



Basingstoke
and Deane

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Sarah Jones
Ecchinswell. Bishops Green and Sydmonton Parish Council
Sent via email: clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk

8 February 2022

Dear Sarah,

Ecchinswell. Bishops Green and Sydmonton 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 Ecchinswell. Bishops Green and Sydmonton 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 considered to be required to accompany the Ecchinswell, Bishops Green and Sydmonton 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 Ecchinswell, Bishops Green and Sydmonton Neighbourhood Plan including from the scale of development and other policies proposed, it is considered effects on the environment are likely and therefore a SEA is considered to be required.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

There are three European sites within a 10km buffer zone of the neighbourhood area, however as the draft plan is proposing to allocate a small amount of development (potentially approximately 15 units) and includes policies to protect the historic and

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.

natural environment. It is 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 Ecchinswell, Bishops Green and Sydmonton Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (February 2022). 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 robyn.milliner@basingstoke.gov.uk or telephone (01256) 845175.

Yours sincerely,

Robyn Milliner
Senior Planning Officer

Enc. Final version of the Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (February 2022)
CC: Marian Dain, Ecchinswell. Bishops Green and Sydmonton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group