

# **Crondall 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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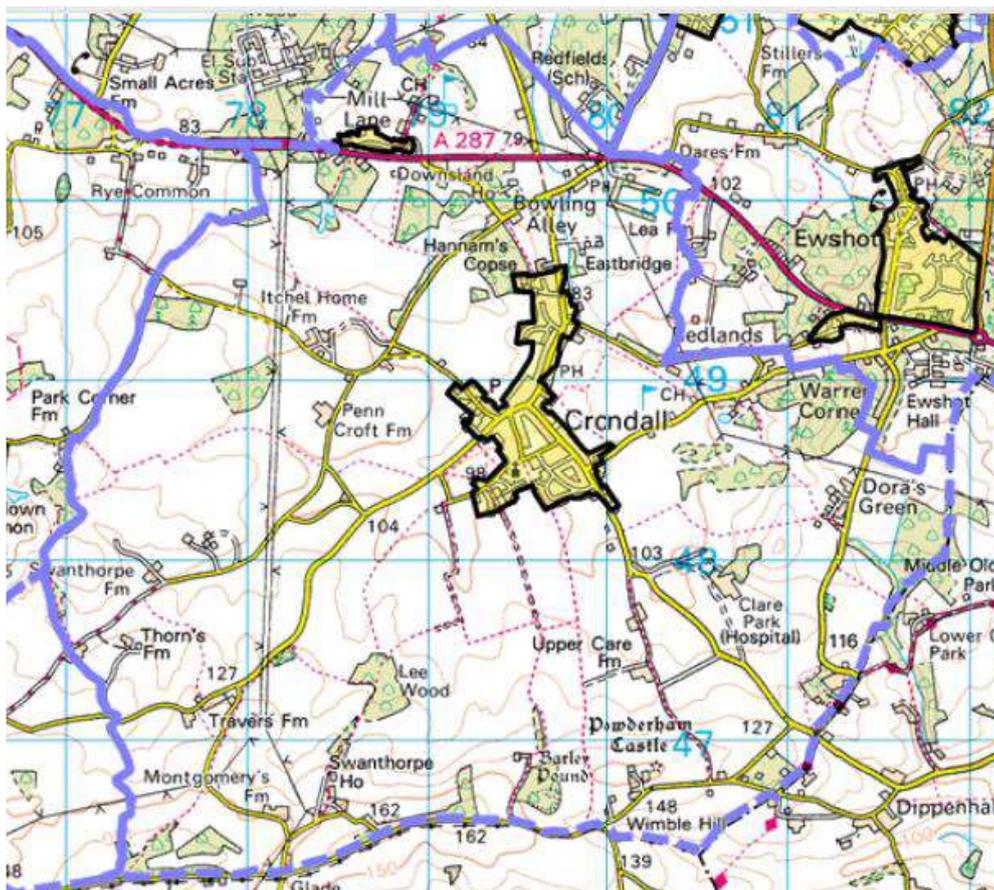
## **Introduction**

- 1.1. This draft 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 Crondall Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA or HRA. This screening assessment is based on the draft Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan dated March 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 Crondall 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 Crondall Neighbourhood Plan covers all of the area within the jurisdiction of Crondall Parish Council which lies south of Fleet and north-west of Farnham in Hampshire. The plan area contains the village of Crondall and small settlement of Mill Lane and is predominantly rural, characterised by agricultural field patterns and small wooded copses. A plan of the designated area is shown in Plan 1-1.

## Plan 1-1: Map of the Designated Area for the Crondall Neighbourhood Plan



- 1.8. There are around 18 areas of woodland/copses designated as ancient/semi ancient woodland which are also identified as priority habitat and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). There are no SSSI units located in the Neighbourhood Plan area, although the Bourley & Long Valley SSSI lies just to the north east of the plan area which also forms part of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). The SSSI covers some 823ha with 96% in favourable or unfavourable recovering status meeting the PSA target. However unit 4, which lies some 2.5km from the Neighbourhood Plan boundary is in an unfavourable declining status, primarily due to areas bare of vegetation expanding with areas for Woodlark and Nightjar declining.
- 1.9. The Hart Biodiversity Action Plan identifies priority habitats and species, a number of which fall within the Crondall Neighbourhood Plan area including Woodlands (ancient/semi-ancient woodland), semi-improved grassland, fens & flushes and sites notable for supporting one or more notable species. Associated species include Stag Beetle, Silver Washed Fritillary, Skylark, Orchids and Great Crested Newts.
- 1.10. Part of the eastern plan area is within the Thames Basin Heaths Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) which is typified by heathland, woodland, mire, scrub and grassland. Part of the northern plan area also lies within the Rivers Loddon and Lyde BOA typified by rivers arising from chalk springs with broad and shallow valleys liable to flood.

- 1.11. From a heritage perspective, the Plan area contains 69 statutorily listed and 9 locally listed buildings and structures, most notably the grade I listed All Saint's Church. There is one listed park and garden in the Neighbourhood Plan area at Clare Court as well as part of the Redfields House Park & Garden to the north east. The Crondall Conservation Area covers the majority of the village of Crondall and two archaeological sites and ancient monuments at Barley Pound and Powderham Castle to the south of the plan area.
- 1.12. The Crondall Neighbourhood draft Pre-Submission Plan dated March 2018 sets out the vision for the Neighbourhood Plan area which is:-  
*'Crondall will continue to be a thriving and sustainable community, with its inherent historic and social character as a rural village and parish nurtured, enhanced and protected for the benefit of residents and future generations'*
- 1.13 The draft Pre-Submission Plan also contains 9 objectives which are set out below:
- To have maintained and improved a sense of community as evidenced by commitment and involvement in village activities;
  - To have achieved a stable and flourishing rural Parish with excellent access to the countryside and prosperous village and farming communities;
  - To have retained the active Church, School, Village Hall, two pubs and the village shop in a supportive society;
  - To have achieved a reasonable balance between the supply and the demand for the type of housing required in the Parish;
  - To have improved the infrastructure to all the properties in the Parish in terms of roads, electricity, gas, water, and drainage;
  - To have preserved or enhanced the Conservation Area with its historic assets;
  - To have maintained the rural character of the parish and the significant views in and out of the village;
  - To have influenced a reduction in the volume and speeding of through traffic of cars in the village and the narrow lanes in the Parish;
  - To have supported existing, and encouraged additional small businesses and home working, especially through the provision of high-speed broadband.
- 1.14 The Crondall draft Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan dated March 2018 contains a total of 9 policies covering a range of issues including housing design, protecting local gaps, designating local green spaces and protection for recreation areas as well as protection for the natural and historic environments. The policies also set out small scale housing allocations totalling up to 46 dwellings, the largest of which is for 32 dwellings at Mill Lane on a site of 1.34ha.
- 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 Submission Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.16 The Hart Proposed Submission Plan does not identify any housing allocations for the Crondall Neighbourhood Plan area and neither does it set a housing requirement, although previous draft versions stated a figure of 66 units which is reflected in the Neighbourhood Plan through allocations, existing permissions and windfalls.

- 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. This can 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 to the sites structure, function and conservation objectives. Where there are significant effects, 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 Crondall 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><b>Plan/ Project</b></p>	<p><b>National Planning Policy Framework (2012):</b> High level national planning policy covering topics such as housing, economy, employment, retail as well as biodiversity, flood risk and heritage.</p> <p><b>South East Plan 2009:</b> Saved Policy NRM6 sets out protection for the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.</p> <p><b>Hart Local Plan (Replacement) 1996-2006 and First Alterations:</b> Sets policies for the consideration of development with most policies 'saved' from 2007 onwards.</p> <p><b>Hart Local Plan 2016-2032 Proposed Submission:</b> Sets policies for the consideration of development for the period 2016-2032.</p> <p><b>Other Local Authority Local Plans within 5km or adjoining Thames Basin Heaths SPA:</b> 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><b>Large Scale Projects within 7km or adjoining the Thames Basin Heaths SPA:</b> 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><b>Thames Basin Heaths Joint Delivery Framework 2009:</b> Sets out the agreed Framework regarding the approach and standards for avoiding significant effects on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.</p> <p><b>Environment Agency, Thames River Basin District Management Plan (2015):</b> 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><b>Environment Agency, Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009):</b> Aim is to promote more sustainable approaches to managing flood risk. Will be delivered through a combination of different approaches.</p> <p><b>Environment Agency, River Loddon Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2012):</b> 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><b>Environment Agency, Water Resources Strategy: Regional Action Plan for Thames Region (2009):</b> Key priorities for Thames region include ensuring sufficient water resources are available, making water available in over-abstracted catchments and reducing demand.</p> <p><b>Hart Biodiversity Action Plan (2012):</b> 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**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No. Dwellings</b>
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
<b>Total</b>		<b>24,875</b>

### 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"> <li>• Appropriate management</li> <li>• Management of disturbance during breeding season (March to July)</li> <li>• Minimal air pollution</li> <li>• Absence or control of urbanisation effects, such as fires and introduction of invasive non-native species</li> <li>• Maintenance of appropriate water levels</li> <li>• Maintenance of water quality</li> </ul>
Potential effects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indirect effects arising from disturbance due to recreational activity on the SPA and potential for direct urbanising impacts.</li> </ul>

**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"> <li>• Appropriate management;</li> <li>• Managed recreational pressure;</li> <li>• Minimal air pollution;</li> <li>• Absence or control of urbanisation effects such as fires and introduction of invasive non-native species;</li> <li>• Maintenance of appropriate water levels;</li> <li>• Maintenance of water quality.</li> </ul>
Potential Effects Arising from the Neighbourhood Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effect on provision of SANG and therefore indirect effect from recreational disturbance on the SPA and SAC.</li> </ul>

#### 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 &amp; Monitoring (SAMM) and from the impacts of urbanisation by not allowing any net additional dwellings within 400m of the SPA.</p> <p>The draft Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan allocates several sites for housing development, although these are small in scale.</p> <p>There is therefore the possibility of additional dwellings coming forward over the plan period within 5km of the SPA. Saved Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan sets out the concept for SANG as avoidance measures for net additional dwellings within 5km of the SPA whilst holding a presumption against net additional dwellings within 400m. Hart District Council has also adopted a SPA Interim Avoidance Strategy in 2010 which sets out the requirement for developments proposing net additional dwellings within 5km of the SPA to avoid impacts through the use of SANG and SAMM. The Hart Local Plan 2016-2032 Proposed Submission also contains policy NBE4 which sets out protection for the TBH SPA including that residential development within 5km of the SPA must mitigate their impact through provision of SANG &amp; SAMM and that additional dwellings within 400m of the SPA will not be permitted unless an appropriate assessment finds 'no likely significant effect. Policy NBE4 also sets out the requirements for mitigation for sites of 50+ units within 5-7km of the SPA.</p> <p>Whilst there is a potential pathway for indirect recreational impacts due to the likelihood of additional dwellings within 5km of the SPA, both saved Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan and Hart's Interim Avoidance Strategy set out the requirement for avoidance measures as well as the presumption against net additional dwellings in the 400m zone. This will be strengthened on adoption of Policy NBE4 of the Hart Local Plan 2016-2032. As such, should a scheme for net additional dwellings come forward within the Neighbourhood Plan area there will be mechanisms in place to avoid impacts.</p> <p>However, in order that the Crondall Neighbourhood Plan remains consistent with Policy NRM6, and the Interim Avoidance Strategy a policy clearly setting out the approach to additional dwellings within the 5km and 400m zones and the need for avoidance in the</p>
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	<p>form of SANG and SAMM should be included for completeness. This should ensure that a decision maker is clear on how to react to any proposals for net additional dwellings within the 5km or 400m zone of influence, although this will not be necessary if Policy NBE4 is adopted prior to the Neighbourhood Plan being made.</p> <p>The protection of the TBH SPA through these policies will also extend to the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Common SAC given that the SAC designation is also covered by the TBH SPA for those areas within 5km of the Crondall Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>As such, in-combination with other plans and projects it is considered, at the time of undertaking this assessment, that the Crondall 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 provided it contains policy(s) which are consistent with the approach in Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan and the Hart Interim Avoidance Strategy if the Neighbourhood Plan is made prior to the adoption of emerging Policy NBE4.</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 Crondall 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 provided it contains policy(s) consistent with Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan and the Hart Interim Avoidance Strategy if made prior to adoption of emerging Policy NBE4. 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).

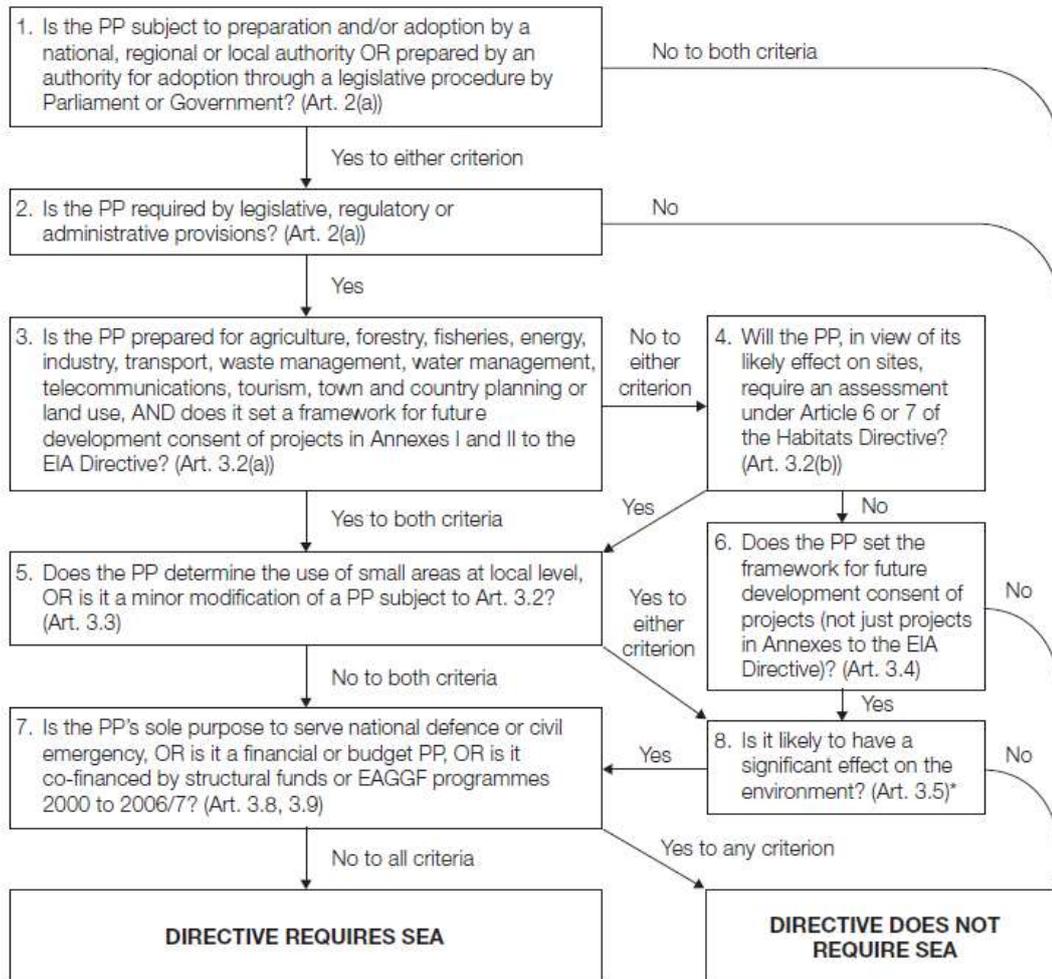
- 1.31 However, the main determining factor when considering whether a plan or programme requires SEA is whether it will have significant environmental effects.
- 1.32 Within 28 days of making its determination, the determining authority must publish a statement, such as this one, setting out its decision. 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 Crondall 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*<sup>1</sup>. The flow chart is shown in Figure 1.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 Crondall 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 Crondall 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. <b>Move to Stage 2</b>
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. <b>Move to Stage 3</b>
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 Crondall Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for town & country planning and/or land use. The draft Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan identifies a number of housing allocations, however, the sites are small in scale and such the plan does not set the framework for development consent of projects in Annexes I & II of the EIA Directive. <b>Move to Stage 4.</b>
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. <b>Move to Stage 6.</b>
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 determine the use of small areas at a local level.  The plan is not a minor modification of an existing plan.  <b>Move to Stage 6</b>
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 Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan identifies six sites for potential small scale residential development and as such sets a framework for future development consent of projects.  <b>Move to Stage 8.</b>
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 Crondall 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. <b>If Significant Effects likely move to Stage 7</b>

**Table 1-7: SEA Screening Step 2**

<b>Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations)</b>		<b>Response</b>
<b>Characteristics of the plan or programme</b>		<b>Significant Effect?</b>
(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 Crondall Neighbourhood Plan will set out policies against which development proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan area will be considered. The draft Pre-Submission Plan sets out general policies relating to housing design, designating green spaces, protecting recreational space and protection for the natural and historic environment, including biodiversity and landscapes and water quality through the use of SuDS. These policies should generally have a positive effect.</p> <p>The Pre-Submission Plan also identifies sites for potential residential development, including sites adjacent to statutorily listed buildings and a locally listed park and garden at Clare Court. However, the proposals are small in scale and the requirements set out in other policies of the plan, especially relating to the natural and historic environments should reduce or limit significant effects.</p> <p>As such, whilst the Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to set the framework for projects, these will be small in scale even in combination with one another.</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 Crondall 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 Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan contains policies to protect and enhance natural and historic environment as well as</p>	N

<b>Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations)</b>	<b>Response</b>	
environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	securing good design in residential developments and protecting green spaces through designating Local Green Spaces and protection of recreational areas. 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). Whilst the plan also has the potential to deliver development through identified sites for potential residential development, given the overall combination of policies in the plan and scale of development, this is unlikely to give rise to significant effects and should, taken together, promote sustainable development.	
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	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.	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).	The draft Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan contains policies protecting the natural and historic environment, achieving good design in residential development and protecting recreation areas as well as designating Local Green Spaces. As such, the Neighbourhood Plan could aid in the implementation of other EU legislation.	N
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected</b>		
(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	The draft Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for potential residential development, although these are small in scale.  Whilst, the potential for development at these locations increases the probability of effects to arise the policies in the plan taken as a	N

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations)	Response	
	<p>whole and scale of development should reduce or limit their impact</p> <p>The frequency of effects in terms of redeveloping sites is likely to be low given the scale of development proposed. Short term effects due to construction will be reversible but effects resulting from land use will be relatively permanent but should have generally positive effects given the requirements set out in the policies of the plan with respect to landscape, design and use of SuDS.</p> <p>Effects of designating Local Green Space, protecting recreation areas, residential design and protecting the natural and historic environment should, when taken together, have a generally positive effect, with a reasonably high degree of frequency. Positive effects could be reversible in the longer term, depending on future policy approaches beyond the plan period, however this is not within the remit of the plan under consideration.</p>	
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects	<p>The draft Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan proposes policies for designation of Local Green Space, protecting recreational areas, achieving good residential design and protecting the natural and historic environments. 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 &amp; historic environments and green infrastructure.</p> <p>Whilst, the potential for allocated residential sites, could, in combination with other</p>	N

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations)	Response	
	developments give rise to cumulative effects on issues such as traffic generation and noise, the scale of development is unlikely to lead to significant effects. It should also be noted that the SA/SEA of the Hart Local Plan 2016-2032 does not find significant effects to arise with respect to traffic generation when considering the plan as whole.	
(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 Crondall Parish Council in Hampshire. The area covered is around 1,560ha with a population at the time of the 2011 Census of 1,741 and 738 households. Given the scale and nature of development proposed in 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.	Given the nature of the Neighbourhood Plan:  i) The Neighbourhood Plan area does not contain any SSSIs, although one does lie to the north east of the plan boundary. The plan area contains 69 statutorily listed and 9 locally listed buildings as well as a locally listed park and garden and 2 archaeological and scheduled monument sites. The area is largely rural in character and contains features such as green spaces, small wooded copses and agricultural field patterns. The draft Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan refers to objectives and policies for the protection of the natural and historic environments through securing good residential design, protecting biodiversity interests and landscapes which should generally have positive effects for the built and natural environment.	N

<b>Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations)</b>	<b>Response</b>	
	<p>Although the plan identifies allocations for potential residential development the individual policies relating to these areas and other policies of the plan as well as potential scale of development should reduce impacts.</p> <p>ii) Unit 4 of the Bourley &amp; Long Valley SSSI is in an unfavourable condition, but located 2.5km from the plan boundary. However, Policy 6 should have a generally positive effect on biodiversity and the natural environment in general including landscape and water quality through use of SuDS.</p> <p>iii) None identified, given the 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>	
(g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have recognised national, Community or international protection status.	<p>The effects on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and Thursley, Ash, Pirbright &amp; Chobham Common SAC are dealt with in (d) above. In any event, an HRA screening assessment has determined no significant effects.</p>	
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>The Crondall Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects and as such an SEA is not required.</b>	

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

- Development within the plan is small in scale;
- 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.

1.36 This draft assessment was made on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018.