



Basingstoke
and Deane

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Civic Offices, London Road,
Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4AH

www.basingstoke.gov.uk | 01256 844844
customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk

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Highclere Parish Council Clerk

Sent via email:
parish.clerk@highclerepc.uk

09 October 2024

Dear Amy,

Highclere Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion

This letter sets out the borough council's screening opinion concerning the need for SEA and HRA in relation to the Highclere Neighbourhood Plan. This has been underpinned by a detailed report and consultation with Natural England, The Environment Agency and Historic England.

The screening process undertaken concludes that in order to meet the 'basic conditions'¹ for neighbourhood planning a Strategic Environmental Assessment is considered to be required to accompany the Highclere Neighbourhood Plan, and it would not need to be subject to an HRA. The reasons for the decision are set out below:

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Following analysis undertaken to assess the effects on the environment resulting from the Highclere Neighbourhood Plan, an SEA is considered to be required due to the Plan containing new policies, in particular the new site allocation for approximately 10 homes. Additionally, the Parish contains landscape, natural environment and heritage asset sensitivities.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

There are not considered to be any significant impacts on any European Sites (or Ramsar sites) flowing from Highclere Neighbourhood Plan Area. Accordingly, an appropriate assessment is not required.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on Jessica.Wells@basingstoke.gov.uk or on 01256 845 450

¹ Requirement (f), that the making of the order or neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU Obligations. The basic conditions are set out in [paragraph 8\(2\) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Yours sincerely

Jessica Wells
Senior Planning Policy Officer

Enc. Final version of the Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (September 2024)

CC: Colin Wall, Chairman of Highclere Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group