

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Consultation Response to the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Update

21 January 2022



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

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1. Background to Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Review Update

Neighbourhood plans are not required to meet the tests of soundness which local plans and other development plan documents must meet. Instead, for them to be able to be put to referendum, they must meet the 'basic conditions' set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Those relevant to neighbourhood plans are as follows:

- (a). having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the order (or neighbourhood plan).
- (d). the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- (e). the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).
- (f). the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
- (g). prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Order (or plan) and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the order (or neighbourhood plan).

The Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan was "made" on 19th March 2019. In 2020 Sheepy Parish Council commenced a review of the neighbourhood plan concluding that some material changes were required to the neighbourhood plan, but that the broad nature of it should not change. Draft updates to the neighbourhood plan were published for consultation under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended from 20 April 2021 to 1 June 2021. The Parish responded to the representations received with submission of the final draft updates to the neighbourhood plan in November 2021.

HBBC began the Regulation 16 Publicity consultation stage on 3rd December 2021. The consultation ended 21st January 2022. HBBC invited representations from all those previously consulted through the Pre-submission consultation stage (Regulation 14) as prescribed in the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement, those on the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Consultation Database and any others prescribed by regulation.

Following the Regulation 16 Draft Plan consultation, HBBC made all representations received available to the independent examiner.

2. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's response to Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Update submission documents

The submission of the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Update to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in November 2021 included the following items;

- a) The Consultation Statement which:
 - i. contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
 - ii. explains how they were consulted;
 - iii. summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
 - iv. describes how these issues and concerns were considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.
- b) The Draft Updated Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan;
- c) The Basic Conditions Statement which explains how the proposed neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act and The Regulations. The Basic Conditions Statement also contains a statement of reasons for the determination that under regulation 9(1) of those Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004(a) that the plan proposals neither require a Strategic Environmental Assessment nor a Habitat Regulations Assessment;
- d) A map of the Sheepy Parish area which is the area designated for the Neighbourhood Plan (included within the Basic Conditions Statement)
- e) A copy of the Minutes of the Sheepy Parish Council meeting held on 5th October 2021 confirming approval for submission of the draft Neighbourhood Plan Update.

The above documents are considered to adequately fulfil the submission requirements under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and Schedule 4b of the Town and Country Planning (Basic Conditions Statement) identifying the area to which the plan relates Act 1990, as inserted into Schedule 10 of the Localism Act 2011.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council are satisfied that the qualifying body of Sheepy Parish Council has satisfied the relevant regulatory requirements to advance the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Update to the Publicity and Consultation Stage (Regulation 16) and subsequent submission of the Neighbourhood Plan Update proposal for examination.

3. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's comments on the Draft Plan

At this 'draft plan' stage of the neighbourhood plan process the Local Planning Authority is not required to consider whether the updates to the draft plan meet the basic conditions. It is only after the independent examination has taken place and after the examiner's report has been received that the local planning authority comes to its formal view on whether the draft neighbourhood plan updates meet the basic conditions.

The local planning authority should provide constructive comments on plan updates before they are submitted.

In May 2021, during the pre-submission consultation stage, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) provided constructive comments on the draft updates. Comments were provided from Planning Policy, Development Management, the Senior Planning Officer for Conservation, and the Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer.

Table 1 shows HBBC's Pre-Submission consultation comments provided in May 2021 and a response to the submission consultation, December 2021. The Borough Council's Submission comments are colour coded to show whether changes have been made or whether the Borough Council has outstanding concerns.

	Amended and no further comments
	Amended to a certain extent – still requires some further modification.
	No changes made following previous comments – HBBC recommends significant modification.
Silent	No further comments or N/A

Table 1A: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) responses to Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Update at Regulation 14 and Regulation 16 – Specific Policies and Paragraphs

Reg 14 Ref	HBBC Regulation 14 comments (reference to page numbers and policies in the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Version)	Reg 16 Ref	HBBC Regulation 16 Comments
1.12	The first sentence is outdated. HBBCs current timetable is to consult on Regulation 18 draft of the Local Plan in summer 2021 and a submission draft in winter 2021-22 with examination in 2022 and adoption early 2023.	1.12	Suggested changes made.
1.26	In the second sentence deletion of the description of the current plans forming part of the Local Plan, “(consisting of the Core Strategy (2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD)” would keep this part of the Neighbourhood Plan up to date after the new Local Plan is adopted superseding these Plans. In any case, the current description is incomplete because it does not refer to the Borough’s Action Plan DPDs	1.23	The submission NP is not changed, but the consultation statement proposes to update if necessary. It now appears highly likely that the neighbourhood plan update will be made ahead of adoption of the Borough’s local plan, so this paragraph not need to be updated. It is agreed that the Action Plans are not relevant to Sheepy Parish.
Policy S1	HBBC supports the proposed modifications which clarify the intentions and application of this policy	Policy S1	Support for policy updates
Policy S8	HBBC is supportive of the modifications to insert Appendix 5 and reword Policy S8 to expect development proposals to respond positively to the character of the area in which it is located. The material in Appendix 5 will help reinforce the application of design policy to ensure that new development is sympathetic and appropriate to its setting. However, HBBC does not consider Appendix 5 can truly be described as a Design Code. Design codes are more prescriptive, setting out parameters of development, for example, building lines, setbacks, heights, widths, acceptable materials, and often a host of other details. Appendix 5 is essentially a very detailed and useful character study of Sheepy, and ought to be described as	Policy S8	Support for policy with exception that the reference to Design Code in Part A should be replaced with “Character Study” which more accurately reflects the role of Appendix 5. Consequential changes to proposed new wording of Policy S6,

Reg 14 Ref	HBBC Regulation 14 comments (reference to page numbers and policies in the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Version)	Reg 16 Ref	HBBC Regulation 16 Comments
	<p>such. Re-naming Appendix 5 as Character Study will not diminish its value and purpose in helping to ensure new development respects the existing character of Sheepy; it will help avoid confusion about its role and intentions. As such HBBC recommends rewording the proposed Policy S8 modification, replacing “Design Code” with “Character Study” in criterion A.</p>		
5.5 & 5.6	<p><i>Housing Requirement.</i> HBBC considers that the method for calculating the housing requirement and the figure of 35 dwellings for the period 2006 – 2039 is inconsistent with emerging Local Plan. The Borough Council is planning for the period 2020 – 2039. The Borough’s housing requirement is set by the national Standard Method and the Core Strategy 2009 is no longer a reliable indicator of strategy for housing distribution around differed parts of the borough during the 2020-39 period. If the modifications to the housing requirement proceed on the basis of reliance on the Core Strategy, this part of the neighbourhood plan will be considered out-of-date.</p> <p>HBBC is expecting to publish a Regulation 18 draft Local Plan for consultation in July 2021 and a submission version for consultation at the end of 2021. In the interim period before the Local Plan sets housing requirements for neighbourhood areas, HBBC has proposed use of a population based distribution of the borough’s housing requirement. A note was circulated to all Neighbourhood Plan Groups, including Sheepy, on 6th November 2020 which apportioned the borough’s housing requirement for 2020-39 of 8,588 dwellings according to the population of differed parishes. With 1.1% of the borough population, Sheepy is apportioned the equivalent percentage of the</p>	5.5 – 5.7	<p>HBBC previously commented on the pre-submission update to the housing requirement that the wording was inconsistent with HBBC’s interim housing requirement methodology for neighbourhood plans and emerging Local Plan. HBBC advised that either an update to the housing requirement would have to be made consistent with HBBC’s method / Local Plan or the housing requirement should not be updated at all.</p> <p>Paragraphs 5.5 – 5.7 provide a description of the housing requirement agreed in the made Sheepy neighbourhood plan 2019. So whilst the text is updated from the made plan, it does not alter the housing requirement or time frame of the made plan.</p> <p>The submission plan includes a new policy S11 committing to review the neighbourhood plan after HBBC’s local plan is adopted.</p> <p>HBBC views the submitted Sheepy Review plan as leaving the substantive housing requirement unaltered from the made plan of 2019, so the inconsistency with the borough’s interim methodology and emerging local plan is not a matter for examination. New policy S11 provides comfort that a further review of the Sheepy neighbourhood plan will address the</p>

Reg 14 Ref	HBBC Regulation 14 comments (reference to page numbers and policies in the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Version)	Reg 16 Ref	HBBC Regulation 16 Comments
	<p>housing requirement, generating a requirement of 95 dwellings for the 2020-39 period.</p> <p>HBBC has recommended that neighbourhood plans include an additional buffer to give flexibility to the plan. For example this would help if sites did not come forward for development as anticipated and/or if the local plan, once adopted, set a different housing requirement for the parish. Also, the Borough may need to accommodate unmet housing need from the City of Leicester. In December 2020 the Standard Method for establishing housing need for Local Planning Authorities was revised so that the housing need for the 20 largest cities in England, including Leicester, was increased by 35%. This is likely to lead to a significant increase in the level of unmet housing need arising in Leicester. Whilst work is ongoing across Leicester and Leicestershire to agree a method of apportioning this unmet need it is possible that the Borough may be expected to accommodate part of this additional 35% uplift. It is therefore considered important that neighbourhood plans in the borough are flexible enough to respond to a potentially higher housing need figure in the emerging local plan. Without flexibility it is possible that neighbourhood plans may quickly become out of date. A 10% buffer has been recommended which would raise the borough requirement to 9,447 and Sheepy's apportionment to 105 dwellings for 2020-39.</p> <p>The indicative figure for Sheepy does not have to be the final requirement. It provides a simple fair shares starting point. Other planning factors need to be considered: how many dwellings can settlements sustain based on the local</p>		<p>housing requirement and supply position following adoption of the borough's Local Plan.</p> <p>The only changes to Policy S10 proposed are the addition of parts E and F which provide exception for dwellings outside of settlement boundaries in line with national planning policy on dwellings of exceptional design quality and subdivision of existing dwellings. As such HBBC is supportive of these changes.</p>

Reg 14 Ref	HBBC Regulation 14 comments (reference to page numbers and policies in the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Version)	Reg 16 Ref	HBBC Regulation 16 Comments
	<p>infrastructure, such as public transport, schools, shops, services, community facilities? What environmental constraints exist: flood risk, landscape, townscape character, biodiversity and green infrastructure? What site opportunities exist? These considerations will form part of the Local Plan preparation, but neighbourhood plans being prepared in tandem will need to address them too.</p>		
5.7 & 5.8	<p>With a plan period of 2020-39 this means that the housing requirement should be calculated from the new base date of April 2020 and only dwellings completed after the base date should count toward meeting the 2020-39 requirement. As such it would not be correct to count the 54 houses built prior to 2020 as contributing to the requirement of 2020-39. The “Core Strategy minimum housing allocation for Sheepy Magna” is an out of date marker of what is required in the 2020-39 plan period.</p> <p>It will be appropriate for allowances to be made for outstanding permissions at the beginning of the 2020-39 plan period and likely windfall development based on historic trends. The pre-submission modifications state that 28 dwellings with planning permission were outstanding at April 2020. This figure is consistent with HBBC data. If requested, HBBC will be happy to calculate if a windfall allowance can be justified on the basis of historic delivery of dwellings on unallocated sites in the NP area.</p>	5.8 – 5.10	<p>These paragraphs update the housing supply position of Sheepy to 2020, but given that the neighbourhood plan review is not updating the housing requirement these updates are not considered to be of significance.</p>
5.10	<p>HBBC supports the proposed new paragraph 5.10 but suggests that additional housing allocations should be considered in order to demonstrate that Sheepy is planning positively for new homes and providing greater certainty for developers, infrastructure providers and the</p>	5.11	<p>As the neighbourhood plan is not updating the housing requirement now, preferring to do this in a future review, there is no need for this update to propose additional housing allocations to meet the needs of a different requirement.</p>

Reg 14 Ref	HBBC Regulation 14 comments (reference to page numbers and policies in the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Version)	Reg 16 Ref	HBBC Regulation 16 Comments
	<p>community. The one allocation at Hornsey Rise will be practically completed by the time the modified neighbourhood plan is “made” leaving only the windfall policy S10 and fairly tightly drawn settlement boundaries. Given the interim housing requirement figures provided by HBBC and the inappropriateness of including housing built prior to 2020 toward the 2020-39 housing requirement, inclusion of allocations may be necessary to provide sufficiency of supply.</p> <p>If new housing allocations are suggested it will be an opportunity for modifications to set out design and other site requirements appropriate to location.</p>		
5.24	<p>HBBC accepts the point that, until all the dwellings on the Hornsey Rise site are completed, there remains the possibility of future planning applications being submitted that seek to vary the approved development. However, the development is approximately half completed now, and with each completed dwelling the potential for the guiding principles to be undermined is diminished. The proposed design guidance for Hornsey Rise in Appendix 5 provides a safeguard against inappropriate future development. Therefore, Sheepy neighbourhood group should consider removing the allocation based on the extent of completion of the scheme by the time the proposed modifications are submitted.</p>	5.32 and Policy S14	No changes are proposed to Policy S14 (S13 in the Made plan 2019). As the development at Hornsey Rise is not yet completed it makes sense to retain the policy.
Appx 1	Section “Public Rights of Way”. Para beginning “Ongoing activities...” Typo with word “improveme”	Appx 1	The word is corrected to “improve”, but missing “by” before Sheepy Parish Council

	HBBC Regulation 14 comments (reference to page numbers and policies in the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Version)	Reg 16 Ref	HBBC Regulation 16 Comments
	Sections "Transport" and "Services and facilities". Paras beginning "Ongoing activities". For clarity and simplicity, consider rewording to replace "support with" with "address"	Appx 1	"support with" is replaced by "address" in "Ongoing Activities" of the Transport section, but not for the Services and Facilities
Appx 1	Title. As explained in comments on Policy S8 above, HBBC recommends the title "Design Code" is changed to "Character Study"	Appx 1	The title "Design Code" should be replaced by "Character Study" which properly reflects the role of Appendix 5. Appendix 5 sets objectives for preserving and enhancing particular features of character in each of the character areas, but rarely offers any clear parameters for heights, scale, form and building lines of new development, and is absolutely nothing like the parameters for the built form expected in the National
Appx5	Is there inconsistency between objectives on P.86 advising against ribbon development and objectives on P.100 preferring development to be "linear" rather than "in depth"? If further housing land has to be found to meet Sheepy Magna's needs, the design advice needs to be clear on this point. HBBC Policy currently advises against ribbon development (Site Allocations and Development Management Policy DM4, criterion iii).	Appx 5 P88 and P100	Not addressed. According to the design advice, development can be neither linear nor in-depth.
Policy Map	The key for the Hornsey Rise Memorial Home only shows the grey shaded square on the second policy map page	Policy Map	Incorrect comment on the Reg 14 NP. No change needed.

Table 1B: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) responses to Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Update at Regulation 14 and Regulation 16 – General Comments

HBBC Regulation 14 comments on the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Version	HBBC Regulation 16 Comments
<p>Document Accessibility As per the new Accessibility Act, all documents published on publically accessible websites must comply with the Website Accessibility Directive (2018). The Borough Council now has to comply with this directive, and this means that's all council websites (and documents on that website available for download) must be accessible to customers who may have a disability. These disabilities include: hearing impairment/deaf, visual impairment/blind, mobility issues, dexterity issue (for example difficulty using their hands) and cognitive disability (for example dyslexia or autism). This means that all PDF, Word and Excel documents published on our website after Sep 2018 must comply. Overall all the documents on our website must comply by the end of 2020. We now need to make sure any new documents meet the criteria, and it is the responsibility of the author to create an accessible document. If you have Microsoft Word 2016 or newer an easy way to check accessibility in a word document is as follows: Click on File in the top left corner, go to Info, and click on Check for Issues under the Inspect Document function. You can then click on Check Accessibility. This will scan the document for any areas that may be difficult for people to read if they are using specific software to read the document out loud etc. Unfortunately we do not have the resources to amend documents for you, so please ensure that all neighbourhood plan documents, including the plan itself, comply with the accessibility standards before submitting the plan to the LPA at Regulation 15 ready for the Regulation 16 Consultation. If we find that there are extensive parts of the plan that have not been checked for their accessibility, the plan will be returned to the group. Prior to formal submission (Reg 15) it would be advisable for the group to send the document to the Local Planning Authority to do an initial check that the</p>	<p>Submitted documents meet the accessibility tests for PDF documents</p>

HBBC Regulation 14 comments on the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Version	HBBC Regulation 16 Comments
document is accessible. The LPA can then raise any further areas for amendment with the group before it is formally submitted.	

4. Sheepy NDP Update vs NPPF November 2021 Compliance Table

Table 2 below sets out how Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) considers that the Update to the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of Basic Condition (a) “having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the order (or neighbourhood plan)”.

NDP Policy	Most relevant section of the NPPF (2021)	HBBC Representation on the Submission Draft and its Regard to National Policy
Policy S1 Countryside	Paragraphs 72, 80, 174	The proposed insertion of the word “only” to the types of development considered sustainable outside of settlement boundaries is significant. It effectively means no other types of development would accord with Policy S1 as proposed to be updated. Such an approach is clearly consistent with the NPPF’s policy of protecting valued landscapes and recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. The blanket restriction could conflict with NPPF exceptions for example entry level homes (para. 72) or enabling development to secure the future of a heritage asset (para 80) but is mostly covered a reference to Policy S10 which allows for a range of exceptional housing developments recognised in the NPPF.
Policy S8 Design	Paragraphs 126 – 130	The proposed changes give greater emphasis to the achievement of development of a design that reflects the surrounding area and the character of Sheepy Parish in accordance with paragraph 130, in particular parts c) and d). Appendix 5 gives greater clarity to design expectations and aspirations for future development in the area in accordance with paragraphs 126 – 129 of the NPPF
Policy S10: Housing Provision to meet an identified need	Paragraph 80	With regard to housing supply HBBC does not consider that the housing policy of the neighbourhood plan is being changed from the made neighbourhood plan of 2019 so is not subject to examination. Changes to Policy S10 add further exceptions to the list of housing developments permissible outside of settlement boundaries. Part E allows for dwellings of

NDP Policy	Most relevant section of the NPPF (2021)	HBBC Representation on the Submission Draft and its Regard to National Policy
		exceptional design quality. Part F allows for subdivision of an existing dwelling. Both these changes are consistent with Paragraph 80 of the NPPF.
Policy S11: Neighbourhood Plan Review	Paragraphs 60-80	The inclusion of Policy S11 provides security that Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan will not leave its housing supply policy and provisions as per the made plan any longer than adoption of the borough Local Plan. As such the neighbourhood plan will be updated in line with national housing policy.
All other policies and supporting text.	n/a	None of the other policies are changed, or are not changed to a material degree

5. Sheepy NDP Review vs Local Plan Compliance Assessment

The policies of Sheepy NDP are assessed against the relevant adopted plans of HBBC, which include the Core Strategy 2009 and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan 2016, and the draft Local Plan (Regulation 18) of July 2021

Policy updates with major conformity issues

None

Policy updates with minor conformity issues

None

Policy updates in conformity

Policy S1	Countryside
Policy S8	Design
Policy S10	Housing Development
Policy S11	Neighbourhood Plan Review

6. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's response to the SEA Screening Decision

Basic Conditions (f):

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

Point (f) above relates to certain obligations which plans must adhere to, primarily in relation to habitats and environmental impacts. Some plans require a Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or a Habitat Regulations Assessment (SEA/ HRA respectively).

Sheepy undertook an SEA screening, in which it was determined a full SEA would not be required, as agreed by the three statutory bodies: Historic England, Natural England and The Environment Agency. Below is HBBC's decision statement, issued to the Qualifying Body on 25th November 2021.

In regards to Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan it was determined that one is not required due to there being no adverse comments from the statutory consultation bodies and for the reasons set out in the Sheepy Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement 2021.

Below are HBBC's decision statements regarding SEA and HRA issued to the Qualifying Body on 25th November 2021 and the consultation responses received from the Statutory Bodies



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Review

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Screening determination notice under Regulation 9(1)

Regulation 9 of the above Regulations requires Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (the “responsible authority”), on behalf of Sheepy Parish Council (the “responsible authority”) to determine whether the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Review is likely to have significant environmental effects.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, following consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, has determined that the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Review is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. It is therefore considered that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required.

This notice fulfils the publicity requirements in accordance with Regulations 11(1) and 11(2).

A copy of this screening opinion and the associated screening report is available on the Council’s website (Neighbourhood Planning webpage) or can be viewed during normal opening hours at:

Hinckley Hub
Rugby Road
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 0FR

For further information, please email planningpolicy@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

25th November 2021

Response from Historic England (Dated 23/08/2021)

Dear Mr Stephenson,

SHEEPY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – SEA SCREENING REQUEST

Thank you for your consultation of 19 August 2021 and the request for a Screening Opinion in respect of the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request.

On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England is of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not likely to be required.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

Should it be concluded that, overall, a SEA will be required for the Plan, Historic England would be pleased to discuss the scope of the assessment in relation to the historic environment in due course.

I hope that this information is of use to you at this time. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Dominic Kay on behalf of Clive Fletcher

Date: 17 May 2021
Our ref: 350428
Your ref: none



Jason Stephenson
Clerk to Sheepy Parish Council
np@sheepparish.com

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Crowe Business Park
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T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Jason

Planning consultation: Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening opinion

Thank you for your consultation on the above document dated 20 April 2021 which was received by Natural England on 20 April 2021

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 welcomes the Screening Report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan.

We can confirm that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan.

Natural England also agrees with the report's conclusions that Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work under the Habitats Regulations would be required.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Sandra Close on 020 8028 0678. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

SANDRA CLOSE
Planning Adviser

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Natural England is accredited to the Cabinet Office Service Excellence Standard

Response from Environment Agency (Dated 5/08/2021)

Thank you for your email. I take your point. The EA is a consultee in the EIA process.

However, based on the submitted information we have no comments to make on whether an SEA is required.

Regards

Nick

Nick Wakefield

Planning Specialist, Sustainable Places Team

Environment Agency | Trentside Offices, Scarrington Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5BR



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Review

Habitat Regulations Assessment Determination

Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 makes provision in relation to the Habitats Directive. The Directive requires that any plan or project, likely to have a significant effect on a European site, must be subject to an appropriate assessment. To achieve this, paragraph 1 prescribes a basic condition that the making of a neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening is a requirement of Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. HRA considers the potential adverse impacts of plans and projects on designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), classified Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and listed Ramsar sites – collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

It is the opinion of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council that a full Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment of the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Review is not required, as it is unlikely to have a significant effect on any designated sites. The justification for this is contained within the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement 2021.

A copy of this screening opinion and the associated screening report is available on the Council's website (Neighbourhood Planning webpage) or can be viewed during normal opening hours at:

Hinckley Hub
Rugby Road
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 0FR

For further information, please email planningpolicy@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

25th November 2021

Date: 10 June 2020
Our ref: 318720
Your ref: None



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T 0300 060 3900

Alison Gibson
<mailto:Alison@planit-x.co.uk>

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Ms Gibson

Planning consultation: Barleston Neighbourhood Plan – SEA Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above document dated 04 May 2020 which was received by Natural England on 04 May 2020

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.

We have considered '*Barlestone Neighbourhood Plan Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement*' (June 2020). We can confirm that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Natural England would like to advise you that we formed part of a partnership that has produced a planning toolkit aimed at supporting neighbourhood planning groups developing neighbourhood plans which shape development and land use change in their community. The guide includes: opportunities to enhance the environment and how this can be achieved in plan-making; important issues to consider, including legislative requirements; where to find out more; good practice and real life examples and a checklist to use when developing a Neighbourhood Plan. The '*Neighbourhood Planning for the Environment*' toolkit is available [here](#).

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Sandra Close on 020 8026 0676. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

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East Midlands Area**