



**Basingstoke
and Deane**



Sherborne St John Parish Council
Via email

21 November 2016

Dear Sir or Madam

Sherborne St John 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 Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan that was undertaken in January 2016. 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 Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan, and it would not need to be subject to HRA.** The reasons for the decision are set out below:

Strategic Environmental Assessment

An SEA is considered to not be required due to the scale of development proposed, and the environmental characteristics of the site and the surrounding area. A heritage assessment provided by the Parish Council has satisfied Historic England that an SEA would not be necessary (as it would not provide additional information about the historic environment), and it is considered that other impacts could be mitigated through the planning process.

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.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

There are no European sites within a 10km radius of the neighbourhood area. Therefore, it is considered that there are not likely to be significant effects on any European sites flowing from the Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours Sincerely

Matt Melville
Principal Planning Officer