



Basingstoke
and Deane

**Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan
(as Modified 2022)
2011-2029**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment:
Adoption Statement**

May 2023

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1. This Statement

- 1.1 Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) involves a series of procedural steps which are designed to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations¹. The final step in the process involves preparing a 'statement' at the time a Neighbourhood Plan is 'made'. This SEA Adoption Statement addresses the requirement to prepare a post-adoption 'statement' under Part 4 of the SEA Regulations.
- 1.2 The SEA Environmental Report Adoption Statement includes information on:
- how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Neighbourhood Plan
 - how the SEA has been taken into account
 - how the results of public consultation have been taken into account
 - the reasons for choosing the made Neighbourhood Plan, and
 - how any significant environmental effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan will be monitored.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan (as Modified 2022) (BURNP) sets out the planning policy framework for Burghclere Parish over the period 2011-2029. The BURNP was prepared to be in general conformity with the adopted Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011-2029), and it sets out a vision, objectives and a range of policies for the Parish/Burghclere neighbourhood area which follows the Parish boundaries. Policies relate to a range of topics, including housing, sustainability, environment and design.
- 2.2 The objectives for the BURNP are as follows:

Housing:

- *To help meet housing needs by supporting the delivery of new housing in accordance with B&DBC Policy SS5. (Policies B1& 2)*
- *To help meet the need for smaller homes by securing a more appropriate mix of housing in new developments (Policy B4)*
- *To ensure any new housing is built on sites and at densities that would not harm the prevailing character of the area in which it is set or the amenity of nearby properties. (Policies B5, 6, 8, 9, 13)*

Design, Heritage and Landscape

- *To ensure all new development respects the particular character of the area in which it takes place in terms of design, layout, materials and sustainability. (Policies B3, 5 & 6)*

¹ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

- *To protect and enhance the parish’s heritage, including the North Wessex Downs AONB, listed buildings and other locally important buildings and structures across the parish. (Policies B5, 7 & 8)*
- *To provide a Design Code specific to the parish that secures high quality design that residents and developers can use to inform proposals in addition to guidance already available. (Policy B5 & B8)*

Environment

- *To protect and enhance the most valued open spaces for the use of the community within and adjacent to the settlement policy boundary. (Policy B11)*
- *To increase wildlife and improve biodiversity through a green infrastructure and nature recovery policy in conjunction with neighbouring parishes (Policy B10)*

Business & Tourism

- *To support the local economy and encourage opportunities for smaller businesses to grow and develop in appropriate locations across the parish including the potential for a rural business hub and working from home. (Policy B2)*
- *To support and encourage tourist attractions without detriment to the amenity of the village and parish. (Policy B13)*

Parking

- *To ensure appropriate parking provision is made within any new development and that better parking is provided within Burghclere village. (Policy B14)*

- 2.3 Following extensive work and community involvement on the BURNP by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Burghclere Parish Council (BPC) submitted the modified BURNP (2011-2029) and supporting documents to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) in December 2022.
- 2.4 BDBC subsequently published the modified BURNP for formal public consultation for six weeks from Monday 9 January through to Monday 20 February 2023 (Regulation 16) and all representations received were forwarded to an independent examiner who was appointed by the Council, with the agreement of Burghclere Parish Council (BPC), to examine the Plan.
- 2.5 In March 2023, the Examiner provided her Report to BDBC and BPC which concluded that, subject to a number of modifications, the modified BURNP meets the basic conditions and other statutory requirements. The Examiner also recommended that, subject to the modifications she proposed, the BURNP should proceed to be made.
- 2.6 The BURNP was ‘made’ on 18 May 2023 at Full Council.

2.7 The stages of the Neighbourhood Plan and SEA processes are discussed below.

3. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Neighbourhood Plan

3.1 The original Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan (as made in 2021) was accompanied by a SEA which was prepared by consultants (AECOM). This had been integral to the production of the original plan and had informed the plan-making process at each stage. The effects of the changes in the modified plan were considered through an Addendum Report (2022).

3.2 SEA is used to assess neighbourhood plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the appraisal is to avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the neighbourhood planning area, and the quality of life of residents through the neighbourhood planning process.

3.3 SEA is not an automatic requirement for neighbourhood plans. Rather, SEA is a requirement where an initial 'screening' assessment identifies the potential for the Plan to result in significant environmental effects.

4. How the SEA has been taken into account

Consultation on the Scope for the SA (inc. SEA)

4.1 In October 2022, BDBC determined that the modified BURNP required an SEA, and that this could be provided as an addendum to the original SEA report (2019). This was informed by the views of the three statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England). Taking into account the nature of the modifications to the Plan, the scope of changes to national policy, and the fact that the main sustainability issues in the parish had not changed, the addendum applied the same scope as the original assessment.

Regulation 14 Consultation

4.2 During the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Neighbourhood Planning Group undertook a series of consultation events following the decision to modify the plan in December 2021.

4.3 This culminated in the first Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation which was held from 7 October through to 18 November 2022. The pre-submission consultation was accompanied by the original SEA and the SEA Addendum Report (as required by the SEA Regulations). The SEA documents assessed the likely significant effects associated with the policies which made up the Plan with consideration of reasonable alternatives.

Submission version of the modified Burghclere NP

- 4.4 Following the Regulation 14 consultation on the BURNP, the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan were revised to take into account the responses received, and the SEA Addendum report was revised accordingly.
- 4.5 The purpose of the SA/SEA reports (including both the 2019 and 2022 reports) was to:
- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the current BURNP and alternatives; and
 - Provide an opportunity for statutory consultees, interested parties and the public to offer views on any aspect of the SEA process.
- 4.6 The original SA/SEA (November 2019) and the Addendum Report (December 2022) together contain:
- An outline of the modifications of the BURNP and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
 - Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and key sustainability issues;
 - The SEA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions against which the BURNP has been assessed;
 - The appraisal of alternative approaches for the BURNP;
 - The likely significant effects of the BURNP in environmental terms;
 - The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the BURNP; and
 - The next steps for the BURNP and accompanying SEA process.

Independent Examination

- 4.7 Following the submission of the modified BURNP to BDBC, the Neighbourhood Plan and accompanying SEA Environmental Reports underwent Regulation 16 consultation from Monday 9 January through to Monday 20 February 2023.
- 4.8 Independent examination was subsequently undertaken from February 2023 and the examiner's report was then received in March 2023. Subject to a number of modifications being made, the independent examiner recommended that the BURNP would meet the Basic Conditions and did not breach and was otherwise compatible with EU obligations and with Convention Rights.
- 4.9 The recommended modifications to the BURNP were evaluated in relation to the findings of the SEA Environmental Reports accompanying the submission version of the BURNP. It was considered that the proposed modifications

would not affect the overall SEA findings and would not have significant environmental effects.

- 4.10 The examiner recommended that the BURNP could proceed to be made by the borough council subject to her proposed modifications.
- 4.11 The Burghclere NP was subsequently 'made' by Full Council on 18 May 2023.

5. How the results of public consultation have been taken into account

- 5.1 Each version of the SEA has been subject to public consultation. Comments from the statutory bodies at all stages of the process were taken into account.

6. The reasons for choosing the made Neighbourhood Plan

- 6.1 The SEA documents have considered reasonable alternatives and a clear audit trail has been provided of the preferred options taken forward within the BURNP. The SEA highlights that the Plan is likely to lead to significant positive environmental effects, primarily in relation to improving the quality of life for the residents of Burghclere. There would also be a range of other positive environmental effects across a range of sustainability objectives.

7. How any significant environmental effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan will be monitored

- 7.1 The BURNP will be subject to an on-going programme of monitoring as part of the council's Authority Monitoring Reports (AMR). This will demonstrate the on-going suitability of the Plan's policies and enable any unforeseen effects arising from their implementation to be identified. Monitoring will also provide information as to whether the predicted effects of the SEA were accurate.
- 7.2 Monitoring plays an important role in assessing the actual effects of any plans, including the BURNP. This can feed into more accurate future predictions of effects and, can also help identify where changes need to be made to promote more sustainable development within the Burghclere Neighbourhood Planning Area.
- 7.3 The SEA process has continually assessed and identified any predicted significant effects from the Plan with mitigation and/or enhancement measures being integrated at appropriate stages in the evolution of the Plan. This has ensured that BDBC and BURPC are able to appropriately address these effects and monitor the potential for unforeseen adverse impacts.

8. Further information

- 8.1 The modified BURNP and SEA Adoption Statement can be viewed on the council's website at <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/BURNP>.
- 8.2 Additionally, hard copies of the documents are available to view at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Offices between the hours of

8:30am and 5:00pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 8:30am and 4.30pm on Fridays. They can also be viewed at Basingstoke Discovery Centre and Newbury Library during their normal opening times.