

Screening Statement on the determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and European Directive 2001/42/EC for the Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Development Plan

13 September 2019

SUMMARY

Following consultation with statutory bodies, South Oxfordshire District Council (the 'Council') determines that Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Development Plan (Clifton Hampden NDP) does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

INTRODUCTION

1. An initial screening opinion was used to determine whether or not the contents of the emerging Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Development Plan (Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC (the Directive) and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).
2. Any land use plan or programme 'which sets the framework for future development consent of projects' must be screened according to a set of criteria from Annex II of the Directive and Schedule 1 of the Regulations. These criteria include exceptions for plans 'which determine the use of a small area at local level' or which only propose 'minor modifications to a plan', if it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.
3. The initial screening opinion was subject to consultation with Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The results of the screening process are detailed in this Screening Statement.

THE SCREENING PROCESS

1. Using the criteria set out in Annex II of the Directive and Schedule 1 of the Regulations, a Screening Opinion determines whether a plan or programme is likely to have significant environmental effects.
2. The extract from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' in Appendix 1 provides a flow diagram to demonstrate the SEA screening process.

3. Table 1 in Appendix 1 sets out the criteria from the Practical Guide, along with an assessment of the Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP against each criterion to ascertain whether a SEA is required.
4. Part of the screening process also includes the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening, which can be found in Appendix 2. The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening concluded that the Clifton Hampden NDP is unlikely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, therefore, an Appropriate Assessment for the Clifton Hampden NDP is not required.
5. Appendix 3 considers whether the plan is likely to have likely significant effects on the environment.
6. These two assessments feed into Table 1 and the SEA screening opinion.
7. The council's screening opinion concluded that the implementation of the Clifton Hampden NDP would not result in likely significant effects on the environment and therefore would not require an SEA.

BURCOT AND CLIFTON HAMPDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

8. The Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP will contain the following vision and objectives:

Vision

Our vision is for a single, thriving, sustainable parish formed of two distinct villages, each with its own particular identity and character, with shared facilities and amenities.

Objectives

Building on the foundations laid in the 2015 Village Plan, we have set out here what we understand to be the main policy areas that residents would like to see addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan:

- Housing- to meet local housing needs by proposing a housing mix of types of qualifying future housing schemes (threshold and mix to be agreed – but expected to apply to any CRTBO schemes)
- The School – to encourage the improvement of the school on its present site.
- The Surgery – to encourage proposals to increase the capacity of the surgery and secure its long term future by relocating to a new site in the village.
- Recreation Ground/Village Hall- to secure the viable future of these facilities by protecting and supporting their improvement.
- Green Infrastructure – to protect and improve the local environment by defining a network of key open spaces, other green features and footpaths, cycleways and bridleways in and around the village.

Policies

- Housing
 - The School
 - The Surgery
 - Amenities
 - Green Infrastructure
 - Restoration of the Wharf and Boathouse
9. The Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP will contain policies to maintain the character of the village and to create a sustainable parish with shared facilities and amenities.
10. Policies in the Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP will aim to support sustainable development in the village that will not adversely impact on the rural nature of the village. Retaining the character and appearance of the village is particularly important. The plan does not allocate any sites for housing.
11. Overall, we note that the plan does not allocate any sites for development and places great emphasis on conserving the character and appearance of the area.
12. It is therefore concluded that the implementation of the Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP would not result in likely significant effects on the environment.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

13. The Screening Opinion was sent to Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England on 20th March 2019 for a four week consultation period. The responses in full are in Appendix 4.
14. Historic England agree with the council's view that the Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Plan would not lead to significant effects on the historic environment and therefore does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
15. Natural England agree with the Initial Screening Opinion and consider that the plan does not require an SEA or Appropriate Assessment. However, should the Neighbourhood Plan decide to allocate sites for new development, the Screening Opinion would need to be reviewed.

16. The Environment Agency confirmed that on the basis that the plan is not allocating sites and after reviewing the environmental constraints within the plan area, they do not think there are potential significant environmental effects that relate to the Neighbourhood Plan area.
17. The Oxford County Council responded saying they do not have any comments.

CONCLUSION

18. As a result of the screening undertaken by the Council, the following determination has been reached.
19. The Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP is unlikely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or programmes; therefore, an Appropriate Assessment for the Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Development Plan is not required.
20. Based on the assessment presented in Appendices 1 & 3, the Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.
21. The Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP does not require a Strategic Environment Assessment.

Appendix 1 – Extract from ‘A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’ (DCLG) (2005)

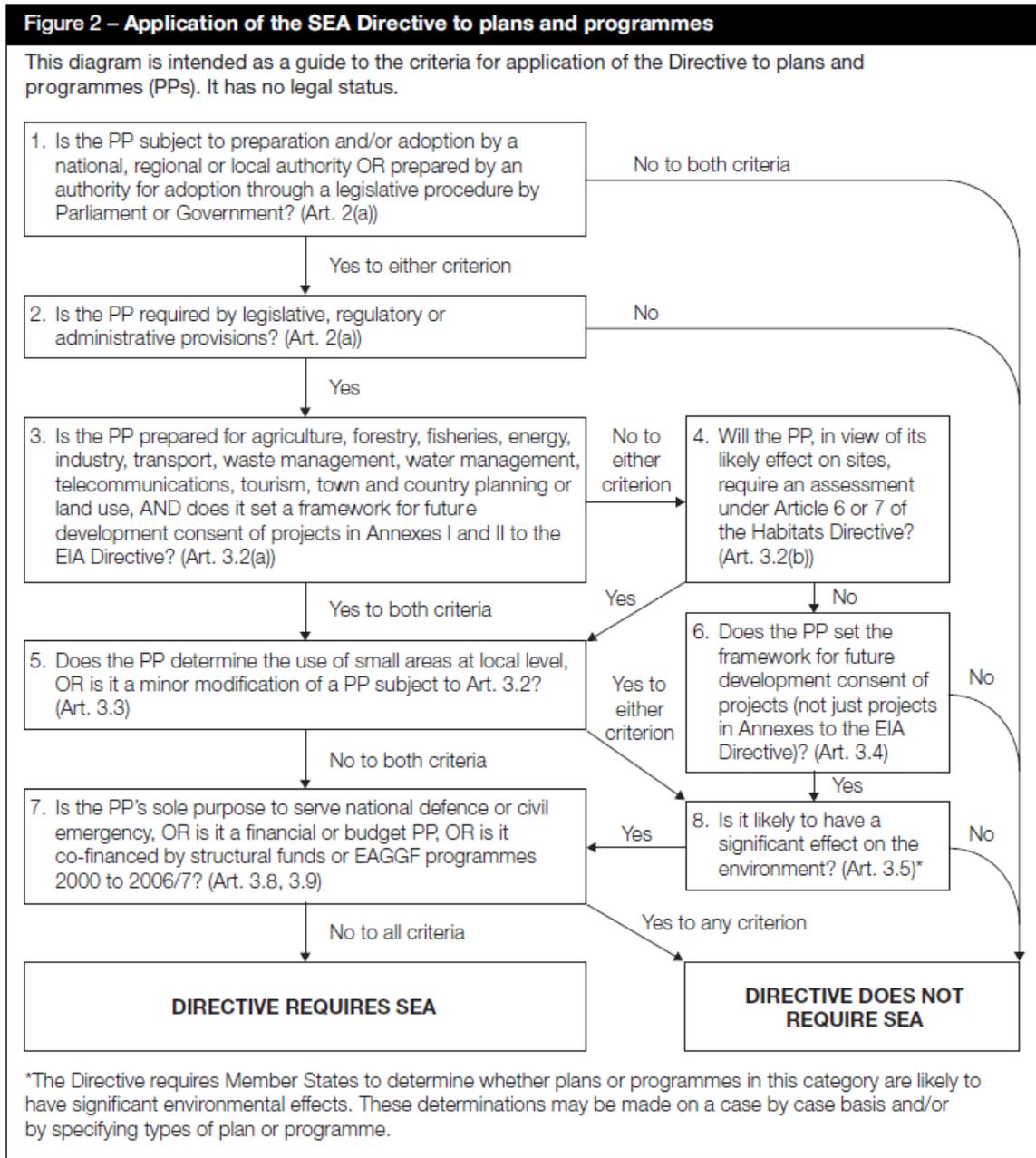


Table 1: Application of SEA Directive as shown in Appendix 1

Stage	Y/N	Explanation
<p>1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))</p>	Y	<p>The preparation of and adoption of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by the Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP Steering Group, a working group who report to the Burcot and Clifton Hampden Parish Council (as the “relevant body”) and will be “made” by South Oxfordshire District Council as the local authority. The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans is subject to the following regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 • The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012 • The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 • The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 • The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 • The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2017
<p>2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?</p>	N	<p>Whilst the Neighbourhood Development Plan is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it will, if “made”, form part of the Development Plan for the District. It is therefore important that the</p>

(Art. 2(a))		screening process considers whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive.
3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	N	<p>The Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP is prepared for town and country planning and land use and will not set out a framework for future development of projects that would require an EIA.</p> <p>National Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraph: 027 Reference ID: 11-027-20150209) sets out that draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.</p>
4. Will the Neighbourhood Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N	The Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP is unlikely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. See Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion for the Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP in Appendix 2.
5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Y	The Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP will determine the use of sites/small areas at a local level.

<p>6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>When made, the Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP will include a series of policies to guide development within the village. This will inform the determination of planning applications providing a framework for future development consent of projects.</p>
<p>7. Is the Neighbourhood Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The plan is not likely to have significant effects on the environment. See assessment of the likely significance of effects on the environment in Appendix 3.</p>

Appendix 2 - Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Statement for the Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Development Plan

INTRODUCTION

1. The Local Authority is the “competent authority” under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, and needs to ensure that Neighbourhood Plans have been assessed through the Habitats Regulations process. This looks at the potential for significant impacts on nature conservation sites that are of European importance¹, also referred to as Natura 2000.
2. This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan that will be in general conformity with the strategic policies within the development plan² (the higher level plan for town and country planning and land use). This Screening Assessment uses the Habitats Regulations Assessment of South Oxfordshire District Council’s emerging Local Plan³ as its basis for assessment. From this, the Local Authority will determine whether the Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Development Plan is likely to result in significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites either alone or in combination with other plans and policies and, therefore, whether an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ is required.

LEGISLATIVE BASIS

3. Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive provides that:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

¹ Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for other species, and for habitats.

² The South Oxfordshire Core Strategy (December 2012) and the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011 (January 2006).

³ South Oxfordshire Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (March 2019)

Regulations 105-106 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 state:

“105 – (1) Where a land use plan –

(a) *Is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and*

(b) *Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, The plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site’s conservation objectives.*

(2) *The plan-making authority must for the purposes of the assessment consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to any representations made by that body within such reasonable time as the authority specifies.*

(3) *The plan-making authority must also, if it considers it appropriate, take the opinion of the general public, and if it does so, it must take such steps of that purpose as it considers appropriate.*

(4) *In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 107, the plan-making authority must give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be).*

(5) *A plan-making authority must provide such information as the appropriate authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the discharge by the appropriate authority of its obligations under this Chapter:*

(6) *This regulation does not apply in relation to a site which is –*

(a) *A European site by reason of regulation 8 (1)(c), or*

(b) *A European offshore marine site by reason of regulation 18(c) of the Offshore Marine Conservation Regulations (site protected in accordance with Article 5(4) of the Habitats Directive).*

106- (1) A qualifying body which submits a proposal for a neighbourhood development plan must provide such information as the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment under regulation 105 or to enable it to determine whether that assessment is required.

(2) In this regulation, “qualifying body” means a parish council, or an organisation or body designated as a neighbourhood forum, authorised for the purposes of a neighbourhood development plan to act in relation to a neighbourhood area as a result of section 61F of the TCPA 1990 (authorisation to act in relation to neighbourhood areas) (159) as applied by section 38C of the 2004 Planning Act (supplementary provisions)(160).

(3) Where the competent authority decides to revoke or modify a neighbourhood development plan after it has been made, it must for that purpose make an appropriate assessment of the implications for any European site likely to be significantly affected in view of that site’s conservation objectives; and regulation 105 and paragraph (1) apply with the appropriate modifications in relation to such revocation or modification.

(4) This regulation applies in relation to England only.”

ASSESSMENT

4. There are 2 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within 17km of the Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Development Plan.
 - Long Witteham SAC – 2.7km
 - Cothill Fen SAC – 8km
5. Detailed information about the location, qualifying features and vulnerabilities of the European sites included in the screening assessment is presented in Appendix 1 of South Oxfordshire Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (March [2019](#)).
6. As required under Regulation 106 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the ‘Habitats Regulations’), the qualifying body (Burcot and Clifton Hampden Parish Council) provided the required information to enable South Oxfordshire District Council to determine whether the assessment under Regulation 105 is required. Consideration has been

given to the potential for the development proposed by the neighbourhood plan to result in significant effects associated with:

- Physical loss of/damage to habitat;
 - Non-physical disturbance e.g noise/vibration or light pollution;
 - Air pollution;
 - Increased recreation pressure; and
 - Changes to hydrological regimes.
7. The Plan does not allocate any sites for development or promote additional development beyond what is supported in the adopted Development Plan, therefore it will not significantly affect the Long Witteham or the Cothill Fen SAC.

CONCLUSION

The Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP is unlikely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, therefore, an Appropriate Assessment for the Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP is not required.

Appendix 3 - Assessment of the likely significance of effects on the environment

1. Characteristics of the Plan, having regard 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 Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP would, if adopted, form part of the Statutory Development Plan and as such does contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects. However, the Plan will sit within the wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework, the strategic policies of the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy (2012) and Local Plan 2011 (2006); and the emerging Local Plan 2034.
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	A Neighbourhood Development Plan must be in conformity with the Local Plan for the District. It does not influence other plans.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	National policy requires a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread through plan-making, including the Burcot and Clifton Hampden. A basic condition of the Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	The environmental impact of the proposals within the Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP is unlikely to be significant as the plan does not allocate sites. Policies in the Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP will aim to support sustainable development in the village that will not adversely impact on the rural nature of the village. Retaining the character and appearance of the village is particularly important.

The Burcot and Clifton and Hampden NDP will contain policies to maintain the character of the village and to specify design criteria for new houses.

Policies in the Burcot and Clifton and Hampden NDP will aim to support sustainable development in the village that will not adversely impact on the rural nature of the village.

Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP contains the following environmental designations:

- *Listed buildings*
- *Conservation Areas*
- *BAP priority habitats*
- *Flood Zones*
- *Archaeological constraints*
- *Local Wildlife Sites*
- *Green Belt*

There is 2 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within 17km of the Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Development Plan.

- Long Wittenham SAC – 2.7km
- Cothill Fen SAC – 8km

However, there are the following SSSI's within 7km of the built up area of the Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Development Plan. These are as follows:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Wittenham SSSI – 2.7km • Culham Brake SSSI -3.7km <p>Given the NDP is not allocating sites we are of the opinion that the Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any development that is likely to significantly affect these designations. The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will require these designations to be protected and therefore there would not be likely significant effects to the environment.</p>
<p>(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).</p>	<p>The proposed development in the Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP has been judged not to have an impact on Community legislation.</p>
<p>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</p>	
<p>(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</p>	<p>The Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP is likely to have modest but enduring positive environmental effects. The effects are not likely to be reversible as they relate to development. However, they will be of a local scale through limited infill sites within the built up area.</p> <p>The plan proposes protecting important areas of open and green space, key views and existing facilities. This will have positive cumulative benefits for the area. However, given the scale of what is proposed the positive effects are not likely to be significant.</p>

	<p>The plan is also likely to have positive social effects through the provision of residential development through infill and the protection of open and green spaces. However, given the limited scale of infill development, these effects are not likely to be significant.</p>
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	<p>It is intended that the positive social effects of providing residential development through infill will have positive cumulative benefits for the area.</p>
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	<p>The effects of the Plan are unlikely to have transboundary⁴ impacts.</p>
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	<p>The policies in the plan are unlikely to present risks to human health or the environment.</p>
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	<p>The NDP relates to the parish of Burcot and Clifton Hampden. The NDP is not allocating any sites for development and therefore as it will not promote any development that is above and beyond what is already supported in the Development Plan the potential for environmental effects is also likely to be small and localised.</p>
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:	<p>The Burcot and Clifton Hampden NDP offers an opportunity to enhance the natural environment and the cultural heritage of the area through the proposals being considered.</p>
(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;	<p>The main vulnerability of the parish is the impact of householder and small scale</p>
(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or	<p>developments within the built up area on the character and appearance of the listed buildings, Conservation Area, archaeological sites and Green Belt. However, limited infill development is already supported in the</p>

⁴ Transboundary effects are understood to be in other Member States.

<p>(iii) intensive land-use; and</p>	<p>development plan. The neighbourhood plan follows the approach set out in national and local strategic policies and does not propose additional development. Therefore, it is considered that the proposals in the plan will not give rise to likely significant environmental effects.</p>
<p>(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>There are no areas or landscapes with recognised national, Community or international protection status affected by the neighbourhood plan.</p>

Appendix 4 – Statutory Consultee Responses

Natural England

Date: 15 April 2019
Our ref: 277339



South Oxfordshire District Council

BY EMAIL ONLY

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Consultation: Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening and HRA Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 20th March 2019.

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.

Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where our interests would be affected by the proposals made.

In our review of the Burcot and Clifton Hampden Plan SEA and HRA screenings we note that;

- The draft Neighbourhood Plan has not yet been prepared,
- The initial screening opinion states that “the plan does not allocate any sites for development”.

Based on the initial screening opinion provided, we agree with the assessment that the Neighbourhood Plan does not require an SEA or Appropriate Assessment. However, should the Neighbourhood Plan decide to allocate a significant number of new developments, these screenings may need to be reviewed.

We would like to draw your attention to the requirement to conserve biodiversity and provide a net gain in biodiversity through planning policy (Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and sections 170, 174 and 175 of the National Planning Policy Framework). Please ensure that any development policy in your plan includes wording to ensure “all development results in a biodiversity net gain for the parish”.

The recently produced [Neighbourhood Plan for Benson](#), in South Oxfordshire provides an excellent example. We are of the opinion that the policy wording around the Environment, Green Space and Biodiversity is exemplar. We would recommend you considering this document, when reviewing yours.

Further Recommendations

Natural England would also like to highlight that removal of green space in favour of development may have serious impacts on biodiversity and connected habitat and therefore species ability to adapt to climate change. We recommend that the final local plan include:

- Policies around connected Green Infrastructure (GI) within the parish. Elements of GI such as open green space, wild green space, allotments, and green walls and roofs can all be used to create connected habitats suitable for species adaptation to climate change. Green infrastructure also provides multiple benefits for people including recreation, health and well-being, access to nature, opportunities for food growing, and resilience to climate change. Annex A provides examples of Green Infrastructure. Please see the NPPF, particularly paragraphs 20 and 171 for further reference.
- Policies around Biodiversity Net Gain should propose the use of a biodiversity measure for development proposals. Examples of calculation methods are included in Annex A;

Annex A provides information on the natural environment and issues and opportunities for your Neighbourhood planning.

Yours sincerely

Milena Petrovic
Adviser
Sustainable Development
Thames Team

creating a better place



Planning Policy (Neighbourhood
Planning)
South Oxfordshire and Vale of White
Horse District Councils
South Oxfordshire District Council
135 Eastern Avenue
Mitlon Park
Abingdon
OX14 4SB

Our ref: WA/2006/000324/OR-
57/IS1-L01

Your ref:

Date: 16 April 2019

For the attention of Robyn Tobutt

Dear Sir/Madam

Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Plan – SEA screening

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the screening opinion/draft SEA screening report for the Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Plan. We are a statutory consultee in the SEA process and aim to reduce flood risk and protect and enhance the water environment.

We have identified that the neighbourhood plan area will be affected by the following environmental constraints:

Flood risk

The Neighbourhood Plan includes areas of flood zones 2 and 3 within the neighbourhood plan area, specifically the southern part of the plan area, adjacent to the River Thames.

Main river

The River Thames forms much of the southern boundary of the plan area. This watercourse is currently failing to reach good ecological status/potential under the Water Framework Directive. It is currently classified as having moderate status. Developments within or adjacent to this watercourse should not cause further deterioration and should seek to improve the water quality based on the recommendations of the Thames River Basin Management Plan. If you determine that SEA/SA is needed for this plan, then an assessment of the potential impacts of the neighbourhood plan on this watercourse under WFD should be included within the SEA/SA appraisal.

For your information we have published joint advice with Natural England, English Heritage and the Forestry Commission on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans.

Cont/d..

This is available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_6524_7da381.pdf

We note that there is no intention to allocate sites for housing, or for other development generally. On this basis, we agree with your conclusion that the plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.

Yours faithfully

Judith Johnson
Sustainable Places team

Direct dial 020 3025 9495

e-mail planning_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk

Historic England

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the initial Screening Opinion for the Burcot and Clifton Neighbourhood Plan, please accept my apologies for the lateness of this response. I am happy to confirm that, based on the detail provided in the questionnaire, including that the plan will not allocate sites for development, we agree that the plan is unlikely to result in likely significant environmental effects in areas of interest to Historic England and, therefore, should not require SEA during its preparation.

We retain the right to request a review of this opinion later in the plan development should the scope of the plan change significantly. We note the steering group's intention to pursue a number of potential Neighbourhood Development Orders subsequent to completing the plan, and would welcome early engagement in these should they have potential impacts for the historic environment, including buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens or registered battlefields.

Yours sincerely

Robert Lloyd-Sweet

Robert Lloyd-Sweet
Historic Places Advisor (South East England)
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