



**Strategic Environmental Assessment  
Screening Determination Statement**

**for**

**Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley  
Neighbourhood Plan 2016 - 2035**

October 2016

**Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report  
for Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Neighbourhood Plan**

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# Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Neighbourhood Plan

## Executive summary

This statement sets out the reasons for the Council's determination that the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Neighbourhood Plan Proposal is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects and therefore does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition this statement determines that the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Neighbourhood Plan Proposal is unlikely to result in significant effects on any European sites and consequently the plan does not require Habitat Regulation Assessment.

This determination statement is intended to support Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council in demonstrating that the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Neighbourhood Plan proposal is compatible with certain European Union obligations as required by the basic conditions, namely:

- Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment; and
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

This determination has been made on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Within 28 days of this determination, the Council will publish a statement, setting out its decision. Central Bedfordshire Council will publicise this determination statement in accordance with its regulatory requirements. A copy of the statement will be available for inspection at the Council website at <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/planning/policy/neighbourhood-planning/consultations.aspx>. It will also be available on request at: Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5TQ.

If you require any further information, then please contact Monika Marczevska by email to [monika.marczevska@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:monika.marczevska@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk).

# Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Neighbourhood Plan

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council has requested a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening opinion of its Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Central Bedfordshire Council is legally required to determine whether the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP will require SEA.
- 1.2 This document is a final Screening Determination Statement which is being issued to Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council and the statutory consultation bodies.
- 1.3 The Council undertook a screening exercise to determine whether or not the content of the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP 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. These require an SEA to be undertaken for:
- i. 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
  - ii. Plans which have been determined to require an assessment under the Habitats Directive.
- 1.4 Following the screening process the Council determined that the Fairfield Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in significant effect on the environment. The Council has consulted the findings with the statutory consultation bodies: Historic England, Natural England and Environment Agency.
- 1.5 Section 2 of this report outlines the regulations that set the need for this screening exercise. Process and criteria of the assessment are set out in Section 3.
- 1.6 A brief summary of the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP is provided in Section 4.
- 1.7 The screening assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the NP is set out in Section 5 and the justification for the determination that the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP does not require a full SEA with further recommendations is provided in Section 6.

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## **2. Legislative Background**

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed Guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005).
- 2.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is prepared for spatial plans. It is considered best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into an SA.
- 2.3 The Government has stated that SAs are not needed for NP's, but it must be demonstrated how the NP contributes to achievement of sustainable development in the area.
- 2.4 The Localism Act 2011 requires NP's to not breach, and be otherwise compatible with EU and Human Rights obligations. Ambitious and complex NP's may trigger the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and Habitat Directive, and may need to undertake SEA and Appropriate Assessment depending on the scale and the impact of the plan proposals.
- 2.5 Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 refers to the Habitat Directive. The Directive requires that any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on European sites must be subject to an appropriate assessment. Paragraphs 2-5 of Schedule 2 amend the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 so that its provisions apply to Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs) and NPs. The Regulations state that NPs are not likely to have significant effect on a site designated at European level for its biodiversity, however, this needs to be ascertained through Habitat Regulations Assessment's screening process.
- 2.6 This report focuses on screening for both HRA and SEA and the criteria for establishing whether a full assessment is needed.



## Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Neighbourhood Plan

3.4 Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below:

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
  - 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,
  - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
  - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
  - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
  - 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).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
  - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
  - the cumulative nature of the effects,
  - the transboundary nature of the effects,
  - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
  - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
  - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
    - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
    - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
    - intensive land-use,
    - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Source: Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

3.5 The three statutory consultation bodies (English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England) will be consulted to determine whether they agree with the findings and conclusions of this screening opinion, in establishing whether the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP requires SEA and whether it may have a significant environmental effect. Following consultation with statutory consultees a final Screening Determination Statement will be issued to Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council and the statutory consultees.

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## **4. Summary of Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Neighbourhood Plan**

- 4.1 Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP covers the administrative boundaries of Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council. The Plan does not allocate sites for housing or employment; but it proposes a number of Local Green Space and Community Green Space designations. The Plan is focused on setting development management policies to guide future development to minimise any adverse and deliver positive effects on the environment and local community.
- 4.2 Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley is a rural parish with two settlements: Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley set within the rural open countryside on the eastern boundary of the county of Bedfordshire, close to Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. In 2011 the census showed that the Parish had 740 residents in 330 dwellings. The two settlements have considerable historic backgrounds with Cockayne Hatley mentioned in the Domesday Book and Wrestlingworth being founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The settlements were based on the farming industry of the local area which included arable and fruit farming.
- 4.3 Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley draft NP covers a range of land use and environmental issues that relate to the Parish. These are addressed through a number of policies to guide development in the Parish; namely:
- Housing and employment needs
  - Transport and traffic issues
  - Community, social and leisure facilities
  - Access to countryside
  - Provision of green spaces and biodiversity
  - Protection of historic and heritage assets
  - Design
- 4.4 Housing policies seek to support residential development that delivers type of housing identified as needed in the Housing Needs Survey by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (May 2013).
- 4.5 Employment policies support delivery of broadband, small scale retail and commercial (B1) development that is suited for rural setting and does not compromise residential amenity and rural character of the area.
- 4.6 Transport policies seek to support development that will alleviate existing congestion and improve traffic flows; increase walking and cycling opportunities including those set out in the Green Infrastructure Plan which



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accompanies the NP. All new development is expected to deliver sufficient parking provision as set out by the Central Bedfordshire's Local Transport Plan.

- 4.7 Policies in Social, Community and Leisure Facilities section of the draft Plan support development that will deliver community and recreational facilities. The Plan is seeking to safeguard a land for future allotment use by designating Community Green Space on the site of former tree nursery, next to the Chequers pub.
- 4.8 Built Environment and Heritage policies seek to protect and enhance character, and historic and archaeological assets of the Parish. The design policy sets locally specific design requirements that seek to protect local character of the Parish.
- 4.9 Natural Environment policies seek to provide a net gain in biodiversity and designate a number of sites as Local Green Spaces and Community Green Spaces. The sites have been identified by the Green Infrastructure Plan. The policies in this section also seek to protect Lousy Wood Nature Reserve and key viewpoints in the open countryside as identified in the Green Infrastructure Plan. A policy on Reuse and Replacement of Buildings sets criteria for protecting the rural character and setting.
- 4.10 Energy, Waste and Water policies seek to support proposals for flood mitigation and provide improvements to surface water and foul drainage; ensure that adequate infrastructure is provided for water and sewage and energy project do not have adverse impact on openness of the countryside and landscape and to protect good quality agricultural land.
- 4.11 The Non Land Use Aims and Community Aspiration section seeks to introduce speed limits and support proposals that promote the improvement of bus services in the Parish. There are no policies in this section of the NP.
- 4.12 The Plan is to be delivered over a long period of time and therefore the Parish proposes to monitor the implementation of the Plan and review it every 5 years.

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## 5 Assessment

5.1 The first part of the assessment is to establish the need for the SEA. The table below shows the assessment determining whether the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP falls into a category of plans requiring SEA.

Stage	Y/N	Reasons
1. Is the NP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The preparation and adoption of the NP is allowed under Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared by Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council (as the 'relevant body') and will be 'made' by the Central Bedfordshire Council as the local authority. The preparation of NPs is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012.  <b>GO TO STAGE 2</b>
2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	Whilst the NP is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it will, if 'made', form part of Local Plan for the unitary area. It is therefore important that the screening process considers whether it is likely to have a significant effect on environment and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive.  <b>GO TO STAGE 3</b>
3. Is the NP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set framework for future development consent of	Y&N	The NP is being prepared for town and country planning and land use as it proposes to safeguard a site for the future delivery of allotments, but it does <b>not</b> set a framework for future development consent for projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive.

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Stage	Y/N	Reasons
projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(b))		<b>GO TO STAGE 4</b>
4. Will the NP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	<b>N</b>	The NP does not propose to allocate new sites for urban development. Any development will be delivered in compliance with Central Bedfordshire North Core Strategy and Development Management DPD policies (2009). The Habitat Regulations screening undertaken for the Site Allocations DPD found that there will be no significant effects on the Natura sites considered, either alone or in-combination arising from developing allocated sites and therefore no further Appropriate Assessment was considered necessary.  align="right"> <b>GO TO STAGE 6</b>
5. Does the NP determine the use of small areas at local level OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art.3.3)		<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>
6. Does the NP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)	<b>Y</b>	The NP will set the framework for future development of projects not included in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive.  align="right"> <b>GO TO STAGE 8</b>
7. Is the NP's sole purpose to serve national defence or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 3.8 & Art. 3.9)		<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>
8. Is the NP likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	<b>N</b>	See assessment 2: Likely significant effects on the environment.  <b>DIRECTIVE DOES NOT REQUIRE SEA</b>

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5.2 The next step in the screening assessment is to establish whether the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The criteria for determining the likely significance of effects are drawn from the Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC.

Criteria for determining the likely significant effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Summary of significant effects	Likely to have significant environmental effects Y/N
1a 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.	The NP will contribute to the framework for considering future development consents of projects: it safeguards a site for the future allotment delivery and policies to guide future development to address a number of local issues, and to protect and enhance local community facilities and the character of Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley. However, it will sit within wider framework of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (2009), the Site Allocation DPD (2011), therefore the projects for which this Neighbourhood Plan helps to set a framework are localised in nature and have limited resource implications.	<b>N</b>
1b The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The NP will be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework. The policies within the NP are in general conformity with the Council's strategic policies and complement the Core Strategy and Development Management policies. The NP is unlikely to significantly influence other plans and programmes, but may have a limited degree of influence over the formation of future strategic policies of Central Bedfordshire's new Local Plan.	<b>N</b>
1c The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in	The NP makes designations for Local Green Spaces and Community Green Spaces to protect and enhance natural environment. The Plan includes design policies to protect the character and both rural	<b>N</b>

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Criteria for determining the likely significant effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Summary of significant effects	Likely to have significant environmental effects Y/N
particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	and historic setting of Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley. All potential development will need to comply with Central Bedfordshire Council planning policies and be in conformity with NPPF. Given the scope of the NP, it is considered that the Plan integrates environmental considerations and promotes sustainable development.	
1d Environmental problems relevant to the plan.	The NP includes policies on protection and enhancement of natural environment, and protection of the historic character and listed buildings. The Plan proposes a number of Local Green Space and Community Green Space designations. The sites were identified by the Green Infrastructure Plan. The current use of the sites ranges from meadows, to a playing field and agricultural land. The designations may change the current use of the land from agricultural to recreational, but effects arising from that are likely to be localised in nature and have limited resource implications. The Plan is not allocating sites for residential or commercial development, and therefore the Plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects.	<b>N</b>
1e 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	The NP sits within the wider framework of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (2009), the Site Allocation DPD (2011), and is not directly relevant to the implementation of European legislation.	<b>N</b>

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Criteria for determining the likely significant effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Summary of significant effects	Likely to have significant environmental effects Y/N
water protection or renewable energy generation)		
2a Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	The NP is likely to have short-term effects resulting from activity associated improvements to local infrastructure such as drainage and construction of cycleways and footways. There may also be longer-term effects relevant to changes in land use but they are likely to be localised in their nature and not significantly negative for environmental factors.	<b>N</b>
2b The cumulative nature of the effects	Likely cumulative effects of the NP with other Plans in the hierarchy are likely to be positive in their nature; particularly for environmental factors such as biodiversity, human health and archaeological and historical material assets of Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley as the Plan proposes protection and enhancement of local environment and the historical character of the settlements within Parish. However given the localised nature of the Plan, the effects are unlikely to be significant.	<b>N</b>
2c The trans boundary nature of the effects	Given the localised nature of the Neighbourhood Plan there are not expected to be any significant trans-boundary effects.	<b>N</b>
2d The risk to human health or environment (e.g. due to accidents)	The NP is unlikely to pose significant risks to human health or the environment. Indeed, the Plan is likely to improve human health and the environment through protection of local green spaces and seeking improvements to countryside access and recreational facilities.	<b>N</b>
2e The effects on areas or	There are no Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Areas of	<b>N</b>

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Criteria for determining the likely significant effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Summary of significant effects	Likely to have significant environmental effects Y/N
landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	Great Landscape Value (AGLV) located within or adjacent to the Plan area.	
2f The magnitude spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The NP covers the area of Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish. As the Plan is not looking to allocate housing or employment sites, the plan is likely to affect a population of approximately 300 households over the life of the Plan.	<b>N</b>
2g The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</li>   <li>• Exceeded environmental quality standards</li>   <li>• Intensive land use</li> </ul>	<p>Within the Parish there are a number of historic buildings, some listed and other historic records. In terms of natural environment, there is Cockayne Hatley Wood CWS within the Parish and Potton Wood SSSI adjacent to the north-west boundary of the Parish. The Plan is looking to protect and enhanced the environmental and historic assets, although the effects of the Plan are unlikely to be beyond the effects assessed through the SA/SEA undertaken for the North Central Bedfordshire Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (2009), the Site Allocation DPD (2011).</p> <p>The NP is not expected to exceed environmental quality standards or limit values.</p> <p>The NP does not propose development likely to result in intensive land use.</p>	<b>N</b>

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## **6 Screening Outcome**

- 6.1 The screening assessment undertaken in Section 5 concludes that, it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP that were not covered in the SA of the Central Bedfordshire North Core Strategy and Development Management Documents (2009); and Site Allocation Document (2011). **As such, Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.**
- 6.2 The Council consulted on its findings with three statutory consultation bodies: the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The consultation period was 5 weeks; from 22<sup>nd</sup> June to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The consultation e-mail stated that if response is not received it is assumed that the statutory consultee agrees with the Council findings and conclusions.
- 6.3 The Council received two responses from the Environment Agency and Natural England that agreed with the Council findings that Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP does not require a full SEA to be undertaken. Historic England sent a generic advice on undertaking SEA screening for neighbourhood plans. The received consultation responses can be found in appendix 1.
- 6.4 Following the screening process and consultation the Councils determines that **Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.**
- 6.5 As part of this SEA screening, Habitat Regulations screening was undertaken because plans that are likely to have significant impact on European Sites require a Strategic Environmental Assessment in addition to an Appropriate Assessment (Habitat Regulation Assessment). This screening concluded that the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP is unlikely to have significant impact on European sites and therefore **Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley NP does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.**
- 6.6 Although SEA is not required, Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council may wish to consider voluntarily undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) that covers all three aspects of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic. The advantage of undertaking a SA is that it can assess the impact of the NP on environmental, social and economic factors and therefore demonstrate to an examiner how sustainable development has been considered in the preparation of the Plan and that the



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Plan as prepared is the most sustainable compared with any reasonable alternatives.

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**Appendix: Consultation Responses**

# Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Neighbourhood Plan

RE: W&CH NP SEA screening opinion consultation - Message (HTML)

File Message

Ignore, Reply, Forward, Meeting, OneNote, Mark, Categorize, Follow, Translate, Find, Zoom, Copy, Copy, Enterprise Connect

From: Benn, Neville A <neville.benn@environment-agency.gov.uk>  
To: Siobhan Vincent  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: W&CH NP SEA screening opinion consultation

Sent: Wed 22/06/2016 13:37

Dear Siobhan

We agree with your councils conclusions.

Kind regards

**Neville Benn**  
Senior Planning Advisor  
Sustainable Places

Environment Agency, Bromholme Lane, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE28 4NE  
Internal: 51906  
External: 0203 0251906  
[neville.benn@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:neville.benn@environment-agency.gov.uk)

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**From:** Siobhan Vincent [<mailto:Siobhan.Vincent@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 22 June 2016 11:17  
**To:** Benn, Neville A; 'eastplanningpolicy@HistoricEngland.org.uk'  
**Subject:** FW: W&CH NP SEA screening opinion consultation

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**From:** Siobhan Vincent  
**Sent:** 22 June 2016 10:44  
**To:** 'eastplanningpolicy@HistoricEngland.org.uk'; 'consultations@naturalengland.org.uk'; 'neville.benn@environment-agency.gov.uk'  
**Cc:** Monika Marczewska  
**Subject:** W&CH NP SEA screening opinion consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Central Bedfordshire Council received a request from Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening opinion of its Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Central Bedfordshire Council is legally required to screen the Plan and provide its opinion as to whether it will require SEA, as well as consult statutory consultees on this opinion before issuing a Screening Statement detailing reasons for the determination.

The Council is requesting your comments on the attached screening opinion for the Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley NP.

Following a screening process based on a standard set of criteria, the Council has determined that the Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley NP will not result in having a significant effect on the Environment and therefore does not require a full SEA. The environmental constraints map for Fairfield NP area is attached.

As part of assessment of significant effects, the Council screened the Plan as to whether it is likely to have significant impacts on nature conservation sites that are of European importance. This part of assessment was based on findings of Habitat Regulation screening undertaken for the Central Bedfordshire North Core Strategy and Development Management documents and Site Allocation documents. Both screening reports are attached for reference together with a Wrestlingworth NP area map.

15:51  
02/11/2016

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Neighbourhood Plan

**From:** Gates, Natalie [<mailto:Natalie.Gates@HistoricEngland.org.uk>]

**Sent:** 13 October 2016 13:04

**To:** Siobhan Vincent

**Cc:** Monika Marczevska; Cattier, Sophie

**Subject:** RE: CBC Neighbourhood plan consultations

Dear Siobhan,

Unfortunately, resourcing is an issue at the moment. Historic England has published a number of Good Practice Advice and Advice Notes which you may find useful in relation to Neighbourhood Plans. In particular:

Good Practice Advice in Planning 1 – the historic environment in local plans:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa1-historic-environment-local-plans/>

Advice Note 3 – site allocations in local plans: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-environment-and-site-allocations-in-local-plans/>.

Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and the Historic Environment: [https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/strategic-environ-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/SA\\_SEA\\_final.pdf/](https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/strategic-environ-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/SA_SEA_final.pdf/)

We have also produced updated advice on the matter which is currently out for public consultation. This document, entitled Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Historic England Advice Note 8 can be found

at: <http://content.historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/guidance/sea-advice-note-consultation-draft-jul16.pdf>

Neighbourhood Plans which include site allocations will need an SEA/SA, however, some LPAs have included these sites within the Local Plan SEA/SA in which case, unless the NP differs or has introduced new sites, it is unlikely that a separate SEA/SA will be required for the NP, please see our guidance for more specific details. NPs which do not include site allocations generally do not require an SEA/SA but where policy/ies are proposed which would have a significant impact on heritage asset/s this may not be the case. Please refer to our guidance for more information, but if you have a specific query do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,

Natalie

Dr Natalie Gates

Principal Adviser, Historic Places

Planning Group | East of England

Historic England

Direct Line: 01223 582747 Mobile: 07766 497750

Historic England

Brooklands | 24 Brooklands Avenue | Cambridge | CB2 8BU

[www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk)

@HE\_EoE

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Neighbourhood Plan

Date: 26 July 2016

Our ref: 188983

Your ref: Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley SEA screening opinion

Siobhan Vincent

siobhan.vincent@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ  
T 0300 060 3900

Dear Ms Vincent  
Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley SEA screening opinion

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 22 June 2016.

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

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance<sup>1</sup>. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

## **Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Neighbourhood Plan**

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental

assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

Habitats Regulation Assessment

I can also confirm that Natural England agrees with the report's conclusions that the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Kayleigh Cheese on 02080 260981. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Kayleigh Cheese

Bedfordshire Local Delivery Team