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## **Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan**

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

Screening Statement- Determination under Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations  
2004

### **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

Screening Statement – Determination under Regulation 103 of the Conservation of  
Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

Final Report

March 2017

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been undertaken by Surrey Heath Borough Council to determine whether the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA or HRA. The Screening assessment is based on the draft Neighbourhood Plan produced in January 2017.
- 1.2 Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires authority's to determine whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required for certain plans, policies or programmes.
- 1.3 This statement also sets out the Borough Council's determination as to whether Appropriate Assessment is required under Regulation 103 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
- 1.4 Under the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive) and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) specific types of plans that set out the framework for future development or which require Appropriate Assessment must be subject to an environmental assessment. There are exceptions to this requirement for plans that determine the uses of a small area at a local level and for minor modifications if it has been determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.5 In accordance with the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) it is the Borough Council who must determine if a plan requires environmental assessment. The Borough Council is also the competent authority for determining if a plan requires Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

## **2 Background to the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan.**

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 makes provision for Parish Councils or designated Neighbourhood Forums to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood Plans do form part of the Development Plan for an area and as such are a material consideration in determining planning applications and can contain policies on a range of issues, including allocation of sites for development.
- 2.2 The proposed Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan covers the Windlesham Ward only and does not cover any other area within Windlesham Parish. The Plan area covers the settlement of Windlesham. The area is predominately Green Belt although the village of Windlesham itself is not covered by a Green Belt designation. The Neighbourhood Plan area lies with 5km of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Common SAC, with 23.2ha or 57.3 Acres of the WNP area falling within the 400m buffer zone of the

SPA. The closest distance of the TBH SPA to the WNP area is 89.5m which is at the Chobham Common SAC.

- 2.3 The area covered by the proposed Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan also includes conservation areas and areas of high archaeological potential.
- 2.4 The proposed Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan's vision is "to retain its semi-natural character, while being recognised as a place to live and work that offers an unparalleled opportunity to be part of a community, and that provides a friendly and safe environment." The proposed Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan sets out a number of policies covering scale and mix of new residential development, community consultation, design and quality, and parking spaces.
- 2.5 The proposed Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land or sites for development.

### **3.0 Sustainability Appraisal**

- 3.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and associated Regulations, local authorities are required to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for their Local Plan documents. The SA considers the social and economic impacts of a plan as well as the environmental impacts. Neighbourhood Plans are not covered by this requirement and as such a Sustainability Appraisal is not required.

### **4.0 Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) - Screening**

- 4.1 The requirement to consider the effects of plans or projects which may affect the integrity of internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance (Natura 2000 sites or European sites), stems from the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC as amended by amending acts 97/62/EC and 2006/105/EC). The Habitats Directive states that:-

***'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the 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... 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...'* (Article 6(3)).**

- 4.2 The Habitats Directive has been transposed into UK law through The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Specifically Regulation 102 of the 2010 Regulations (as amended). The Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA is only required should the preliminary screening assessment not be able to rule out likely significant effects.
- 4.3 The European Habitats Directive requires that any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a European site must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 sets out a general presumption that Neighbourhood Plans are not likely to have a significant effect on European sites. Schedule 2 also amends the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) so as to apply its provisions to

neighbourhood Development orders and neighbourhood plans. Whilst Schedule 2 sets out that there is a general presumption that an HRA is unlikely to be required it is still necessary to carry out a screening assessment. This is Step 1 of the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). The stages of the HRA are set out below.

- **Step 1 Screening**- this identifies likely impacts on a European site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects and considers whether these impacts are significant. This can include the consideration of avoidance measures.
- **Step 2 Appropriate Assessment** - Considers the impact on the integrity of the European site whether alone or in combination with other plans or projects with respect to the sites function, structure and conservation objectives. Where there are significant effects this stage should consider potential mitigation measures.
- **Step 3 Assessment of Alternative Solutions** - This step assesses alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project which avoids impacts; and
- **Step 4 Assessment of Compensatory Measures** – This step identifies compensatory measures should impact not be avoided and no alternative solutions exist and an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) shows that the project should proceed.

If Step 1 Screening shows that any significant effect can be discounted then there is not a requirement to go through the remaining steps.

#### 4.4 Step 1 Screening

There are 4 stages to go through in a screening exercise:-

- **Stage 1**- Determining whether the Plan/Project is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site;
- **Stage 2**- Describing the plan/ project and a description of other plans/ projects that have the potential for in-combination effects;
- **Stage 3** Identifying potential effects on the European site(s); and
- **Stage 4** Assessing the significance of any effects.

#### **Stage 1 Determining whether the Plan/Project is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site**

- 4.5 It can be determined that the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site.

**Stage 2 Describing the plan/ project and a description of other plans/ projects that have the potential for in-combination effects**

4.6 Table 1.1 below lists those other plans and projects which may have in-combination effects.

**Table 1.1 Other Key Plans/Projects**

<b>Plan/Project</b>	
National Planning Policy Framework (2012 )(NPPF)	High level national policy which covers topics including economy, housing, employment, retail and biodiversity, heritage and flood risk
South East Plan (2009)	Saved Policy NMR6 which sets out protection measures for the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.
Surrey Heath Core Strategy 2011-2028	Sets out policies for the consideration of development, infrastructure and policies on Biodiversity and Nature Conservation and European sites.
Other Local Authority Plans adjoining or within 5Km of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA	The now revoked South East Plan set out a target of 132,560 dwellings in these areas. Until Local Plans in this areas have been established this figure stills serves as a guide.
Large Scale Projects within 7km of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA	These are shown in <b>Table 1.2</b> below. These figures are part of the housing numbers set out in the South East Plan.
Thames Basin Heaths Joint Delivery Framework (2009)	This sets out the agreed Framework in respect of the approach and standards for avoiding significant effects on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.
Thames River Basin Management Plan (2015) Environment Agency	This sets out actions to improve water quality in the Thames Catchment area.
Surrey Nature Partnership Biodiversity Plan in Surrey 2014	This action plan aims to conserve and enhance current resources and identify areas for biodiversity improvements.

**Table 1.2 Proposed/Committed Major Schemes within 7km of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA**

These figures are part of the housing numbers set out in the South East Plan

<b>Project</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Housing Numbers</b>
Deepcut ( Princess Royal Barracks	Deepcut Camberley Surrey	1,200
DERA site	Longcross Surrey	2,500
Aldershot Urban Extension	Aldershot Hants	4,500
Bracknell Town Centre	Bracknell Berkshire	1,000
Land at Amen Corner	Bracknell Berkshire	725
Land north of Whitegrove	Warfield Berkshire	2,200
Land at Transport and Research Laboratory	Crowthorne Berkshire	1,000
Queen Elizabeth Barracks	Church Crookham Hants	1,000
South of M4	Shinfield Berkshire	2,500

South Wokingham	Wokingham Berkshire	2,500
North Wokingham	Wokingham Berkshire	1,500
Arborfield Garrison	Arborfield Berkshire	3,500
Total		24,125

### Stage 3 Identifying potential effects on the European site(s)

- 4.7 In order to assess whether significant effects are likely it is necessary to identify those European sites which could be affected by the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects and their conservation objectives.
- 4.8 The European sites considered in this HRA are identified below in table 1.3. There are 5 potential effects identified, these are recreational impacts, urbanisation, air and water quality and water resource. Not all of these affect all sites and the majority of European sites identified in Table 1.3 have been screened out of this assessment as it was considered that their distance from the Neighbourhood Plan area and the nature and content of the Neighbourhood Plan means there is no pathway or mechanism which would give rise to significant effect. .

**Table 1.3 European Sites**

<b>Natura 2000 site</b>	<b>Distance from Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan boundary</b>	<b>Identified Potential Effects</b>	<b>Further Consideration Required</b>
Thames Basin Heaths SPA	89.5m	Recreation Air Quality Urbanisation Water resource	yes
Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Common SAC	89.5m Chobham Common SAC	Recreation Air Quality Urbanisation Water resource	yes
Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC	11 km	Recreation	No
South West London Ware Bodies SPA and Ramsar	16.7 km	Recreation	No
Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons SPA	16.8km	Recreation and Air Quality	No
Thursley and Ockley Bog Ramsar	18km	Water resource	No
Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment SAC	28.5km	Recreation and Air Quality	No
Wealden Heaths Phase 11 SPA	21.5km	Recreation	No
East Hants Hangers SAC	24.3km	Recreation	No
Burnham Beeches	24.5km	Recreation and Air	No

SAC		Quality	
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#### **4.9 Identified Effects on the Thames Basin Heaths and Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Common SAC**

##### **4.10 Recreation and Urbanisation**

4.11 Recreational pressures are considered to arise due to the increase in human population that is likely to occur with new residential development. As such new development can give rise to recreational pressures and when viewed with other plans and projects can give rise to cumulative impacts. Increase recreation such as walking and dog walking can lead to deterioration and fragmentation of habitats as well as eutrophication from dog fouling. Increase recreation can also lead to disturbance of protected species, especially ground nesting birds.

4.12 Urbanisation impacts arise due to development and increased human population encroaching close to protected species. Impacts can also include potential from predation by household pets and vandalism including fire. There is also the potential for species invasion.

##### **4.13 Air Quality**

4.14 The main pollutants of concern for European sites are oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). Nitrogen oxides can have a directly toxic effect on vegetation and along with ammonia can lead to increased nitrogen deposition on European sites. This is an issue for nutrient poor habitats such as lowland heaths.

4.15 In terms of air quality effects at a local level these will derive from traffic associated with new development, either alone or in combination. Advice from Natural England to Runnymede Borough Council in 2006 states *that for the purposes of Local Plans these can only be concerned with locally emitted and short range locally acting pollutants*. As such this HRA does not consider wider scale cumulative impacts on air quality.

4.16 The Department of Transport's Transport Analysis Guidance (2004) states that beyond 200m the contribution of vehicle emissions from the roadside to local pollution levels is not significant. As such this HRA concerns itself with emissions likely to arise from traffic within 200m of an European site.

##### **4.17 Water Resource**

4.18 Surrey Heath and hence Windlesham is in an area designated by DEFRA as water stressed. The west of Surrey Heath (including Windlesham) is located within Water Resource Management Unit (WRMU) in the Loddon Cams which is assessed as having water available.

#### Stage 4 Assessing the significance of any effects on the Thames Basin Heaths and Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Common SAC

4.19 The Thames Basin Heaths SPA comprises a series of lowland heathland areas across Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire and is around 8,274ha in area. It comprises 13 SSSI units of which 3 form the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Common SAC. The habitat is formed predominately from heath and scrub with areas of coniferous woodland, broad leaved deciduous forest, bogs, marshes and inland water bodies. Around 75% of the SPA is publicly accessible and covers approximately 23% of the borough of Surrey Heath.

4.20 The SPA is home to three species of migratory Annex1 birds, Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) and Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undate*). The birds are ground or near ground and are susceptible to predation and disturbance.

4.21 The environmental conditions which support the European features of interest are:-

- Appropriate management
- Management of disturbance during breeding season (March to July)
- Minimal air pollution
- Absence or control of urbanisation effects, such as fires and the introduction of invasive non- native species
- Maintenance of appropriate water levels
- Maintenance of water quality

4.22 Table 1.4 below sets out the assessment of the significance of any effects on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Common SAC.

**Table 1.4 Assessment of Potential Effects**

Effect	Assessment	Conclusion
Residential Pressure and Urbanisation	<p>Recreation and urbanisation impacts are relevant in terms of residential development only. The main issues relating to the conservation objectives and the integrity of the SPA /SAC as a whole are; fragmentation, disturbance, fires, cats, dogs (as a result of nest disturbance and enrichment) prevention of management, vandalism and trampling.</p> <p>Joint working with Natural England and the affected authorities has agreed a mechanism (adopted as the TBH SPA Avoidance Strategy Supplementary Panning Document by the relevant authorities) to avoid impacts to the SPA from recreational activities in the form of the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and from the impacts of urbanisation by allowing no net additional dwellings within 400m</p>	<p>The Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land or sites for net additional dwellings within 5km of the SPA. Whilst parts of the Plan area falls within the 400m zone the avoidance mechanism which prevent residential development within 400m of the SPA indicates that there is no pathway either for indirect recreational impacts or direct urbanising impacts arising from the Plan.</p> <p>As such, in combination with other plans and projects it is considered that at the time of this assessment that the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan will not give rise to likely significant effects on the</p>

	of the SPA. In addition Access Management to the SPA is managed by Natural England.	Thames Basin Heaths SPA either alone or in combination.
Air Quality	The Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land or sites for residential development. However development in Windlesham ward could give rise to additional traffic and in turn traffic emissions.	The level of development anticipated to arise from the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan, which only covers the Windlesham ward, will not be considered to be significant in terms of air quality impacts.
Water resource	The Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land or sites for residential development.	The west of Surrey Heath (including Windlesham) is located within Water Resource Management Unit (WRMU) in the Loddon Cams which is assessed as having water available.
Water Framework Directive impact on the Hale/Mill Bourne classified as moderate ecological status	The Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land or sites for residential development	The level of development anticipated to arise from the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan, which only covers the Windlesham ward, will not be considered to be significant in terms of ecological status of the Hale/Mill Bourne.
Flood Zones	The Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land or sites for residential development	The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for residential use .In addition residential development is likely to be inappropriate in these flood zone areas

## Conclusion

It is the conclusion of this HRA that following a screening assessment it can be ascertained that in light of the information available at the time of the assessment, that the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan **will not** give rise to significant effects on the Thames Basin Heaths/ Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Common SAC either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. As such, given the findings of this screening assessment it is considered that a full appropriate assessment is not required.

## 5.0 The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Process

5.1 To determine whether or not an SEA is required it is necessary to undertake a 'screening' process. For certain types of plans or programmes the requirement for an SEA is mandatory. These include:-

- Plans which have been determined to require an assessment under the Habitats Directive. Section 4 of this document has determined that a full appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive is not required for the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan.

- Plans which are prepared for town and country planning or other land use and which set the framework for future development consent for those projects listed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive.

5.1 The main factor in determining whether a plan or project requires an SEA is whether it will have significant environmental effects.

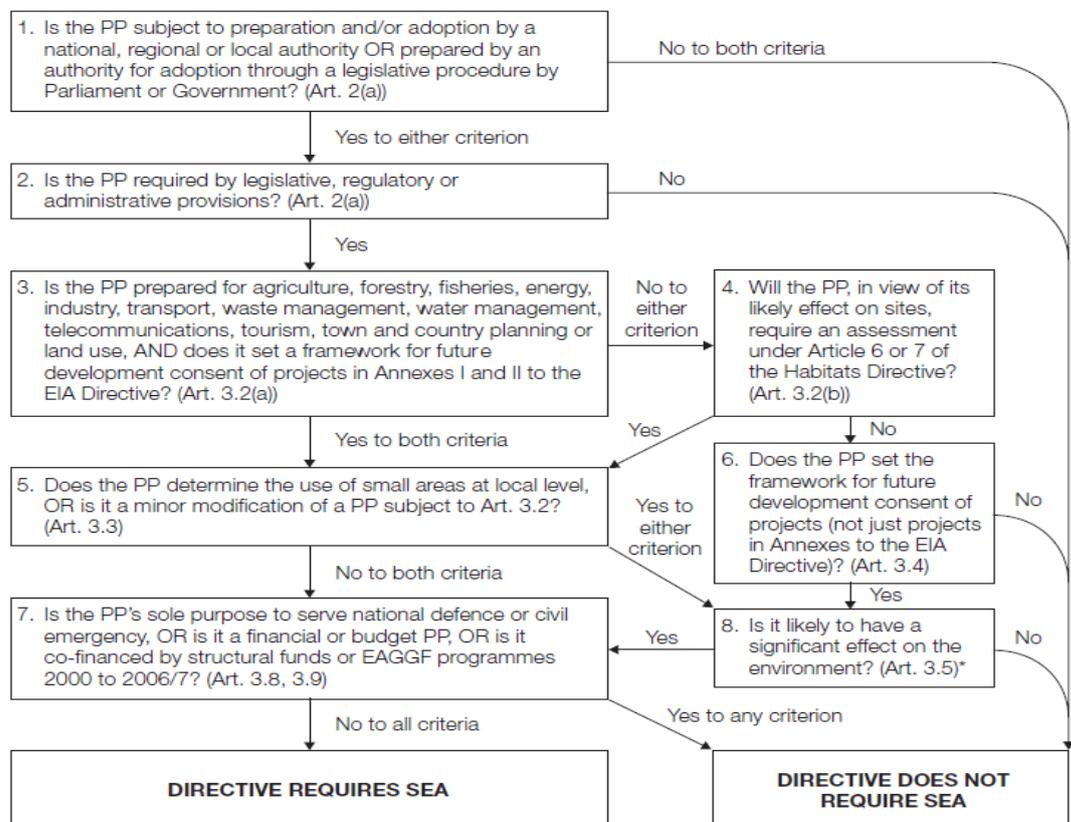
5.2 This Screening Report sets out the Council's determination under Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004 or whether or not a SEA is required. The Council will consult with the three statutory bodies, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, and take their views into account before issuing a final determination.

5.3 The Screening Report has been undertaken in two stages. The first stage has regard to the government guidance flowchart set out in 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' which is reproduced below. Stage 2 of screening report considers whether the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan will have significant environmental effects when considered against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations and Annex II of the Directive in annex ii of the Directive the Assessment.

**Figure 1 A Practical Guide to Strategic Environmental Directive Flow Chart**

**Figure 2 – Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes**

This diagram is intended as a guide to the criteria for application of the Directive to plans and programmes (PPs). It has no legal status.



\*The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.

**Table 1.5 SEA Screening Step1**

<b>Stage in Flowchart Guidance</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Reason for Decision</b>
Is the Plan or Programme 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 (Article 2 (a))	yes	The provision to prepare and adopt a Neighbourhood Plan is set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared by Windlesham Parish Council and 'made' by Surrey Heath BC. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) regulations 2012 set out the preparation and adoption process for Neighbourhood Plans. <b>Go to Stage 2</b>
Is the Plan or Programme required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions (Article 2(a))	No	Whilst there is no mandatory requirement to prepare or adopt a Neighbourhood Plan once the plan is 'made' then it will form part of the Development Plan for Surrey Heath. As such the possibility of significant effects should be considered. <b>Go to Stage 3</b>
Is the Plan or Programme 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 the framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive (Article 3.2 (a))	No	Whilst the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for town and country planning or land use it does not propose sites or land for allocation and as such does not set a future framework for development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II of the EIA Directive. <b>Go to Stage 4</b>
Will the plan or programme, in view of likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or & of the Habitats Directive (Article 3.2 (b))	No	Section 4 of this report has determined that an Appropriate Assessment is not required <b>Go to Stage 6</b>
Does the plan or programme determine the use of small areas at a local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Article 3.2 (Article 3.3)	Not Applicable	No reason required.
Does the plan or programme set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive) (Article 3.4)	Yes	The Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan does contain policies which could set the framework for projects outside of the EIA Directive. For example with respect to small scale infilling or redevelopment. <b>Go to Stage 8</b>
Is the plan or programme's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP. OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000-2006/7 (Article 3.8 and 3.9)	Not applicable	No reason required
Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment (Article	No	The effects on the environment and whether these are significant is

3.5)		considered in Table 1.6.
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**Table 1.6 SEA Screening Step 2**

<b>Criteria from Annexe II of the SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations</b>		
<b>Characteristics of the plan or programme</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Significant effect</b>
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 Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites or land for future development consent. Whilst the plan considers the possibility of reusing sites for housing it does not allocate sites but rather sets a framework for decision making. The policies generally are design led policies.	No
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Development Plan for Surrey Heath. However it is the Surrey Heath Local Plan which will identify the strategic approach to new development in the District.	No
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	Although not set out in policy the objectives for the Plan include minimising the impact of development on the natural and built environment and protecting biodiversity.	No
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	There are potential recreational or urbanising impacts to the Thames Basin Heaths. However the Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites or land for development for net additional dwellings. As such it will not have any significant effects on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA in terms of recreational or urbanising effects.	No
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community (EU) legislation on the environment ( for example plans or programmes linked to waste management or water protection	The Neighbourhood plan does not deal with water management or water protection and therefore this is not relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan	No
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected</b>		
The probability, frequency, duration and reversibility of the effects.	Policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are largely design led to protect or enhance the character of the area and built environment. The effects are therefore likely to be positive and last beyond the plan period. The Neighbourhood Plan does not bring forward development plans or projects	No
The Cumulative Nature of the Effects	The Neighbourhood Plan policies are generally design led and seek to protect or enhance the environment. Along with the conservation areas and polices in the Local Plan (Core Strategy 2011-2028) any	No

	cumulative effects are likely to be positive.	
The Transboundary effects	The Neighbourhood Plan only covers the Windlesham Ward of Windlesham parish. Due to its limited geographical scope there will not be trans boundary effects	No
The risks to human health or the environment	None	No
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects including geographical area and size of population likely to be affected.	The Neighbourhood Plan only covers the Windlesham Ward of Windlesham parish. Due to its local scale and nature any effects would be limited in magnitude.	No
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</li> <li>• Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values</li> <li>• Intensive land use</li> </ul>	Area of the Neighbourhood Plan is covered by conservation areas and the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. However the plan polices will not impact on the value or vulnerability of the area likely to be affected as they are generally design led policies. The HRA screening assessment has determined no significant effects in respect of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.	No
The effects on areas or landscapes which have recognised national, Community or international protection status	The HRA screening assessment has determined no significant effects in respect of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.	No
<b>Conclusion</b>	It is concluded that the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects and therefore an SEA is <b>not</b> required	

5.4 Having regard to the Screening process undertaken Surrey Heath Borough Council determines that the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan does not require an SEA under the SEA Directive and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004). This is for the following reasons:-

- The Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan does not set the framework for future consents under the EIA Directive;
- An Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive is not required;
- The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate development or set a development target. The proposed polices are in general concerned with the design and character of the area to enhance and protect the built and natural environment. As such there is no pathway or mechanism for significant environmental effects to arise from the Neighbourhood Plan.

## Conclusion

5.5 This screening statement concludes that the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant effects in relation to any criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations. As such it does not need to be subject to a SEA Report. The Screening Assessment also concludes that there are no likely significant effects likely to occur with regards to the integrity of European sites and as such a full Habitats Regulations Assessment is not required.

5.6 Consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England on this screening statement was undertaken between the **16<sup>th</sup> February 2017** and the **20<sup>th</sup> March 2017**. The screening statement has been amended to take account of comments made.

## 6.0 Consultation Responses

Statutory Consultee	Comment	SHBC response
Natural England	Natural England agrees with the conclusions of the above screening report. Therefore, the full Habitats Regulation Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for this plan	Noted
Historic England	Confirm that we agree with the Council's opinion that SEA is not required to inform the plan's development given the absence of intention to allocate land for development and the benign impact of other plan policies. We reserve the right to review this opinion should the plan change materially from the current pre-submission version	Noted. Any material change to the Neighbourhood Plan would require further screening under SEA Regulations and Habitats Regulations
Environment Agency	The Mill Bourne is also assessed under the Water Framework Directive. Assessment of the potential impacts of the Neighbourhood Plan should also be included in this SEA/ SA appraisal	The consultation was on the screening statement in respect of SEA regulations and Habitat regulations. It was not a Strategic Environmental Assessment or Sustainability Appraisal of the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan. The Screening statement has now considered the impact of the Neighbourhood Plan on the Hale/Mill Bourne and concludes that .The level of development anticipated to arise from the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan, which only covers the Windlesham

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		ward, will not be considered to be significant in terms of ecological status of the Hale/Mill Bourne
Environment Agency	Neighbourhood Plan contains areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3	The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for residential use .In addition residential development is likely to be inappropriate in these flood zone areas.