



**Basingstoke  
and Deane**



St Mary Bourne Parish Council  
The Parish Council Office  
Bourne Meadow  
St Mary Bourne  
SP11 6BE

18 September 2015

Dear Sir or Madam

### **St Mary Bourne 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 St Mary Bourne 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 English Heritage).

The screening process undertaken concludes that in order to meet the 'basic conditions'<sup>1</sup> for neighbourhood planning **an Environmental Assessment is considered to be required to accompany the St Mary Bourne Neighbourhood Plan but 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 be required in light of the following factors:

- The location of the vast majority of the parish within a sensitive area (AONB)
- The relatively large number of listed buildings and both St Mary Bourne and Stoke being designated as a Conservation Area
- Difficulty in quantifying the amount and form of development likely to be facilitated by the neighbourhood plan, and its associated implications
- The comments provided by Historic England (which stated that an SEA should be required).

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<sup>1</sup> 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 Overton Neighbourhood Plan.

The Environment Assessment will need to meet the relevant legal requirements set out in the [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#). Further guidance on the requirements for carrying out the Environment Assessment is set out in the [National Planning Practice Guide](#) and [the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: guidance](#). In addition, please feel free to contact the borough council (planning policy team) if you require any additional advice regarding how to complete the Environmental Assessment.

Yours Sincerely

Andrew Rushmer  
Senior Planning Policy Officer