



Basingstoke  
and Deane

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

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

[www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk) | 01256 844844  
[customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk)

Follow us on   @BasingstokeGov

Silchester Parish Council Clerk

Sent via email:  
[clerk@silchester-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@silchester-pc.gov.uk)

10 October 2024

Dear Chris,

### **Silchester 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'<sup>1</sup> for neighbourhood planning a Strategic Environmental Assessment is considered to be required to accompany the Silchester 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 historic environment resulting from the Silchester 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.

#### **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](mailto:Jessica.Wells@basingstoke.gov.uk) or on 01256 845 450

---

<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.

Yours sincerely

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

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