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Clerk
Wootton St Lawrence Parish Council
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10 October 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Wootton St Lawrence 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 Wootton St Lawrence 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 Wootton St Lawrence 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 Wootton St Lawrence 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 no European sites within a 10km buffer zone of the neighbourhood area. The Plan would not impact upon the SPA or any European sites.

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.

[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.

Further information on the above can be found within the final version of the Wootton St Lawrence Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (October 2017). The responses from the consultation bodies can be found in Appendix 4 of that document.

Yours sincerely

Matt Melville
Principal Planning Officer

Enc. Final version of the Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (October 2017)

CC: Maggie Richardson, Chair of Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
Jane Snow, Secretary for Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
Vincent Haines, Neighbourhood Plan Working Group