

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Sent by email

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Head of Planning Strategy
and Regeneration
Claire Burnett

Contact: Emma Betteridge

Tel.: 01329 824503

Date: 13th July 2018

Dear Ann,

Titchfield Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion and Appropriate Assessment

This letter sets out the Council's screening opinion concerning the need for SEA and HRA in relation to the Titchfield Neighbourhood Plan. This screening opinion has been underpinned by a detailed report and the comments of three consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England). It also gives the Council's opinion following an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations

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 Titchfield Neighbourhood Plan.**

The screening assessment concludes that it is necessary to carry out an Appropriate Assessment. The Appropriate Assessment concludes that the Titchfield Neighbourhood Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites if the proposed approach to dealing with likely significant effects is followed. The reasons for the decision are set out below.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Following analysis undertaken to assess the likely effects on the environment resulting from the Titchfield Neighbourhood Plan including from the scale of development and policies proposed, it is considered significant effects on the environment are not likely. Therefore, a SEA is considered to not be required.

¹ Requirement (f) that the making of the neighbourhood plan or order does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU Obligations.

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Habitats Regulations Assessment

There are 6 designated European sites within 10km of the Titchfield Neighbourhood Plan area and a further potential SPA which is currently under consideration for designation.

Despite the Titchfield Neighbourhood Plan not proposing to allocate any development, policies within the Plan provide scope for limited small-scale development to occur within the defined urban area boundary. As a result, it is likely that the Plan will have a cumulative indirect significant effect on European sites from increased recreational disturbance as identified in the screening report.

Therefore in accordance with Part 6 (regulation 63) of the Habitats Regulations, an Appropriate Assessment must be carried out to ensure the identified likely significant effects can be adequately mitigated so as not to adversely affect the integrity of the European site, allowing the Plan to proceed.

The enclosed document contains an Appropriate Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan that concludes that mitigation can be put in place to avoid having an adverse effect. However, it will also be necessary for each individual planning application for new residential development in the Titchfield Neighbourhood Plan area to be appropriately assessed to ensure that the likely effect of residential disturbance on the European sites can be adequately mitigated.

Further information on the above can be found within the final version of the Titchfield Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report and Appropriate Assessment (July 2018). The responses from the three consultation bodies can be found in Appendix 4 of the Screening Report and Appropriate Assessment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss matters further.

Yours sincerely



Emma Betteridge
Senior Planner (Strategy and Regeneration)

Encl.