



**Basingstoke
and Deane**

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Ms C Hellings (Leader)
Ashford Hill with Headley Neighbourhood Plan Group

Sent via email:
carolinemhellings@gmail.com

26 March 2020

Dear Caroline,

Ashford Hill with Headley Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion

This letter provides formal confirmation of the borough council's screening opinion concerning the need for SEA and HRA in relation to the Ashford Hill with Headley Neighbourhood Plan. This screening opinion has been underpinned by a detailed report and the opinions of the three consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England).

The screening process undertaken concludes that in order to meet the 'basic conditions'¹ for neighbourhood planning an Environmental Assessment is not considered to be required to accompany the Ashford Hill with Headley 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 Ashford Hill with Headley 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 three European sites within a 10km buffer zone of the neighbourhood area (The River Lambourn SAC, Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC and the Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC). However, the draft plan is not proposing to allocate any development sites and includes policies to protect the natural environment. It is

¹ Requirement (f), that the making of the order or neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU Obligations. The basic conditions are set out in [paragraph 8\(2\) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

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.

Further information on the above can be found within the final version of the Ashford Hill with Headley Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (March 2020). The responses from the consultation bodies can be found in Appendix 4 of the document.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please email rebecca.murray@basingstoke.gov.uk or telephone (01256) 845578.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Murray
Senior Planning Officer

Enc. Final version of the Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (March 2020)