



Basingstoke
and Deane

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Ms Catherine Ryle
Parish Clerk
Sherfield on Loddon Parish Council
PO Box 6862
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RG24 4QZ

14 March 2017

Dear Catherine,

Sherfield on Loddon 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 Sherfield on Loddon 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 Sherfield on Loddon 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 Sherfield on Loddon 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 is one European site within a 10km buffer zone of the neighbourhood area, namely the Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area (SPA). Approximately 50% of the parish of Sherfield on Loddon is within the 7km buffer zone of the SPA, with 0.2ha of the parish being within the 5km buffer zone of the SPA.

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.

Given the nature of the development which is likely to be facilitated by the neighbourhood plan, which is small scale residential development in line with policies SS5 and SS6 of the adopted Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011-2029) (ALP), it is considered that the impacts of the plan are likely to be fairly localised, and would not impact on the SPA or any European sites.

In addition, policy EM3 (Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area) of the ALP provides an additional framework in relation to potential sites within the 5km and 5-7km buffer zones.

It is considered that there are not likely to be significant effects on any European sites flowing from the Neighbourhood Plan and therefore a HRA is considered to not be required.

Further information on the above can be found within the final version of the Sherfield on Loddon Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (March 2017). The responses from the three consultation bodies can be found in Appendix 4 of the Screening Report.

Yours sincerely

Edward Rehill
Principal Planning Officer

Enc. final version of the Sherfield on Loddon Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report
(March 2017)