

George Pavey

From: HNL Sustainable Places [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 June 2021 09:48
To: George Pavey
Subject: [External] RE: Bishop's Stortford Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Request (NP for All Saints, Central, South and part of Thorley) - EA Response

Dear George,

Thank you for consulting us on the Strategic Environmental Assessment screening report for the Bishop's Stortford Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and part of Thorley. Apologies for the delay in response.

Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, we find that there are areas of fluvial flood risk and watercourses within the neighbourhood plan area. In particular, we note that the boundary does extend into areas of Flood Zones 2 and 3.

On the basis that future development is steered away from the sensitive aspects of the environment highlighted, we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints. Nevertheless we recommend the inclusion of relevant policies to cover the management of flood risk.

We encourage you to seek ways in which your neighbourhood plan can improve the local environment. 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 [here](#).

Kind regards,

Becki

Becki Ingram

Planning Advisor, Hertfordshire & North London Sustainable Places

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

Pronouns: she/her ([why is this here?](#))

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George Pavey

From: Marsh, Andrew [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 June 2021 11:32
To: George Pavey
Cc: Marsh, Andrew
Subject: [External] BISHOPS STORTFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Request

Importance: High

Dear George

Re: BISHOPS STORTFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Request (NP for All Saints, Central, South and part of Thorley, Silverleys and Meads)

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the Bishops Stortford Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Request for All Saints, Central South and Part of Thorley, Silverleys and Meads. Having reviewed both Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports I can confirm that we support the conclusion that there is no requirement to conduct a Strategic Environment Assessment on the Neighbourhood Plan. I would be grateful if you would confirm receipt of this email.

Best wishes

Andrew Marsh BSc MA MRTPI
Historic Environment Planning Adviser
Development Advice | East of England
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Date: 21 May 2021
Our ref: 352672
Your ref: Bishops Stortford Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Request (NP for All Saints, Central, South and part of Thorley)



George Pavey
East Herts District Council
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear George Pavey

BISHOPS STORTFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (2 of 2) - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Request (NP for All Saints, Central, South and part of Thorley)

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 10 May 2021 which was received by Natural England on 10 May 2021

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

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.

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

Dominic Rogers
Consultations Team