

Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

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

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Screening Statement – Determination under Regulation 105 & 106 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

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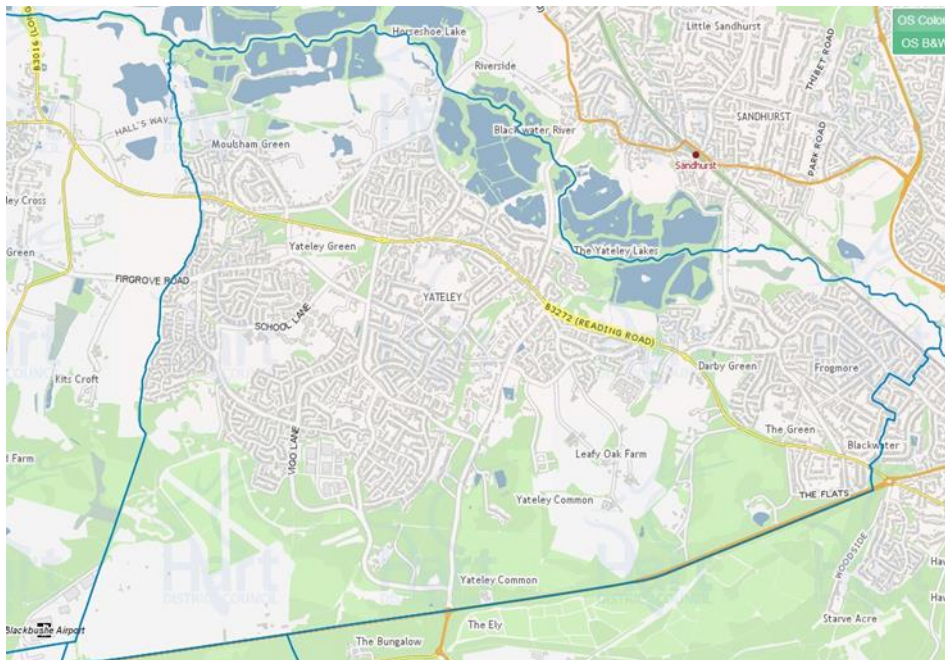
Introduction

- 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 Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA or HRA. This screening assessment is based on the draft Neighbourhood Plan dated December 2020.
- 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 105 of the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017.
- 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 105 of the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017, the District Council is the competent authority for determining if a plan requires Appropriate Assessment.

Background to the Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.6. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) make provision for Parish/Town 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 draft Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan covers all of the area within the jurisdiction of Yateley Town Council and contains the urban areas of Yateley, Moulsham Green, Darby Green and Frogmore. To the north of the urban area lie Yateley Lakes a series of lakes formed from former gravel workings with the river Blackwater forming the northern most boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area. To the south of the urban area lies Yateley Common County Park and a limited number of agricultural field patterns with Blackbushe Airfield in the south west of the plan area. The A30 forms the southern boundary of the plan area. A plan of the designated area is shown in Plan 1-1.

Plan 1-1: Map of the Designated Area for the Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan



- 1.8. There are no areas of woodland designated as ancient/semi-natural or ancient replanted woodland, however there are numerous areas of deciduous woodland and a traditional orchard to the north of Strouds Pond identified as priority habitat as well as swathes of woodpasture and parkland to the south of the plan area which is a national Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) designation. Priority habitat designations also include areas of floodplain grazing marsh, good quality semi-improved grassland, lowland dry acid grassland, lowland heathland and lowland fens. Priority species include lapwing and other notable species include Turtle Dove and Great Crested Newts.
- 1.9. There are two SSSIs which straddle the neighbourhood plan area, Castle Bottom to Yateley & Hawley Commons SSSI and the Blackwater Valley SSSI. Units 1 and 7 of the Castle Bottom to Yateley & Hawley Commons SSSI lie within the neighbourhood plan area with unit 1 in an unfavourable recovering status and unit 7 in an unfavourable declining status, the reasons for which are listed as inappropriate scrub control. Units 3 and 4 of the Blackwater Valley SSSI also lie within the plan area with unit 3 in a favourable status and unit 4 unfavourable declining due to grassland habitats not being actively managed. The Castle Bottom to Yateley & Hawley Commons SSSI also forms part of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.
- 1.10. To the west of the Neighbourhood Plan and adjacent to its boundary lies the Castle Bottom National Nature Reserve which also forms part of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.
- 1.11. The Blackwater Valley and Thames Basin Heaths Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA) also lie within the Neighbourhood Plan area, The Blackwater Valley BOA is a

river valley with a wide diversity of habitats and open spaces and the lakes at Yateley holding a nationally important wintering population of Gadwall. The Thames Basin Heaths BOA comprises a diverse mosaic of heathland, woodland, mire and scrub and supports internationally important populations of Dartford Warbler, woodlark and nightjar.

- 1.12. Parts of the urban area of the Neighbourhood Plan lie within 400m of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and the plan boundary also lies within 5.7km of the Thursley, Pirbright, Ash & Chobham SAC, 14.9km of the Windsor Forest & Great Park SAC, 16.7km of the Wealden Heaths Phase I SPA and its component parts, 20.3km of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA, 20.4km of the South West London Waterbodies SPA & Ramsar, 21.2km from East Hampshire Hangers SAC, 21.4km of the Shortheath Common SAC and 25.2km of the Woolmer Forest SAC.
- 1.13. The neighbourhood plan lies within the River Lodden and Tributaries catchment which is made up of 22 water bodies including 16 natural, 1 artificial and 5 heavily modified. Of the 22 water bodies 12 have moderate ecological status, 9 poor and 1 fail. All bodies fail good chemical status (as at 2019). Reasons for not achieving good status are predominantly due to agriculture, urban and transport and waste treatment and disposal. A proportion of the plan area is within fluvial flood zones 2 and 3.
- 1.14. From a heritage perspective, the Plan area contains 23 statutorily listed buildings and structures including the Grade II* Yateley Hall and Grade II St Peter's Church. There are 3 Conservation Areas including Yateley Green, Darby Green and Cricket Hill.
- 1.15. The draft Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Draft Plan dated December 2020 sets out a four themed vision including Happy, Attractive, Sustainable and Inclusive.
- 1.16. The draft neighbourhood plan also contains seven key objectives: -
 - To ensure housing, including affordable housing is delivered that meets the needs of the whole community;*
 - To ensure development is supported by upgrading infrastructure including digital broadband, local generation of electricity and initiating the transition to low carbon heating as gas will be phased out as a heating medium from 2025 onwards;*
 - To ensure new development is of an appropriate type, size, density and quality that contributes to the community's needs;*
 - To ensure development is built, designed and located so as to not to add to the carbon burden and supports the national target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;*
 - To protect and enhance biodiversity, open spaces and waterscapes;*
 - To encourage better facilities for young people;*
 - To protect the character and identity of local communities*
- 1.17 The draft Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan dated December 2020 contains a total of 16 policies ranging from guidance on housing mix and affordable housing, the design of development, sustainable development, climate change, conservation areas, biodiversity, flood risk, green and other infrastructure as well as Blackbushe Airport and home working. The Neighbourhood Plan does not

allocate any sites for development or set out a quantum of development for housing, employment or retail development.

- 1.18 The adopted Hart Local Plan (Strategy & Sites) 2032 contains the following objective:
'To protect and enhance the District's natural environment, landscape character, water environment and biodiversity, including ensuring appropriate mitigation is in place for new development to avoid adverse impacts on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBHSPA).
- 1.19 The Spatial Strategy of the Hart Local Plan identifies a housing target of 423 homes per annum or 7,614 in total but does not identify a specific target or identify any allocations in the Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 1.20 The Hart Local Plan also contains a number of other general policies covering design, transport and protection of the natural and historic environments and these have been taken into account in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.21 The Hart Local Plan has been the subject of Sustainability Appraisal (including the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment) as well as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).
- 1.22 The HRA accompanying the submission Local Plan identifies a number of potential impact pathways including urbanisation, recreational pressure, atmospheric pollution, water abstraction and water quality. Paragraph 1.10 of the Local Plan HRA states that outside of the Borough there are no European sites where a potential pathway for significant effect exists and the only site with potential pathways is the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. As such, taking a lead from the Borough wide Local Plan HRA, this HRA screens out all European (now National Network) sites other than the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. It is considered therefore that there are no pathways for effect from the Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan above and beyond those already considered at a borough wide level through the Local Plan.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.23 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

- 1.24 The need to undertake an Appropriate Assessment as part of an HRA is set out within the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Although the UK has now left the European Union (EU), the Habitats Directive is transposed into British Law by Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. As such, there is still a requirement to undertake HRA. The Appropriate Assessment stage of HRA is only required should the preliminary screening assessment not be able to rule out likely significant effects.
- 1.25 The European Habitats Directive (and consequently the Habitats Regulations) requires that any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a National Network 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 the National Site Network. Schedule 2 also amends the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (now the 2017 Regulations) so as to apply its provisions to neighbourhood development orders and neighbourhood plans. It also inserts new regulation 78A (now Regulation 81) which provides that a neighbourhood development order may not grant planning permission for development which is likely to have a significant effect on a National Network site and Regulation 102 (now Regulation 106) deals with Neighbourhood Plans.

1.26 Whilst Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 sets out a general presumption that an HRA is unlikely to be required, it is still necessary to carry out a screening assessment.

1.27 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 National Network site either alone or in combination with other plans/projects and consideration of whether these are significant. Following the decision of the ECJ in the *People Over Wind & Sweetman v. Coillite Teoranta (C-323/17)* case, avoidance and/or mitigation measures cannot be taken into account at the screening stage and it is purely an exercise to determine if possible pathways for effect exist and whether these can be ruled out taking account of the precautionary principle. It is the opinion of this HRA screening assessment that adopted policies of the current development plan and draft policies in the Neighbourhood Plan act as avoidance/mitigation and cannot be taken into account at this stage of HRA.

Step 2: Appropriate Assessment – consideration of the impact on the integrity of the National Network 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.

1.28 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

1.29 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 National Network site(s); and

Stage 4: Assessing the significance of any effects

Stage 1

- 1.30 It can be determined that the Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a National Network site.

Stage 2

- 1.31 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 (2019): 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 (Strategy & Sites) 2032: Sets policies for the consideration of development and the spatial strategy for the District including provision of 7,614 dwellings.</p> <p>Other Local Authority Local Plans within zone of influence or adjoining sites identified in paras 1.22: Housing target for areas around National Network sites set out in Table 1-2.</p> <p>Large Scale Projects within zone of influence or adjoining National Network Sites: Large scale projects within zone of influence 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.</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. Neighbourhood plan area lies within the Lodden & Tributaries Catchment area</p> <p>Environment Agency, Lodden Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2019): identifies the Lodden as having 'water available' with the bespoke Thames licensing strategy applied.</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>
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Table 1-2: List of Local Authority Housing Targets within 5km of Thames Basin Heaths SPA

Site	Local Plan Area	Housing Target
Thames Basin Heaths SPA		
	Waverley Borough	11,210
	Guildford Borough	10,678
	Woking Borough	4,964
	Surrey Heath Borough	3,240
	Runnymede Borough	7,507
	Elmbridge Borough	3,375
	Bracknell Forest Borough	11,139
	Windsor & Maidenhead	14,260
	Wokingham Borough	13,230
	Rushmoor Borough	8,884
	Hart District	6,214
Total		94,701

Stage 3

- 1.32 Information regarding the National Network site(s) screened and the likely effects that may arise due to implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan can be found in Tables 1-3 and 1-4. All other National Network 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 either alone or in combination. In this respect regard has been had to the Local Plan HRA.

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:	Thames Basin Heaths SPA qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive: During the breeding season: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>: 7.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (count mean, 1998-1999); - Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>: 9.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (count as at 1997); - Dartford warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>: 27.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (count as at 1999).

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, atmospheric pollution and water resource as well as potential for direct urbanising impacts.

Stage 4

1.33 The consideration of potential effects are set out in Table 1-4.

Table 1-4: 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 SPAs and SAC's effected by recreational disturbance and urbanisation 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 Thames Basin Heaths SPA & Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham SAC (or sites of 50 or more dwellings within 7km), 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> <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</p>
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	<p>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 draft Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land or sites for net additional dwellings or other types of development that could give rise to increased recreational or urbanisation impacts. It is also considered that the Plan's draft policies mainly deal with design, protection of the environment, sustainability and the type of housing needed (not the quantum) and would not lead to pathways for effect.</p> <p>As such, there are no pathways for effect for impacts either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. Therefore it is considered, at the time of undertaking this assessment and even in the absence of avoidance and/or mitigation measures which cannot be taken into account at the screening stage of HRA (including any adopted policies in the Hart Local Plan 2032) that the draft Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan will not give rise to likely significant effects on Thames Basin Heaths SPA in terms of recreation or urbanisation.</p> <p>In this respect an Appropriate Assessment is not required.</p>
Atmospheric Pollution	<p>The Hart Local Plan HRA concludes no likely significant effect as a result of atmospheric pollution in combination with other plans and projects on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, but states that there is a wider strategic approach to atmospheric pollution and the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and the Council should accord with this.</p> <p>However, the draft Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land or sites for development and neither is it considered that any of the Plan's draft policies which mainly deal with the design, protection of the environment, sustainability and the type of housing needed (not the quantum) would lead to pathways for effect. In this respect and even in the absence of avoidance/mitigation it is considered that the Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan would not give rise to likely significant effect in terms of atmospheric pollution either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>In this respect an Appropriate Assessment is not required.</p>

Water Resource & Quality	<p>The Local Plan HRA does not identify water quality or resource as a potential linking pathway for effect on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.</p> <p>The draft Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land or sites for development and neither is it considered that any of the Plan's draft policies which mainly deal with design, protection of the environment, sustainability and the type of housing needed (not the quantum) would lead to pathways for effect. In this respect and even in the absence of avoidance/mitigation it is considered that the Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan would not give rise to likely significant effect in terms of water resources or quality either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>In this respect an Appropriate Assessment is not required.</p>
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- 1.34 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 and even in the absence of avoidance and mitigation measures that the Yateley, Darby Green and Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan **will not** give rise to significant effects on National Network sites 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.

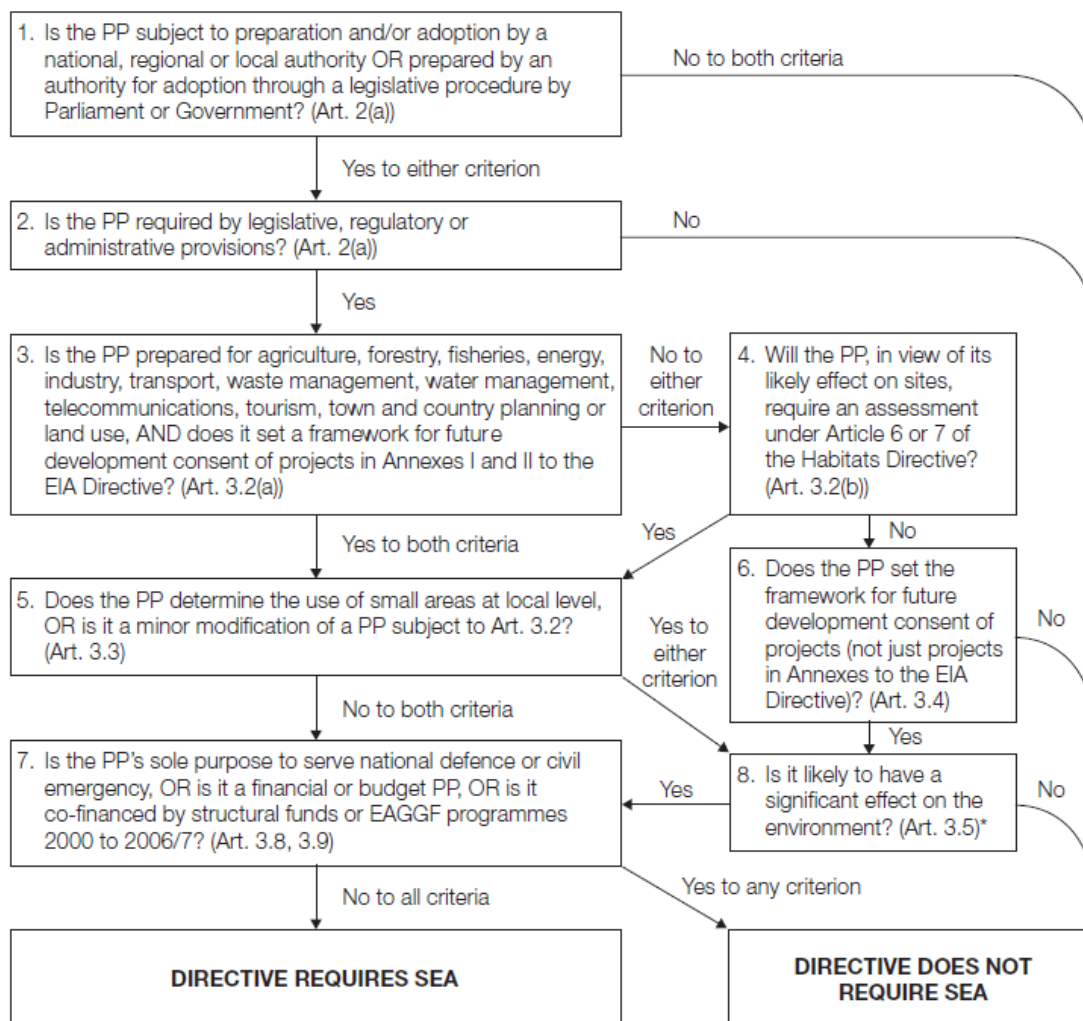
The SEA Screening Process

- 1.35 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 1.24 to 1.34 of this screening assessment).
- 1.36 However, the main determining factor when considering whether a plan or programme requires SEA is whether it will have significant environmental effects.
- 1.37 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.
- 1.38 This Screening Report sets out the Council's determination under Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 on whether or not SEA is required for the Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan. 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*¹. The flow chart is shown in Figure 1. The District Council must also consult with the three statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England) and take their views into account before issuing a final determination. The comments received from the three statutory bodies on a draft version of this assessment and how these have been dealt with are set out in Table 1-7 at the end of this document.

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

- 1.39 The second step is to consider whether the Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan will have significant environmental effects when considered against the criteria set out in Schedule I of the Regulations. The findings of step 1 and step 2 are shown in Tables 1-5 and 1-6.

Table 1-5: SEA Screening Step 1

Stage in Flowchart	Y/N	Reason
<p>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))</p>	Y	<p>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 Yateley Town 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.</p> <p>Move to Stage 2</p>
<p>2. Is the plan/programme required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Article 2(a))</p>	N	<p>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.</p> <p>Move to Stage 3</p>
<p>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))</p>	N	<p>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.</p> <p>Move to Stage 4.</p>

Stage in Flowchart	Y/N	Reason
4. Will the plan/programme, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Article 3.2(b))	N	The HRA screening undertaken in paragraphs 1.24 to 1.34 of this 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 1-12. If Significant Effects likely move to Stage 7

Table 1-6: SEA Screening Step 2

Criteria (from 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 Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan will set out policies against which development proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan area will be considered. The Draft Plan sets out general policies relating to design, protection of the environment, sustainability and the type of housing needed (not the quantum).</p> <p>The plan does not however allocate any land or sites for development.</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 not have significant 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 adopted Local Plan 2032. The adopted policies of the Local Plan have informed the preparation of the Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan policies. However, it is the Local Plan that identifies the strategic approach to new development in the Borough 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 environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	<p>The Draft Neighbourhood Plan sets out general policies relating to design, protection of the environment, sustainability and the type of housing needed (not the quantum) as well as conservation, active travel, green and other infrastructure.</p> <p>The plan does not however allocate and land or sites for development.</p> <p>As such, taken together and given the nature of the policies the neighbourhood plan will not give rise to significant effects and should promote sustainable development.</p>		N

Criteria (from Schedule I of the Regulations)	Response	
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	<p>Environmental problems include potential recreational or urbanising impacts to National Network sites as well as atmospheric pollution and water resource/quality. Paragraphs 1.24 to 1.34 of this assessment sets out these effects of the Neighbourhood Plan on National Network sites and has determined no significant effects.</p> <p>Environmental problems also include poor chemical status for River Loden catchments and 2 SSSI units in an unfavourable declining status. However, these problems are largely down to management and other land uses which are beyond the remit and/or control of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The Draft Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan also sets out policies relating to design, protection of the environment, sustainability and the type of housing needed (not the quantum) and taken as a whole and given their nature will not give rise to significant effects.</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 Draft Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies on the design, protection of the environment, sustainability and the type of housing needed (not the quantum). The plan does not however allocate any land or sites for development.</p> <p>Given the nature of policies and taken as a whole, the Neighbourhood Plan could aid in the implementation of other EU legislation, although given that the UK has now left the EU this criteria may no longer be relevant. In any event it is unlikely that effects will be significant.</p>	N
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected		
(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	The Draft Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land or sites for development but does set a framework for decision making specifically in terms of the design, protection of the environment, sustainability and the type of housing needed. Whilst taken together there is a high probability for effects	N

Criteria (from Schedule I of the Regulations)	Response	
	<p>given the nature of the policies effects are unlikely to be significant.</p> <p>Effects will be relatively permanent with a high degree of frequency given the requirements set out in the policies of the plan with respect to the built and natural environment, sustainability and active transport as well as provision for net gains in biodiversity. However, taken together effects are unlikely to be significant.</p> <p>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 Draft Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies relating to the design, protection of the environment, sustainability and the type of housing needed. These policy approaches when taken in combination with the SSSIs, Site of Nature Conservation Importance designations, priority habitats and adopted policies in the Hart Local Plan 2032 as well as saved Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan should provide cumulative effects, however given the nature of the policies and taken as a whole effects are unlikely to be significant.</p>	N
(c) The transboundary nature of the effects	<p>Given the geographic scope of the Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered that no transboundary effects will arise.</p>	N
(d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	<p>None.</p>	N
(e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will cover the whole of the geographic area of Yateley Town Council in Hampshire. According to the 2011 Census, the area covered is 1,100ha with a population of around 20,471. Given the scale and nature of the Neighbourhood Plan and taking its policies as a whole, it is considered that effects are unlikely to be significant.</p>	N

Criteria (from Schedule I of the Regulations)	Response	
<p>(f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The Neighbourhood Plan contains 2 SSSI units in an unfavourable declining status which does not meet the PSA target of 95% in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition status. However, this is largely down to land management issues which is beyond the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan. <p>Parts of the urban areas also lie within 400m of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, however HRA screening concludes no likely significant effects given the policies of the plan when taken as a whole and in combination with other plans/programmes.</p> <p>The plan area contains numerous statutorily or locally listed buildings and structures as well as three conservation areas. The area is a mixture of urban and rural character and contains features such as green spaces, lakes, commons, agricultural field patterns as well as the urban areas of Yateley, Darby Green and Frogmore. The Draft Neighbourhood Plan refers to objectives and policies relating to design, protection of the environment, sustainable design, active transport and biodiversity and as such effects are unlikely to be significant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii) There are no Air Quality Management Areas in the Neighbourhood Plan area and air quality standards are not exceeded at the air quality monitoring site (YA2) in the Neighbourhood Plan area². Whilst the Environment Agency has identified the River Lodden catchments as not achieving good chemical status, Neighbourhood Plan policies do not contain pathways for effect on the water environment and therefore effects will not be significant and are largely out of the control of the plan. iii) None identified. Intensive land use could occur in the urban areas (built development), but the Plan does not allocate any land or 	<p style="text-align: center;">N</p>

² Hart NO2 Tube Survey Results (2020), Available at: <https://www.hart.gov.uk/pollution-nuisance>

Criteria (from Schedule I of the Regulations)	Response	
	sites for development and as such there is no pathway for significant effects.	
(g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have recognised national, community or international protection status.	The effects on the National Site Network are dealt with in (d) above. In any event, an HRA screening assessment has determined no likely significant effects.	N
Conclusion	The Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects and as such an SEA is not required.	

1.40 On the basis of the Screening process it is determined that the Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore 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 adopted Hart Local Plan 2032 will not have significant effects.

1.41 Given the findings of this screening assessment it is considered that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. The responses from the three statutory bodies set out in Table 1-7 confirm this.

Table 1-7: Responses Received from Statutory Bodies

Statutory Body	Response	Comment
Environment Agency	We regret that at present, the Thames Area Sustainable Places team is unable to review this consultation. For the purposes of neighbourhood planning, we have assessed those authorities who have “up to date” local plans (plans adopted since 2012, or which have been confirmed as being compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework) as being of lower risk. At this time, therefore, we are unable to make any detailed input on	Noted. No changes necessary.

	neighbourhood plans being prepared within this local authority area.	
Historic England	<p>I am happy to confirm our agreement that Historic England agree with the Council's opinion that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects within areas of interest to ourselves. As such does not merit SEA for reasons of interest to Historic England.</p> <p>We do note that the neighbourhood plan area will need to accommodate infill development in addition to the strategic sites allocated through the Hart Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032 but are satisfied that the local plan policies have already been subject to SEA and provide appropriate consideration of potential effects of heritage assets to which the Neighbourhood Plan would provide supplementary rather than conflicting considerations.</p> <p>We reserve the right to request a review of this opinion should he plan change significantly in scope at later stages of plan making.</p>	Noted. No changes necessary.
Natural England	<p>Agree with the conclusions of the above screening report, particularly as this Plan is not allocating development sites. Therefore, we advise that the full Habitats Regulation Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for this plan.</p>	Noted. No changes necessary.

1.42 This final assessment was made on the 15 February 2021.