



# **Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan**

## **Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Determination**

**January 2019**

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## **1.0 Introduction and Background**

- 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 (SEA) is required for the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan. This statement also sets out the Council's consideration as to whether Appropriate Assessment is required under Regulations 105 and 106 of the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017. It is prepared in response to a SEA and HRA Screening Request submitted by Crowthorne Parish Council on 4 December 2018.

### ***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 In accordance with The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) Regulations 105 and 106, where a land use plan -
- a. is likely to have a significant effect on a European site...(either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and
  - b. is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site,

the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives. The plan-making authority must for the purposes of the assessment consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to any representations made by that body within such reasonable time as the authority specifies. The plan-making authority must also, if it considers it appropriate, take the opinion of the general public, and if it does so, it must take such steps for that purpose as it considers appropriate.

- 1.6 In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 107 (considerations of overriding public interest), the plan-making authority must give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site.
- 1.7 A qualifying body which submits a proposal for a neighbourhood development plan (in this case Crowthorne Parish Council) must provide such information as the competent

authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment under regulation 105 or to enable it to determine whether that assessment is required. Section 4 of this report deals with the Screening of Likely Significant Effects.

## 2.0 Scope of the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1 Bracknell Forest Council designated the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Area on 15 June 2016. The Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by Crowthorne Parish Council and Crowthorne residents.
- 2.2 Crowthorne Parish Council submitted a SEA and HRA Screening request on 4 December 2018. The request confirms that the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is not intending to allocate sites, nor does it contain policies that have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through an up-to-date Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan. The request includes a table showing the title and intent of draft policies (Table 1).

**Table 1: Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan Draft Policies List**

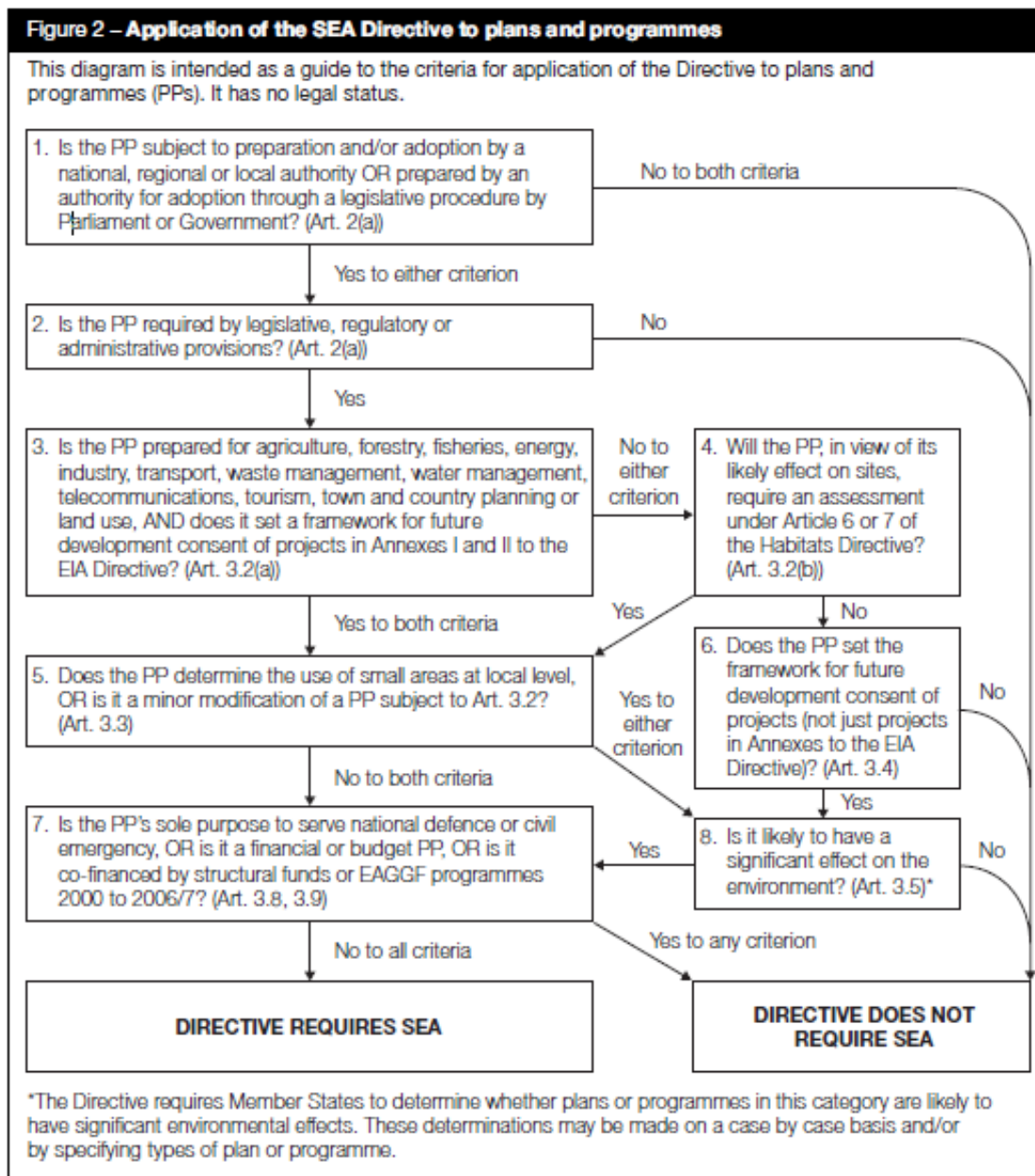
<b>Policy No.</b>	<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Policy Intent</b>
CR1 CR2 CR3 CR4 CR5 CR6 CR7	Managing Design in: Edgcumbe Park Residential Area West Crowthorne Crowthorne Centre East Crowthorne Wellington College/Edgbarrow School Broadmoor Transport Research Laboratory	Setting out design guidelines for each character area
CR8 (TBC)	Locally Listed Buildings	Identifying buildings of local historic significance
CR9	Crowthorne High Street	Enhancing the retail offer in Crowthorne
CR10	High Street Environmental Improvement Area	Enhancing the street scene
CR11	Dukes Ride Station End	Enhancing the retail offer in Crowthorne
CR12	Employment	Safeguarding the employment offer in Crowthorne
CR13	Green Infrastructure	Enhancing connectivity in Crowthorne

### **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 The draft document was subject to consultation from 13 December 2018 to 18 January 2019 with the relevant bodies. Their comments are included in this final version in which the Council also sets 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 Crowthorne NDP will require a full SEA. The questions in Table 2 are drawn from Figure 1 above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

**Table 2: Assessment of Characteristics of a Neighbourhood Plan**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Reasoning</b>
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 Neighbourhood 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	N	NDP does not deal with these issues.



Stage	Y/N	Reasoning
programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 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 Crowthorne NDP 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 Crowthorne Parish Council at the current stage of preparation (see Section 2 for the broad scope of the plan as currently drafted), the assessment in Table 3 has been made:

**Table 3: Assessment of likely significant effects against Schedule 1 criteria**

Schedule 1 Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Comments
<b>1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular to:</b>		
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 Crowthorne NDP 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 Crowthorne NDP 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	No	The Crowthorne NDP contributes, as required, to the achievement of sustainable development as set out in the higher level Development Plan. Policies set out in the Crowthorne

Schedule 1 Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Comments
development.		NDP are planned to have a positive impact on local environmental assets (for example green infrastructure) and retail and employment offer in the Crowthorne NDP area. The likelihood of significant effects on the environment is, therefore, minimised.
1d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme:	No	The Crowthorne NDP 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 Crowthorne NDP is not directly relevant to the implementation of Community legislation. Whilst it supports small scale social enterprises, small and micro business and retail units, it does not allocate potentially polluting development.
<b>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard in particular to:</b>		
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 Crowthorne NDP. Policies seek to protect and improve the environment.
2b) the cumulative nature of the effects	No	The cumulative effects of policies within the Crowthorne NDP 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 Crowthorne NDP 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 Crowthorne NDP.
2e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	The Crowthorne NDP is concerned with development within Crowthorne Parish which has an area of 16.7 km <sup>2</sup> and a population of over half of the total population of the Borough (around 118,000 in 2014). 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	No	Within the Neighbourhood Area there are:

Schedule 1 Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Comments
<p>to –</p> <p>i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</p> <p>ii) exceeded environmental quality standards of limit values; or</p> <p>iii) intensive land-use.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a number of listed buildings</li> <li>• one Conservation Area (Church Street, Crowthorne)</li> <li>• one Historic Parks and Garden (Broadmoor Hospital)</li> <li>• several Scheduled Ancient Monuments</li> <li>• Several Local Wildlife Sites</li> <li>• Air Quality Management Area</li> <li>• Thames Basin Heaths SPA and several SSSIs</li> </ul> <p>The Neighbourhood Area does not contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• any Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</li> <li>• Groundwater Source Protection Zone</li> <li>• Flood Zones 3 and 2</li> </ul> <p>The Crowthorne NDP is not allocating sites for development and policies must be generally aligned with strategic policies in the local development plan and national policies – the local policies have been subject to SEA in their development. As such, the Crowthorne NDP is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to its natural characteristics; due to exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or intensive land use.</p> <p>The Crowthorne NDP provides opportunity to provide greater support for assets to be enhanced through policies relating to design within character areas; increasing recognition of buildings of local historic significance; enhancing connectivity through green infrastructure; enhancing the retail offer and safeguarding employment. The policies are intended to influence developments that come forward (through planning applications or allocations within the Local Plan), rather than proposing sites for development. The Crowthorne NDP</p>

Schedule 1 Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Comments
		policies would be implemented alongside those within the development plan and national policies. These set out measures relating to the natural environment, cultural heritage and environmental quality standards.
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 Crowthorne NDP 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 enhance connectivity through green infrastructure.

### **Screening Outcome**

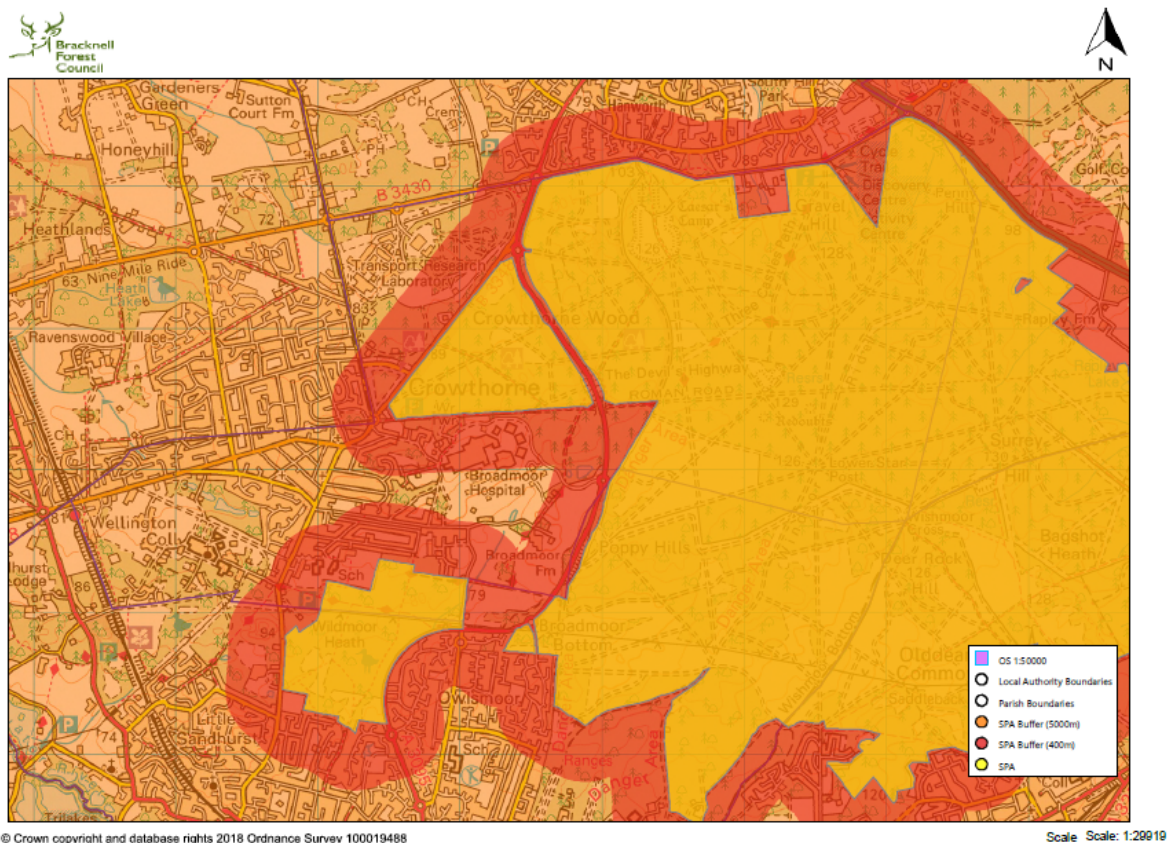
3.8 Having reviewed the criteria, the Council has concluded that the emerging Crowthorne NDP is not likely to have a significant environmental effect and accordingly will not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The main reasons for this conclusion are:

- The Crowthorne NDP is not allocating land for development.
- The policies within the Crowthorne NDP are intended to influence developments that come forward (through planning applications or allocations within the Local Plan), rather than proposing sites for development. The Crowthorne NDP policies would be implemented alongside those within the local development plan and national policies. These set out further measures relating to the natural environment, cultural heritage and environmental quality standards.
- The Crowthorne NDP must be generally aligned with strategic policies within the local development plan and national policies – the local policies have been subject to SEA in their development. As such, the Crowthorne NDP is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to its natural characteristics; due to exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or intensive land use.
- The Crowthorne NDP provides opportunity to provide greater support for assets to be enhanced through policies relating to design within character areas; increasing recognition of buildings of local historic significance; enhancing connectivity through green infrastructure; enhancing the retail offer and safeguarding employment.

#### 4.0 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening for Likely Significant Effects

- 4.1 Crowthorne NDP is a plan which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site.
- 4.2 There are two European Sites partly located within Bracknell Forest – Windsor Forest and Great Park Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). Appendices A and B contain detailed descriptions of these sites including their Conservation Objectives and a Description of Potential Adverse Effects on Site Integrity.
- 4.3 A significant part of the Crowthorne NDP area encompasses part of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (Figure 2). Some of the plan area to the west of the SPA also lies within 400m the SPA buffer zone and some within the 400m – 5km SPA buffer zone. Within these SPA buffer zones all new residential development is considered to have the potential to affect the integrity of the SPA, through for example, potential additional recreational pressure.

**Figure 2 Map of Crowthorne Parish**



4.4 Crowthorne Parish Council has confirmed that the Crowthorne NDP does not allocate any sites for development. The Plan is therefore:

- unlikely to lead to a net increase in dwellings (an increase in dwellings up to 7km from the SPA could lead to a likely significant effect on the SPA as a result of an increase in recreational visits)

- unlikely to lead to an increase in traffic movements within 200m of the SPA or SAC (an increase in traffic movements could increase air pollution leading to a likely significant effect on the SPA and SAC air pollution from outside the SPA and SAC).
- 4.5 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 Crowthorne NDP 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.
- 4.6 Based on the information provided by Crowthorne Parish Council and Appendices A and B the Council can therefore rule out 'likely significance effects' on the SPA and SAC (alone or in combination with other plans or projects) because the proposal does not undermine the Conservation Objectives of these sites.
- 4.7 As the 'likely significance effects' can be ruled out at this stage the it can be concluded that an Appropriate Assessment is not required to be undertaken.

## **5.0 Conclusions**

### ***SEA Assessment***

- 5.1 On the basis of the SEA Screening Assessment set out in Table 3 above, it is concluded that the Crowthorne NDP 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***

- 5.3 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 Crowthorne NDP. As such the Crowthorne NDP does not require a full Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken.
- 5.4 Nevertheless, any net gain in residential development that takes place within the relevant part of the Neighbourhood Area will have to comply with the retained Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan, Policy CS14 of the Core Strategy relating to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area and related guidance. Allocated development has already been subject to a plan level Appropriate Assessment and avoidance and mitigation measures have been agreed with Natural England. An Appropriate Assessment is also undertaken at the planning application stage and NE is consulted where relevant.

### ***Consultation Responses***

- 5.5 From 13 December 2018 to 18 January 2019 a consultation was undertaken in a draft copy of this screening report with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England; these are contained in Appendix C. A Consultation Statement is included in Appendix D showing how the responses have been considered and taken into account.
- 5.6 The Environment Agency was unable to review the consultation, prioritising limited resource to focus on influencing plans where the environmental risks and opportunities are highest. For the purposes of neighbourhood planning, they have assessed those authorities who have “up to date” local plans (plans adopted since 2012, or which have been confirmed as being compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework) as being of lower risk. At this time, therefore, the Environment Agency is unable to make any detailed input on neighbourhood plans being prepared within this local authority area.
- 5.7 Historic England, based on the information available, agrees with the Council’s conclusion that the emerging Crowthorne NDP is not likely to have any significant environmental effects and accordingly will not require a SEA. Note is made of the sensitive historic environment within the Parish; that Crowthorne NDP does not intend to allocate sites, nor contain policies that have not already been considered and dealt with through an up-to-date Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan; and none of the proposed policies would appear likely to have significant negative environmental effects, but are intended to have positive effects.
- 5.8 Natural England notes that the Plan does not allocate any additional sites for development and as a result agrees with the assessment that the Neighbourhood Plan does not require an SEA. They draw attention to the requirement to conserve biodiversity and provide a net gain in biodiversity through planning policy (Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and section 109 of the

National Planning Policy Framework), with any development policy in the plan to include wording to ensure “all development results in a biodiversity net gain for the parish”. The response provides further recommendations in terms of connected Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Net Gain. Further details are provided in their response, which have been forwarded to Crowthorne Parish Council.

- 5.9 Further, the Environment Agency noted that together with Natural England, English Heritage and Forestry Commission, they have published joint guidance on neighbourhood planning, which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at:  
[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT\\_6524\\_7da381.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_6524_7da381.pdf)



## APPENDIX A - Windsor Forest and Great Park Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC is a large area of continuous woodland. The SAC covers a total area of 1,687.26 hectares. The predominant habitat is mixed woodland (95%). There are also areas of dry grasslands (4.5%) and inland water bodies (0.5%). The soil and geology is a mix of acidic, clay, neutral and sand. The geomorphology and landscape is classified as lowland. The SAC represents old acidophilous oak woods in the south-eastern part of its UK range. It has the largest number of veteran oaks *Quercus spp.* in Britain (and possibly in Europe), a consequence of its long continuity of management. Windsor Forest is listed as the most important site in the UK for fauna associated with decaying timber on ancient trees (oak spp, beech, and other species of tree). It is of importance for its range and diversity of saproxylic invertebrates, including many rare species (e.g. the beetle *Lacon querceus*). The SAC is thought to support the largest of the known populations in the UK of European important Violet click beetle *Limoniscus violaceus*. It is also recognised as having rich fungal assemblages. Atlantic acidophilous beech forest habitat is present at the site and supports many of the important invertebrate and fungi assemblage

### Qualifying Features

- H9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Illici-Fagenion*); Beech forests on acid soils
- H9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains; Dry oak-dominated woodland
- S1079 *Limoniscus violaceus*; Violet click beetle

### Conservation Objectives

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

### SSSI Condition

The table below provides information on the condition of the SSSI making up the SAC.

Condition of Windsor Forest and Great Park SSSI

Condition	% of Area
Favourable	51.84%
Unfavourable recovering	48.16%
Unfavourable no change	0%
Unfavourable declining	0%
Destroyed / Part destroyed	0%

Description of Potential Adverse Effects on Site Integrity

The Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for the Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC (dated 25 January 2016) identifies the following negative threats, pressures which may have a negative impact on the site as:

- Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (from inside and outside the SAC)
- Invasive non-native species (from inside and outside the SAC)
- Forest and Plantation management and use (inside the SAC)
- Interspecific floral relations (inside the SAC)

## APPENDIX B - Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA)

The Thames Basin Heaths SPA was proposed in October 2000, and full SPA status was approved on 9 March 2005. It is an example of a heathland landscape based within a highly active economy. It consists of a composite site covering an area of some 8,274 hectares, consisting of 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) scattered from Hampshire in the west, to Berkshire in the north, through to Surrey.

The habitat consists of both dry and wet heathland, mire, oak, birch acid woodland, gorse scrub and acid grassland with areas of rotational conifer plantation.

### Qualifying Species

This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Birds Directive as it is used by 1% or more of the Great Britain population of species of European Importance listed in Annex I of the Directive. During the breeding season this includes:

- Dartford warbler (*Sylvia undata*)
- Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)
- Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*)

The SPA supports the second largest concentration of Dartford warbler in Great Britain, the third largest number of woodlark, and the fourth largest population of breeding nightjars.

### Non Qualifying Species of Interest

Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) and kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) (all Annex I species) occur in non-breeding numbers of less than 1% of the GB population.

### Seasonality

The breeding season of the protected bird species occurs predominantly in April, May, June and July, but an extended season can occur between February and August, therefore this is when the ground-nesting species are most vulnerable to disturbance. The breeding season for nightjar occurs from mid-May through to August, with a peak in June; woodlark nest from March until July, but commence territorial activity from early February; the Dartford warbler generally breeds between April and August. Territorial activity may begin as early as February and, as yet, there is no indication of how climate change might affect the breeding season.

### Conservation Objectives

The conservation objective for the Thames Basin Heaths SPA is "*Subject to natural change, to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 bird species of European importance, with particular reference to lowland heathland and rotationally managed plantation.*"

The above conservation objective can be broken down into its separate components to assist with the HRA and impact prediction:

- To maintain, in favourable condition, lowland heathland and rotationally managed plantation to provide habitats for Annex I breeding bird populations of woodlark, nightjar and Dartford warbler.
- To maintain the geographical extent of the habitat area.

- To sustain and improve population numbers of woodlark, nightjar and Dartford warbler.

#### SSSI Condition

The two areas of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA that lie within Bracknell Borough are the Broadmoor to Bagshot Heaths SSSI and the Sandhurst to Owlsmoor Bogs and Heaths (also known as Wildmoor Heath) SSSI. The condition of these SSSIs is shown below.

#### Condition of Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths SSSI

Condition	% of Area
Favourable	75.63%
Unfavourable recovering	23.83%
Unfavourable no change	0.55%
Unfavourable declining	0%
Destroyed / part destroyed	0%

#### Condition of Sandhurst to Owlsmoor Bogs and Heaths (also known as Wildmoor Heath) SSSI

Condition	% of Area
Favourable	0%
Unfavourable recovering	100%
Unfavourable no change	0%
Unfavourable declining	0%
Destroyed / part destroyed	0%

#### Ecological Requirements of the Qualifying Species

- **Dartford warbler** - Large unbroken dwarf-shrub layer of heather with scattered gorse; abundance of shrub layer invertebrates; mix of heather trees and gorse amongst heathland vegetation; reduction in displacement of birds; extent and distribution of habitat area.
- **Nightjar** - Abundance of night flying insects; open ground with predominantly low vegetation bare patches and sparse woodland/scrub cover; reduction in displacement of birds; extent and distribution of habitat area.
- **Woodlark** - Abundance of ground surface invertebrates; mix of shrub/tree cover, short-medium vegetation and bare ground; reduction in displacement of birds; extent and distribution of habitat area.

#### Description of Potential Adverse Effects on Site Integrity

The Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (dated 25 January 2016) identifies the following threats and pressures which may have a negative impact on the site as:

- Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (from inside and outside the SPA)
- Other human intrusions and disturbances (from inside the SPA)
- Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (from inside the SPA)
- Biocenotic evolution, succession (from inside the SPA)
- Forest and Plantation management & use (from inside the SPA)

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

## APPENDIX C – Consultation Responses

**From:** Planning\_THM [[mailto:Planning\\_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Planning_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk)]  
**Sent:** 19 December 2018 14:06  
**To:** Development Plan  
**Subject:** RE: 181218/msr11 - FW: Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan - Consultation on SEA and HRA Screening Decision

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations (HRA) Screening Report for the emerging Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan.

We regret that at present, the Thames Area Sustainable Places team is unable to review this consultation. This is due to resourcing issues within the team, a high development management workload and an increasing volume of neighbourhood planning consultations. We have had to prioritise our limited resource, and must focus on influencing plans where the environmental risks and opportunities are highest. For the purposes of neighbourhood planning, we have assessed those authorities who have "up to date" local plans (plans adopted since 2012, or which have been confirmed as being compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework) as being of lower risk. At this time, therefore, we are unable to make any detailed input on neighbourhood plans being prepared within this local authority area.

However, together with Natural England, English Heritage and Forestry Commission, we have published joint guidance on neighbourhood planning, which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at: [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT\\_6524\\_7da381.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_6524_7da381.pdf)

Thames Sustainable Places Team  
**Environment Agency** | Red Kite House, Wallingford, OX10 8BD

[Planning\\_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Planning_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Speak to us early about environmental issues and opportunities - We can provide a free pre-application advice note or for more detailed advice / meetings / reviews we can provide a project manager to coordinate specialist advice / meetings which costs £100 per hour plus 20% VAT. For more information email us at [planning\\_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:planning_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk)



Creating a better place  
for people and wildlife





Historic England

Development Plan  
Planning, Transport and Countryside  
Place, Planning and Regeneration  
Bracknell Forest Council

Our ref:  
Your ref:

Telephone 01483 252040  
Fax

16<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan –  
Consultation on SEA and HRA Screening Report**

Thank you for your e-mail of 13<sup>th</sup> December seeking the views of Historic England on your Council's draft Screening Report.

According to the National Heritage List for England, there is one Grade II\* and seven Grade II listed building records, seven scheduled monument records (one record being for five separate Napoleonic Practice Redoubts) and one Grade II Registered Historic Park or Garden record for Crowthorne parish. The Screening Report also notes the Church Street Conservation Area in Crowthorne. The parish has, therefore, a sensitive historic environment, which could be affected by development in accordance with the policies and proposals of the Plan, depending, of course, on what those policies are.

We note that Crowthorne Parish Council's SEA Screening request confirms that it does not intend the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) to allocate sites, nor to contain policies that have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through an up-to-date Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan.

From the list of policies set out in the Screening Report, it would appear to us that none would be likely to have significant negative environmental effects, but are intended to have positive effects. Neither the SEA Directive nor the Regulations make any distinction between negative and positive effects, but we are satisfied that the indicated policies of the Plan are, in principle at least, generally consistent with the policies of the Local Plan, which have been subject to SEA already.

Therefore, based on the information currently available to us, we agree with the Council's conclusion that the emerging Crowthorne NDP is not likely to have any significant environmental effects and, accordingly, will not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. However, we may wish to revise this Opinion should the NDP contain policies not listed in the Council's Screening Report.



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.



- 2 -

We hope these comments are helpful.

Thank you again for consulting Historic England.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Small". The signature is written in a cursive style with a capital 'M' and 'S'.

Martin Small Principal Adviser, Historic Environment Planning  
(Bucks, Berks, Oxfordshire, Hampshire, IoW, South Downs NP and Chichester)  
[martin.small@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:martin.small@historicengland.org.uk)



Date: 08 January 2019  
Our ref: 267627



Crowthorne Parish Council

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

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

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Planning Consultation: Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening**

Thank you for your consultation on the above date 13 December 2018.

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.

Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where our interests would be affected by the proposals made.

In our review of the **Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening** we note that;

- there are designated sites or protected landscapes within the impacts zones of the Neighbourhood Plan area, however, the Plan does not allocate any additional sites for development.

As a result we agree with the assessment that the Neighbourhood Plan does not require an SEA.

However, we would like to draw your attention to the requirement to conserve biodiversity and provide a net gain in biodiversity through planning policy (Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and section 109 of the National Planning Policy Framework). Please ensure that any development policy in your plan includes wording to ensure "all development results in a biodiversity net gain for the parish".

The recently produced [Neighbourhood Plan for Benson](#), in South Oxfordshire provides an excellent example. We would recommend you considering this document, when reviewing yours.

#### Further Recommendations

Natural England would also like to highlight that removal of green space in favour of development may have serious impacts on biodiversity and connected habitat and therefore species ability to adapt to climate change. We recommend that the final local plan include:

- Policies around connected Green Infrastructure (GI) within the parish. Elements of GI such as open green space, wild green space, allotments, and green walls and roofs can all be used to create connected habitats suitable for species adaptation to climate change. Green infrastructure also provides multiple benefits for people including recreation, health and well-

being, access to nature, opportunities for food growing, and resilience to climate change. Annex A provides examples of Green Infrastructure;

- Policies around Biodiversity Net Gain should propose the use of a biodiversity measure for development proposals. Examples of calculation methods are included in Annex A;

Annex A provides information on the natural environment and issues and opportunities for your Neighbourhood planning.

Yours sincerely

Lauren Schofield  
Focus Area Adviser  
Sustainable Development  
Thames Team

# Annex A - Neighbourhood planning and the natural environment: information, issues and opportunities

## Natural Environment Information Sources

The [Magic](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/)<sup>1</sup> website will provide you with much of the nationally held natural environment data for your plan area. The most relevant layers for you to consider are: **Agricultural Land Classification, Ancient Woodland, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Nature Reserves, National Parks (England), National Trails, Priority Habitat Inventory, public rights of way (on the Ordnance Survey base map) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (including their impact risk zones).** Local environmental record centres may hold a range of additional information on the natural environment. A list of local record centres is available [here](#)<sup>2</sup>.

**Priority habitats** are those habitats of particular importance for nature conservation, and the list of them can be found [here](#)<sup>3</sup>. Most of these will be mapped either as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**, on the Magic website or as **Local Wildlife Sites**. Your local planning authority should be able to supply you with the locations of Local Wildlife Sites.

**National Character Areas** (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each character area is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. NCA profiles contain descriptions of the area and statements of environmental opportunity, which may be useful to inform proposals in your plan. NCA information can be found [here](#)<sup>4</sup>.

There may also be a local **landscape character assessment** covering your area. This is a tool to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identify the features that give it a sense of place. It can help to inform, plan and manage change in the area. Your local planning authority should be able to help you access these if you can't find them online.

If your neighbourhood planning area is within or adjacent to a **National Park** or **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB), the relevant National Park/AONB Management Plan for the area will set out useful information about the protected landscape. You can access the plans on from the relevant National Park Authority or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website.

General mapped information on **soil types** and **Agricultural Land Classification** is available (under 'landscape') on the [Magic](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/)<sup>5</sup> website and also from the [LandIS website](http://www.landis.org.uk/)<sup>6</sup>, which contains more information about obtaining soil data.

## Natural Environment Issues to Consider

The [National Planning Policy Framework](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2)<sup>7</sup> sets out national planning policy on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. [Planning Practice Guidance](http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/)<sup>8</sup> sets out supporting guidance.

Your local planning authority should be able to provide you with further advice on the potential impacts of your plan on the natural environment and the need for any environmental assessments.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk/nfbr.php>

<sup>3</sup> <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

<sup>5</sup> <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>8</sup> <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/>

## Landscape

Paragraph 109 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) highlights the need to protect and enhance valued landscapes through the planning system. Your plans may present opportunities to protect and enhance locally valued landscapes. You may want to consider identifying distinctive local landscape features or characteristics such as ponds, woodland or dry stone walls and think about how any new development proposals can respect and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness.

If you are proposing development within or close to a protected landscape (National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) or other sensitive location, we recommend that you carry out a landscape assessment of the proposal. Landscape assessments can help you to choose the most appropriate sites for development and help to avoid or minimise impacts of development on the landscape through careful siting, design and landscaping.

## Wildlife habitats

Some proposals can have adverse impacts on designated wildlife sites or other priority habitats (listed [here](#)<sup>9</sup>), such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or [Ancient woodland](#)<sup>10</sup>. If there are likely to be any adverse impacts you'll need to think about how such impacts can be avoided, mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for.

## Priority and protected species and habitat

You'll also want to consider whether any proposals might affect priority species (listed [here](#)<sup>11</sup>) or protected species. Natural England has produced advice [here](#)<sup>12</sup> to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected species. Consideration should also be given to the potential environmental value of brownfield sites, often found in urban areas and former industrial land, further information including links to the open mosaic habitats inventory can be found [here](#).

## Ancient woodland and veteran trees-link to standing advice

You should consider any impacts on ancient woodland and veteran trees in line with paragraph 118 of the NPPF. Natural England maintains the Ancient Woodland [Inventory](#) which can help identify ancient woodland. Natural England and the Forest Commission have produced [standing advice](#) for planning authorities in relation to ancient woodland and veteran trees. It should be taken into account by planning authorities when determining relevant planning applications. Natural England will only provide bespoke advice on ancient woodland/veteran trees where they form part of a SSSI or in exceptional circumstances

## Biodiversity net gain

Under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Local Planning Authorities are required to conserve biodiversity. The NPPF section 109 states "*the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity wherever possible*". Suitable methods for calculating biodiversity net gain can include the Defra biodiversity offsetting metric<sup>13</sup> and the environment bank biodiversity impact calculator<sup>14</sup>. Natural England would expect a policy within the Neighbourhood Plan to include wording to ensure that net biodiversity gain is achieved.

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<sup>9</sup><http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences>

<sup>11</sup> <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/biodiversity-offsetting#guidance-for-offset-providers-developers-and-local-authorities-in-the-pilot-areas> Note; the 'Guidance for developers' and 'Guidance for offset providers' documents provide a calculation method.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.environmentbank.com/impact-calculator.php> , and [http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=0ahUKEwj7vcbI0aDQAhVMDcAKHb8IDEUQFggsMAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fconsult.welhat.gov.uk%2Ffile%2F4184236&usq=AFQjCNFfkbJJQ\\_UN0044Qe6rmiLffxckg](http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=0ahUKEwj7vcbI0aDQAhVMDcAKHb8IDEUQFggsMAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fconsult.welhat.gov.uk%2Ffile%2F4184236&usq=AFQjCNFfkbJJQ_UN0044Qe6rmiLffxckg)

## Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services for society. It is a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, a store for carbon and water, a reservoir of biodiversity and a buffer against pollution. If you are proposing development, you should seek to use areas of poorer quality agricultural land in preference to that of a higher quality in line with National Planning Policy Framework section 112. For more information, see our publication [Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land](#)<sup>15</sup>.

## **Green Infrastructure, Improving Your Natural Environment.**

Inclusion of Green Infrastructure (GI) in to development plans can provide multifunctional benefits to the area. These can include opportunities for recreation, health and wellbeing and access to nature as well as providing connected habitats for wildlife.

Your plan or order can offer exciting opportunities to enhance your local environment through inclusion of GI. If you are setting out policies on new development or proposing sites for development, you may wish to consider identifying what environmental features you want to be retained, connected, enhanced or new features you would like to see created as part of any new development. Examples might include:

- Providing a new footpath with landscaping through the new development to link into existing rights of way or other green spaces.
- Restoring a neglected hedgerow or creating new ones.
- Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the site.
- Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.
- Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.
- Incorporating swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of new buildings.
- Considering how lighting can be best managed to encourage wildlife.
- Adding a green roof or walls to new or existing buildings.

You may also want to consider enhancing your local area in other ways, for example by:

- Setting out in your plan how you would like to implement elements of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy in your community.
- Assessing needs for accessible greenspace and setting out proposals to address any deficiencies or enhance provision.
- Identifying green areas of particular importance for special protection through Local Green Space designation (see [Planning Practice Guidance on this](#)<sup>16</sup>).
- Managing existing (and new) public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g. by sowing wild flower strips in less used parts of parks, changing hedge cutting timings and frequency).
- Planting additional street trees.
- Identifying any improvements to the existing public right of way network, e.g. cutting back hedges, improving the surface, clearing litter or installing kissing gates) or extending the network to create missing links.
- Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g. coppicing a prominent hedge that is in poor condition or clearing away an eyesore).

## Green Roofs

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<sup>15</sup> <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012>

<sup>16</sup> <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/local-green-space-designation/>

Natural England is supportive of the inclusion of living roofs in all appropriate development. Research indicates that the benefits of green roofs include reducing run-off and thereby the risk of surface water flooding; reducing the requirement for heating and air-conditioning; and providing habitat for wildlife.

We would advise your council that some living roofs, such as sedum matting, can have limited biodiversity value in terms of the range of species that grow on them and habitats they provide. Natural England would encourage you to consider the use of bespoke solutions based on the needs of the wildlife specific to the site and adjacent area. I would refer you to <http://livingroofs.org/> for a range of innovative solutions.

## APPENDIX D – Consultation Statement

Consultee	Section	Comment	Officer Response	Recommendation
<b>Environment Agency</b>	SEA/HRA	<p>We regret that at present, the Thames Area Sustainable Places team is unable to review this consultation. This is due to resourcing issues within the team, a high development management workload and an increasing volume of neighbourhood planning consultations. We have had to prioritise our limited resource, and must focus on influencing plans where the environmental risks and opportunities are highest. For the purposes of neighbourhood planning, we have assessed those authorities who have “up to date” local plans (plans adopted since 2012, or which have been confirmed as being compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework) as being of lower risk. At this time, therefore, we are unable to make any detailed input on neighbourhood plans being prepared within this local authority area.</p> <p>However, together with Natural England, English Heritage and Forestry Commission, we have published joint guidance on neighbourhood planning, which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at: <a href="http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_6524_7da381.pdf">http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_6524_7da381.pdf</a></p>	Noted	<p>No change to screening conclusion.</p> <p>Forward advice to Parish Council.</p>
<b>Natural England</b>	SEA/HRA	<p>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.</p> <p>Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where our interests would be affected by the proposals made.</p>	Noted.	No change

		<p>In our review of the <b>Crowthorne Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening</b> we note that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there are designated sites or protected landscapes within the impacts zones of the Neighbourhood Plan area, however, the Plan does not allocate any additional sites for development.</li> </ul> <p>As a result we agree with the assessment that the Neighbourhood Plan does not require an SEA.</p> <p>However, we would like to draw your attention to the requirement to conserve biodiversity and provide a net gain in biodiversity through planning policy (Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and section 109 of the National Planning Policy Framework). Please ensure that any development policy in your plan includes wording to ensure “all development results in a biodiversity net gain for the parish”.</p> <p>The recently produced Neighbourhood Plan for Benson, in South Oxfordshire provides an excellent example. We would recommend you considering this document, when reviewing yours.</p>		
<b>Natural England</b>	Further Recommendations	<p>Natural England would also like to highlight that removal of green space in favour of development may have serious impacts on biodiversity and connected habitat and therefore species ability to adapt to climate change. We recommend that the final local plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policies around connected Green Infrastructure (GI) within the parish. Elements of GI such as open green space, wild green space, allotments, and green walls and roofs can all be used to create connected habitats suitable for species adaptation to climate change. Green infrastructure also provides multiple benefits for people including recreation, health and well-being, access to nature, opportunities for food growing, and resilience to climate change. Annex A provides examples of Green Infrastructure;</li> </ul>	Noted	Forward advice to Parish Council.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies around Biodiversity Net Gain should propose the use of a biodiversity measure for development proposals. Examples of calculation methods are included in Annex A;</li> </ul> <p>Annex A provides information on the natural environment and issues and opportunities for your Neighbourhood planning.</p>		
<b>Historic England</b>	SEA/HRA	<p>According to the National Heritage List for England, there is one Grade II* and seven Grade II listed building records, seven scheduled monument records (one record being for five separate Napoleonic Practice Redoubts) and one Grade II Registered Historic Park or Garden record for Crowthorne parish. The Screening Report also notes the Church Street Conservation Area in Crowthorne. The parish has, therefore, a sensitive historic environment, which could be affected by development in accordance with the policies and proposals of the Plan, depending, of course, on what those policies are.</p> <p>We note that Crowthorne Parish Council's SEA Screening request confirms that it does not intend the Crowthorne Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) to allocate sites, nor to contain policies that have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through an up-to-date Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan.</p> <p>From the list of policies set out in the Screening Report, it would appear to us that none would be likely to have significant negative environmental effects, but are intended to have positive effects. Neither the SEA Directive nor the Regulations make any distinction between negative and positive effects, but we are satisfied that the indicated policies of the Plan are, in principle at least, generally consistent with the policies of the Local Plan, which have been subject to SEA already.</p> <p>Therefore, based on the information currently available to us, we agree with the Council's conclusion that the emerging Crowthorne NDP is not likely to have any significant environmental effects and, accordingly, will not</p>	Noted	No change

		require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. However, we may wish to revise this Opinion should the NDP contain policies not listed in the Council's Screening Report.		
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