

Screening Statement on the determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and European Directive 2001/42/EC for the East Hanney Neighbourhood Development Plan

13 JANUARY 2023

SUMMARY

Following consultation with the statutory bodies, Vale of White Horse District Council (the 'Council') determines that the East Hanney Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

INTRODUCTION

1. An initial screening opinion was used to determine whether or not the contents of the emerging East Hanney Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2011/42/EC (the Directive) and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).
2. Any land use plan or programme 'which sets the framework for future development consent of projects' must be screened according to a set of criteria from Annex II of the Directive and Schedule 1 of the Regulations. These criteria include exceptions for plans 'which determine the use of a small area at local level' or which only propose 'minor modifications to a plan', if it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.
3. The initial screening opinion was subject to consultation with Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The results of the screening process are detailed in this Screening Statement.

THE SCREENING PROCESS

4. Using the criteria set out in Annex II of the Directive and Schedule 1 of the Regulations, a Screening Opinion determines whether a plan or programme is likely to have significant environmental effects.
5. The extract from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' in Appendix 1 provides a flow diagram to demonstrate the SEA screening process.
6. Table 1 in Appendix 1 sets out the criteria from the Practical Guide, along with an assessment of the East Hanney NDP against each criterion to ascertain whether a SEA is required.

7. Also part of the screening process is the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening, which can be found in Appendix 2, and the assessment of likely significance effects on the environment, which can be found in Appendix 3.
8. These two assessments feed into Table 1 and the SEA screening opinion.

EAST HANNEY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

9. The East Hanney NDP will contain the following vision, themes, objectives and policies:

Vision: ‘Our vision is to ensure that East Hanney remains as an attractive Lowland Vale parish where any new development reflects and enhances the sense of place.

We want the strong sense of community to be maintained and thus expect community facilities to be improved, expanded, or provided anew to match the growing population.

The effects of climate change are likely to increase the probability of flooding, which is already a major concern, so our vision is for reduced risk of flooding through a variety of means including improved drainage systems.

Our population is predominantly in an older age range, the village also attracting families and people of all ages, so our vision is to provide housing, infrastructure and facilities that meet the needs of the wide range of ages and abilities, including those who are less able.

Our long history is continually being discovered as new archaeological finds are being uncovered, this includes roman coins, civil war lead shot and First World War cap badges found in 2017. Our vision is that opportunities for discovering more about our past village are encouraged and not prevented by future development.’

Themes and Objectives:

Theme 1 - Village Character:

Objective 1 – ‘To ensure all new development conserves and enhances the rural, historic and character of the village’.

Theme 2 - Green Space and the Environment:

Objective 2 – ‘To maintain and improve the natural environment including biodiversity, landscape, green infrastructure and waterways’.

Theme 3 - Housing:

Objective 3 – ‘To provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a high-quality home and providing a mix of housing to better meet local needs including smaller homes and homes for the elderly’.

Theme 4 - Infrastructure and Facilities

Objective 4 – ‘To cater for the needs of existing and future residents. And to seek to improve the quality of life of residents through policies intended to reduce pollution, risk of flooding, noise, and the effects of traffic’.

Policies:

Policy EHNP 1 – Village Character, Sustainable Development and Design

Policy EHNP 2 – Settlement Boundary

Policy EHNP 3 – Village Infill

Policy EHNP 4 – Coalescence

Policy EHNP 5 – Historic Environment

Policy EHNP 6 – Retention of Trees and Hedgerows **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Policy EHNP 7 – Letcombe Brook

Policy EHNP 8 – Local Green Spaces

Policy EHNP 9 – Housing Density

Policy EHNP 10 – Housing Mix

Policy EHNP 11 – Housing for an Ageing Population

Policy EHNP 12 – Community Facilities and Infrastructure

Policy EHNP 13 – Green Infrastructure and Spaces for Play

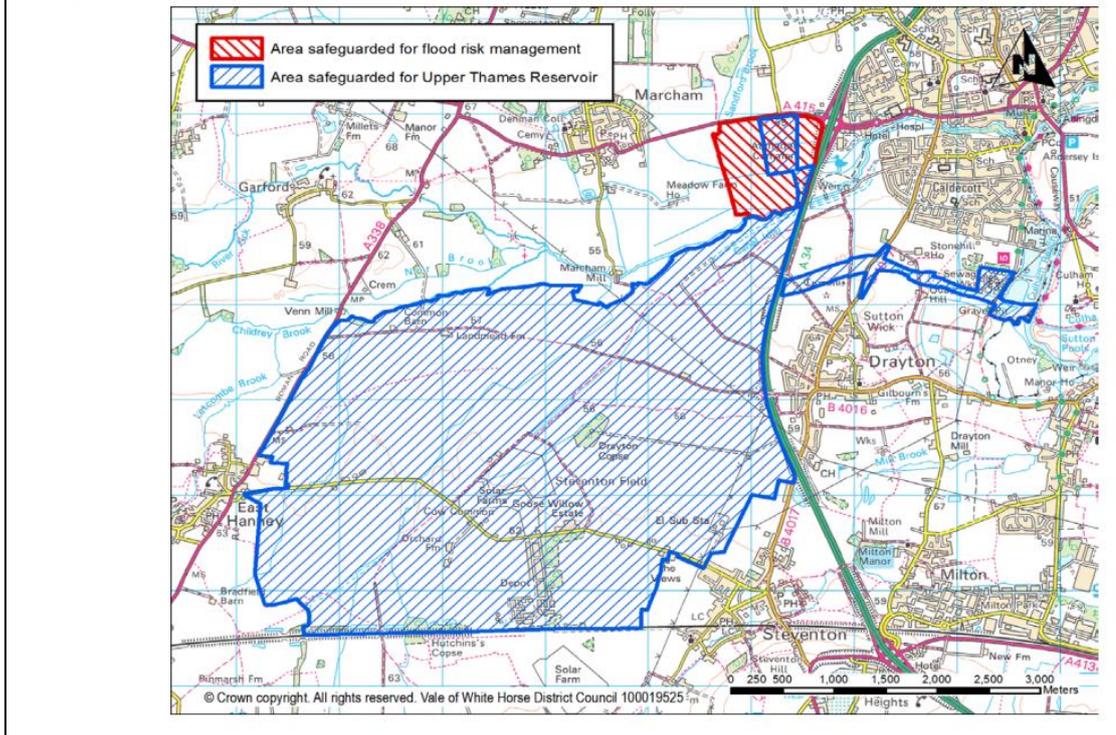
Policy EHNP 14 – Dark Skies and Light Pollution

Policy EHNP 15 – Flood Mitigation in New Housing Schemes and Climate change

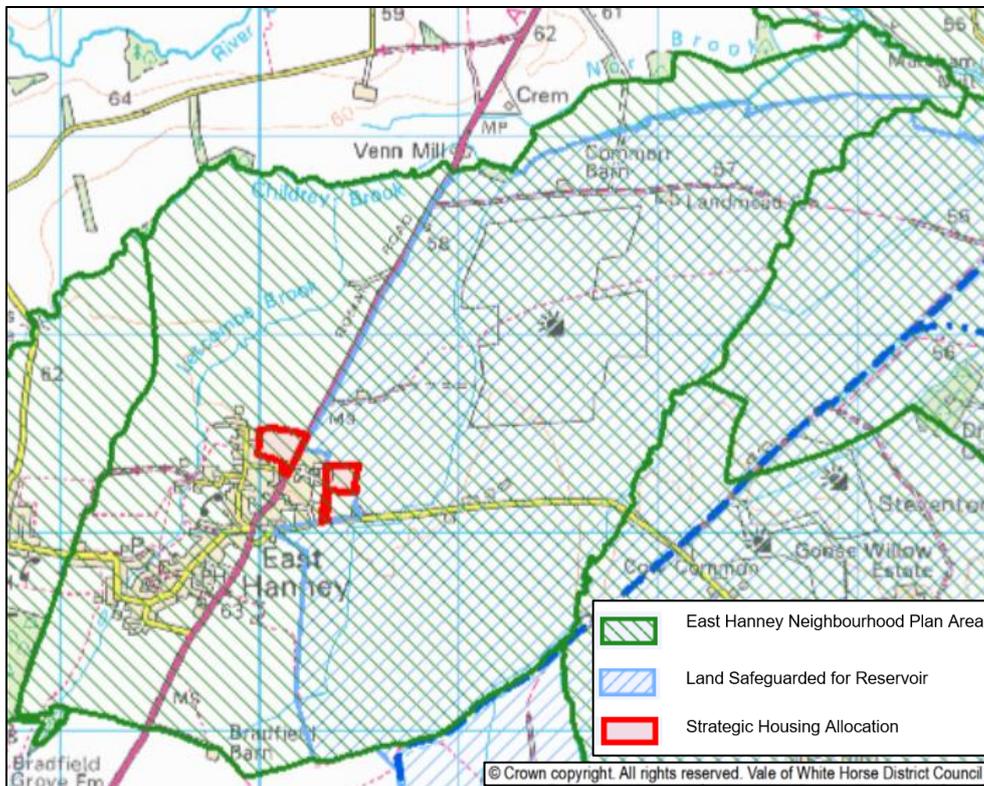
Policy EHNP 16 – Sustainable Development and Environmental Impact

10. East Hanney is defined as a larger village in the Vale of White Horse Local Plan. The Local Plan Part 2 allocated the sites North of East Hanney, for 80 homes, and North-East of East Hanney, for 50 homes, with the sites within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
11. Additionally, Local Plan Part 1’s Core Policy 14 safeguarded land for a ‘reservoir and ancillary works between the settlements of Drayton, East Hanney and Steventon, and to the north of Longworth’. The area safeguarded was updated in Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) in Core Policy 14a and part of the safeguarded land (at Longworth) has since been removed; however, part of the remaining safeguarded reservoir land is within the East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan area. A new map corresponding to Core Policy 14a superseded Core Policy 14: Upper Thames Strategic Storage Reservoir’s map though Core Policy 14’s policy wording is still relevant. The maps overleaf respectively depict the full area of safeguarded land, and also the Neighbourhood Area within the safeguarded land.

Appendix C: Land Safeguarded for Upper Thames Reservoir



12. The map below depicts the Neighbourhood Plan area, the safeguarded reservoir land and the two allocated sites in LPP2.



13. The East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan is not allocating any development; i.e., it does not specify sites for development. Instead, the Plan policies will be designed to ensure that any future development is of appropriate size, reflecting the existing character of the village and meeting the specific housing needs and aspirations of current and future residents. The policies also seek to protect as much as possible of the existing green infrastructure during the development process and to ensure that further green infrastructure is added. Policies will be formulated to meet all the above objectives, arrived at through consultation with residents.
14. Overall, we note that the plan does not allocate any sites for development and places great emphasis on conserving the character and appearance of the area.
15. It is therefore concluded that the implementation of the East Hanney NDP would not result in likely significant effects on the environment.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

16. The screening opinion was sent to Natural England, The Environment Agency and Historic England on 24 November 2022 for a four-week consultation period. The responses in full are presented in Appendix 4.
17. The Environment Agency did not provide comments on this SEA Screening.
18. Historic England confirmed their agreement, that the East Hanney NDP does not need a SEA.
19. Natural England did not provide comments on this SEA Screening.

CONCLUSION

20. As a result of the screening undertaken by the Council, the following determination has been reached:
21. The East Hanney NDP is unlikely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites; therefore, an Appropriate Assessment for the East Hanney Neighbourhood Development Plan is not required.
22. Based on the assessment presented in Appendices 1 & 3, the East Hanney NDP is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.
23. The East Hanney NDP does not require a Strategic Environment Assessment.

Authorised by: Adriana Partridge, Deputy Chief Executive – Transformation and Operations



Signed:

Date: 11 January 2023

Appendix 1 – Extract from ‘A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’ (DCLG) (2005)

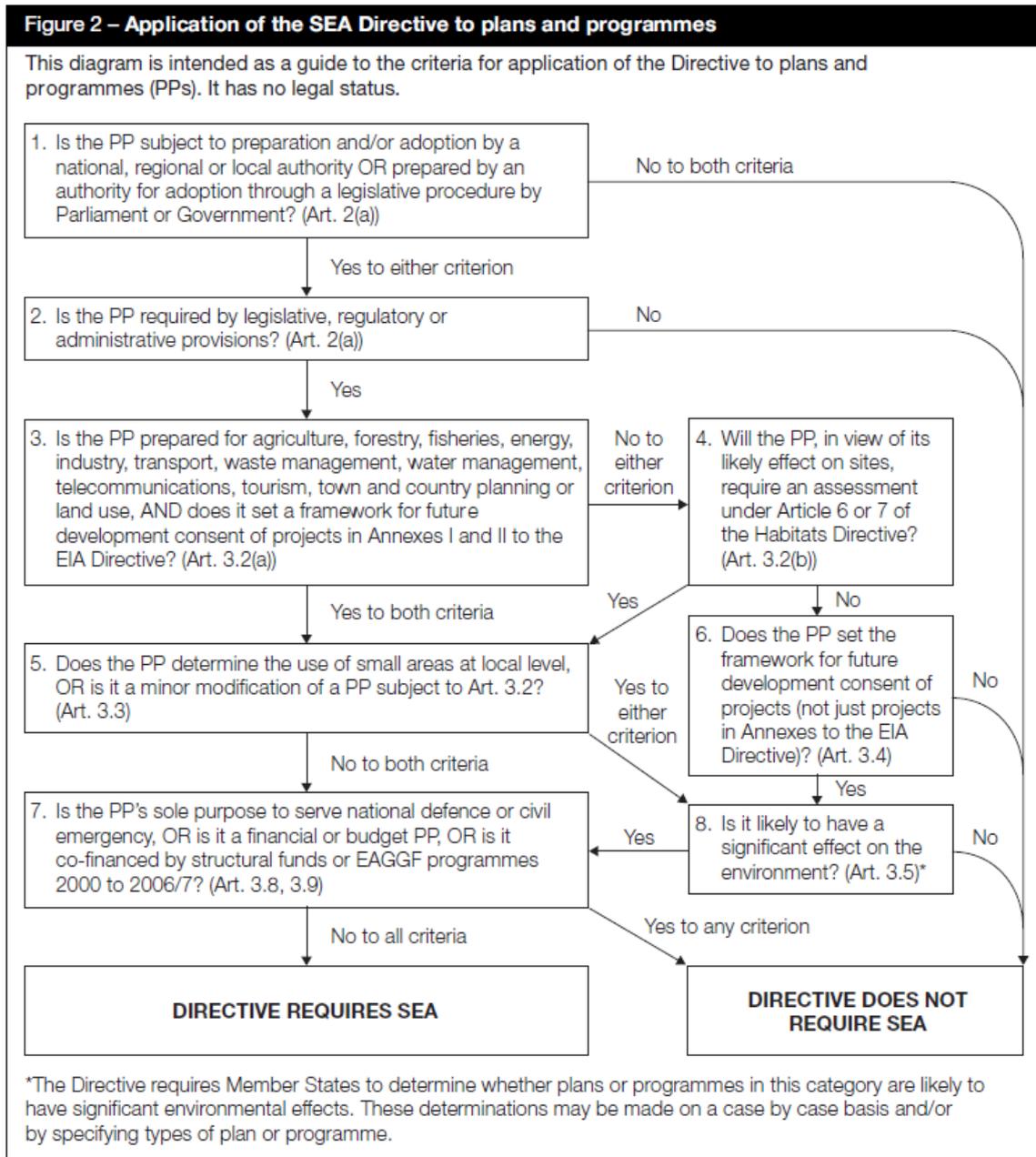


Table 1: Application of SEA Directive as shown in Appendix 1

[Note to author – most of these boxes contain standard text –greyed out. Those where specific details need to be included are Qs 3,4,5 & 8]

Stage	Y/N	Explanation
<p>1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The preparation of and adoption of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by the East Hanney Parish Council (as the “relevant body”) and will be “made” by Vale of White Horse District Council as the local authority. The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans is subject to the following regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 • The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012 • The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 • The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 • The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 • The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2017
<p>2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Whilst the Neighbourhood Development Plan is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it will, if “made”, form part of the Development Plan for the District. It is therefore important that the screening process considers whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive.</p>

<p>3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The East Hanney NDP is prepared for town and country planning and land use and will not set out a framework for future development of projects that would require an EIA.</p>
<p>4. Will the Neighbourhood Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The East Hanney NDP is unlikely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. See Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion for the East Hanney NDP in Appendix 2.</p>
<p>5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The East Hanney NDP will determine the use of sites/small areas at a local level.</p>
<p>6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>When made, the East Hanney NDP will include a series of policies to guide development within the village. This will inform the determination of planning applications providing a framework for future development consent of projects.</p>
<p>7. Is the Neighbourhood Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>N/A</p>

8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	The plan is not likely to have significant effects on the environment. See assessment of the likely significance of effects on the environment in Appendix 3.
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Appendix 2 - Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion for the East Hanney Neighbourhood Development Plan

INTRODUCTION

1. The Local Authority is the “competent authority” under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and needs to ensure that Neighbourhood Plans have been assessed through the Habitats Regulations process. This looks at the potential for significant impacts on nature conservation sites that are of European importance¹, also referred to as Natura 2000.
2. This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan that will be in general conformity with the strategic policies within the development plan² (the higher-level plan for town and country planning and land use). This Screening Assessment uses the Habitats Regulations Assessment of Vale of White Horse District Council’s Local Plan 2031 Part 2 (LPP2)³ as its basis for assessment. From this, the Local Authority will determine whether the East Hanney Neighbourhood Development Plan is likely to result in significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites either alone or in combination with other plans and policies and, therefore, whether an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ is required.

LEGISLATIVE BASIS

3. Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive provides that:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

4. Regulations 105-106 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 state:

“105.—(1) Where a land use plan—

¹ Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for other species, and for habitats.

² Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1 (December 2016) and Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2 (October 2019).

³ Vale of White Horse LPP2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (February 2018 Update)

- (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 the site, the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.*
- (2) The plan-making authority must for the purposes of the assessment consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to any representations made by that body within such reasonable time as the authority specifies.*
- (3) The plan-making authority must also, if it considers it appropriate, take the opinion of the general public, and if it does so, it must take such steps for that purpose as it considers appropriate.*
- (4) In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 107, the plan-making authority must give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be).*
- (5) A plan-making authority must provide such information as the appropriate authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the discharge by the appropriate authority of its obligations under this Chapter.*
- (6) This regulation does not apply in relation to a site which is—*
- (a) a European site by reason of regulation 8(1)(c), or*
- (b) a European offshore marine site by reason of regulation 18(c) of the Offshore Marine Conservation Regulations (site protected in accordance with Article 5(4) of the Habitats Directive).*

106.—(1) A qualifying body which submits a proposal for a neighbourhood development plan must provide such information as the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment under regulation 105 or to enable it to determine whether that assessment is required.

(2) In this regulation, “qualifying body” means a parish council, or an organisation or body designated as a neighbourhood forum, authorised for the purposes of a neighbourhood development plan to act in relation to a neighbourhood area as a result of section 61F of the TCPA 1990 (authorisation to act in relation to neighbourhood areas) (159), as

applied by section 38C of the 2004 Planning Act (supplementary provisions) (160).

(3) Where the competent authority decides to revoke or modify a neighbourhood development plan after it has been made, it must for that purpose make an appropriate assessment of the implications for any European site likely to be significantly affected in view of that site's conservation objectives; and regulation 105 and paragraph (1) apply with the appropriate modifications in relation to such a revocation or modification.

(4) This regulation applies in relation to England only."

ASSESSMENT

5. There are two European sites within Vale of White Horse District – Cothill Fen SAC and Hackpen Hill SAC. European sites also lie in adjoining districts and those with potential for longer range and indirect effects include Oxford Meadows SAC (Oxford City), Little Wittenham SAC (South Oxfordshire) and River Lambourn SAC (West Berkshire). East Hanney NDP has the following relationships with these areas:

- Cothill Fen SAC (Approx. 4km)
- Hackpen Hill SAC (Approx. 8km)
- Little Wittenham SAC (Approx. 11km)
- Oxford Meadows SAC (Approx. 13km)
- River Lambourn SAC (Approx 16km)

Cothill Fen SAC (Approx. 4km)

6. Cothill Fen is designated as a SAC for its calcium-rich, spring fed fens and alder woodlands on floodplains.
7. The main pressures and threats to this site include the impact of water pollution and hydrological changes, as well as air pollution and the impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition upon the calcium-rich water-fed fens.

Hackpen Hill SAC (Approx. 8km)

8. Hackpen Hill has slopes with a wide variety of aspect and gradient. Most of the grassland is dominated by red fescue *Festuca rubra*, but this is replaced by upright brome *Bromus erectus* on some middle and lower slopes. The herb flora includes horseshoe vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*, common rockrose *Helianthemum nummularium*, dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaule*, autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella*, fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* and frog orchid *Coeloglossum viride*. An enclosed, ungrazed strip on Hackpen Down contains hawthorns and

elder scrub, interspersed with upright brome grassland and herbs including sainfoin *Onobrychis viciifolia* and basil thyme *Acinos arvensis*.

9. The key environmental conditions that support the features of European interest are appropriate management, minimal air pollution, and absence of direct fertilisation.

Little Wittenham SAC (Approx. 11km)

10. One of the best studied great crested newt sites in the UK, Little Wittenham comprises two main ponds set in a predominantly woodland context (broadleaved and conifer woodland is present). There are also areas of grassland, with sheep grazing and arable bordering the woodland to the south and west. The River Thames is just to the north of the site, and a hill fort to the south. Large numbers of great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* have been recorded in the two main ponds, and research has revealed that they range several hundred metres into the woodland blocks.
11. The main pressures and threats to this site include the impact of public access and disturbance, and invasive fish species upon great crested newt.

Oxford Meadow SAC (Approx. 13km)

12. Oxford Meadow is designated as a SAC for its lowland hay meadows and creeping marshworts.
13. The main pressures and threats to this site include the impacts of hydrological changes and the invasive species of *Crassula* upon creeping marshworts.

River Lambourn SAC (Approx 16km)

14. The River Lambourn SAC is a site of approximately 27 hectares located wholly within West Berkshire and consists of the River Lambourn water body. The Lambourn supports Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) populations inhabiting chalk streams in central southern England. Good water quality, coarse sediments and extensive beds of submerged plants provide an excellent habitat for the species. The presence of Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*) is also a qualifying feature of the site.
15. As required under Regulation 106 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Habitats Regulations'), the qualifying body (East Hanney Parish Council) provided the required information to enable Vale of White Horse District Council to determine whether the assessment under Regulation 105 is required. Consideration has been given to the potential for the development proposed by the Neighbourhood Plan to result in significant effects associated with:

- Physical loss of/damage to habitat;
- Non-physical disturbance e.g. noise/vibration or light pollution;
- Air pollution;
- Increased recreation pressure; and
- Changes to hydrological regimes.

16. The Plan does not allocate any sites for development or promote additional development beyond what is supported in the adopted Development Plan. None of the SACs are located within the East Hanney NDP area and the closest is approximately 4km from the boundary of the NDP area. Therefore, the East Hanney NDP is unlikely to have significant effects on Natura 2000, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, taking the above into account.

17. The Council has considered the HRA of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2 (October 2019) in respect of the potential in combination effects of the proposals in the East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan. As the East Hanney NDP is not proposing any additional development beyond that already considered in Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1 or Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2, we consider that the East Hanney NDP is not likely to give rise to significant in-combination effects.

18. Appendix 2 of this assessment has considered how the East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. Given the plan does not propose any allocations and having regard to the conclusions of Appendix 2, it is considered that the development proposed in the East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to give rise to significant in combination effects.

CONCLUSION

19. The East Hanney NDP is unlikely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, therefore, an Appropriate Assessment for the East Hanney NDP is not required.

Appendix 3 - Assessment of the likely significance of effects on the environment

1. Characteristics of the Plan, having regard to:	
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	The East Hanney NDP would, if adopted, form part of the Statutory Development Plan and as such does contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects. However, the Plan will sit within the wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework, the strategic policies of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1 (December 2016) and the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2 (October 2019).
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	<p>A Neighbourhood Development Plan must have regard to national policy and be in conformity with the Local Plan for the District. It does not influence other plans.</p> <p>The East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to influence other Plans or Programmes within the Statutory Development Plan.</p>
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	<p>National policy requires a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread through plan-making, including the East Hanney NDP. A basic condition of the East Hanney NDP is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.</p> <p>It is noted that a number of the NDP objectives do relate to the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promote sustainable development. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure all new development conserves and enhances the rural, historic and character of the village. - To maintain and improve the natural environment including biodiversity, landscape, green infrastructure and waterways. - To cater for the needs of existing and future residents; and to seek to improve the quality

	<p>of life of residents through policies intended to reduce pollution, risk of flooding, noise, and the effects of traffic.</p> <p>In order to meet the basic conditions, the plan will have to integrate environmental considerations in particular with a view to promote sustainable development. The East Hanney NDP is unlikely to have a significant positive or negative effect.</p>
<p>(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and</p>	<p>The environmental impact of the proposals within the East Hanney NDP are likely to be minimal as the plan does not allocate any sites for development or support additional development beyond what is supported in the Development Plan. Policies in the East Hanney NDP will aim to support sustainable development in the village that will not adversely impact on the local distinctiveness of the village. Retaining the local character, surrounding landscape and appearance of the village is particularly important.</p> <p>The East Hanney NDP will contain policies to maintain and enhance the environment by protecting and enhancing the Letcombe Brook chalkstream running through the parish and maintaining and improving the natural environment, including biodiversity, landscape, green infrastructure and waterways. This will have positive cumulative benefits for the area. However, given the scale of what is proposed, the positive effect is not likely to be significant.</p> <p>Policies in the East Hanney NDP will aim to support sustainable development in the village by ensuring any growth that does come forward provides appropriate infrastructure. The plan does not allocate any sites for housing.</p> <p>The East Hanney NDP contains the following environmental designations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAP priority habitats • Flood Zones • Local Wildlife Sites • TPOs

There are also 5 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within 17km of the Neighbourhood Development Plan:

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

- Cothill Fen SAC (approximately 4km)
- Hackpen Hill SAC (approximately 8km)
- Little Wittenham SAC (approximately 11km)
- Oxford Meadows SAC (approximately 13km)
- River Lambourn SAC (approximately 16km)

There are also the following Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located within the following distances of East Hanney Neighbourhood Development Plan:

- Frilford Heath, Ponds and Fens SSSI (approximately 2km)
- Barrow Farm Fen SSSI (approximately 2km)
- Cothill Fen SSSI (approximately 4km)
- Dry Sandford Pit SSSI (approximately 4km)
- Culham Brake SSSI (approximately 5km)
- Lamb and Flag Quarry SSSI (approximately 5km)
- Appleton Lower Common SSSI (approximately 5km)

Given the NDP is not allocating sites and the small amount of potential infill sites within the village, and their relationship to the designations within the NDP area, we are of the opinion the Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any development that is likely to harm these designations and therefore there would not be likely significant effects to the environment, as the plan seeks to conserve the village, its character and setting.

<p>(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).</p>	<p>The proposed development in the East Hanney NDP has been judged not to have an impact on Community legislation.</p>
<p>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</p>	
<p>(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is generally likely to influence development for a period of 10 years from its adoption, which is in line with national guidance. The East Hanney NDP is likely to have modest but enduring positive environmental effects. The effects are not likely to be reversible as they relate to development. However, they will be of a local scale through limited infill sites within the village.</p> <p>The plan proposes to protect local green spaces, important views and existing facilities, whilst looking to achieve a biodiversity net gain from development. This will have positive cumulative benefits for the area. However, given the scale of what is proposed, the positive effect is not likely to be significant.</p> <p>The plan is also likely to have positive social effects through the support of development that fits with the design and character of the local area and is supported by the appropriate infrastructure.</p>
<p>(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;</p>	<p>It is intended that the positive social effects of supporting sustainable development will have positive cumulative benefits for the area.</p>
<p>(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;</p>	<p>The effects of the Plan are unlikely to have transboundary³ impacts.</p>
<p>(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);</p>	<p>The policies in the plan are unlikely to present risks to human health or the environment.</p>
<p>(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size</p>	<p>The East Hanney NDP relates to the parish of East Hanney. The NDP is not allocating any sites for development and therefore as it</p>

³ Transboundary effects are understood to be in other Member States.

<p>of the population likely to be affected);</p>	<p>will not promote any development that is above and beyond what is already supported in the Development Plan, the potential for environmental effects is also likely to be small and localised.</p>
<p>(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and 	<p>The East Hanney NDP area contains the following special natural characteristics and cultural elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological Constraints • Conservation Area • Great Crested Newt Distribution • Listed Buildings • Protected Species Buffer • TPOs <p>The East Hanney NDP offers an opportunity to enhance the natural environment and the cultural heritage of the area through the proposals being considered.</p> <p>The main vulnerability of the parish is the impact of householder and small scale developments within the village boundaries on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, listed buildings and archaeological sites. However, given the limited amount of potential infill sites and their relationship to the designated areas, and that the plan aims to ensure development conserves and enhances the Conservation Area through detailed design policies, it is considered there would not be likely significant effects to the environment.</p>
<p>(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>There are no areas or landscapes with recognised national, Community or international protection status affected by the neighbourhood plan.</p>

Appendix 4 – Statutory Consultee Responses

HISTORIC ENGLAND

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

Our ref: PL00791756

Your ref: East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan SEA

Main: 020 7973 3700

e-seast@historicengland.org.uk

louise.dandy@historicengland.org.uk

Date: 13/01/2023

Dear Sir or Madam

East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Opinion

Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment on this consultation. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process. For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question, "Is it (the East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan) likely to have a significant effect on the historic environment?". Our comments are based on the information supplied.

The information supplied indicates that the plan will not have any significant effects on the historic environment. We also note that the plan does not propose to allocate any sites for development.

On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

The views of the other two statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for an SEA is made.

I should be pleased if you can send a copy of the determination as required by REG 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

We should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by you with your correspondence. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the SEA process and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan) where we

consider that, despite the SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.

Historic England strongly advises that the conservation and archaeological staff of the relevant local authorities are closely involved throughout the preparation of the plan and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on; local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the Historic Environment Record (HER), how the allocation, policy or proposal can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.

Please do contact me, via email if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely
Louise

Louise Dandy
Historic Places Adviser

NATURAL ENGLAND

Application ref: Draft SEA and HRA Screening Opinion for the East Hanney Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Our ref: 413760

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the draft SEA and HRA Screening Opinion for the East Hanney Neighbourhood Development Plan. We have no comments to make on this application.

Natural England has not assessed this application for impacts on protected species. Natural England has published [Standing Advice](#) which you can use to assess impacts on protected species or you may wish to consult your own ecology services for advice.

Natural England and the Forestry Commission have also published standing advice on [ancient woodland and veteran trees](#) which you can use to assess any impacts on ancient woodland.

The lack of comment from Natural England does not imply that there are no impacts on the natural environment, but only that the application is not likely to result in significant impacts on statutory designated nature conservation sites or landscapes. It is for the local planning authority to determine whether or not this application is consistent with national and local policies on the natural environment. Other bodies and individuals may be able to provide information and advice on the environmental value of this site and the impacts of the proposal to assist the decision making process. We advise LPAs to obtain

specialist ecological or other environmental advice when determining the environmental impacts of development.

We recommend referring to our SSSI Impact Risk Zones (available on [Magic](#) and as a downloadable [dataset](#)) prior to consultation with Natural England. Further guidance on when to consult Natural England on planning and development proposals is available on gov.uk at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-planning-authorities-get-environmental-advice>

Yours faithfully

Laura Elphick- Sustainable Development Lead Adviser
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