

Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement of Reasons

This statement has been produced to comply with Regulation 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

A neighbourhood plan is required to meet a number of basic conditions, one of which being it must not breach and be otherwise compatible with EU and Human Rights obligations. This requires neighbourhood plans to fully consider the requirements of the SEA regulations¹ which transpose the EU's SEA directive² 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.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report for the draft Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan was submitted in August 2015 to North Dorset District Council, the 'responsible authority', to determine whether or not the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.

The District Council considers that the process followed to produce the Screening Report complies with Regulation 9(2)(a) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, thereby taking into account the criteria specified in Schedule 1 of the Regulations. On 17th August 2015 this Assessment was made available to the statutory consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and Environment Agency), as is required under Regulation 9(2)(b).

The Screening Report finds that the draft Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and consequently that a strategic environmental assessment is not required.

The initial view of North Dorset District Council was that an SEA would likely be required in respect of the impact of the plan on the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. However, in light of the final responses from the statutory consultation bodies (see Appendix) and the preparation of the Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan Heritage Assessment January 2016 as evidence that addresses initial concerns of Historic England, the District Council is now satisfied that an SEA is not required in this instance.

The District Council therefore now agrees with the conclusion of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report that there are unlikely to be significant adverse environmental effects resulting from the draft Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan. North Dorset District Council therefore considers that the draft Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan does not require an SEA for the following reasons:

¹ Known fully as The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

² Known fully as Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

- The focus and scope of the draft Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan is modest in scale.
- The only likely adverse environmental impact is the potential loss of 0.7 ha of Grade 2 agricultural land, which is not considered to be significant.
- Whilst development is proposed within the draft neighbourhood plan, any effects are considered unlikely to be significant on the environment and any impact is likely to be localised.
- Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency are satisfied that an SEA is not required. In particular North Dorset District Council notes that the Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan Heritage Assessment – January 2016 has addressed Historic England's concerns

NOTE: The statement is based on the information provided. If the contents of the plan are revised and/or there is a material change in the environmental characteristics in the locality (e.g. the designation of any additional nature conservation or other environmental sites), then the comments contained in this statement would need to be reconsidered in order to take account of the changes.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Schedule 2, paragraph 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 sets out the prescribed basic condition that the making of a neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).

The Shillingstone Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report for the draft Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan identifies European sites within a 20 km search area. The District Council has consulted Natural England as to the requirement for a habitats regulation assessment.

Natural England's response is:

'In advising your authority on the requirements relating to Habitats Regulations Assessment, I can confirm that based on the information provided:

- *the proposals are not necessary for the management of the European site*
- *that the proposals are unlikely to have a significant effect on any European site, and can therefore be screened out from any requirement for further assessment.'*

John Stobart
 Planning and Conservation Lead Advisor
 Natural England
 22-03-16

Anne Goldsmith
 Planning Policy Officer
 30-3-16

APPENDIX

SEA Statutory Consultation Bodies Responses

1. Natural England – email dated 20-8-15
2. Environment Agency – letter dated 11-9-15
3. Historic England – email dated 26-1-16

1.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 August 2015 10:24
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SEA Screening Opinion - Shillingstone

Philip

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the need for an SEA for the emerging Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan.

From our perspective I am satisfied that that an SEA would not be required. International and nationally designated wildlife sites are unlikely to be affected and while one of the proposed development sites is immediately adjacent the Dorset AONB I am satisfied that a scheme could be implemented that would not harm the special qualities of the AONB.

However, I have requested a phase 1 walk over survey of the proposed development site. In our view this information is needed to ensure the proposed developments do not support significant ecological interests that would trigger the need to avoid harm under the NPPF. This need not be onerous, simply an ecologist visiting the sites, taking a few pictures and identifying any potential constraints.

Should you wish to discuss please feel free to call

Regards

[REDACTED]

Please note that my working days are now Monday to Thursday

www.gov.uk/natural-england

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[REDACTED]

Think before you print.

The views expressed above are personal unless stated otherwise. NDDC is not liable for any consequences of accessing this electronic transmission.

Mr Nick Cardnell - Neighbourhood
Planning Officer
North Dorset District Council
Nordon Salisbury Road
Blandford Forum
Dorset
DT11 7LL

Our ref: WX/2006/000033/OR-
04/PO1-L01

Your ref:

Date: 11 September 2015

Dear Mr Cardnell

Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan – SEA Screening Opinion

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the above mentioned Neighbourhood Plan and associated SEA Screening Opinion. We have no objection to the information included in the scoping report, we have reviewed it and have the following comments / advice to make.

Screening Opinion

We note the conclusion of the Screening Opinion produced to support the plan that SAE is not required. We can confirm that we are satisfied with the findings that plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and that SEA is not required. We have the following additional comments.

Neighbourhood Plan

Flood Risk

We support that the document makes reference to different sources of flooding in this area. We would highlight that the Environment Agency has produced surface water maps that may show risk to some of the sites. Your Local Authority Drainage engineer may have further information on this surface water issue.

Contaminated land

We would also highlight that there may have been other historic uses of sites that may have caused contamination. We support that this has been identified for the Antell's Haulage Yard Site, but we would highlight that this consideration should be given to all sites identified.

Biodiversity

We support the objective to retain and enhance green space. We highlight that these green spaces and others should be enhanced where possible to incorporate additional


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spaces for people and wildlife.

Any opportunities to provide enhanced links to the river and enhancements to the river would contribute towards the Water Framework Directive objective to improve the ecological status of the River Stour.

Please note that beyond the SSSI designation there are protected species in the area and riverine environment.

Water Resources and air quality, noise and light

Whilst we support the Neighbourhood Plan making reference minimizing water use to prevent the unnecessary waste of water within new development which reduces any potential impact on the foul drainage network capacity.

We would recommend that you also consult with Wessex Water in regards to the foul drainage capacity and any potential issues.

We support the protection of natural environment from light pollution as this can impact on protected species such as bats and otters.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

MR MICHAEL HOLM
Planning Advisor - Sustainable Places



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 January 2016 15:54
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SEA Screening Opinion - Shillingstone

Hi Jo

I have now been able to go through the updated report and can confirm that it presents a strong narrative in its scope and presentation of evidence which supports the conclusion that the Plan will not generate any likely significant effects on the historic environment and is in conformity with the historic environment policy provisions of the NPPF.

Congratulations!

I think the structure of the report and the logical flow from stated heritage assets and their significance through to an assessment of proposals and their potential for impact on that significance, individually and collectively/cumulatively, provides an evidence trail which admirably demonstrates compliance with the necessary statutory considerations.

This approach can be replicated as and when necessary. It will be important to bear in mind of course that the nature and level of appropriate/necessary evidence will vary from case to case according to the specifics of the heritage assets and their respective significance.

Good luck to you and the community from here on!

Kind regards

David

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We have launched four new, paid-for Enhanced Advisory Services, providing enhancements to our existing free planning and listing services. For more information on the new Enhanced Advisory Services as well as our free services go to our website: HistoricEngland.org.uk/EAS

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