



Clerk
East Woodhay Parish Council

Sent via email:
clerk@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk

28 June 2022

Dear Amy,

East Woodhay Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion

This letter sets out the borough council's screening opinion concerning the need for SEA and HRA in relation to the East Woodhay Neighbourhood Plan. This takes into account the screening opinion issued in 2018, and the addendum produced in 2022 in response to concerns raised by Natural England about the impact of residential development in the catchment of the River Test as part of the wider catchment of the Solent. The council's screening opinion has been underpinned by a detailed report and consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.

The screening process concludes that in order to meet the basic conditions for neighbourhood planning an Environmental Assessment is not considered to be required to accompany the East Woodhay Neighbourhood Plan, and it would not need to be subject to HRA. The reasons for the decision are set out below:

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Following analysis undertaken to assess the effects on the environment resulting from the East Woodhay Neighbourhood Plan including from the scale of development and other policies proposed, it is considered significant effects on the environment are not likely and therefore a SEA is considered to not be required.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

There are two European sites within a 10km buffer zone of the neighbourhood area (The Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC and Lambourn Flood Plain SAC). However, the plan is not proposing to allocate any development sites and includes policies to protect the natural environment. It is therefore considered that there are not likely to be significant effects on any European sites flowing from the Neighbourhood Plan and that an HRA is not required.

A small area of the Parish is within the catchment of the River Test (and the catchment of the Solent). However, the Plan is not proposing to allocate any development sites within the affected area, and includes policies to restrict new residential development in the countryside and protect the natural environment.

Furthermore, as a result of advice from Natural England, new development would not be permitted in this area unless it can be shown to be nutrient neutral, and in accordance with policy EM4 of the Adopted Local Plan which protects European designated sites. This is confirmed by the LPA's position statement [here](#).

Further information on the above can be found within the final version of the East Woodhay Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (June 2022). The responses from the consultation bodies can be found in the appendices to that document.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on matt.melville@basingstoke.gov.uk or on 01256 845464.

Yours sincerely

**Matt Melville
Planning Policy Team Leader**

Enc. Final version of the Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (June 2022)

CC: Paul Hurst