

Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan Request for Screening Opinion for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Introduction

This statement has been prepared by Test Valley Borough Council (as responsible authority) to determine whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment are required for the draft Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan following the submission of a screening opinion.

The Regulations advise that where the responsible authority determines that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), it shall prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination. This statement fulfils that requirement.

Context

The preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan involves a series of stages as required by legislation before it can be 'made'. To be 'made', a Neighbourhood Plan must meet certain Basic Conditions. These include that the making of the plan *"does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations"*.

One of these obligations is Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'. This is often referred to as the strategic environmental assessment (or SEA) Directive. The SEA Directive seeks *"to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes."* The SEA Directive is transposed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations') and it is these Regulations that the neighbourhood plan will need to be compatible with.

Another key obligation is Directive 92/43/EEC 'on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora', often referred to as the Habitats Directive. This has been translated into UK law via The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Under the 'Habitats Regulations' an assessment referred to as an Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken if a Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European protected wildlife site.

Under both the SEA and Habitats Regulations it is the Council's role to advise whether further work is required once the first stage, a screening assessment, has been undertaken by the Parish Council on its Neighbourhood Plan.

Process

A screening report has been produced on behalf of Goodworth Clatford Parish Council (Annex A). This was submitted to the Council on the 8th January. The report concluded that a full SEA would not be required. In accordance with the regulations, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency were consulted on the findings of the screening report. The consultation started on the 11th January for a five week period (deadline of 15th February). A summary of the responses received and the Council's response is outlined in Table A. Copies of the responses are included at Annex B.

Table A: Summary of Responses

Consultation body (date of response)	Consultation response (summary)	Test Valley BC response
Environment Agency <i>15th January</i>	The NDP as drafted does not include any site allocations. We therefore consider that the Neighbourhood Plan would not have a significant environmental effect and as such would not require an SEA in relation to the issues in our remit.	Response noted
Natural England <i>22nd January and 5th February</i>	On the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils), there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan. NE provided further clarification that they did not feel that a HRA was required.	Response noted
Historic England <i>7th February</i>	Historic England agrees with the overall conclusion of the Briefing Note that the proposed Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any significant effects on the historic environment, and therefore need not be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.	Response noted

Conclusion

Having regard to the letter and associated briefing note that the Parish Council provided (Annex A), the consultation responses from Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England indicated that having regard to the matters within their remit, the proposed Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to have significant environmental effects.

The Council has had due regard to the statutory consultee responses and the criteria within Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations in coming to a view on whether the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. Based on the summary of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan (as provided within the Briefing Note), it is the Council's opinion that the Plan would not be likely to have significant environmental

effects. On this basis, a Strategic Environmental Assessment would not be required for the proposed Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan.

With regards to the Habitats Regulations and whether an Appropriate Assessment is required, the Council concludes that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on European designations. This is supported by the response from Natural England.

Both elements were confirmed at the Council's Cabinet meeting on the 14th February 2018. A response was sent to the Parish Council on the 15th February 2018 (see Annex C).

Goodworth Clatford Parish Council

Planning and Building Services
TVBC
Beech Hurst
Andover
SP10 3AJ

8th January 2018

For the attention of Graham Smith, Planning Policy Manager

Dear Mr Smith,

**Goodworth Clatford NDP
Request for screening opinion on requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment
(SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

As you know, Goodworth Clatford Parish Council is in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). We have reached the point of having an emerging Plan document, and have recently engaged professional planning support to review the draft policies. We hope to move to the Regulation 14 consultation stage as soon as possible, and by March this year.

We are aware of the need to consider the implications for environmental assessment and have read your helpful guidance note of December 2016.

In line with that guidance, we are now writing to request a screening opinion on the need for SEA and HRA. We enclose a briefing note, prepared by our consultant, which aims to provide sufficient information for you and others to consider whether our NDP is likely to have significant environmental effects.

Please do not hesitate to contact us you need any further information at this stage. You are welcome to contact our consultant direct (his details are at the end of the briefing note); please copy us in to any correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Wheadon
Clerk to the Council



Request for screening opinion on need for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment: briefing note

January 2018

Dr DJ Nicholson

DJN Planning Ltd for Goodworth Clatford Parish Council

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This note has been prepared to accompany a request by Goodworth Clatford Parish Council to Test Valley Borough Council for a screening opinion as to whether the proposed Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is likely to have significant environmental effects, and so require Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- 1.2 The request is made pursuant to Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.¹ This requires the consideration of specified criteria, listed in Schedule 1 to the Regulations. The Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature, and the Environment Agency should also be consulted (the consultation bodies).
- 1.3 The Parish Council is also seeking an opinion from the Borough Council as to whether a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the NDP will be required.² HRA identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site of nature conservation importance, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- 1.4 Guidance on these matters has been produced for NDP groups by the Borough Council.³ It recommends that groups should request a screening opinion from the Borough Council at the earliest stage of plan preparation. Such a request should be accompanied by a report that includes a summary of what the plan is likely to propose (e.g. types of policies and the broad quantum and approximate locations of any potential development) and any features of the Area which may be affected. This briefing note has been prepared to provide this information.
- 1.5 By way of background, Planning Practice Guidance indicates that SEA may be required where the NDP allocates sites for development, the Neighbourhood Area contains sensitive natural

¹ SI 2004 No. 1633.

² Pursuant to Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 SI 2010 No. 490.

³ Test Valley Borough Council, Neighbourhood Development Plans, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Guidance, December 2016

or heritage assets that may be affected by proposals in the plan, or it is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.⁴

1.6 When the NDP is submitted, it will need to include a statement confirming *inter alia* that the Plan does not breach and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations, and that its making is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The provisions for both SEA and HRA stem from European Directives, and the Borough Council's screening opinion as to whether the NDP requires SEA or HRA is the first step in satisfying the above requirement. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an Environmental Report will need to be prepared and submitted with the proposed NDP. Where it is determined that an NDP is unlikely to have significant environmental effects, a statement of reasons for the determination should be prepared and submitted with the proposed NDP.

1.7 This note provides:

- A summary of the relevant environmental features in the Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Area (section 2);
- A summary of what the Goodworth Clatford NDP is likely to propose (section 3); and
- An initial assessment of the potential for significant environmental effects, against the Schedule 1 criteria (section 4).

1.8 For the avoidance of doubt, this note does not constitute a draft of a formal screening determination, but is rather intended to confirm the overall parameters of the proposed NDP and relevant environmental considerations to enable an informed screening opinion on the need for SEA and HRA to be provided.

2. Environmental features in the Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Area

2.1 The Neighbourhood Area is shown at Figure 1. It lies to the south of Andover and principally comprises open countryside and woodland, bisected by the valley of the River Anton flowing north-south. The settlement of Goodworth Clatford sits astride the River Anton at a bridging point. The village has generally retained its historic linear form, reflecting the landform of the river valley. More modern development extends up the valley sides, mainly to the west.

⁴ Paragraph: 046 Reference ID: 11-046-20150209

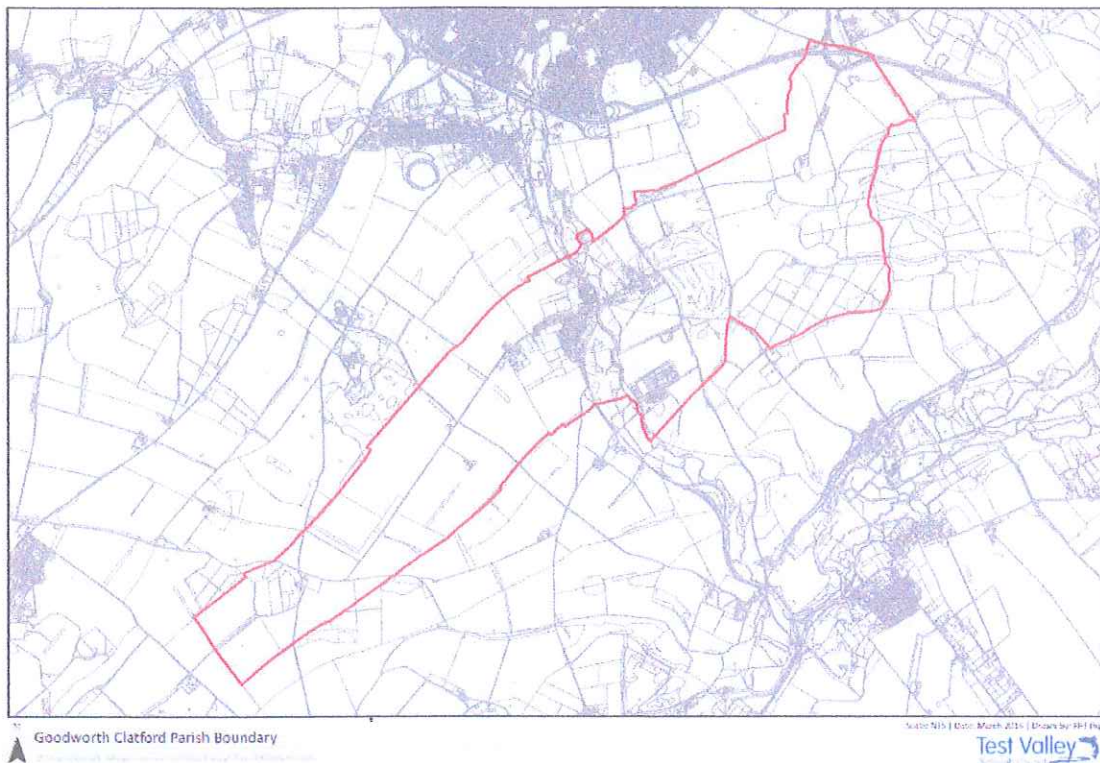


Figure 1: Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Area

2.2 In summary, the principal environmental features to be considered are:

- Goodworth Clatford Conservation Area, comprising the historic core of the village on the river valley floor.
- 25 listed buildings, all grade II except for the grade I St. Peter's Church, concentrated in and around the Conservation Area.
- Flood Zones 2 and 3 associated with the corridor of the River Anton.
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation:
 - Clatford Oakcuts (mixed deciduous woodland)
 - Harewood Forest (mixed deciduous woodland)
 - River Anton and water meadows. The River Anton is a tributary of the River Test, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (3 km downstream).
- Habitats recorded on Natural England's Magic Map:⁵
 - Ancient, semi-natural and replanted woodland at Harewood Forest and Clatford Oakcuts
 - Floodplain grazing marsh and woodland in the River Anton corridor.

⁵ <http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

3. Summary of the proposed NDP

3.1 The emerging NDP has been developed through a programme of community consultation, including a questionnaire survey which achieved a response rate of 88%, demonstrating significant community interest in the plan process.

3.2 The Plan's draft vision is as follows:

"Our vision is to maintain the rural character and identity of Goodworth Clatford Parish, preserving its heritage assets including listed buildings and the Conservation Area so that it continues to thrive as a visually attractive, independent settlement, set in unspoilt, tranquil and accessible countryside, providing an excellent quality of life for all."

3.3 The NDP's draft planning policies are presently being finalised. They will seek to promote sustainable development, and will add local detail to those in the adopted Test Valley Local Plan (TVLP), with a clear and strong focus on preserving and enhancing the nature of the Neighbourhood Area whilst promoting appropriate and sensitive growth which respects and takes account of its distinctive and special character. The draft policies cover a range of natural and built environment and community matters, and are available on request if required to inform the screening assessment.

3.4 Strategic policy COM2 in the TVLP identifies Goodworth Clatford as one of a number of "rural villages" in the settlement hierarchy, and provides in Table 7 that the associated scale of housing and economic development will comprise:

- Windfalls
- Rural Affordable Housing sites
- Replacement dwellings
- Community-led Development
- Small business uses
- Re-use of Buildings.

3.5 The TVLP provides a settlement boundary for Goodworth Clatford village (Inset Map 21). Outside the settlement boundary, policy COM2 provides that development is to be restricted to a number of specific circumstances. This is in line with national planning policy to protect the countryside and promote sustainable development in rural areas.

3.6 The NDP endorses this approach. The NDP as drafted does not include any site allocations, and does not propose or anticipate any rural exception affordable housing under Local Plan policy COM8 or community-led development under Local Plan policy COM9.

3.7 New development over the NDP plan period to 2029 will therefore be generally limited to small windfall sites within the village settlement boundary, where these can be brought forward within TVLP policies E1 and E9 (these policies address high quality development and heritage assets respectively).

3.8 Since 2011, 14 new dwellings have been granted planning permission within the village. There is no indication that this rate of organic development will increase in the period up to 2029,

bearing in mind the Local Plan policies in place since January 2016 and the emerging policies of the NDP. It can reasonably be taken as an indication of the modest scale of residential development likely to arise in the remainder of the plan period.

3.9 It is not expected that the NDP will include proposals for development in excess of that already considered through the Local Plan process and its environmental assessments.

4. Potential for significant environmental effects

4.1 This section assesses the emerging NDP against each of the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment, as defined in Schedule 1 to the 2004 Regulations. The assessments given in Table 1 below are offered as a starting point for consideration by the consultation bodies and the Borough Council as the responsible authority.

Criteria	Assessment of the Goodworth Clatford NDP	Significant environmental effect?
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to—		
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	The Goodworth Clatford NDP will include policies against which development proposals in the Neighbourhood Area will be considered, in conjunction with policies in the TVLP and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The policies will be criteria-based and focus on seeking the protection and enhancement of the existing character of the village and the surrounding countryside. They will not propose new development in addition to or in contradiction to the TVLP. They will provide a basis for decision-making in relation to proposals, rather than setting a framework for projects or allocating resources.	N
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The NDP will, when made, form part of the formal Development Plan. There are no plans or programmes that need to be in conformity with it. The NDP will therefore not significantly influence other plans and programmes.	N

Criteria	Assessment of the Goodworth Clatford NDP	Significant environmental effect?
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The NDP will seek to promote sustainable development and include policies to protect and enhance environmental and heritage assets and features. It will have a positive effect on the natural and built environment, adding local detail to TVLP policies and those in the NPPF. Any development proposed will be in accordance with the environmental protection policies of the TVLP and the NPPF, which seek to achieve sustainable development.	N
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	The Goodworth Clatford village sewerage system is subject to surcharge and there is potential for pollution impacts on the River Anton, a locally-designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). A programme of investment by Southern Water is underway to address this issue. The NDP will include a policy to protect and improve water quality and quantity in local watercourses, helping to enable the Lower River Anton to achieve 'good' ecological status by 2027, in line with the environmental objectives of the South East River Basin Management Plan ⁶ and the Water Framework Directive.	N
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The NDP will contain policies to protect and enhance the natural and built environment, including biodiversity and water quality. As such it will aid in the implementation of EU legislation on the environment dealing with biodiversity and water quality.	N
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—		
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	The NDP will contain policies whose main focus is the protection and enhancement of the existing character of the village and surrounding countryside. It will not allocate sites for development. The overall effect of the NDP, given its focus on environmental protection and enhancement, is expected to be positive.	N

⁶ Environment Agency, South East River Basin Management Plan 2015.

Criteria	Assessment of the Goodworth Clatford NDP	Significant environmental effect?
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	The NDP will add local detail and give effect to the NPPF and the TVLP in respect of existing environmental designations/features in the Neighbourhood Area such as the Conservation Area, SINC and landscape character areas. Reflecting this alignment of plans and policies, any cumulative effects arising from the operation of the NDP with respect to the built and natural environment of the Neighbourhood are expected to be positive.	N
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The NDP will not have any transboundary effects.	N
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	There are considered to be no risks to human health.	N
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The NDP will cover the administrative area of Goodworth Clatford Parish Council. This extends to 1,141 hectares and has an estimated 2016 population of 752. The Area represents 1.8% of that of Test Valley Borough. The NDP has a restricted local focus and as a result the overall environmental effects of the Plan, which are themselves expected to be positive, will be relatively limited in magnitude and spatial extent.	N
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to— (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	(i) relevant characteristics include areas of open countryside and associated features such as agricultural land, woodland, trees, hedgerows and watercourses, notably the River Anton corridor and wetland habitats; a Conservation Area, and 25 listed buildings. The NDP will include policies to protect and enhance these characteristics and assets as relevant; (ii) The Lower River Anton does not meet 'good' ecological status within the Environment Agency's South East River Basin Management Plan 2015. The NDP will include a policy to protect and improve water quality and quantity in local watercourses, helping to secure the Management Plan's objective for the Lower River Anton to achieve 'good' ecological status by 2027. (iii) None identified.	N

Criteria	Assessment of the Goodworth Clatford NDP	Significant environmental effect?
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	As considered above and to be addressed in HRA screening for likely significant effects on European sites. The NDP will contain policies which are likely to have a positive effect on the natural and built environment generally.	N

Table 1: Consideration of Goodworth Clatford NDP against Schedule 1 criteria

- 4.2 The overall conclusion from Table 1 is that the proposed Goodworth Clatford NDP is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and therefore does not require SEA. It is recommended that a determination to this effect is considered.
- 4.3 In respect of HRA, a screening opinion is required to determine whether the Goodworth Clatford NDP is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. If so, an "appropriate assessment" will be required under Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.⁷
- 4.4 It is noted that there are no European sites within the Neighbourhood Area. The nearest is the Porton Down Special Protection Area which is 6.4 km to the west. Consideration should be given in the screening opinion to any implications for European sites downstream of the Neighbourhood Area, to allow for any relevant hydrological links via the River Anton.

Dr DJ Nicholson
DJN Planning Ltd

January 2018

⁷ SI 2010 No. 490

From: PlanningSSD [mailto:PlanningSSD@environment-agency.gov.uk]
Sent: 15 January 2018 15:36
To: Smith, Graham
Cc: Greenwood, Suz K
Subject: RE: Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan - Screening Opinion

Dear Graham,

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the SEA Screening Opinion for the Goodworth Neighbourhood Plan. We note that the NDP as drafted does not include any site allocations. We therefore consider that the Neighbourhood Plan would not have a significant environmental effect and as such would not require an SEA in relation to the issues in our remit.

Many thanks,

Charlotte

**Charlotte Lines | Principal Planning Officer Sustainable Places West | Solent and South Downs Area
| Environment Planning and Engagement
Environment Agency | Romsey | Canal walk | Romsey | SO51 7LP
Tel: 02084745838
charlotte.lines@environment-agency.gov.uk (or PlanningSSD@environment-agency.gov.uk)**

If you need to undertake a Flood Risk Assessment take a look at the helpful [FRA template](#)

Date: 22 January 2018
Our ref: 236276
Your ref: Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan



Mr Graham Smith
Head of Planning Policy
Test Valley Borough Council
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Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
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T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

GSmith@TestValley.gov.uk

Dear Mr Smith

Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan - Screening Opinion

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 11th January 2018.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance¹. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Jenkins
Consultations Team

From: Consultations (NE)

Sent: Monday, 5 February 2018 13:27

To: Smith, Graham

Subject: FAO Mr Graham Smith REF: Goodworth Clatford NP - Screening Opinion

Reference: Goodworth Clatford NP - Screening Opinion

Our Ref: 236276

Dear Graham

Thank you for your email this morning asking if Natural England feels that a HRA is required for the Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan.

One of our advisors in the Dorset, Hampshire and IOW Team (each team is more conversant with their own area) has confirmed that **we do not feel that a HRA is required**. I hope that clarifies Natural England's position with regard to this. If you need anything further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Sharon

Sharon Jenkins
Technical Support Adviser
Consultations Team
Natural England
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Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

Tel: 0300 060 3900

Fax: 0300 060 1544

www.gov.uk/natural-england

<mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

Natural England offers two chargeable services - the Discretionary Advice Service, which provides pre-application and post-consent advice on planning/licensing proposals to developers and consultants, and the Pre-submission Screening Service for European Protected Species mitigation licence applications. These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.

For further information on the Discretionary Advice Service see [here](#)

For further information on the Pre-submission Screening Service see [here](#)

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Historic England

Graham Smith
Head of Planning Policy
Test Valley Borough Council
Beech Hurst
Andover, SP10 3AJ.

Our ref: HD/P5240/
Your ref:
Telephone 01483 252040
Fax

7th February 2018

Dear Mr Smith,

Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan - Screening Opinion

Thank you for your e-mail of 11th January 2018 requesting the opinion of Historic England as to whether or not the Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan should be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment. We are pleased to offer the following opinion.

We note that the parish has 25 listed buildings and a conservation area. The parish therefore has a reasonably sensitive historic environment.

However, we also note from paragraph 3.6 of the Briefing Note provided by the Parish Council's planning consultant that the Plan, as drafted, does not include any site allocations and does not propose or anticipate any rural exception affordable housing. The potential for significant environmental effects on the historic environment is therefore less than if the Plan was to allocate sites for development.

We note that Policy COM2 of the Test Valley Local Plan allows for small windfall developments within the settlement boundary for Goodworth Clatford established by the Local Plan. These developments have the potential to have effects on the significance of listed buildings, the special interest, character and appearance of the conservation area and/or archaeological remains.

However, as recognised in paragraph 3.7 of the Note, any such proposals would also be subject to Policy E9 of the Local Plan, which seeks to protect heritage assets. This should provide sufficient protection for listed buildings and the conservation area in Goodworth Clatford. If the Neighbourhood Plan was to include its own policy for the conservation and enhancement of the heritage assets in the Plan area, to "*put broader strategic heritage policies from the local plan into action at a neighbourhood scale*" (National Planning Practice Guidance), this would provide further protection.

Historic England therefore agrees with the overall conclusion of the Briefing Note that the proposed Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any significant effects on the historic environment, and therefore need not be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Incidentally, the Briefing Note should refer to Natural England and Historic England rather than the Countryside Agency, English Heritage and English Nature in paragraph 1.2.

Although more a matter for comment on the Neighbourhood Plan itself, we welcome the reference to heritage assets in the Plan's draft vision, although we would prefer "conserving and enhancing".

We hope these comments are helpful. Please contact me if you have any queries.

Thank you again for consulting Historic England.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Small
Principal Adviser, Historic Environment Planning
(Bucks, Oxon, Berks, Hampshire, IoW, South Downs National Park and Chichester)

E-mail: martin.small@historicengland.org.uk

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Contact: Mr Graham Smith
Telephone: 01264 368000
E-mail: planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk
Your ref:
Our ref: pp11.8
Date: 15.02.18

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Wheadon

Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan
Request for Screening Opinion for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats
Regulations Assessment (HRA)

I write in response to your request for a screening opinion for Strategic Environmental Assessment in relation to the proposed Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan. This request was received by the Council on the 8th January 2018.

Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires that the responsible authority (Test Valley Borough Council) shall determine whether or not a plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. As part of making this assessment, the responsible authority shall –

- (a) take into account the criteria specified in Schedule 1 to these Regulations; and
- (b) consult the consultation bodies.

The Regulations advise that where the responsible authority determines that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), it shall prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination. This statement will be published on our website.

Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England, as the statutory consultation bodies for the Regulations, were consulted on this SEA screening request. The consultation started on 11th January 2018 for a five week period, ending on 15th February 2018.

Having regard to the letter and associated briefing note that you provided, the consultation responses from Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England indicated that having

regard to the matters within their remit, the proposed Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to have significant environmental effects.

The Council has had due regard to the statutory consultee responses and the criteria within Schedule 1 of the Regulations in coming to a view on whether the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. Based on the summary of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan (as provided within the Briefing Note), it is the Council's opinion that the Plan would not be likely to have significant environmental effects. On this basis, a Strategic Environmental Assessment would not be required for the proposed Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan.

With regards to the Habitats Regulations Assessment and whether an Appropriate Assessment is required, the Council concludes that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on European designations. This is supported by the response from Natural England.

You are advised that if the anticipated vision and scope of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan are subject to significant change, it would be appropriate to review the Screening Opinion and the position regarding the Habitat Regulations Assessment.

Yours sincerely

Graham Smith
Head of Planning Policy