Screening



Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

tom.rice@southandvale.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Tom,

The Dalton Barracks SPD – SEA and HRA Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 06 September 2021 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

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: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan that have not already been addressed through SEA and HRA of the Local Plan.

Guidance on the assessment of Supplementary Planning Documents, in light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#). The guidance states:

Supplementary planning documents do not require a sustainability appraisal but may in exceptional circumstances require a strategic environmental assessment if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been assessed during the preparation of the relevant strategic policies.

A strategic environmental assessment is unlikely to be required where a supplementary planning document deals only with a small area at a local level (see [regulation 5\(6\) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#)), unless it is considered that there are likely to be significant environmental effects.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect, which have not already been assessed through the SEA and HRA of the Local Plan.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species

Appendix Two: Responses received from Statutory Bodies

are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the SPD beyond this SEA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Rebecca Micklem on 020822 57686. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Micklem
Senior Adviser – Strategic Planning
Thames Solent Team

Appendix Three: Table of changes made to Appendix one made during consultation with statutory bodies.

Table Criteria Reference	Original Text	Modified Text
2(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects Second Paragraph	'However, the principle of the development of this site has been assessed through the Council's SA of the allocation through its LPP2'	'However, <u>the SPD does not affect the quantum, the nature or the location of development. Possible impacts have already been assessed</u> the principle of the development of this site has been assessed through the Council's SA of the allocation through its LPP2.'
2(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	'The cumulative impact of the development has already been assessed within the strategic framework of the LPP2.'	' The cumulative impact of the development has already been assessed within the strategic framework of <u>The SPD does not affect the quantum, the nature or the location of development. Possible cumulative impacts have already been assessed within the</u> LPP2.'
2(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g., due to accident)	'The development of this site could impact on human health and the environment. However, these impacts have already been assessed through the Council's SA of the LPP2.'	'The development of the site could impact on human health and the environment. However, these impacts have already been assessed through the Council's SA of the LPP2 and <u>the SPD does not affect the quantum, the nature, or the location of development.</u> '
2(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	'The magnitude and spatial extent of the development will not extend beyond what has already been allocated in the Council's LPP2.'	<u>The SPD does not affect the quantum, the nature or the location of development. Possible impacts have already been assessed within the LPP2.</u> The magnitude and spatial extent of the development will not extend beyond what has already been allocated in the Council's LPP2.
2(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage 	The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected by the development will not extend beyond what has already been allocated and assessed in the Council's LPP2.	'...Council's LPP2. <u>The Council's GIS database is maintained from information from the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC). This database shows there</u>

Appendix Three: Table of changes made to Appendix one made during consultation with statutory bodies.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values ▪ Intensive land use 	<p>The Council does not consider there to be exceptional circumstances to justify a further assessment of the environmental impacts beyond what has been assessed in the LPP2's sustainability appraisal against this criterion.</p>	<p><u>are no significant populations of nationally protected species within the SPD area.</u></p> <p>The Council...'</p>
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