

Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

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

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Draft Screening Statement – Determination under Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

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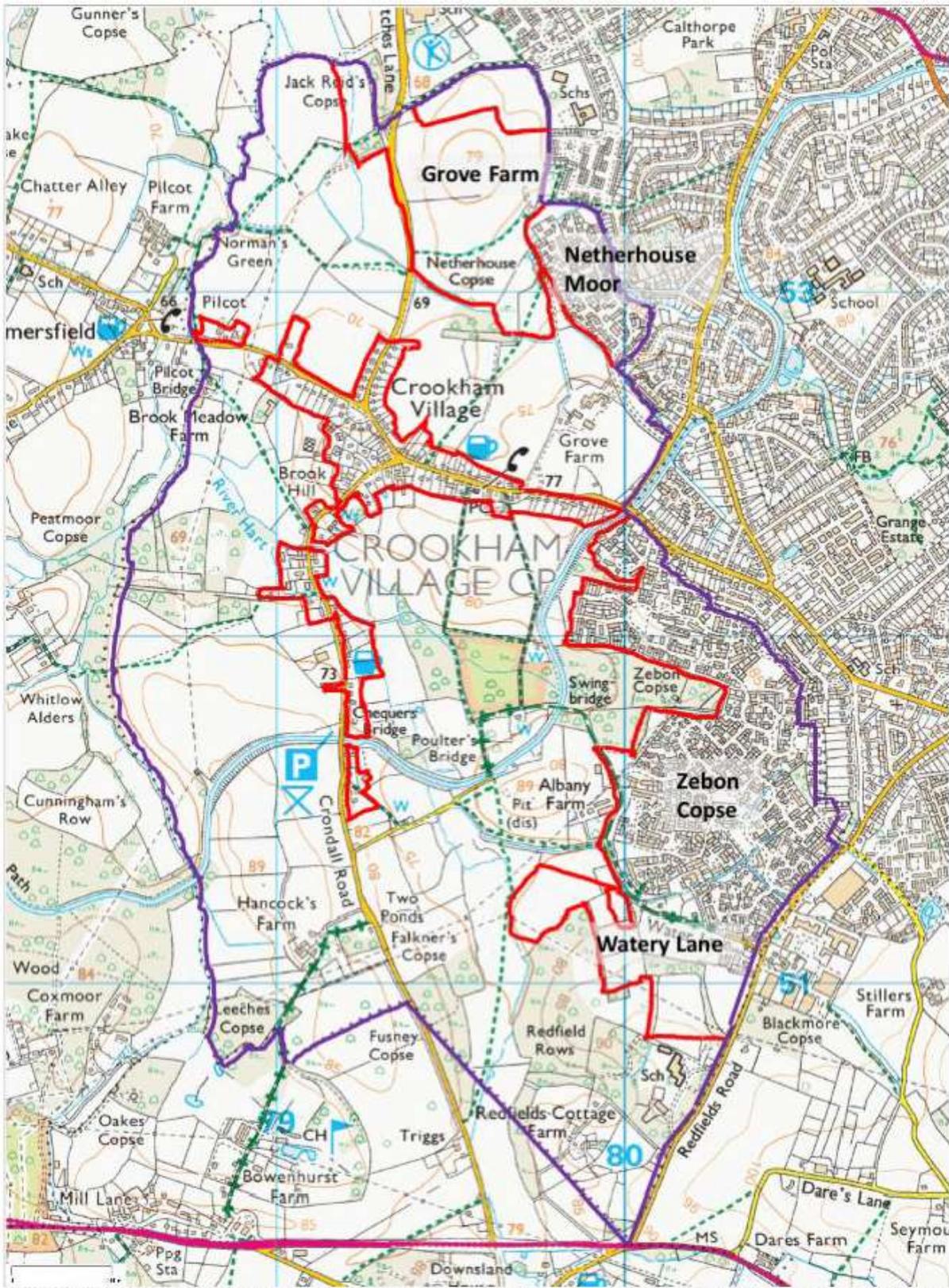
Introduction

- 1.1. This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening determination has been undertaken by Base Planning and Design Ltd on behalf of Hart District Council in their duty to determine whether the Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA or HRA. This screening assessment is based on the draft Neighbourhood Plan dated April 2018.
- 1.2. Regulation 9 (1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires authorities to determine whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required for certain plans, policies or programmes. This statement also sets out the District Council's determination as to whether Appropriate Assessment is required under Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010.
- 1.3. Under the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive) and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), specific types of plans that set the framework for the future development consent of projects or which require Appropriate Assessment must be subject to an environmental assessment.
- 1.4. There are exceptions to this requirement for plans that determine the use 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 provisions of the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) (Regulation 9 (1)), the District Council must determine if a plan requires an environmental assessment. In accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), the District Council is the competent authority for determining if a plan requires Appropriate Assessment.

Background to the Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.6. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) make provision for Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums to prepare Neighbourhood Plans. Whilst not forming part of a local authority's Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plans do form part of the Development Plan for an area as set out in Section 38 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). As such, Neighbourhood Plans are a material consideration in taking planning decisions and can contain policies on a range of issues including the allocation of sites/land for development.
- 1.7. The proposed Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan covers all of the area within the jurisdiction of Crookham Village Parish Council which lies south west of Fleet and east of Basingstoke in Hampshire. The plan area contains the village of Crookham and two major and adjacent residential developments – Zebon Copse and Netherhouse Moor. The plan area is semi-rural in appearance, surrounded by farmland and ancient woodland. A plan of the designated area is shown in Plan 1-1.

Plan 1-1: Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area (shown in purple)



Date Created: 19-2-2018 | Map Centre (Easting/Northing): 479579 / 151968 | Scale: 1:14334 | © Crown copyright and database right. All rights reserved (100047236) 2018

- 1.8. There are 8 areas of woodland/copses designated as ancient/semi-natural woodland. There are 7 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) within the Parish and 5 further SINC adjacent to it. Zebon Copse is designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). There is one SSSI located in the Neighbourhood Plan area, the Basingstoke Canal. The SSSI is comprised of 11 units, 1 of which lies within the neighbourhood plan area, unit 1. The SSSI covers some 101ha with 44% in favourable or unfavourable recovering status which does not meet the PSA target of 95% in favourable or unfavourable recovering status. Unit 1 is in an unfavourable and declining status failing on species richness and water quality.
- 1.9. The Hart Biodiversity Action Plan identifies priority habitats and species, a number of which fall within the Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan area including Woodlands (ancient/semi-ancient woodland), agriculturally unimproved pastures, heathland and wetland habitats. Associated species include Stag Beetle, Silver Washed Fritillary, dragonflies and Skylark.
- 1.10. The neighbourhood plan area lies within the Loddon Catchment Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) which is typified by rivers arising from chalk springs with broad and shallow valleys liable to flood. Areas prone to flood risk (zones 2 and 3) align with the River Hart with the land to the west of Hitches Lane particularly affected.
- 1.11. From a heritage perspective, the Plan area contains 45 statutorily listed buildings and structures. The Crookham Village Conservation Area covers the old village of Crookham, part of the Dogmersfield Conservation Area encompasses the western edge of the parish and the Basingstoke Canal conservation area also features. There are significant archaeological features in the neighbourhood plan area centred around The Street, Crondall Road and Pilcot Road.
- 1.12. The Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Draft Plan dated April 2018 sets out the following vision:
- 'By 2032, Crookham Village Parish has developed sustainably and its residents continue to enjoy access to the housing and amenities they need, including affordable housing for younger families and local people. This growth has come from the development of smaller housing sites within or adjacent to the main settlement areas of the Parish. The Parish remains striking for the high quality of design in keeping with the established characters of the three main settlements (the old village of Crookham Village, Netherhouse Moor and Zebon Copse), and particularly within the conservation areas of Crookham Village, Dogmersfield and the areas adjacent to the Basingstoke Canal conservation area. Traffic management schemes have successfully managed the pressures on the road network from the recent developments at Watery Lane and Grove Farm. Similarly, the controlled use of permitted development rights has minimised congestion and the loss of parking spaces, within developments.*
- The Old Village settlement has preserved its separate identity as an historic Hampshire village. Its distinctive character, reflecting its long history, linear nature and open space, gives residents their sense of place and attracts visitors to enjoy the rural setting, wildlife, and heritage of listed and contemporary architecture. The local gaps between the Old Village and the urban areas of Fleet and Church Crookham have been preserved and each settlement within the Parish retains its own character and open and green spaces.*
- The Parish is surrounded by attractive countryside of high ecological value. The local community and visitors enjoy and value good access to the countryside and also a network of green infrastructure within the settlements for recreational use. They are*

proud of other, less disturbed areas, which they continue to protect for biodiversity and protection of ecosystem services. The significant views including from each side of the Crookham Village conservation area, are protected as an important feature of the parish, preserving the rural backdrop to the Old Village settlement.

Improved cycleways and footpaths connect the Parish settlements, amenities, green space and attractions, supporting sustainable transport within the Parish and providing connections to the wider district. The recreational facilities and green spaces are maintained and enhanced for all residents and visitors to enjoy, supporting good health and quality of life.'

- 1.13 The draft neighbourhood plan also contains 4 overarching objectives relating to the built environment, landscape and natural environment, transport and movement, and health, leisure and wellbeing. These are set out below:

Built Environment

Objective: To provide an attractive mix of well-designed and well laid out buildings and infrastructure that are sympathetically integrated into the three main settlements of Crookham Village Parish, so as to minimize their impact on the natural environment, by:

- Maintaining and enhancing the character of the whole of the Crookham Village Parish, in particular Crookham Village Conservation Area.
- Supporting small scale, sustainable and well-designed development which avoids placing an unacceptable strain on the local infrastructure and environment.
- Ensuring that any future development in the Parish is planned and located with particular attention to the visual character of the Parish, the impact on local amenities and infrastructure, sustainability, traffic flow and quality of life, and:
 - respects the semi-rural character of Crookham Village and its landscape setting in open countryside
 - is planned to minimise the impact on the natural environmental, in particular seeking to achieve a net gain of biodiversity
 - is of an appropriate type, scale, density and quality to be in keeping with the characters of each of the separate settlements within the parish and that it contributes towards meeting the needs of the community
 - is designed to complement and integrate with the existing adjacent community of which it will form part
 - protects local gaps and
 - prevents coalescence with the neighbouring settlements of Fleet, Church Crookham or Dogmersfield.
- Ensuring that high quality Green Infrastructure design forms a framework for all new developments.
- Ensuring that SANGS are designed to appeal to a diversity of users including those seeking tranquillity and a natural environment.

It is expected that future developments will also have their own unique character which will take account of the semi-rural nature of the Parish and the adjacent conservation areas and communities.

Landscape and Natural Environment

Objective: To maintain a high quality environment with outstanding natural landscapes, a net gain of biodiversity, and a range of good quality green spaces supporting people and wildlife, by:

- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment including by maintaining and establishing important habitats and ecological networks, resilient to current and future pressures, particularly those within the upper Hart Valley which is a key wildlife corridor
- Identifying and designating local open and green spaces which are of significance to the local community
- Reducing the risk of fluvial and surface water flooding throughout the Parish, particularly at Watery Lane, Crondall Road and The Street
- Maintaining the distinctive views and visual connectivity with the surrounding countryside from the Old Village and its rural footpath network
- Providing refuge areas for wildlife susceptible to disturbance, avoiding impact to ground nesting birds

Transport and Movement

Objective: To ensure that our medium-sized, semi-rural parish is accessible and safe for walking and cycling with a safe, efficient free flowing road network by:

- Minimising the impact of heavy traffic volumes, especially HGV, through Crookham Village Parish, through
 - preserving the character of The Old Village and the listed structures of Malthouse and Poulter's Bridges by seeking to avoid increasing the levels of traffic to where it impacts the quality of the Conservation Area
 - avoiding excessive traffic congestion particularly at local junctions, and especially the 'rat runs' along Crondall Road to the A287 and Hitches Lane to Fleet station at peak times
 - recognising the narrowness of many local and rural roads, the lack of footways, weight-limited bridges, and vulnerability to tremor of listed buildings, several of which lack foundations
- Improving and extending the current network of cycle paths, footways and public footpaths within the Parish and linking to key services, Fleet and the countryside
- Providing effective control over on-street parking, especially on pavements and where carriageway widths are limited

Health, Leisure and Wellbeing

Objective: To establish and maintain a range of leisure and social activities for all ages within the Parish that make the best use of the area's qualities, and provide opportunities for all the community and ensure that children can walk and cycle safely to facilities by:

- Maintaining and expanding the rural footpath network within the Parish to link significant local green spaces to promote health and wellbeing, and to the leisure facilities just outside of the parish boundaries
- Providing opportunities to access the surrounding countryside and wildlife
- Maintaining and enhancing recreational space to support community activities for all ages, to underpin a thriving community for residents and visitors
- Maintaining and preserving areas of tranquility, together with social gathering spaces within the Parish to enhance the mental wellbeing of residents

- 1.14 The Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan contains a total of 14 policies covering a range of issues including settlement boundaries, design principles, natural landscapes, biodiversity, heritage and transport. The Plan does not however allocate any land for development.
- 1.15 The current Hart Local Plan 1996-2006 contains a number of general policies covering design and protection of the natural and historic environments and these have been taken into account in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

- 1.16 The Hart Proposed Submission Plan does not identify any housing allocations for the Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan area and neither does it set a housing requirement.
- 1.17 The Hart Proposed Submission Plan has been the subject of Sustainability Appraisal (including the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment) as well as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

Sustainability Appraisal

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

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) – Screening

- 1.19 The need to undertake an Appropriate Assessment as part of an HRA is set out within the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and transposed into British Law by Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). The Appropriate Assessment stage of HRA is only required should the preliminary screening assessment not be able to rule out likely significant effects.
- 1.20 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. It also inserts new regulation 78A which provides that a neighbourhood development order may not grant planning permission for development which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site.
- 1.21 Whilst Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 set out a general presumption that an HRA is unlikely to be required, it is still necessary to carry out a screening assessment.
- 1.22 The Habitats Directive states that any plan or project not connected to or necessary for a site's management, but likely to have significant effects thereon shall be subject to appropriate assessment. There are four distinct stages in HRA namely: -

Step 1: Screening – Identification of likely impacts on a European site either alone or in combination with other plans/projects and consideration of whether these are significant. Following the Sweetman ECJ Judgement¹ this can no longer include the consideration of avoidance measures.

Step 2: Appropriate Assessment – consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European Site whether alone or in combination with other plans or projects with respect

¹ People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (C-323/17)

to the sites structure, function and conservation objectives. Step 2 should consider potential mitigation measures.

Step 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions – Assessing alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan/project which avoid impacts; and

Step 4: Assessment of Compensatory Measures – Identification of compensatory measures should impact not be avoided and no alternative solutions exist and an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) deems that a project should proceed.

- 1.23 Should step 1 reveal that significant effects are likely or effect cannot be discounted because of uncertainty, then it is necessary to move onto step 2: Appropriate Assessment. If step 2 cannot rule out significant effect even with mitigation, then the process moves onto step 3 and finally step 4 if no alternative solutions arise.

Step 1 - Screening

- 1.24 There are four stages to consider 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 description of other plan/projects that have the potential for in-combination impacts;

Stage 3: Identifying potential effects on the European site(s); and

Stage 4: Assessing the significance of any effects

Stage 1

- 1.25 It can be determined that the Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site.

Stage 2

- 1.26 Information about the Neighbourhood Plan can be found in paragraphs 1.6 to 1.17 of this screening assessment. Table 1-1 lists those other plans and projects, which may have in-combination impacts.

Table 1-1: Other Key Plans/Projects

<p>Plan/ Project</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012): High level national planning policy covering topics such as housing, economy, employment, retail as well as biodiversity, flood risk and heritage.</p> <p>South East Plan 2009: Saved Policy NRM6 sets out protection for the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.</p> <p>Hart Local Plan (Replacement) 1996-2006 and First Alterations: Sets policies for the consideration of development with most policies 'saved' from 2007 onwards.</p> <p>Hart Local Plan 2016-2032 Proposed Submission: Sets policies for the consideration of development for the period 2016-2032.</p> <p>Other Local Authority Local Plans within 5km or adjoining Thames Basin Heaths SPA: Housing target for areas around SPA set at 132,560 in the revoked South East Plan. Whilst these figures are revoked, they serve as a guide until Local Plans have been fully established post revocation.</p> <p>Large Scale Projects within 7km or adjoining the Thames Basin Heaths SPA: Large scale projects within 7km are listed in Table 1-2, however housing numbers associated with these are subsumed in the consideration of 'Other Local Authority Local Plans' above.</p> <p>Thames Basin Heaths Joint Delivery Framework 2009: Sets out the agreed Framework regarding the approach and standards for avoiding significant effects on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.</p> <p>Environment Agency, Thames River Basin District Management Plan (2015): Sets out actions to improve water quality, with the Neighbourhood Plan area falling within the river Loddon catchment. Future aims include improving River Whitewater structures and habitat to improve the status for fish in the River Whitewater and to encourage sustainable development for the water environment to aid climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>Environment Agency, Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009): Aim is to promote more sustainable approaches to managing flood risk. Will be delivered through a combination of different approaches.</p> <p>Environment Agency, River Loddon Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2012): identifies the upper Loddon as having water available for licencing, but this is overridden by the flow requirements of the Thames, which changes the status to 'Water not available for licencing'. However, groundwater licences which do not have a direct impact and immediate impact on river flow may be permitted all year.</p> <p>Environment Agency, Water Resources Strategy: Regional Action Plan for Thames Region (2009): Key priorities for Thames region include ensuring sufficient water resources are available, making water available in over-abstracted catchments and reducing demand.</p> <p>Hart Biodiversity Action Plan (2012): Action plan aims to conserve and enhance current resource and identify areas for biodiversity improvement. Includes 5 priority habitat types and associated species.</p>
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Table 1-2: Proposed/Committed Major Schemes within 7km of SPA

Project	Location	No. Dwellings
Princess Royal Barracks	Deepcut, Surrey	1,200
Aldershot Urban Extension	Aldershot, Hants	3,850
Bracknell Town Centre	Bracknell, Berks	1,000
Land at Amen Corner (south)	Binfield, Berks	725
Land North of Whitegrove	Warfield, Berks	2,200
Land at Transport Research Laboratory	Crowthorne, Berks	1,000
Arborfield Garrison	Aborfield, Berks	3,500
South of Wokingham	Wokingham, Berks	2,000
North of Wokingham	Wokingham, Berks	2,000
South of M4	Shinfield/Spencers Wood, Berks	3,500
Queen Elizabeth Barracks	Church Crookham, Hants	1,000
Land to the North of London Road	Hook, Hants	550
Edenbrook, Hitches Lane	Fleet, Hants	550
Land at Watery Lane	Church Crookham, Hants	300
Hartland Village	Fleet, Hants	1,500
Total		24,875

Stage 3

- 1.27 Information regarding the European site(s) screened and the likely effects that may arise due to implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan can be found in Tables 1-3, 1-4 and 1-5. All other European Sites were screened out of this assessment at an early stage as it was considered that their distance from the Neighbourhood Plan area coupled with the nature and content of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan meant that there is no pathway or mechanism which would give rise to significant effect.

Table 1-3: Details of Thames Basin Heaths SPA and Potential Effects Thereon

European site:	Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA).
Site description:	The Thames Basin Heaths SPA was proposed in October 2000, and full SPA status was approved on 9 March 2005. It covers an area of some 8,274 ha, consisting of 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) scattered from Surrey, to Berkshire in the north, through to Hampshire in the west. The habitat consists of both dry and wet heathland, mire, oak, birch acid woodland, gorse scrub and acid grassland with areas of rotational conifer plantation.
Relevant international nature conservation features:	The SPA is of international importance as a habitat for heathland birds: nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>), woodlark (<i>Lullula arborea</i>) and Dartford warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>). It is of European importance because the site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used by 1% or more of the Great Britain population of a species listed in Annex I.
Environmental conditions which support the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate management • Management of disturbance during breeding season (March to July) • Minimal air pollution • Absence or control of urbanisation effects, such as fires and introduction of invasive non-native species • Maintenance of appropriate water levels • Maintenance of water quality
Potential effects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indirect effects arising from disturbance due to recreational activity on the SPA and potential for direct urbanising impacts.

Table 1-4: Details of Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Cobham Common SAC and Potential Effects Thereon

International site:	Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Cobham Common Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
Site description:	The Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham Common SAC was proposed in January 1996 and designated in April 2005. It covers an area of some 5,138 ha and comprises 4 SSSI units and habitat containing predominantly dry and wet heaths with coniferous woodland, bogs, marshes and inland water bodies.

Relevant international nature conservation features:	<p>The SAC is of international importance for Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> for which it is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom; and</p> <p>European dry heaths for which it is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom; and</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> for which it is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.</p>
Environmental Conditions which Support the Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate management; • Managed recreational pressure; • Minimal air pollution; • Absence or control of urbanisation effects such as fires and introduction of invasive non-native species; • Maintenance of appropriate water levels; • Maintenance of water quality.
Potential Effects Arising from the Neighbourhood Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect on provision of SANG and therefore indirect effect from recreational disturbance on the SPA and SAC.

Stage 4

1.28 The consideration of potential effects are set out in Table 1-5.

Table 1-5: Assessment of Potential Effects

Indirect effect from recreational disturbance and urbanisation.	<p>The likely effects of recreational disturbance have been summarised in the Underhill-Day study for Natural England and RSPB (2005); this provides a review of the urban effects on lowland heaths and their wildlife. The main issues relating to the conservation objectives and the integrity of the SPA as a whole are: fragmentation, disturbance, fires, cats, dogs (as a result of nest disturbance and enrichment), prevention of management, off-roading, vandalism and trampling.</p> <p>Natural England has advised that recreational pressure, as a result of increased residential development within 5km of the SPA/SAC, is having a significant adverse impact on the Annex I bird species. Woodlark and Nightjar are ground nesting and Dartford Warblers nest close to the ground. They are therefore sensitive to disturbance, particularly from dogs, but also from walkers, and cyclists etc. They are, in addition, vulnerable to other effects of urbanisation, in particular predation by cats.</p>
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	<p>Joint work involving Natural England and the authorities affected by the SPA/SAC have agreed a mechanism to avoid impacts to the SPA/SAC from recreational activities in the form of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and Strategic Access Management & Monitoring (SAMM) and from the impacts of urbanisation by not allowing any net additional dwellings within 400m of the SPA.</p> <p>The Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land or sites for net additional dwellings within 5km of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and no part of the plan area lies within the 400m zone. As such, 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, at the time of undertaking this assessment, that the Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan will not give rise to likely significant effects on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA or the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Common SAC either alone or in-combination.</p>
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- 1.29 It is the conclusion of this HRA that following a screening assessment it can be ascertained, in light of the information available at the time of assessment that the Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan **will not** give rise to significant effects on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA or Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Common SAC either alone or in-combination with other plans and/or projects. Given the findings of the screening assessment it is considered that a full appropriate assessment is not required.

The SEA Screening Process

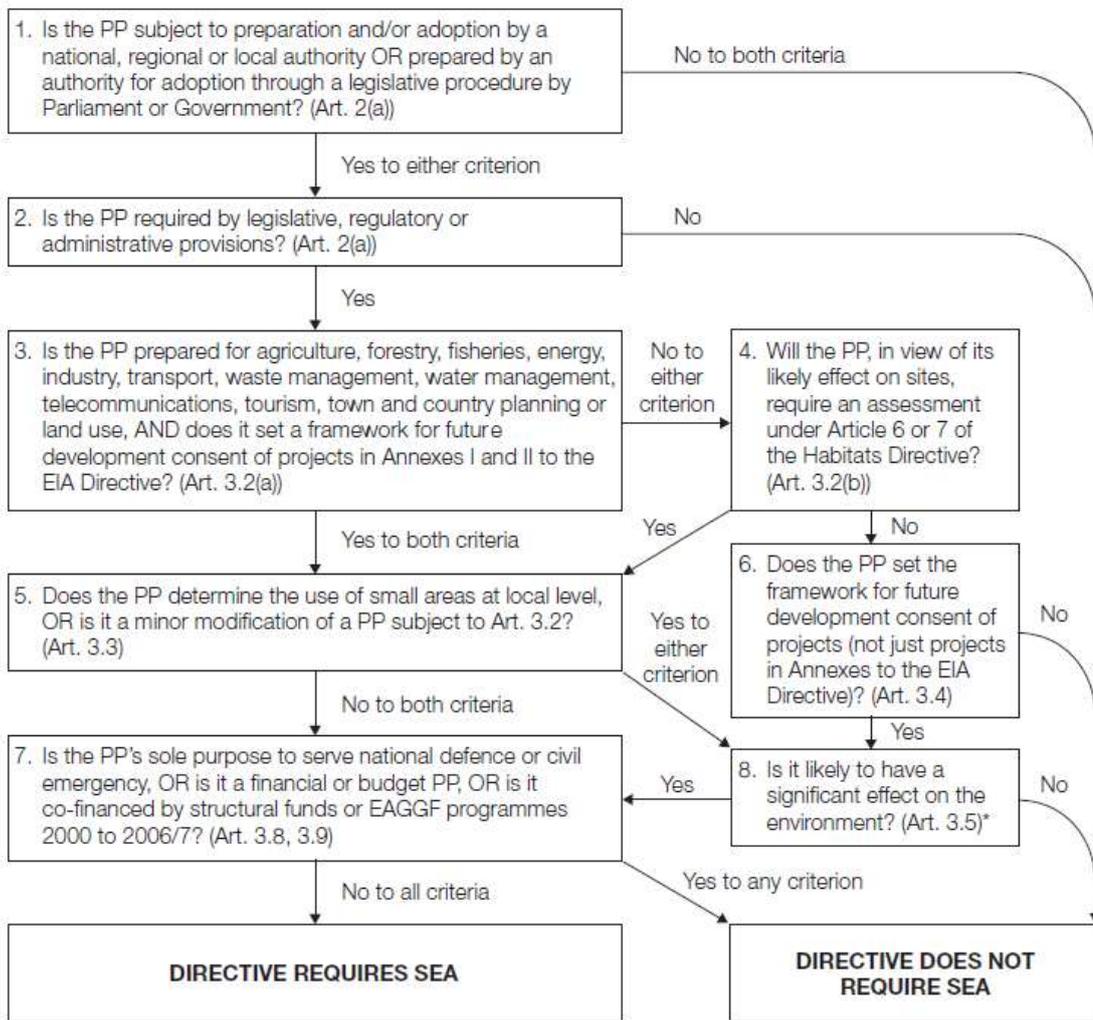
- 1.30 The process for determining whether or not an SEA is required is called 'screening'. For some types of plan or programme SEA is mandatory and includes the following:
- Plans which are prepared for town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive; or
 - Plans which have been determined to require an assessment under the Habitats Directive (this has already been screened out as set out in paragraphs 1.19 to 1.29 of this screening assessment).
- 1.31 However, the main determining factor when considering whether a plan or programme requires SEA is whether it will have significant environmental effects.
- 1.32 Within 28 days of making its determination, the determining authority must publish a statement, such as this one, setting out its decision. If it is determined that an SEA is not required, the statement must include the reasons for this.

- 1.33 This Screening Report sets out the Council's draft determination under Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 on whether or not SEA is required for the Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan. The District Council must consult with the three statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England) and take their views into account before issuing a final determination. This is based on a two-step approach, the first of which is to assess the plan against the flowchart as set out in government guidance *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive*². The flow chart is shown in Figure 1.

² A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Process (2005) ODPM. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

Figure 1:

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.

- 1.34 The second step is to consider whether the Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan will have significant environmental effects when considered against the criteria set out in Annex II of the Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations. The findings of step 1 and step 2 are shown in Tables 1-6 and 1-7.

Table 1-6: SEA Screening Step 1

Stage in Flowchart	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the plan/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))	Y	The provision to prepare and adopt Neighbourhood Plans is given by the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared by Crookham Village Parish Council and 'made' by Hart District Council. The preparation and adoption procedure is set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012. Move to Stage 2
2. Is the plan/programme required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Article 2(a))	N	There is no mandatory requirement to prepare and/or adopt Neighbourhood Plans. However, if the plan is 'made' it will form part of the Development Plan for Hart and therefore the possibility of significant effects should be considered. Move to Stage 3
3. Is the plan/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 a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Article 3.2(a))	N	The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for town & country planning and/or land use. It does not allocate any land or sites for development and as such the plan does not set the framework for development consent of projects in Annexes I & II of the EIA Directive. Move to Stage 4.
4. Will the plan/programme, in view of its likely effect on sites,	N	The HRA screening undertaken in paragraphs 1.19 to 1.29 of this

Stage in Flowchart	Y/N	Reason
require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Article 3.2(b))		assessment has determined that Appropriate Assessment is not required. Move to Stage 6.
5. Does the plan/programme determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Article 3.3)	N/A	Whilst not applicable, the plan will be used in the determination of planning applications, although it does not allocate any land or sites for development. The plan is not a minor modification of an existing plan. Move to Stage 6
6. Does the plan/programme set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Article 3.4)	Y	The Draft Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land or sites for development but does set out policies to guide development if it comes forward and as such sets the framework for future development consents. Move to Stage 8.
7. Is the plan/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 to 2006/7? (Article 3.8, 3.9)	N/A	Although not applicable, the Neighbourhood Plan will not have the sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency and it will not be a financial or budgetary plan. Neither will it be co-financed by structural or EAGGF Programmes.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Article 3.5)	N	Effects on the environment and whether these are significant are considered in Table 1-7. If Significant Effects likely move to Stage 7

Table 1-7: SEA Screening Step 2

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations)		Response
Characteristics of the plan or programme		Significant Effect?
(a) 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.	<p>The Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan will set out policies against which development proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan area will be considered. The Plan sets out general policies with a focus on preserving and enhancing the nature of the area and promoting appropriate and sensitive growth which takes account of its distinctive and special character. Policies seek to achieve good design, protect/enhance heritage and green spaces, protect landscapes, improve sustainable transport networks as well as provide for net gains in biodiversity. These policies should generally have positive effects.</p> <p>The plan does not however allocate any land or sites for development and directs development to settlement areas and supports this where design is in character and proportion of the village.</p> <p>As such, whilst the Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to set the framework for decision making on individual projects, the policies taken as a whole will largely have positive effects.</p>	N
(b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Development Plan for Hart District Council and will sit alongside the saved policies from the Local Plan 1996-2006 (Replacement) and First Alterations and Hart Local Plan 2016-2032 once adopted. The saved and proposed policies of the Local Plan have informed the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan policies. However, it is the Local Plan that will identify the strategic approach to new development in the District and the Neighbourhood Plan must be consistent with this rather than influence it.</p>	N
(c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of	<p>The Plan sets out general policies with a focus on preserving and enhancing the nature of the area and promoting appropriate</p>	N

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations)	Response	
environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	<p>and sensitive growth which takes account of its distinctive and special character. Policies seek to achieve good design, protect/enhance heritage and green spaces, protect landscapes, improve sustainable transport networks as well as provide for net gains in biodiversity.</p> <p>As such, the plan should have positive effects on the built and natural environment including its local heritage assets and local and wider biodiversity interests such as designated sites, priority habitats and the Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA). Taken together the policies should promote sustainable development.</p>	
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	<p>Environmental problems include potential recreational or urbanising impacts to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham Common SAC. Paragraphs 1.19 to 1.29 of this assessment sets out the effects of the Neighbourhood Plan on the SPA/SAC in terms of recreational or urbanising effects and has determined no significant effects.</p> <p>The Draft Plan dated April 2018 seeks to preserve and enhance the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area and the approach to achieving net gains in biodiversity within the plan policies should be generally positive.</p>	N
(e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community (EU) legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	<p>The Plan sets out general policies with a focus on preserving and enhancing the nature of the area and promoting appropriate and sensitive growth which takes account of its distinctive and special character. Policies seek to achieve good design, protect/enhance heritage and green spaces, protect landscapes, improve sustainable transport networks as well as provide for net gains in biodiversity. As such, the Neighbourhood Plan could aid in the implementation of other EU legislation.</p>	N
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected		
(a) The probability, duration, frequency and	The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land or sites for development but does	N

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations)	Response	
reversibility of the effects.	<p>set a framework for decision making specifically in terms of achieving good design, protecting/enhancing heritage and green spaces, protecting landscapes, improving sustainable transport networks as well as providing for net gains in biodiversity. Taken together these policies have a high probability of securing positive effects in the medium-long term.</p> <p>Effects will be relatively permanent with a high degree of frequency and should be generally positive given the requirements set out in the policies of the plan with respect to the historic and natural environment, local green spaces, as well as provision for net gains in biodiversity and sustainable transport.</p> <p>Positive effects could be reversible in the longer term, depending on future policy approaches beyond the plan period.</p>	
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects	<p>The Plan sets out general policies with a focus on preserving and enhancing the nature of the area and promoting appropriate and sensitive growth which takes account of its distinctive and special character. Policies seek to achieve good design, protect/enhance heritage and green spaces, protect landscapes, improve sustainable transport networks as well as provide for net gains in biodiversity. These policy approaches when taken in combination with the SSSIs, Site of Importance for Nature Conservation designations, priority habitats in the Hart BAP and saved policies from the Hart Local Plan 1996-2006 (Replacement) and First Alterations and proposed policies in the Hart Local Plan 2016-2032 as well as saved Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan and Hart's Interim Avoidance Strategy, should provide cumulative effects which are likely to be positive with respect to design, biodiversity, natural & historic environments and green infrastructure.</p>	N

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations)	Response	
(c) The transboundary nature of the effects	Given the geographic scope of the Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered that no transboundary effects will arise.	N
(d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	None.	N
(e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The Neighbourhood Plan will cover the whole of the geographic area of Crookham Village Parish Council in Hampshire. The area covered is around 4.5 square kilometres with a population of 4,037 (Census 2011) and in excess of 1,700 households. Given the scale and nature of the Neighbourhood Plan and taking its policies as whole, it is considered that effects are unlikely to be significant.	N
(f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; iii) Intensive land-use.	<p>Given the nature of the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <p>i) The Neighbourhood Plan contains 1 SSSI in an unfavourable declining status. The plan area contains 45 statutorily listed buildings or structures and 3 Conservation Areas. The area is semi-rural in character and contains features such as green spaces, small wooded copses and agricultural fields. Policies seek to achieve good design, protect/enhance heritage and green spaces, protect landscapes, improve sustainable transport networks as well as provide for net gains in biodiversity that should generally have positive effects for the built and natural environment.</p> <p>ii) Unit 1 of the Basingstoke Canal SSSI is in an unfavourable declining condition. However, Policy NE03 on biodiversity should have a generally positive effect on biodiversity and water quality through use of SuDS.</p> <p>iii) None identified, given the semi-rural nature of the area. Agricultural use could be considered an intensive land use, but the control of this is largely beyond the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	N

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations)	Response	
(g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have recognised national, community or international protection status.	The effects on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham Common SAC are dealt with in (d) above. In any event, an HRA screening assessment has determined no significant effects.	N
Conclusion	The Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects and as such an SEA is not required.	

1.35 On the basis of the Screening process it is determined that the Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan does not require an SEA under the SEA Directive and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004). This is because: -

- The plan does not allocate any land or sites for development; and
- The policies of the plan when taken as a whole and in combination with other policies in the Hart Local Plan 1996-2006 (Replacement) and First Alterations and proposed policies in the Hart Local Plan 2016-2032 will likely have positive effects.

Conclusions

1.36 On the basis of the above, and following consultation with the statutory bodies, it is concluded that the Crookham Village Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and therefore does not need to be subject to a SEA Report. Similarly, the screening assessment concludes that no likely significant effects are likely to occur with regards to the integrity of any European sites and a full HRA is not required.

1.37 From 16 April to 25 May 2018 a consultation was undertaken on this screening report with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England. Consultation responses were received from all three bodies and on the basis of the information provide all three consultation bodies agreed with the draft Screening conclusions.