

Sherborne St John Parish Council Clerk

Sent via email:

[clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk)

27 April 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Sherborne St John 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 Updated Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan. This has been underpinned by a detailed report and consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.

The screening process undertaken concludes that in order to meet the 'basic conditions'<sup>1</sup> for neighbourhood planning an Environmental Assessment is considered not to be required to accompany the updated Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan, and it would not need to be subject to 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 Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan, an SEA is considered to not be required due to the nature of the policies, and the environmental characteristics of the surrounding area.

**Habitats Regulations Assessment**

There are no European sites within a 10km radius of the neighbourhood area. Therefore, it is considered that there are not likely to be significant effects on any European sites flowing from the Neighbourhood Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Further information on the above can be found within the final version of the Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (April 2023). The responses from the consultation bodies can be found in Appendix 5 of the document.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on [Jessica.Wells@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.Wells@basingstoke.gov.uk) or on 01256 845450.

Yours sincerely

**Jessica Wells**  
**Planning Policy Officer**

Enc. Final version of the Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (April 2023)

CC: James Rowley, Planning Lead for Sherborne St John Parish Council