

Date: 24 December 2020
Our ref: 335747
Your ref: Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan



George Pavey
East Herts District Council

BY EMAIL ONLY

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
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Crewe
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CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr Pavey

Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 30 November 2020 which was received by Natural England on 30 November 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.

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 (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 Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), 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.

However we do advise that any planning applications should assess impacts on the Hertford Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

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 new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Jacqui Salt
Consultations Team

George Pavey

From: HNL Sustainable Places [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 December 2020 11:54
To: George Pavey
Subject: [External] RE: Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report

Dear George,

Thank you for consulting us on the SEA screening opinion / draft SEA screening report for the Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan.

Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, we find that there are areas for the protection of groundwater within the neighbourhood plan area. In particular we note that:

- There are areas designated as Source Protection Zones that lie within your plan area.

On the basis that future development is designed to not cause a negative impact on the sensitive aspects of the environment highlighted above, we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints.

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

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/consider-environment-neighbourhood-plans/>

Kind regards

Chris Padley StMIEnvSc.

Planning Strategy Specialist, Hertfordshire and North London Sustainable Places

Environment Agency | Alchemy, Bessemer Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 1HE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Pronouns: he/him/his ([why is this here?](#))



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enabling people to be themselves
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network



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racial equality

Does Your Proposal Have Environmental Issues or Opportunities? Speak To Us Early!

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George Pavey

From: James, Edward [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 February 2021 18:09
To: George Pavey
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [External] RE: RE: SEA Screening for Hertford Heath NP

Dear George,

Thank you for your email, and for your phone call.

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. We regret that we did not have capacity to provide advice in December 2020.

We therefore welcome this second opportunity to review this request for a Screening Opinion. For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question, "Is it (the Hertford Heath neighbourhood plan) likely to have a significant effect on the historic environment?". Our comments are based on the information supplied with the Screening Opinion, which included a draft of the neighbourhood plan and its appendices.

The supporting information (screening report and draft neighbourhood plan) supplied with the consultation indicates that within the plan area there is a range of designated historic environment assets. Of particular note is of course Haileybury School and its associated buildings and significant landscape setting. There are also a number of other listed buildings within the village of Hertford Heath, the core of which is also designated as a conservation area. There are also likely to be other features of local historic, architectural or archaeological value, and consideration should also be given to the wider historic landscape. The documentation indicates that the Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan proposes to allocate one site for housing.

Site HH-H-3 is located to the south of the village, on the south-west side of London Road, and comprises a mixture of presently undeveloped land and land containing 10 houses that would be demolished as part of the scheme. These houses are not of heritage interest. Located adjacent to and either side of the access to the site onto London Road are Rose Cottage and its railings and gate (both independently listed at Grade II) and Highwood (Grade II). South east of the site and oriented such that it enjoys a visually inter-connected relationship with the site is The White House (Grade II). The construction of the principal access to the site would result in a direct impact to the immediate vicinity of Rose Cottage, and is adjacent to the boundary with Highwood. The development of the site is considered likely to have a negative impact on the immediate setting of these heritage assets. We consider it unlikely, however, that there would be an impact on the setting of Haileybury or its associated subsidiary structures and landscape.

Historic England do not object in principle to the site allocation. However, given the likely significant effects upon the historic environment, and having regard to Schedule 1 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 Historic England does consider that that a Strategic Environmental Assessment will be required. We note that the draft plan contains policies aimed at conserving the historic environment, and encouraging good design for this development. This is strongly welcomed, but does not have a direct bearing on whether or not an SEA is necessary.

We are not aware of the response of the other two statutory consultees to this consultation. However, were Historic England's the only response that considers it necessary to screen the Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan in for SEA, we would draw your attention to Paragraph: 030 Reference ID: 11-030-20150209 of the Planning Practice Guidance, which states that an SEA should focus only on what is needed to assess the likely significant effects of the neighbourhood plan.

Having regard to this, we consider that an approach similar to that taken by the Parish of Braughing, where the SEA exercise was tightly focused on the specific issues we raised, would meet our expectations of the process. We recognise also that this is for the local planning authority to decide. Any assessment should demonstrate that it has been informed by a proportionate Heritage Impact Assessment, as should the Site Assessment currently appended to the neighbourhood plan.

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.

Historic England strongly advises that the conservation and archaeological staff of East Herts District Council and where appropriate Hertfordshire County Council are consulted during the preparation of the plan and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on; local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to any 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.

We should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by you with your correspondence below, and in December (identical information). 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.

Please note that I have copied in Jacqueline Veater for her information.

Please do contact me, either via email or the numbers below, if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

Edward

Edward James
Historic Places Adviser - East of England
Historic England

Direct Line: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]



Historic England

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