



**Radlett Neighbourhood Plan  
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

**Screening Determination Statement**

**Under Regulation 9 and 11 of the Environmental  
Assessment of Plans and Programmes 2004**

**Prepared by Hertsmere Borough Council**

**September 2018**

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 This statement has been produced to ensure the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan will, when examined, comply with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and in particular, Regulation 32 and Regulation 15(1) e (ii) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
- 1.2 A neighbourhood plan is required to meet a number of basic conditions (which are set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990), one of which being it must not breach and must be otherwise compatible with EU and Human Rights obligations. This requires neighbourhood plans to fully consider the requirements of the SEA regulations<sup>1</sup> which transpose the EU's SEA Directive<sup>2</sup> into law and which requires those making plans that could impact on the environment to consider whether they are likely to have a significant effect or not.
- 1.3 Regulation 32 in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out an additional basic condition to those set out in primary legislation. Regulation 32 states: *"The making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (e)) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).*

## **2. Screening opinion**

- 2.1 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion (included in Appendix 1) was prepared by Hertsmere Borough Council for the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan in June 2018. The screening opinion considered that the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan would not have a significant effect on the environment in so far as:
  - The RNP at the present time will not play a role in allocating land for housing or employment;
  - The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to affect any designated sites in the vicinity or lead to other environmental effects;
  - The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to align with the adopted Development Plan which has been subject to full SEA and Habitats Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal;
  - The small spatial extent and the magnitude of the population affected are not considered significant for the purpose of the SEA.

## **3. Consultation with statutory bodies**

- 3.1 The three statutory environmental bodies (Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency) were consulted on the SEA/HRA Screening Opinion on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 for a 28 day period. Consultation responses were received from two of the

three statutory consultees, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The responses confirmed that no additional Screening was required.

- 3.2 Their conclusions are set out below, and their full comments are included in Appendix 2.

**Natural England:** 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.

**Historic England:** 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 concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

#### **4. Conclusions**

- 4.1 The implementation of the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan is not expected to result in likely significant effects. The SEA and HRA Screening Opinion (June 2018) determined that the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA or HRA and these findings were not disputed by the statutory consultation bodies. The Council therefore concludes that the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA or HRA.

**Appendix 1 Radlett Neighbourhood Plan Screening Opinion June 2018**



**Radlett Neighbourhood Plan  
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)  
Screening Opinion  
Prepared by Hertsmere Borough Council**

**June 2018**

**for consultation with Statutory bodies**

## 1. Background

One of the basic conditions that a Neighbourhood Plan is tested against is whether the making of the NP is compatible with European Union obligations, including obligations under the SEA Directive<sup>1</sup>. The aim of the SEA Directive is

*“to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that an environmental assessment is carried out **of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.**”*

To decide whether a proposed Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, and hence requires SEA, it should be screened at an early stage, i.e. once the plan remit and objectives have been formulated.

Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012<sup>2</sup> refers to the Habitats Directive which<sup>3</sup> requires that any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a European site must be subject to an appropriate assessment. Therefore, this screening assessments also considers whether or not the contents of the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan require a Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment in accordance with European Directive 92/43/EEC and the associated Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (otherwise known as the ‘Habitats Regulations’).

Screening is ‘Stage A’ in the Government’s recommended six stage approach to SEA for Neighbourhood Plans. If it is determined, through screening, that significant environmental effects are unlikely and hence SEA is not required, then plan-makers need not concern themselves with subsequent stages of the SEA process.<sup>4</sup>

## 2. Who is responsible for screening?

The SEA Regulations state that a screening determination should be reached by ‘the responsible authority’, which in this case is Hertsmere Borough Council (HBC). The council will reach a determination in light of this screening opinion, in consultation with the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England).

If it is concluded that an SEA is required, Aldenham Parish Council, supported by its Steering Group, are responsible for its production and it must form part of the material that is consulted on once the formal consultation stage is reached.

## 3. When is SEA required?

The SEA Directive makes SEA a mandatory requirement for:

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<sup>1</sup> European Directive 2001/42/EC: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042>

<sup>2</sup> Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/637/contents/made>

<sup>3</sup> Habitats Directive: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/habitats\\_dir\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/habitats_dir_en.htm)

<sup>4</sup> Planning Practice Guidance: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainabilityappraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-neighbourhood-plans/>

- a) Plans which are prepared for town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive; or
- b) Plans which have been determined to require an assessment under the Habitats Directive.

The main determining factor as to whether SEA is required on a Neighbourhood Plan is if it is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

Neighbourhood Plans containing land allocations for development that are not included in the local authority's plan, are likely to require SEA. Neighbourhood Plans which do not contain such allocations (or simply reflect allocations already identified as part of a local authority plan) are less likely to require SEA.

If SEA is required, the Parish Council may wish to consider voluntarily expanding the scope of the assessment to cover wider economic and social issues (i.e. a broader Sustainability Appraisal of the RNP). This is the approach taken by Hertsmere Borough Council, whereby SEA is included within the broader Sustainability Appraisal of plans. The advantage of undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal is that it compares the proposals in the plan with reasonable alternatives and can demonstrate that the plan that has been prepared is the most sustainable option given the alternatives available.

#### **4. Screening methodology**

Screening essentially involves giving consideration to the anticipated scope of the plan in question and the scope of environmental issues (to include opportunities) locally, before coming to a conclusion on the potential for a cause-effect relationship, i.e. 'significant effects on the environment'. The screening report should include a high level contextual understanding of the environmental issues in and around the neighbourhood plan area.

The SEA Regulations require that the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations be considered. "These are the criteria *"for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment"* and are split into two categories: those relating to the characteristics of the *plan* and those to the characteristics of the *effects* and *area* likely to be affected."

The National Planning Practice guidance sets out that a SEA may be required, for example, 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 is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.<sup>5</sup>

Annex 2 of the SEA Directive lists a series of criteria that should be taken into account when establishing the potential for the plan to result in significant effects, and Annex 1 of the

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<sup>5</sup> Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraph: 046 Reference ID: 11-046-20150209): <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

Directive lists a series of broad environmental issues that should be considered.<sup>6</sup> When identifying 'issues' as part of screening it is appropriate to give consideration to the presence and condition of 'sensitive areas' as defined by national guidance<sup>7</sup>. These sensitive areas are defined for the purpose of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening, as opposed to SEA screening, but are nonetheless relevant.

The criteria/issues listed in the Directive are helpful in that they provide a methodological basis for screening.

The assessment of effects should be proportionate, and there may be gaps in the data, however this is not a problem unless the gaps or uncertainties are such that it is not possible to reasonably assess the likely significant effects of a plan.<sup>8</sup>

The three statutory consultation bodies (Historic England, Environment Agency and Natural England) will be consulted to determine whether they agree with the conclusion of this screening opinion.

## **5. The emerging Radlett Neighbourhood Plan (RNP)**

Aldenham Parish Council submitted their application for designation of a Neighbourhood Area in late 2013, which was approved in spring 2014, and a steering group has since been working on the content of the RNP in consultation with the local community in Radlett. The first round of formal public consultation on a draft Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16) was carried out in summer 2017.

The RNP is being prepared by Aldenham Parish Council, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Once adopted ('made') it will establish planning policies and guidance for the development and use of land within the settlement of Radlett within Aldenham Parish. The RNP will cover the whole of the built-up area of Radlett. It is not expected that the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) will be allocating sites for development.

Alongside the Hertsmere Local Plan, it will provide a framework for determining planning applications over the next 15 years. The draft version of the RNP published for consultation in July 2017 has been considered (which, it is recognised, is subject to change).

The RNP has 13 Objectives which seek to achieve the Vision set out in the Plan which is that:

*"In 2027, Radlett will have maintained and improved its attractive character as a verdant village, surrounded by highly cherished open countryside, with an active and diverse community served by a modern High Street."*<sup>9</sup>

Points to note from this draft include the following -

- No site allocations are proposed; all draft policies are thematic rather than spatial.

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<sup>6</sup> SEA Directive: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042>

<sup>7</sup> Screening Schedule 2 projects: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment#Screening-Schedule-2-projects>

<sup>8</sup> Screening neighbourhood plans for strategic environmental assessment: A toolkit for neighbourhood planners (June 2016)

<sup>9</sup> Radlett Neighbourhood Plan (Consultation Draft 2017) Vision: <https://www.radlettplan.org/vision-2030>

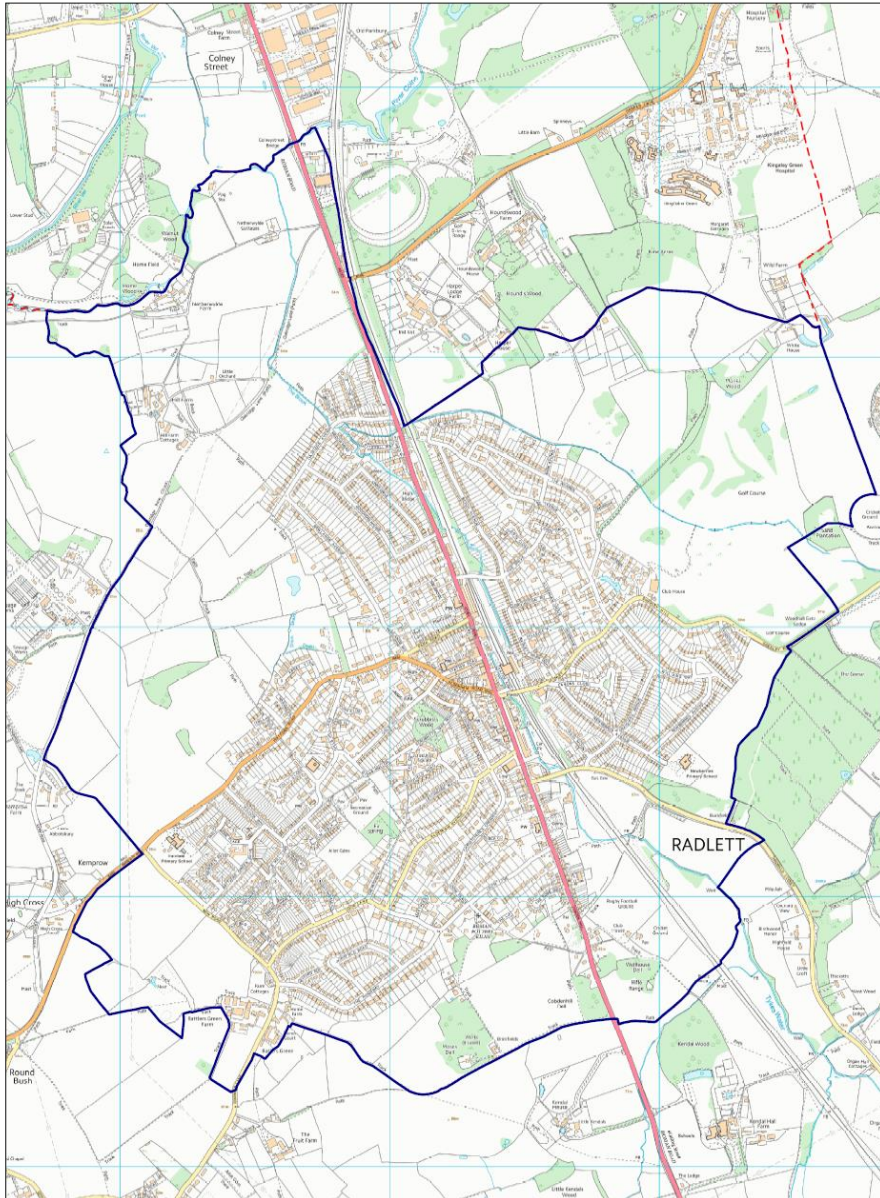


- The plan seeks to shape the design of new developments and protect the 'verdant nature' of Radlett.
- There is support for maintaining and improving the town centre, including community facilities and promotion of a range of retail uses.
- The plan seeks to encourage walking and cycling improvements and improve traffic flow, and at the same time improve car parking in the town centre and station.
- The RNP includes a list of community priority projects which include proposals for improving public rights of way, traffic flow through Radlett and the public realm.

None of these policy proposals include the allocation or re-designation of land,

The allocation of land designated as Green Belt for housing or other purposes would not be in compliance with the current Hertsmere Local Plan 2012-27 which has drawn tight Green Belt boundaries around Radlett. Therefore in order to allocate sites in the Green Belt (other than 'rural exception sites' for affordable housing or small-scale infill development) a new Local Plan would need to be adopted.

The urban area of Radlett is not currently in the Green Belt, and so the RNP is free to allocate sites within this area for appropriate uses but has chosen not to do so. The spatial extent of the RNP area is 702ha as shown on the plan below in area.



**Radlett Neighbourhood Plan:  
Proposed Neighbourhood Area Boundary**

0 500 1,000 Metres 1:12,000

- Key**
- Radlett Neighbourhood Area
  - Hertsmere Borough Boundary

**N**  
 Drawn By: GM  
 Checked By: AD  
 Date created: 05/01/2017

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*Radlett Neighbourhood Plan area*

## Screening Assessment

For the purposes of screening it is assumed that the RNP will not look to allocate land to deliver a quantum over and above the Hertsmere Local Plan figure, and that the RNP as currently proposed does not intend to allocate any sites for employment or housing, strategic or otherwise.

The limited scope of the RNP and its focus on thematic rather than spatial policies may enable the plan to be screened-out and not require an SEA (i.e. the plan is likely to be very limited in its scope).

If the RNP were to introduce land use allocations through future drafts, this SEA Screening Report should be updated in the light of these and any known proposals through the emerging Hertsmere Local Plan which could together lead to cumulative impacts. However at the present time the RNP does not propose any site allocations, and the location and extent of any allocations in the emerging Hertsmere Local Plan is currently unknown and would be subject to Sustainability Appraisal incorporating SEA as part of the Local Plan process. The adopted Hertsmere local Plan 2012-27 has been subject to SA incorporating SEA, and although reference is made to future requirements for the existing safeguarded housing site at 16 Watford Road (Starveacres) in Policy GB1, there are no strategic allocations within the area covered by the RNP.

Annex I of the SEA Directive lists broad issues to be considered as follows: “the likely significant effects(1) on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors”

Annex II of the SEA Directive lists a series of criteria that should be taken into account when establishing the potential for a plan to result in significant effects.

The strategic framework for development in the plan area is set by the adopted development plan which includes the adopted Hertsmere Local Plan 2012-2027. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to align and be in general conformity with this.

The Neighbourhood Plan, once ‘made’ will form a part of the development plan for the area along with the Local Plan, and will expand upon some of the Local Plan policies at a local scale.

Policies in the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan as currently proposed are capable of having a mixed impact on local environmental considerations as described below, however as the RNP has a limited geographical coverage and scope these impacts are not considered to be significant.

### *Potential positive environmental effects*

*Policy H1* promotes an increase in smaller housing units and more affordable homes, although it does not allocate sites or set out a specific density of homes in particular locations. The majority of the urban area of Radlett is within walking distance of the high street and railway station, so increasing the number of smaller homes here is likely to have positive environmental effects through densifying development in sustainable locations.

*Policies GA1, GA4, GA5 and GA6* promote walking and cycling to school, and improvements in cycle infrastructure and bus provision which have the potential to have positive impacts on air pollution, the consumption of materials and energy, and the mitigation of climate change.

*Policy CF1* promotes the retention of existing green spaces within the neighbourhood plan area, which could have a positive impact on the natural environment. The potential effects of this policy approach on the integration of environmental considerations, particularly with a view to promoting sustainable development, could include:

- effects upon consumption of materials and energy;
- effects upon air pollution;
- effects upon the natural environment and biodiversity; and
- effects upon mitigation of climate change.

#### *Potential negative environmental effects*

*Policies H2 and H3* promote very low-density forms of development in central, sustainable locations, which may have some negative environmental effects.

*Policy RC1 Radlett Centre Village Vitality* includes reference to a CIL Priority Action Plan, which prioritises improvements to parking and traffic flow which if implemented is likely to have negative effects on localised air pollution, and on the mitigation of climate change and the consumption of materials and energy.

*Policies GA2 and GA3* promote improvements to parking in the town centre and at the station, which are likely to encourage increased car traffic to those locations.

The potential effects of this policy approach on the integration of environmental considerations, particularly with a view to promoting sustainable development, could include:

- effects upon consumption of materials and energy;
- effects upon the natural environment and biodiversity;
- effects upon air pollution; and
- effects upon mitigation of climate change.

Although potential impacts on the environment have been identified, it is not considered that these would be significant as the RNP does not allocate land or include any policies which would impede the promotion of sustainable development across a wider area. The policy approach taken by the RNP would not lead to there being significant effects on the integration of environmental considerations, particularly with a view to promoting sustainable development.

The cumulative effects of the proposals in the RNP would remain small-scale and are unlikely to have significant environmental impacts.

The proposed priorities for the local area would not have high risks to human health, and as they are set out as priorities for the spending of future funding generated through the Community Infrastructure Levy, they do not in themselves constitute land use policy.

The proposals to improve car parking facilities could indirectly lead to an increased risk to human health from air pollution generated by more vehicles. However, although there is one AQMA within the RNP area, the plan allocates no sites for development and the impact from improved car parking facilities is anticipated to be relatively low and significant environmental effects are not anticipated to result from the proposals.

## 6. Relevant local environmental issues

The relevant environmental designations and issues to be taken into account are considered briefly below.

- No Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are present within or in close proximity to the neighbourhood plan area (NPA).
- The nearest SSSI is at Bricket Wood Common in St Albans District, approx. 1.3km distance from the NPA. The north-west section of the Neighbourhood Plan Area (NPA) falls within SSSI Impact Risk Zones, to assess planning applications for certain forms of development for likely impacts on SSSIs. This is unlikely to affect proposals in the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan.
- Hilfield Park Reservoir Local Nature Reserve is located approx. 2km south of the NPA.
- A Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS) lies to the east of the built-up area of Radlett. This is designated for its Hertfordshire Puddingstone deposits.
- A number of Local Wildlife Sites surround the urban area of Radlett. Part of Hound's Wood, part of Nine Acres, Meadow East of The Warren, Porters Park Golf Course, and part of Theobald Street Wood, lie to the east; Wellhouse Dell, Cobdenhill Dell, lie to the south; Dellfield Wood lies to the west; Copse by Watford Road and Scrubbits Wood lie within the urban area; and The Gorse and Kendal Wood adjoin the NPA.
- There are no AONB designations in the vicinity. Chiltern AONB is around 10km to the west of the NPA.
- Flood Zones 2 and 3 run through the centre of the built-up area along the course of the Tykeswater watercourse.
- The northern portion of the NPA lies within Source Protection Zone (SPZ) 1, and a wider area, including part of the urban area of Radlett, is within SPZ 3.
- In terms of heritage assets, there are no World Heritage Sites in the area. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the NPA; the nearest at Netherwylde Farm (site of Roman Villa) is approx. 500m to the west; this is not close to the built-up area of Radlett. There are two Conservation Areas in Radlett – Radlett North and Radlett South – which between them cover the majority of the centre of the built-up area along Watling Street. These areas are generally characterised by Victorian residential buildings, with some older buildings at the centre of Radlett. A number of Archaeological Sites fall within the NPA. These are Wild Farm on the north-east boundary; Netherwylde Farm to the northern boundary; site north of Battlers Green Farm to the south-west; and Roman Pottery Kilns south of Loom Lane is to the south of the built-up area. There are 7 Grade II listed buildings within the built-up area of Radlett, 6 are within the Conservation Areas, and a further 12 Grade II listed buildings within the NPA as a whole. There are also numerous Locally Listed Buildings.
- There is a single Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Radlett, on Watling Street.
- Radlett railway station provides access to the Thameslink route. Frequent slow trains run between St Albans and Sutton via central London, and frequent semi-fast services run during rush hour between Bedford and Brighton via central London. Three bus routes serve the centre of Radlett, linking Borehamwood/Radlett/St Albans/Hatfield/Welwyn Garden City, Watford/Radlett/St Albans and Watford/Radlett/Borehamwood/South Mimms/Potters Bar.
- In terms of local population, around 24.5% of residents are aged 60 or over and 26.5% are aged less than 20 years of age. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation highlights one

area which is within the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods. No other areas of relative deprivation are highlighted.

- In terms of facilities and services, Radlett has a theatre, library, several parks, recreation areas and playgrounds, and a doctor's surgery. It has an extensive high street with a wide range of convenience and comparison retailers, primarily independent businesses.

## **7. Screening analysis**

The assessment shown above identifies that based on the information available to date, there are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects from the implementation of the proposals in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan for Radlett. Therefore the scope of the RNP enables the plan to be screened-out as it is considered to be very limited in its scope.

The main reasons for this conclusion are:

- The RNP at the present time will not play a role in allocating land for housing or employment;
- The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to affect any designated sites in the vicinity or lead to other environmental effects;
- The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to align with the adopted Development Plan which has been subject to full SEA and Habitats Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal;
- The small spatial extent and the magnitude of the population affected are not considered significant for the purpose of the SEA.

Should any of these factors change, for example should the RNP seek to allocate sites, this screening opinion will be revisited.

## **8. Habitats Regulations Assessment**

A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required for a plan or project to assess the potential implications for European wildlife sites, i.e. 'European sites' or 'Natura 2000 sites'. It explores whether the implementation of a plan or project would harm the habitats or species for which the European sites are designated. European sites are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) – designated by the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended and 2009/147/EC), and Special Areas of Conservation – designated by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

In addition to SPAs and SACs, Ramsar sites are designated under the Ramsar convention. The Ramsar convention's mission is to conserve and sustainably utilise wetland habitats. Although Ramsar sites are not covered by the Habitats Regulations, as a matter of national policy, they should be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites (i.e. SPAs and SACs). European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as internationally designated wildlife sites. Three European sites are located within 15km of Hertsmere, Wormley – Hoddesdonpark Woods and Epping Forest (SACs) and Lee Valley (SPA and Ramsar).

The Scoping Report undertaken for the Council's current Core Strategy, which sets the parameters for the RNP, concluded that there would no significant effect upon any designated European site and that an Appropriate Assessment under the Directive was required. The RNP does not allocate any strategic sites or seek to depart from the Council's current planning policy framework and as such it is concluded that the RNP will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any internationally designated sites, either on its own or in combination with other plans. As such, it does not need to be subject to an HRA Appropriate Assessment.

## **9. Next Steps**

In line with Regulations, Hertsmere Borough Council will consult with the Statutory Consultees (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency).<sup>10</sup> It is good practice to also consult local and regional bodies responsible for wildlife, geological and landscape designations (e.g. the Herts Environmental Records Centre, local wildlife trusts, geological societies and landscape conservation bodies).

Hertsmere Borough Council as the responsible authority should give consideration to any comments made by these bodies and by local bodies which have been consulted when reaching a screening determination.

If the content of the Neighbourhood Plan is significantly changed in future drafts there may be the need for a further screening exercise to be undertaken on any modified version of the Neighbourhood Plan, along with further consultation with the statutory bodies.

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<sup>10</sup> Regulation 9(2a) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

## **Appendix 2 Responses from statutory consultees on Screening Opinion**



Date: 13 July 2018  
Our ref: 250102



Hertsmere Borough Council

Mark.silverman@hertsmere.gov.uk

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Hornbeam House  
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Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr Silverman

### **Radlett Neighbourhood Development Plan: SEA Screening Opinion**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 19 June 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 Guidance. 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 queries relating to the specific advice in this letter or for any new consultations, please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely  
Dawn Kinrade  
Consultations Team



Historic England

EAST OF ENGLAND OFFICE

Mr Mark Silverman  
Hertsmere Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
Elstree Way  
Borehamwood  
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WD6 1WA

Direct Dial: 01223 582746

Our ref: PL00449605

17 July 2018

Dear Mr Silverman

Thank you for your email of 19 June 2018 regarding the above consultation. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process. Therefore we welcome this opportunity to review this SEA Screening Report. For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question, "Is it (the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan) likely to have a significant effect on the historic environment?". Our comments are based on the information supplied with the Screening Opinion.

The Screening Report indicates that the Council considers there are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects from the implementation of the proposals in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan for Radlett. We note that the present iteration of the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan does not propose to allocate any land for housing or other uses.

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 concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

The views of the other two statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for an SEA is made.

I should be pleased if you can send a copy of the determination as required by REG 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

We should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by you with your correspondence dated 19 June 2018. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the SEA process and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan/guidance) where we consider that, despite the SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.



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*Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.*



Historic England

EAST OF ENGLAND OFFICE

Historic England strongly advises that the conservation and archaeological staff of Hertsmere District Council and Hertfordshire County Council are closely involved throughout the preparation of the plan and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on; local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the Historic Environment Record (HER), how the allocation, policy or proposal can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.

Yours sincerely,

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*Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.*

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