



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
Follow us on [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) @BasingstokeGov

Burghclere Parish Council
Portal Hall
Church Lane
Newbury
Berkshire
RG20 9HX

05 November 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

Burghclere 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 Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan. This screening opinion has been underpinned by a detailed report and the opinions of the three consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England).

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

Strategic Environmental Assessment

A SEA is considered to be required in light of the following factors:

- The Neighbourhood Plan is likely to allocate sites for development.
- There are significant, sensitive natural and heritage assets and environmental designations in the Parish.

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.

- Much of the Parish is within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- The majority of development would most likely occur outside the village, albeit adjacent to the Settlement Policy Boundary, where biodiversity, landscape and heritage impacts could be considerable and widespread.
- The potential significant environmental effects have not been considered through a Sustainability Appraisal of the borough council's Adopted Local Plan.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

There are three European sites within 10km of the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The assessment of the Plan against the need for a HRA concludes that no significant effects on the Special Areas of Conservation are considered to be likely.

The Environment Assessment will need to meet the relevant legal requirements set out in the [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#). Further guidance on the requirements for carrying out the Environment Assessment is set out in the [National Planning Practice Guide](#) and [the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: guidance](#). In addition, please feel free to contact the borough council (Planning Policy Team) if you require any additional advice regarding how to complete the Environmental Assessment.

Yours sincerely

Emily Corfield
Assistant Planning Policy Officer