



Binfield Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Determination

July 2015

Contents

	Page
1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Scope of the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan	4
3.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening	4
4.0 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening	9
5.0 Conclusions	13
Appendix A Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) buffers	14
Appendix B Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area: Conservation Objectives, Qualifying Features and Ecological Indicators	15
Appendix C Consultation Response from Natural England	16
Appendix D Consultation Response from Historic England	19
Appendix E Consultation Response from the Environment Agency	20

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This statement sets out the Council's determination under Regulation 9 (1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 on whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required for the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan (BNP). This statement also sets out the Council's determination as to whether Appropriate Assessment is required under Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.2 Under the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive)) and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) specific types of plans that set out the framework for future development consent of projects must be subject to an environmental assessment.

1.3 There are exceptions to this requirement for plans that determine the use of a small area at a local level and for minor modifications if it has been determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

1.4 In accordance with the provisions of the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)(Regulation 9(1)), the Council must determine if a plan requires an environmental assessment. Where the Council determines that SEA is not required then under Regulation 9(3) the Council must prepare a statement setting out the reasons for this determination.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.5 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required to determine whether a plan or project would have significant adverse effects upon the integrity of internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance, or Natura 2000 sites. The need for HRA is set out within the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EC and transposed into British Law by Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) as amended, the 'Habitats Regulations' In accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations, the Borough Council must determine if a plan requires Appropriate Assessment. Section 4 of this report deals with the need for Habitats Regulation Assessment.

2.0 Scope of the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan

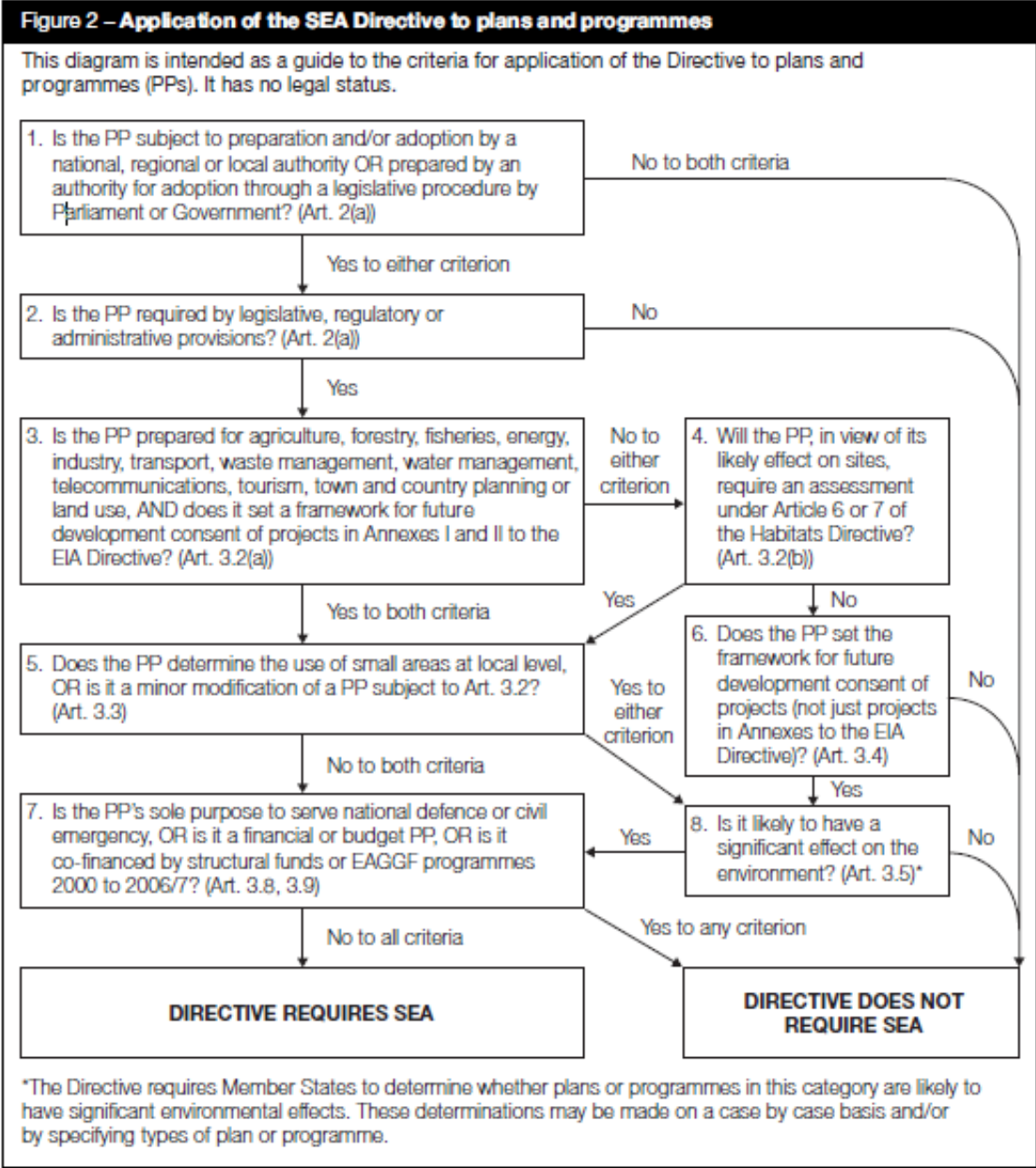
- 2.1 Bracknell Forest Council designated a Neighbourhood Area for the whole of Binfield Parish in February 2014. The Binfield Neighbourhood Plan (BNP) is being prepared by the community through the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan Group.
- 2.2 This screening is based on the emerging draft (Draft 3) of the BNP as at May 2015. At this time the proposed scope includes policies relating to:
 - Cycling and walking
 - Improvements to road junctions
 - Bus provision
 - Support for community facilities including healthcare
 - Protection of allotments, biodiversity and Green Spaces
 - Air pollution
 - High speed broadband

3.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening

The SEA Screening Process

- 3.1 The process for determining whether or not an SEA is required is called screening. In order to screen, it is necessary to determine if a plan will have significant environmental effects using the criteria set out in Annex II of the Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations. A determination cannot be made until the three statutory consultation bodies have been consulted.
- 3.2 Within 28 days of making its determination the authority must publish a statement setting out its decision. If it determines that an SEA is not required, the statement must include the reasons for this.
- 3.3 A draft document is was subject to consultation between 15 June to 20 July 2015 with the relevant bodies and their comments are included this final version in which the Council has also set out its final determination.
- 3.4 Practical guidance to the SEA Directive, published by the Department of Environment in 2005 but still relevant, provides a useful diagram of the criteria for application of the Directive to plans and programmes (PPs) shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes



3.5 The process in Figure 1 has been undertaken and the findings can be viewed in Table 1. This shows the assessment of whether the BNP will require a full SEA. The questions in Table 1 are drawn from Figure 1 above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

Table 1: Assessment of Characteristics of a Neighbourhood Plan

Stage	Y/N	Reasoning
1. Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) are prepared by a qualifying body (Parish/Town Councils) under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The preparation of NDPs is subject to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012. A NDP is subject to independent examination and local referendum and subject to the outcome of those, will be 'made' by the Council. The process is prescribed by legislation.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? ((Art. 2 (a))	N	The preparation of an NDP is optional. However, once 'made' it will form part of the statutory Development Plan for the area and be used when making decisions on planning applications in the area it covers.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes 1 and II to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2 (a))	Y	A NDP can include these policy areas and is primarily prepared for the purposes of town and country planning and land use. It does set out a framework for development within the BNP area, including Infrastructure development which may fall under no. 10 of Annex II of the EIA Directive (for example, for potential social/community infrastructure which may fall under 'urban development' project).
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N	A NDP could potentially have impacts on sites covered by the Habitats Regulations. However, this requires individual assessment of a NDP (see Section 4).
5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at a local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art.3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Y	A NDP can determine the use of small areas at a local level.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)	Y	Once 'made' a NDP forms part of the Development Plan and will be used in the decision making process on planning applications. It therefore, sets the framework for future developments at a local level.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art.	N	NDP does not deal with these issues.

Stage	Y/N	Reasoning
3.8. 3.9)		
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art.3.5)	N/K	A NDP could potentially have an effect on the environment. However, whether this is significant depends on the proposals within the NDP. This requires detailed assessment of the NDP – (see Table 2).

3.6 The conclusion of the assessment in Table 1 is that depending on the content of a Neighbourhood Development Plan, an SEA may be required. For this reason a specific assessment of the BNP is required to determine the likely significant effects.

Likely Significant Effects

3.7 To decide whether a draft Neighbourhood Development Plan might have significant environmental effects, its potential scope should be assessed against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Using the information supplied by Binfield Parish Council at the current stage of preparation (see Section 2 for the broad scope of the BNP as currently drafted), the assessment in Table 2 has been made:

Table 2: Assessment of likely significant effects against Schedule 1 criteria

Schedule 1 Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Comments
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular to:		
1a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	No	The BNP sets out a local policy framework for development proposals but does not specify particular locations for development. It supports the implementation of policies in the adopted Core Strategy and Site Allocations Local Plan which have already been subject to SEA and assessed as having no significant environmental effects.
1b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	No	The BNP must be in conformity with the strategic policies in the Local Plan for Bracknell Forest. It supports the implementation of strategic policies at the local level. It is not therefore considered to have significant influence on other plans and programmes or the environment.
1c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	No	The BNP contributes, as required, to the achievement of sustainable development as set out in the higher level Development Plan. Policies set out in the BNP are planned to have a positive impact on local environmental assets (for example

Schedule 1 Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Comments
		wildlife corridors and green spaces) and places valued by local people in the NDP area. The likelihood of significant effects on the environment is, therefore, minimised.
1d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme:	No	The BNP seeks to minimise existing environmental problems in the area. The Plan does not allocate sites or propose development that would give rise to environmental problems.
1e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	No	The BNP is not directly relevant to the implementation of Community legislation and does not allocate potentially polluting development.
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard in particular to:		
2a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	No	It is unlikely that there will be any irreversible damaging environmental impacts associated with the BNP. Policies seek to protect and improve the environment.
2b) the cumulative nature of the effects	No	The cumulative effects of policies within the BNP are unlikely to result in negative effects, but more likely to have a positive impact.
2c) the transboundary nature of the effects	No	The proposals within the BNP are unlikely to have a significant impact on neighbouring areas.
2d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	No	No risks to human health or the environment have been identified as a result of draft policies in the BNP.
2e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	The BNP is concerned with development within Binfield Parish which has a population of 7,880 people (2011 Census). The extent of any effects is therefore likely to be limited and minimal.
2f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to – i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage ii) exceeded environmental quality standards of limit values; or iii) intensive land-use.	No	There are a number of listed buildings within the Neighbourhood Area but no Conservation Area has been designated. The Neighbourhood Area contains one Site of Special Scientific Interest and a number of Local Wildlife Sites. The BNP is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to

Schedule 1 Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Comments
		<p>its natural or cultural heritage and is likely to provide greater support for those assets to be enhanced.</p> <p>Having regard to the scope of the Plan, the BNP is not expected to exceed environmental quality standards or limits.</p>
2g) the effects on areas of landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	No	It is not considered that the draft policies in the BNP will adversely affect areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status. Policies do not allocate land for development and seek to protect green spaces.

Screening Outcome

3.8 Having reviewed the criteria, the Council has concluded that the emerging BNP is not likely to have a significant environmental effect and accordingly will not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The main reasons for this conclusion are:

- The BNP supports the strategic development needs set out in the adopted Development Plan, including the Bracknell Forest Core Strategy and Site Allocations Local Plan which have already been subject to SEA and assessed as having no significant environmental effects;
- The BNP must support and uphold the general principle of strategic policies in the Development Plan for Bracknell Forest, and therefore has no, or limited influence on other plans or programmes;
- The BNP seeks to avoid or minimise environmental effects through guidance on issues which should be considered when determining development proposals within the Neighbourhood Area. The BNP may therefore have a positive environmental effect; and,
- The BNP does not allocate any sites for development.

4.0 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

4.1 The Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) refers to the assessment required for any plan or project to assess the potential implications for European wildlife sites. The HRA therefore looks at whether the implementation of the plan or project would harm the habitats or species for which European wildlife sites are designated. European wildlife sites relevant to the BNP are:

- Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)

- 4.2 In addition to SPAs and SACs, Ramsar sites are designated under the Ramsar Convention. Although they are not covered by the Habitats Regulations, as a matter of Government policy, Ramsar sites should be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites. European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as internationally designated wildlife sites.
- 4.3 The legislation sets out a process to assess the potential implications of a plan on internationally designated sites. The first stage of this process is a 'screening' exercise where the details of nearby internationally designated sites are assessed to see if there is the potential for the implementation of the Plan to have an impact on the site.
- 4.4 The BNP once adopted will form part of the Development Plan for Bracknell Forest, and will be in conformity with the strategic policies in adopted Local Plans for the Borough. The Core Strategy and Site Allocations Local Plan have been subject to both Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment¹.
- 4.5 Although the draft BNP does not allocate sites, it provides general policies to guide the impact of development, so a high level screening assessment has been undertaken. In 2007, Bracknell Forest Council undertook a Habitats Regulations Screening Exercise² to examine the likely effects of the Core Strategy and the (former) Site Allocations DPDs on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and the Windsor Forest and Great Park Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The screening opinion concluded that the DPDs were likely to have a significant effect on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. No significant effect was identified on the integrity of the Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC or any other Natura 2000 sites. A HRA Screening is therefore deemed necessary, focusing on the effects of the BNP on the integrity of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA only.
- 4.6 The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBHSPA) was designated in March 2005 for its lowland heathland, supporting significant populations of three ground-nesting birds (Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler). The regulations covering this designation require that any plan or proposal should have regard to whether it will adversely affect the integrity of the Special Protection Area (SPA). The two areas of the SPA that lie within Bracknell Forest are the Broadmoor to Bagshot Heaths SSSI and the Sandhurst to Owlsmoor Bogs and Heaths (also known as Wildmoor Heath) SSSI.
- 4.7 No European sites fall within the boundary of the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan area. However, about one third of the BNP area lies within 5km of the TBHSPA. Within this area all new residential development is considered to have the potential to affect the integrity of the SPA, through for example, potential additional recreational pressure. About one third of the area lies 5 – 7km from the TBHSPA within which developments over 50 net dwellings are also considered to have a potential impact. These boundaries are illustrated in the Map in Appendix A.
- 4.8 Any development proposals which come forward within the 400m to 7km catchment will be subject to Policy CS14 of the Bracknell Forest Core Strategy³ which requires any residential development likely to have a significant effect on the purpose and integrity of the SPA to demonstrate that adequate mitigation measures are put in place to avoid any potential adverse effects. These measures require the provision of (or contribution

¹ See <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/developmentplan>

² See Thames Basin Heaths SPA Technical Background Document to the Core Strategy DPD (June 2007).

³ Available at <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/core-strategy-development-plan-document-february-2008.pdf>

towards) Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and contributions towards Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Measures (SAMM) as set out in more detail in the Council's Thames Basin Heaths SPA Avoidance and Mitigation Supplementary Planning Document.⁴

4.9 Appendix B sets out the Conservation Objectives of the TBHSPA. Having regard to these and the potential effects, table 3 below sets out a HRA Screening for the emerging Draft BNP:

Table 3: Draft Binfield Neighbourhood Plan policies HRA Screening

BNP Draft Policy/issue	Detail of Policy/issue to be screened	Comment	Significant effect likely?
Transport and Connectivity			
TC1: Provision for cycling and walking	Provision of pedestrian and cycle routes with new development	The policy itself will not lead to development but to set out criteria for location and design.	No significant effect.
TC3: Improvements to key local junctions and pinchpoints	Delivery of road improvements at key locations.	The policy itself will not lead to development but supports improvement of local infrastructure	No significant effect
TC4: Bus provision	Supports improvements which bring benefits to bus patronage.	The policy itself will not lead to developments, but supports local infrastructure improvements.	No significant effect.
Community Facilities			
CF1: Provision of new primary healthcare facilities and associated car parking	Criteria relating to the provision of new healthcare facilities.	The policy does not lead to development but sets out criteria for appropriate provision.	No significant effect.
CF2: Provision of a community shop/cafe	Support for community facilities at Blue Mountain.	The policy supports the improvement of local infrastructure.	No significant effect.
CF3: Allotment space	Protection and provision of allotments.	The policy seeks to protect and enhance local facilities.	No significant effect.
Environment			
ENB1: Protection of natural habitats	Conservation of natural habitats.	The policy will not lead to development but seeks to enhance the local natural environment.	No significant effect.
ENB2: Roadside Nature Reserves	Protection of local habitats.	The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect	No significant effect.

⁴ Available at <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/thamesbasinheathsspecialprotectionarea>

BNP Draft Policy/issue	Detail of Policy/issue to be screened	Comment	Significant effect likely?
		local biodiversity and the natural environment.	
ENB3: Air quality	Protection of air quality.	The policy will not lead to development but seeks to enhance the local natural environment.	No significant effect.
ENB4: Protection and maintenance of Local Green Spaces	Designation of Local Green Spaces.	The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect local green infrastructure.	No significant effect.
ENB5: Public Green Space	Support for public green space at Blue Mountain.	The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect local green infrastructure.	No significant effect.
Communications			
CO1: High speed broadband	Requirement for high speed broadband on allocated sites where possible.	The policy will not lead to development but supports improved infrastructure on a local site.	No significant effect.

In combination effects

- 4.10 Existing plans and proposals must be considered when assessing new plans or programmes for likely significant effects as they may create ‘in combination’ effects. As the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan is not proposing to allocate sites, does not contain policies which would lead to development and will be required to be in general conformity with existing strategic policies in the Development Plan which have been assessed at a higher level to determine possible in-combination effects, it is concluded that no significant in-combination likely effects will occur due to its implementation.
- 4.11 As set out below, it is concluded as a result of the above, that the BNP will not lead to a significant effect on the integrity of the SPA and therefore does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

5.0 Conclusions

SEA Assessment

5.1 On the basis of the SEA Screening Assessment set out in Table 2 above, it is concluded that the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, and therefore does not need to be subject to a SEA Report.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

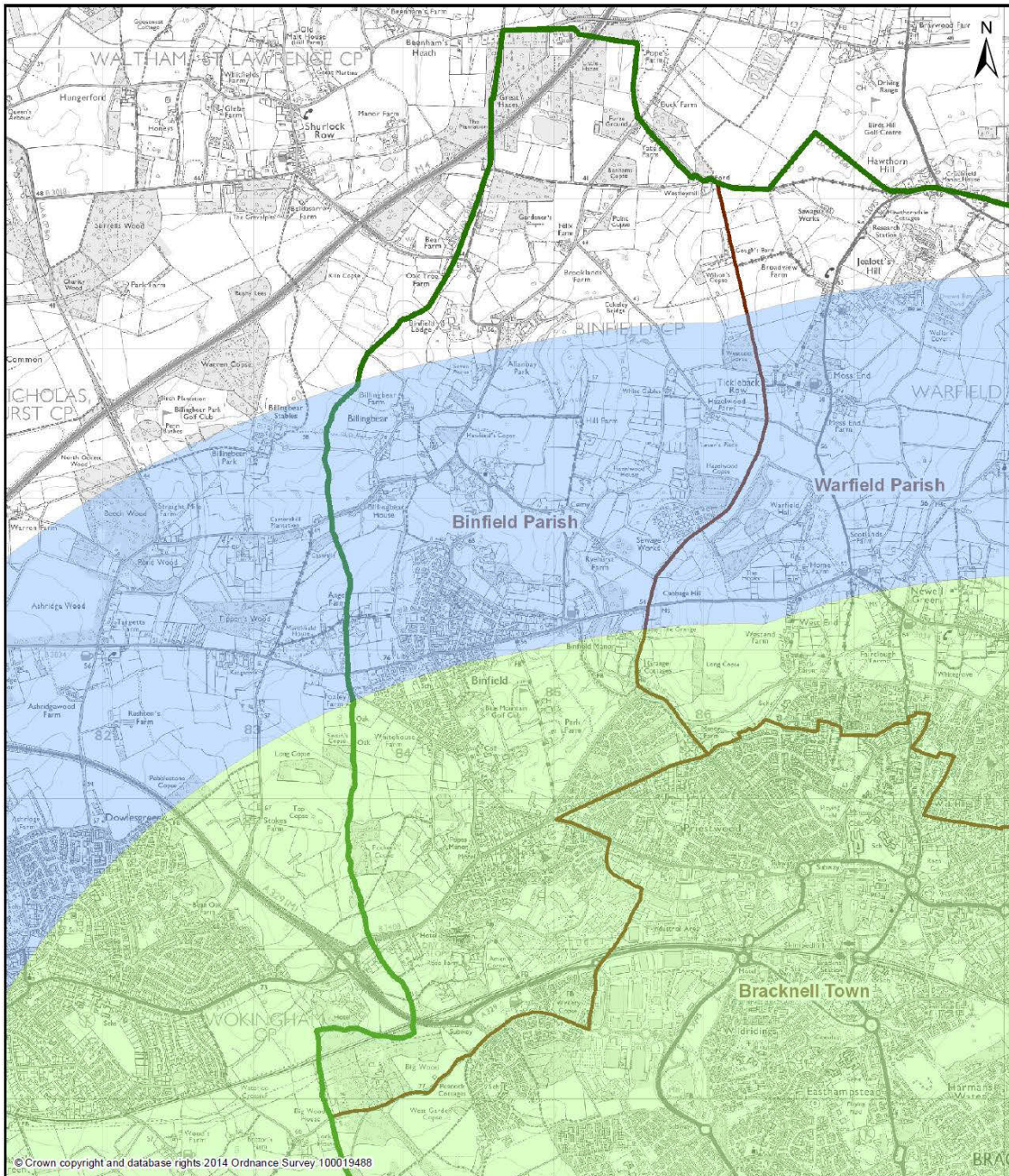
5.2 The screening assessment concludes that no likely significant effects are likely to occur with regards to the integrity of the European sites within and around Bracknell Forest Borough, due to the implementation of the BNP. As such the BNP does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

5.3 Nevertheless, any net gain in residential development that takes place within the relevant part of the Neighbourhood Area will have to comply with Policy CS14 of the Core Strategy relating to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area. Such development has already been subject to HRA and avoidance and mitigation measures agreed with Natural England.

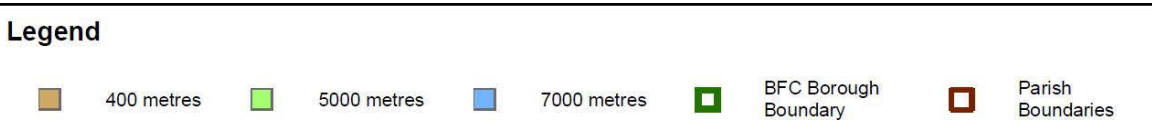
Consultation Responses

5.4 From 15 June to 20 July 2015 a consultation was undertaken on this screening report with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England. Consultation responses were received from all three bodies and these are shown in Appendices C, D and E. All three consultation bodies agreed with BFC's conclusions.

Plan 1: TBHSPA buffers



Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area buffers Date: 03/06/2015
 Scale: 1:34,000 (when printed on A4)



© Crown copyright and database rights 2014 Ordnance Survey 100019488 (Map not to scale).

Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area: Conservation Objectives, Qualifying Features and Ecological Indicators

Conservation Objectives	Qualifying Features	Indicators
<p>Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.</p> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; • The populations of the qualifying features; • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. • Biodiversity Strategy 2020: Meet or support Biodiversity 2020 actions for SPA habitats and species present on SPA areas that were part of the reason for its designation as an internationally important site. 	<p>A224 <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> European nightjar (breeding)</p> <p>A246 <i>Lullula arborea</i> Woodlark (breeding)</p> <p>A302 <i>Sylvia undata</i> Dartford Warbler (breeding)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported levels of damage to designated sites • Conclusions of relevant specialist assessments • Reported condition of SPA sites • Published reports from relevant lead partner/agencies delivering Biodiversity 2020 Strategy • Available information regarding species population/habitat extent and condition from Natural England, local Wildlife Trusts, RSPB etc.

Source: European Site Conservation Objectives for Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9012141 (Natural England) <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4952859267301376>

Consultation Response from Natural England - APPENDIX C

Date: 20 July 2015
Our ref: 156733
Your ref:



Julie Gil,
Senior Environmental Policy Officer
Design, Environment and Transport
Environment, Culture and Communities
Bracknell Forest Council

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Julie.Gil@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Julie Gil,

Screening consultation: Binfield Neighbourhood Plan (Bracknell Forest) - Consultation on SEA and HRA Screening Opinion
Location: Binfield Neighbourhood Area

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 16th June 2015 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are not likely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan. Natural England therefore agrees with the 'Screening Outcomes' on pages 8-9 that it is not likely that the Plan will have any significant environmental impacts and that neither an SEA nor a HRA is required.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#). The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

Page 1 of 3



Natural England is accredited to the Cabinet Office Service Excellence Standard

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect, and we note that this Plan does not allocate any sites for development.

Furthermore, we advise that under the requirements of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2010 (amended 2012) a full HRA is not required in this instance.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SEA or HRA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA and HRA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

Other advice

We would expect the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to assess and consider the other possible impacts resulting from this plan:

- local sites (biodiversity and geodiversity)
- local landscape character
- local or national biodiversity priority habitats and species.
- protected species

Natural England does not hold locally specific information relating to the above. These remain material considerations and we recommend that you seek further information from the appropriate bodies (which may include the local records centre, your local wildlife trust, local geoconservation group or other recording society and local landscape characterisation documents, in order to ensure the LPA has sufficient information to fully understand the impact of the plan. A more comprehensive list of local groups can be found at [Wildlife and Countryside link](#). Natural England's advice on protected species can be accessed [here](#).

Biodiversity enhancements

This plan may provide opportunities to incorporate features into the design which are beneficial to wildlife, such as the incorporation of roosting opportunities for bats or the installation of bird nest boxes. This is in accordance with Paragraph 118 of the NPPF. Additionally, we would draw your attention to Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) which states that *'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'*. Section 40(3) of the same Act also states that *'conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat'*.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Mary Tomlinson on the contact details below. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.



We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely,



Lead Adviser
Sustainable Development and Regulation
Thames Valley Team
Tel: 07771 834 975
Email: Mary.tomlinson@naturalengland.org.uk



Consultation Response from Historic England - APPENDIX D



Historic England

Ms Julie Gil
Senior Environmental Policy Officer
Bracknell Forest Council
Easthampstead House
Town Square
Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1AQ

Our ref: HD/P6030/01
Your ref:

Telephone 01483 252040
Fax

7th July 2015

Dear Ms Gil,

Binfield Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Opinion

Thank you for your e-mails of 15th June and 7th July seeking the views of Historic England on your Council's Binfield Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Opinion.

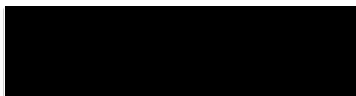
Based on the information in your Opinion, particularly that the Plan does not allocate sites for development, Historic England agrees with your conclusion that the Binfield Neighbourhood Development Plan is unlikely to lead to any significant environmental effects and that, therefore, an SEA is not required for the Plan. However, should the nature of the Plan change from that set out in your Opinion we should be informed as we may wish to review our position.

Although a formal SEA is not currently believed to be necessary, we would nevertheless suggest that the Plan is subject to a form of sustainability appraisal to assess and monitor the Plan's policies and proposals against a set of agreed objectives.

We hope these comments are helpful. Please contact me if you have any queries.

Thank you again for seeking the views of Historic England on this Screening Opinion.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Small
Principal Adviser, Historic Environment Planning
(Bucks, Oxon, Berks, Hampshire, IoW, South Downs National Park and Chichester)
E-mail: martin.small@historicengland.org.uk



Historic England, Eastgate Court, 195-205 High Street, Guildford GU1 3EH
Telephone 01483 25 2020 HistoricEngland.org.uk
Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.



Consultation Response from the Environment Agency - APPENDIX E

creating a better place



Ms Julie Gil
Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Planning & Transport Policy
Time Square Market Street
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 1JD

Our ref: WA/2011/110352/OR-
03/IS1-L01
Your ref:

Date: 20 July 2015

Dear Ms Gil

Re: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion for the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank you for consulting us on the above screening opinion. This consultation was received on 15 June 2015. After reviewing the screening report we have the following comments to make:

Strategic Environment Impact Assessment (SEA)

North-eastern areas of the neighbourhood plan are affected by flood zones 3 and 2. Part of the area of the plan is also located within the groundwater Source Protection Zone 3 (SPZ3). This means that the area is a sensitive location with regard to the protection of groundwater.

However, as highlighted in the screening report, the neighbourhood plan does not allocate any sites for housing or other land uses other than those already allocated in the adopted Bracknell Forest Core Strategy and Site Allocations Local Plan.

Moreover, the neighbourhood plan will support and uphold the general principle of strategic policies as detailed in the Development Plan for Bracknell Forest. Therefore, **we concur that an Environmental Report is not necessary.**

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

We have no comments to make on this.

Further Information

We would like to offer the advice contained within our leaflet 'Planning for the environment at the neighbourhood level'. A PDF copy is attached to this email for your convenience.

If you have any queries, then please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to working with you and the community on future stages of the plan.

Cont'd.



03/16/2015

Yours sincerely

Miss Donatella Cillo
Sustainable Places | Planning Advisor

Direct dial 0118953 5498
Email: planning-farnham@environment-agency.gov.uk

End

2