

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion: Great Barton Neighbourhood Plan

May 2020

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Screening Report is to determine whether the content of the Great Barton Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2041, requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. This report also contains a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening to determine whether the plan would have a likely significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects as required by the Habitats Directive.

1.2 Great Barton is a Local Service Centre located in West Suffolk to the north-east of Bury St Edmunds. The Great Barton Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) is a Neighbourhood Development Plan which is being prepared by Great Barton Parish Council (a qualifying body as defined by the Localism Act 2011). The Plan has now reached the Submission consultation stage of preparation. The screening was carried out for the pre-submission version of the plan (pre-submission draft, January 2020). Some minor changes have been made to the plan between pre-submission and submission stage which do not affect the outcome of the screening. The information on the Plan is in section 2.

1.3 The legislative background, set out in section 3, outlines the regulations that require this screening exercise. Section 5 provides a screening assessment of the significant environmental effects of the Neighbourhood Plan, section 6 is the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening and section 7 is the screening outcome.

2.0 Key information on the emerging neighbourhood plan:

Vision and objectives

2.1 The underlying vision set out in section 4.1 of the Neighbourhood Plan report is intended to be all-encompassing in order to achieve the aims and objectives expressed by residents through the development of the Neighbourhood Plan as follows:

By 2041 Great Barton will be a thriving and safe rural community that provides for the needs of existing and future residents whilst respecting, enhancing and sustaining the special character and environment of the village.

To deliver the Vision, the Neighbourhood Plan has the following Objectives that have provided a benchmark for the preparation of its Planning Policies.

<p>Environment Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To preserve and enhance the character of the area • To protect and enhance important open green spaces and wooded areas within the parish • To ensure development is well designed and complements the diverse character of the parish • To maintain the distinctive views and visual connectivity with the surrounding countryside from within the built-up area and protect the agricultural landscape • To protect the identity of the present village and prevent coalescence with the future Severals, Bury St Edmunds and surrounding villages • To protect and enhance biodiversity • To minimise the impact of development on the best and most versatile agricultural land • To reduce the environmental impact of new buildings through the use of energy saving technologies
<p>Housing Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable local people to stay in or return to the village throughout their lifetime and as their needs change • To ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing to meet the needs of the Parish • To maintain a strong community by ensuring a mix of housing types and integration between different types and tenures of housing within the village
<p>Business and Employment Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support small-scale business creation and retention • Encourage the provision of services and infrastructure that enables business development
<p>Community Facilities Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect existing community, retail, education and leisure facilities and support further growth where appropriate • To ensure that sufficient community and leisure facilities are maintained to serve the Parish including new complementary provision in association with new development • To encourage multi-generational community and leisure facilities
<p>Transport Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote measures to improve the safety of the roads and footways through the Parish • To provide improvements to footpath connections through the Parish including measures to enhance pedestrian safety and safe crossing points • To maintain, develop and enhance cycle routes through the Parish and beyond • To ensure that new development provides sufficient parking • To minimise the impact of future development on the existing highway network • To encourage non-car modes, including public transport

2.2 The Neighbourhood Plan includes 15 Policies as set out in table 1 below.

Neighbourhood area

2.3 The Great Barton Neighbourhood Plan Area was designated by St Edmundsbury Borough Council in June 2016. Due to changes to the Great Barton Parish boundary following a community governance review, Great Barton

Parish Council submitted a new application to designate a revised neighbourhood Plan Area to cover the revised Parish area which was confirmed on 14 January 2019. This is the area that the Neighbourhood Plan covers. The plan Area includes the whole of the Parish of Great Barton defined by the Parish boundary and is illustrated in section 1 of the Plan (Map 1 on page 5).

Policies

2.4 The Neighbourhood plan includes fifteen policies which seek to control land use. The policies have been reviewed to identify those that seek to allocate sites for development. In general, the policies are focused on the protection of, or support for the existing environment, community facilities and land use or environmental improvements. A summary of the policies is presented in table 1 below.

2.5 Four policies in the plan relate specifically to development; one of those policies allocates land for development. The allocation area, in policy GB3, is the same as that already allocated in Vision 2031. However, the capacity of the site is increased to 'up to 150'

Table 1 Summary of policies in the Great Barton neighbourhood Plan

Policy Number	Policy Title	Policy allocates development	Notes
GB1	Spatial strategy	Y	Allows for future development to occur within the settlement boundary, or to support rural uses or in conformity with DM27 of the JDMPD ¹ – the policy supports development but does not allocate land
GB2	Housing delivery	Y	Provides for up to 150 dwellings in the plan period and sets out that these would be within the allocated land (GB3), the settlement boundaries or conversion of a redundant or disused barn - the policy supports development but does not allocate land
GB3	Land at School Road (The Triangle)	Y	Allocates 12.4 hectares of land for 150 dwellings, community facilities, expansion of the primary school, and recreational open space – the land is allocated in the Rural Vision 2031 ² however the capacity is increased
GB4	Housing mix	N	Sets housing mix parameters for developments of more than 10 dwellings

¹ Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Local Plan, Joint Development Management Policies Document February 2015

² St Edmundsbury Borough Council Rural Vision 2031, September 2014

Policy Number	Policy Title	Policy allocates development	Notes
GB5	Housing design	N	Sets out housing design principles
GB6	Retention of existing employment premises	Y	Lists the existing employment premises and allows retention and intensification subject to environmental considerations
GB7	Community facilities	N	Protects existing community facilities and supports new, subject to consideration of effects and location in relation to the existing
GB8	Sport and recreation facilities	N	Protects existing facilities, requires proposals to be determined in accordance with DM42 and supports new facilities subject to environmental considerations
GB9	Local green spaces	N	Designates and protects local green spaces
GB10	The Park special character area	N	Identifies 'The Park' area and protects the character
GB11	Hall Park special character area	N	Identifies 'Hall Park' and protects the character
GB12	Development design considerations	N	Sets out a development design checklist
GB13	Sustainable construction practices	N	Supports use of best practice in energy conservation measures
GB14	Buildings of local significance	N	Protects buildings of local significance including buildings, structures, features and gardens of local interest
GB15	Public Rights of Way	N	Supports improvements and extension of the PRow network where biodiversity is protected and enhanced

3.0 Legislative background

3.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment legislation is European Union Directive 2001/42/EC4 which requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans or programmes that could have a significant environmental effect. This was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, commonly referred to as the SEA Regulations.

3.2 To decide whether a neighbourhood plan might have significant environmental effects, it must be assessed (screened) at an early stage of the plan's preparation according to the requirements set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These include a requirement to consult the environmental assessment consultation bodies.

3.3 Where it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), a statement of reasons for the determination should be prepared. A copy of the statement must be submitted with the neighbourhood plan proposal and made available to the independent examiner.

3.4 If likely significant environmental effects are identified, a strategic environmental assessment needs to be carried out and an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of Regulation 12 of those regulations.

3.5 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, Great Barton Parish Council (the qualifying body) has requested West Suffolk District Council to consider whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan is required due to significant environmental effects.

3.6 Sustainability Appraisal is not legally required for Neighbourhood Plans, but it must be demonstrated how the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development in the area. It is down to the qualifying body to demonstrate how its Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to achieving sustainable development.

3.7 Strategic Environmental Assessment is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental effects of a plan before it is made. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This assessment must determine whether significant effects on a European site can be ruled out based on objective information.

3.8 European Sites are defined in Regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017 and include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA), potential Special Protection Areas, and possible Special Areas of Conservation. The National Planning Policy Framework requires decision makers to apply the same protection and process to listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

3.9 If the conclusion of the HRA screening is that the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site then an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan for the site, in view of the site's conservation objectives, must be undertaken. If a plan is one which has been determined to require an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive then it will normally also require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

4.0 Screening process

4.1 The sites' environmental constraints are set out in Appendix 1 of this document.

4.2 The criteria from Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations has been used in the consideration of environmental effects.

5.0 Screening Assessment

5.1 A Neighbourhood Plan may have a significant effect on the environment depending on the proposals within it and that a case by case assessment was required. The criteria for undertaking this assessment are drawn from Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC (Annex 11) and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 as set out in Table 2 below:

Table 2 Consideration of likely significant effects, using the criteria from Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
The characteristics of the plan having regard to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources; 	<p>The Great Barton neighbourhood plan includes an allocation of land for development. It does not allocate any further land for employment. In addition, it supports a number of different development proposals across the plan area. In this respect, the plan does set a framework for projects and other activities, however the nature and size of these are limited in extent and the potential for an effect on the environment resulting from the Plan is unlikely to be significant.</p> <p>In relation to The Severals Strategic site, the principle that development will come forward within the Neighbourhood Plan period is already established and beyond the influence of the Neighbourhood Plan and its evidence base. Additionally, any significant effects on the environment resulting from that proposals would have already been identified at the local plan stage which was accompanied by a SEA.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy; 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan provides policies for the Plan area, relevant to a local level only. The Great Barton Neighbourhood Plan must be in conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan for the former St Edmundsbury area of West Suffolk. It does not influence other plans.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development; 	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan is required to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The plan protects locally important environmental assets and supports community facilities and infrastructure including new footpath links. Policy GB13 supports current best practise in energy conservation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - environmental problems relevant to the plan; 	<p>The environmental impact of the proposals within the Great Barton Neighbourhood Plan is likely to be minimal due to the scale of development that would come forward as a result of the policies. The location and form of any development will be restricted by the settlement boundary, which incorporates the land allocation. Any potential environmental problems, including those associated with loss of arable land (to facilitate the housing in GB3) and associated with air pollution are likely to be of a local scale and could be tackled through the implementation of the plan. The policy content of the adopted Local Plan of the former SEBC area of West Suffolk will additionally apply to any proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area. These policies have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection). 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is in conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. The Local Plan has had regard to European Community legislation on the environment.</p>
<p>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects, 	<p>Development that could come forward through the plan would in general be of such a small scale that any effects are unlikely to be significant in terms of duration, frequency, and reversibility. The site allocated for 150 properties is already allocated for 40 dwellings in the Rural Vision 2031 and was subject to SA/SEA³ at that time. The site scored well against SA objectives; the conclusion of the scoping highlighted the key constraints on the site as water infrastructure and the potential impact on a nearby listed building which could be tackled through the implementation of the plan.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the cumulative nature of the effects, 	<p>Other plans and projects in the vicinity of the plan area have been reviewed. Policies in the plan and policies in other Local Plan documents that would continue to be relevant protect local environmental assets; cumulative effects are unlikely to be significant.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the transboundary nature of the effects, 	<p>The scale and potential location of the development in the Plan is unlikely to lead to transboundary effects</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents), 	<p>The level of development in the Plan is unlikely to lead to additional risks to human health or the environment.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected), 	<p>The potential development that could occur as a result of the Plan is limited in its geographical area; any effects are likely to be local and are unlikely to be significant</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, - intensive land-use 	<p>The environmental sensitivities in the Plan area and immediate vicinity are listed in Appendix 1. The Plan includes policies that protect the local environmental assets; other Local Plan documents would also continue to be relevant. The environmental effects arising from the Plan are unlikely to be significant.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status. 	<p>Nationally and Internationally designated nature conservation sites are listed in Appendix 1. There would be no direct effects on these sites, policies in the plan and in the Local Plan protect landscape features, and the level of development is unlikely to pose a risk to these sites. HRA screening below has screened out likely significant effects on any International sites. There are no designated landscapes in the vicinity of the Plan area.</p>

³ St Edmundsbury Borough Council Local Plan Rural Vision 2031 Final Main Modifications Sustainability Appraisal Note September 2014 and Sustainability Appraisal Report Main Report June 2013

6.0 HRA Screening

6.1 There are no *Natura 2000* sites within the Great Barton Neighbourhood Plan Area. European sites outside of the Neighbourhood Plan Area but within 20km include Fenland Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (nearest component is 11km), Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA) (nearest component is 5.5km), Breckland SAC (nearest component is 11km), and Rex Graham Reserve SAC (15km).

6.2 Recent HRA work in West Suffolk has highlighted possible effects associated with the international sites as follows:

- direct loss or physical damage due to construction;
- disturbance and other urban edge effects from construction or occupation of buildings;
- disturbance from construction or operation of roads;
- recreational pressure;
- water quantity;
- water quality; and
- air quality.

6.3 There is no potential for land-take as all the sites are outside of the Plan area. The scale of development arising from the Plan is unlikely to lead to significant issues in relation to air quality, water quality and water supply as any development which is proposed is within or adjacent to the existing settlement boundary and would benefit from the existing infrastructure available.

6.4 The scale of development likely to occur as a result of the Plan is unlikely to lead to disturbance and other urban edge effects from construction or occupation of buildings or the construction or operation of roads.

6.5 Policy CS2 of the Core Strategy for the former St Edmundsbury area of West Suffolk states that development which is likely to lead to an adverse effect the integrity of Breckland SPA will not be allowed. The plan does not propose development within the 1500m buffers around Breckland SPA.

6.6 A study of visitors to, primarily, Thetford Forest (a component site within Breckland SPA) was carried out by Footprint Ecology in 2010⁴. This showed that visitors overwhelmingly travelled by car to visit the Forest, mostly for walking with or without dogs, or for cycling. Around 56% of visitors visited weekly or more often, and so would be using the Forest as convenient local greenspace for their activities. There is concern that increased development in the vicinity could lead to increased visitor pressure. The study went on to advise that development within 10km of Breckland visitor facilities (including car parks) is likely to result in increased access, and therefore potentially increased recreational disturbance. Any new housing within that zone should be identified as development that would be likely to have a significant effect as a result of recreational disturbance upon the SPA, in the absence of any counteracting measures and taking a precautionary approach. It is also likely that, the closer new housing is to the

⁴ Fearnley, H., Liley, D. and Cruickshanks, K. (2010). Visitor survey from results Breckland SPA. Footprint Ecology.

Forest, the greater the additional recreational pressure will be. Natural England has advised that a distance of 7.5km should be considered.

6.7 The HRA⁵ to the Vision 2031 Local Plan considered the potential for an increase in visitors to Breckland SPA from the allocated site based on a straight line distance of 9.5km between the site and the closest car park giving access to Thetford Forest within Breckland SPA, and a greater distance from any heathland component. It concluded that the development would be unlikely to lead to significant effects. The allocation includes for recreational open space and children's play and community facilities and the policy specifically requires safe and sustainable connections (including road crossing points) to the wider public rights of way network and village facilities. These measures would provide local recreational opportunities for new residents as well as existing Great Barton residents. The scale of development in the plan at this distance from the SPA is unlikely to lead to an increase in visitors or in recreational pressure to any of the designated sites in the vicinity on its own.

6.8 The potential for effects to occur in combination with the development in the Local Plan and with other projects has been considered. However, it is judged that the scale of additional development likely to occur as a result of the Plan is unlikely to lead to in-combination effects.

6.9 It is concluded that likely significant effect on any European site can be screened out.

7.0 Consultation

7.1 Consultation with Statutory Consultees; Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England was undertaken between 21 January and 2 March 2020. Consultation responses were received from Heritage England and from Environment Agency which are attached in Appendix 3.

7.2 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. Natural England and Environment agency have not expressed a view on whether Strategic Environmental Assessment or a Habitats Regulations Assessment is required.

8.0 Screening Outcome

8.1 This report contains the detail of the assessment of the need for the Great Barton Neighbourhood Plan to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment as required by SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and Appropriate Assessment as required by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The assessment has been undertaken on the basis of the level of growth outlined in the Plan and summarised in Section 2 of this report. Based on the environmental information,

⁵ Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening for St Edmundsbury Borough Council Rural Vision 2031 Document September 2014

the scope of the policies in the Great Barton Neighbourhood Plan, and the consultation responses from the Statutory Consultees, the outcome of the assessment is:

- in respect of Strategic Environmental Assessment, significant environmental effects can be screened out (section 5)
- in respect to Habitats Regulations Assessment, likely significant effects can be screened out (section 6)

Appendix 1 – Environmental Constraints

Biodiversity

There are no internationally important sites within the plan area. The closest Habitats sites to the Plan boundary, including Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites are listed in the table below.

SAC	SPA	Ramsar
Breckland (11km) Devils Dyke (24km) Rex Graham (15km) Fenland (11km)	Breckland (5.5km)	Chippenham Fen (20km) Wicken Fen (30km)

There are no nationally important sites within the plan area. Nationally important sites in the vicinity include:

Pakenham Meadows SSSI (2.4km to the east)

The Glen Chalk Caves, Bury St Edmunds SSSI (0.83km to the south west)

Horringer Court Caves SSSI (4 km to the south west)

Norton Wood SSSI (5.8km to the east)

Natural England's SSSI risk zones give an indication on the types and scale of development that might have an effect on these SSSI. The application site falls within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone for both Pakenham Meadows SSSI and The Glen Chalk Caves SSSI. The criteria listed are in the following table.

Development category	Description	Comment
All planning applications	All planning applications outside or extending outside existing settlements/urban areas affecting greenspace, farmland, semi natural habitats or landscape features such as trees, hedges, streams, rural buildings/structures.	The allocated site would extend outside the existing settlement and would lead to the loss of arable farmland and potentially landscape features.
Infrastructure	Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.	There are no such proposals or policies in the Plan
Air pollution	Livestock & poultry units with floorspace > 500m ² , slurry lagoons > 750m ² & manure stores > 3500t.	There are no such proposals or policies in the Plan
Combustion	General combustion processes >50MW energy input. Incl: energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis/gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration/combustion.	There are no such proposals or policies in the plan

Discharge	Any discharge of water or liquid waste of more than 20m ³ /day to ground (ie to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream (NB This does not include discharges to mains sewer which are unlikely to pose a risk at this location).	There are no such proposals or policies in the plan
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Ancient woodland within the plan area includes:

Barton Shrub (east of Cattishall)

Blackmoor Bottom (on the northern boundary)

Non-statutory sites within the plan area include Barton shrub CWS.

Soil

Much of the land within the plan area is grade III Agricultural Land with a small area of grade II close to bury St Edmunds.

Water

There are no rivers within the plan area. However, land to the south west on the boundary of the Plan areas is within Flood Zone 2 and 3. Barton Mere, close to the eastern boundary, is also in Flood Zone 2.

The Plan Area is within a Source Protection Zone (outer protection zone) and principle aquifer

Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

There are no Scheduled Monuments in the plan area. The nearest Registered Park and Garden is Culford Hall located 4.5km to the west. Registered Common Land is located at:

- The Park, south of Ash Cottage;
- Adjacent to Barton Road close to Castle Covert;
- south of the A143 close to the Vicarage: and
- A143 at Travellers Rest.

There are Registered Village Greens at Conyers Green and at the southern end of Church Road.

There are a number of Listed Buildings within the Plan Area concentrated along The Street and Livermere Road in Great Barton also including the Church of the Holy Innocents and Great Barton War Memorial and a number of other rural buildings and farmhouses. There are no buildings on the *at risk* register.

There are many areas of Archaeological Interest as identified in the Suffolk County Council register throughout the plan area.

Landscape

The landscape character of the Plan Area is described in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment as Plateau estate farmland. This is a landscape of large regular fields with small woodlands on light loamy soils with the following key characteristics

- Flat landscape of light loams and sandy soils
- Large scale rectilinear field pattern
- Network of tree belts and coverts
- Large areas of enclosed former heathland
- 18th- 19th & 20th century landscape parks
- Clustered villages with a scattering of farmsteads around them
- Former airfields
- Vernacular architecture is often 19th century estate type of brick and tile

Air Quality

There is one AQMA within the Plan area, located on the main A143 and includes a row of cottages either side of the road including the post office.

A steering group and action plan exist for this AQMA and a number of actions are proposed to alleviate the pollution in this location.

Noise

Sources of noise pollution include transport links, such as the A143 which runs through the plan area

Access and recreation

There are a number of Public Rights of Way in the Plan Area providing access to the countryside.

The main public recreational and sport pitches are at Cox Lane. Community facilities at this location include bowling club and play area.

Appendix 2 - Internationally designated sites

Site	Conservation Objectives of the International Site
Breckland SPA	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely • The population of each of the qualifying features, and, • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. <p>Qualifying Features: A133 <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>; Stone-curlew (Breeding) A224 <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>; European nightjar (Breeding) A246 <i>Lullula arborea</i>; Woodlark (Breeding)</p>
Breckland SAC	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. <p>Qualifying Features: H2330. Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands; Open grassland with grey-hair grass and common bent grass of inland dunes H3150. Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation; Naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs which are often dominated by pondweed H4030. European dry heaths H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone H91E0. Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>); Alder woodland on floodplains* S1166. <i>Triturus cristatus</i>; Great crested newt</p>
Rex Graham Reserve SAC	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats <p>Qualifying Features: H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (important orchid sites); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)*</p>
Fenland SAC	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species <input type="checkbox"/> The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats <input type="checkbox"/> The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species <input type="checkbox"/> The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely <input type="checkbox"/> The populations of qualifying species, and, <input type="checkbox"/> The distribution of qualifying species within the site. <p>Qualifying Features:</p>

	<p>H6410. <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>); Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p>H7210. Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>; Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)*</p> <p>S1149. <i>Cobitis taenia</i>; Spined loach</p> <p>S1166. <i>Triturus cristatus</i>; Great crested newt</p>
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Appendix 3 – consultation responses at pre-submission (regulation 14) stage



Ms Ann-Marie Howell
West Suffolk Council
West Suffolk House
Western Way
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 3YU

Direct Dial: 01223 582746

Our ref: PL006743

28 February 2020

Dear Ms Howell

RE: Great Barton Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening

Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment on 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 the Screening Report for this plan. For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question, "Is it (the 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 that the plan will not have any significant effects on the historic environment. We note that the plan does not propose to allocate any sites for development itself, but that it supports up to 150 homes on a site allocated in the Local Plan.

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 21 January 2020. 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) where we consider that, despite the SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.

Historic England strongly advises that the conservation and archaeological staff of the relevant local authorities 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.

Please do contact me, either via email or the number above, if you have any queries

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. James', is centered on the page. The signature is written over a faint, repeating watermark of the word 'electronic' in a light blue or grey color.

Edward James

Historic Places Advisor, East of England
Edward.James@HistoricEngland.org.uk

cc:

From: planning.brampton@environment-agency.gov.uk

To: neighbourhood.planning@westsuffolk.gov.uk

20/02/2020

Dear Ann-Marie

Thank you for your request for a screening opinion.

Due to resource pressures we are no longer able to provide you with bespoke advice on screening opinions. If there is a specific issue that you require our expert advice on before issuing the screening opinion then please contact us with details and we will endeavour to assist you. We remain a statutory consultee for scoping opinions so please continue to submit these for our review and comments.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Elizabeth Mugova
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