

For and on behalf of  
**Botley Parish Council**

**Botley Neighbourhood Plan  
Sustainability Appraisal  
(Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment)**

**Original  
Document  
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**Updated and amended June 2024, Plan-et and Navigus Planning**



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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **a) What is Sustainability Appraisal?**

- 1.1 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of plans and spatial development strategies. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. Sustainable development is about ensuring that the needs of everyone can be met now, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, sustainability looks at balancing a range of competing environmental, social and economic objectives when making decisions about the development and use of land.
- 1.2 The SA process is an opportunity to consider ways by which the plan can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan might otherwise have. By doing so, it can help make sure that the proposals in the plan are appropriate given the reasonable alternatives. It can be used to test the evidence underpinning the plan and help to demonstrate how the tests of soundness have been met. Sustainability Appraisal should be applied as an iterative process informing the development of the plan.
- 1.3 There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, a qualifying body must demonstrate how its plan or order will contribute to achieving sustainable development. A proportionate approach can be taken to this and preparing a SA is one such approach that can be used.
- 1.4 The Botley Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) SA is being carried out to ensure that the policies included in the Plan are sustainable, thereby ensuring they are effective in providing for the current residents of the area, as well as future residents. This SA of the Plan is also being carried out as a means to ensure and demonstrate that the principles of sustainable development as defined by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) have been taken into account in its preparation.
- 1.5 Appraising the Plan will enable the Neighbourhood Plan Committee to identify any issues with the Plan that may affect its sustainability. This in turn will allow the Neighbourhood Plan Committee to address these issues by amending the Plan, ensuring the final document itself contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 1.6 This report sets out the outcomes of the SA of the Botley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan. The report will assist in refining the Neighbourhood Plan prior to its submission to Eastleigh Borough Council.

### **b) What is Strategic Environmental Assessment?**

- 1.7 In some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This initial assessment process is commonly referred to as a 'screening' assessment and the requirements are set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.8 If it is concluded that strategic environmental assessment is required, an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of those regulations. The assessment of plans deemed to have a significant environmental impact is also a requirement of the European SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).
- 1.9 One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the

making of the neighbourhood plan is compatible with relevant legal obligations including Strategic Environmental Assessment.

1.10 The scoping stage of the SEA (see section 2(b) below) identified that due to the Botley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan including site allocations and being in close proximity to a number of European protected sites, the undertaking of an SEA in accordance with the European Directive has been considered necessary and the elements of this have been incorporated into this SA. The SA process therefore ensures that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues.

1.11 The strategic environmental assessment should only focus on what is needed to assess the likely significant effects of the neighbourhood plan. It should focus on the environmental impacts which are likely to be significant. It does not need to be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is considered to be appropriate for the content and level of detail in the neighbourhood plan.

**c) Who has carried out this Sustainability Appraisal?**

1.12 The original SA of the Botley Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken and produced by DLP Planning working in conjunction with Botley Parish Council, in particular with the Neighbourhood Plan Committee. In April 2024, the SEA was updated by Plan-et, following a new site assessment process, undertaken by Navigus Planning in conjunction with the Steering Group of Botley Neighbourhood Plan.

**d) Structure of the Sustainability Appraisal**

1.13 This SA of the Botley Neighbourhood Plan is structured as follows:

- **Section 2: The Sustainability Appraisal Process** – This section outlines the process for undertaking SA that has been used, including details of the scoping exercise that was been carried out by DLP Planning.
- **Section 3: Botley Neighbourhood Plan Context** – This section sets out the broad context and contents of Botley Neighbourhood Plan that was examined through the SA process.
- **Section 4: The Sustainability Appraisal Framework** – This section introduces the Sustainability Appraisal Framework that was utilised to appraise the Botley Neighbourhood Plan. Using the recently adopted Local Plan as a template, this section developed Sustainability Appraisal Objectives suitable for use in appraising the Neighbourhood Plan.
- **Section 5: Vision and Objectives Appraisal** – This section presents the Sustainability Appraisal of the Neighbourhood Plan’s Vision and Objectives using the Sustainability Appraisal Framework Objectives set out in Section 4.
- **Section 6: Neighbourhood Plan Policies Appraisal** – This section presents the Sustainability Appraisal of the individual policies contained within the Botley Neighbourhood Plan using the Sustainability Appraisal Framework Objectives set out in Section 4.
- **Section 7: Sustainability Appraisal of Alternatives** – This section assesses the effects of alternatives to the Botley Neighbourhood Plan, including the alternative where no Neighbourhood Plan is produced.
- **Section 8: Appraisal of Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects** – This section assesses the secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects of the Neighbourhood Plan on the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- **Section 9: Monitoring** – This final section of this Sustainability Appraisal details how the SA document will be monitored.

## 2.0 THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL PROCESS

### a) Overview of the Sustainability Appraisal Progress

2.1 The Sustainability Appraisal process is an ongoing and iterative process. It can be divided into the following stages, as set out in National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG):

- **Stage A: Screening / Scoping** – The initial Screening stage involved consulting the Local Planning Authority and other relevant consultation bodies in order to determine whether the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant effects and whether a SA / SEA is required. The Scoping stage identifies the scope and level of detail of information to be included in the SA report. It sets out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment and identifies relevant environmental, economic and social issues and objectives. A key aim of the Scoping stage is to ensure that the SA process is proportionate and relevant to the plan being assessed. This stage involves consultation with relevant consultation bodies. The outcomes of the Screening / Scoping stage of the Botley Neighbourhood Plan are detailed in section 2(b) below.
- **Stage B: Baseline information** – This stage sets out the existing environmental, economic and social characteristics of the area likely to be affected by the Neighbourhood Plan, and their likely evolution without implementation of new policies. It provides the basis against which to assess the likely effects of alternative proposals in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The area likely to be affected may lie outside the designated neighbourhood area and the local planning authority boundary and plan makers may need to obtain information from other local planning authorities. Wherever possible, data should be included on historic and likely future trends, including a 'no Neighbourhood Plan' or 'business as usual' scenario (i.e. anticipated trends in the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan being introduced). This information will enable the potential effects of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan to be assessed in the context of existing and potential environmental, economic and social trends.
- **Stage C: Establishing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework** – the SA Framework sets out a series of objectives and indicators against which the Neighbourhood Plan and its likely effects are assessed.
- **Stage D: Developing and refining options (including reasonable alternatives) and assessing the likely effects of the Neighbourhood Plan and alternatives** – the SA needs to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of implementing the plan policies and of the reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan. The SA will also consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.
- **Stage E: Preparing the SA Report** – the SA Report sets out the appraisal process and findings, showing how the necessary requirements have been met as well as recording the wider assessment of environmental, social and economic effects.
- **Stage F: Consulting with stakeholders** – the SA was consulted on alongside the Neighbourhood Plan. The SA was modified following changes made to the Neighbourhood Plan following consultation with regard to mitigation.
- **Stage G: Monitoring** – the significant effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan once adopted should be monitored. This will enable any unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage and to enable appropriate remedial actions.

### b) Screening / Scoping

2.2 Work on the SA of the Botley Neighbourhood Plan began in February 2022 with the submission of a request to Eastleigh Borough Council for a Screening Opinion. In accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and

European Directive 2001/42/EC a Screening Opinion on the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Neighbourhood Plan was subsequently prepared by Eastleigh Borough Council. Following consultation with Statutory Bodies, including the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, this Screening Opinion (attached at **Appendix 1**) concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and a full SA is required, incorporating elements of SEA.

2.3 Paragraph 6.1 of the Council's Screening Opinion states that *"This SEA screening has identified that the initial screening draft of the [Botley Neighbourhood Plan] may have significant effects on the environment meaning that there is a need for a full SEA to be undertaken".* The report also set out the required scope of the SEA, recommending that special consideration be given to the impacts of new developments on water quality, air quality and habitats.

2.4 Responses to the Council's draft Screening Opinion were also received from the three statutory consultees, which have been summarised as follows:

- **Natural England** stated in their response that they were unable to fully assess the potential impacts of the plan on statutory nature conservation sites or protected landscapes at this time. However, they reserved the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage should the responsible authority seek their views on the scoping or environmental report stages.
- **Historic England** stated in their response, *"The proposed neighbourhood plan includes two housing-led site allocations (Policy 7: SLAA-3-20-C northern parcel Woodhill School and Policy 8: SLAA-3-21-C southern parcel Woodhill School). The grade II listed Brook House (1337023) is located within the Policy 7 allocation and the setting of the building may extend into the area proposed for allocation by Policy 8. Therefore, we consider that the plan is likely to result in significant effects on cultural heritage and it is our opinion that a full SEA of the neighbourhood plan is required."*
- **Environment Agency** stated in their response, *"we would agree that a SEA is required for this plan. There is potential for the Botley NP to have significant effects on the environment. Our main concern is in relation to flood risk. The NP looks to allocate 2 sites. We have concerns regarding these sites due to the fact that according to our flood map for planning they are within current day flood zone 3. The NPPF is very clear that flood risk areas should be avoided wherever possible to ensure that risk is not increased either to the site itself or others as a result of the development. As part of the evidence base for bringing the plan forward, we would expect the flood risk sequential test to be undertaken to demonstrate that there are no other sites available at lower flood risk. If this can be passed then a strategic flood risk assessment should be undertaken to demonstrate that the sites can be made safe for the lifetime of the development proposed and do not increase flood risk to others. Only if this is possible should the sites be allocated"*. Flood risk assessment of the proposed allocation sites has been undertaken separately from this SEA.

2.5 Alongside the SEA Screening Opinion, Eastleigh Borough Council also prepared a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Assessment of the Draft Botley Neighbourhood Plan. The Stage 1 HRA concluded that Draft Neighbourhood Plan Policies 4, 7 and 8 could have significant effects on protected European designated sites – primarily Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar and Solent Maritime SAC due to their nearby proximity to development which is proposed in the screening draft of the Botley Neighbourhood Plan.

As such, the Council concluded that a full 'appropriate assessment'<sup>1</sup> would be required. This Appropriate Assessment was prepared separately by The Landscape Partnership Ltd (May 2022) and amended May 2024 (Navigus Planning and Planet)

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<sup>1</sup> A plan or project may also require an appropriate assessment, as set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), if it is considered likely to have significant effects on a habitats site. A sustainability appraisal should take account of the findings of an appropriate assessment, if one is undertaken. An appropriate assessment, under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), identifies whether a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This assessment must determine whether significant effects on that site can be ruled out on the basis of objective information.



### **3.0 BOTLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONTEXT**

#### **a) Area Covered**

3.1 The Botley Neighbourhood Plan covers the neighbourhood area as designated by Eastleigh Borough Council on 30 November 2015.

#### **b) Contents of the Neighbourhood Plan**

3.2 The Botley Neighbourhood Plan has been produced in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and meets the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Neighbourhood Plan, alongside the strategic policies in the recently adopted local plan for Eastleigh Borough Council, seeks to support and direct the development and growth of the area up to 2036.

3.3 This neighbourhood plan contains a vision for the future of Botley, setting out the planning policies that will deliver and guide the future development of the neighbourhood area up to 2036. The neighbourhood plan aims to ensure that Botley develops in a way that supports the livelihood and wellbeing of its residents and visitors, both current and future, whilst preserving and enhancing the character of the neighbourhood area.

3.4 The Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Eastleigh Borough Council's Local Development Plan. The plan has been prepared by the community through the Botley Neighbourhood Plan Committee on behalf of Botley Parish Council. It aims to guide development within the neighbourhood area, and such development should be carried out in accordance with the plan. Applications for new development will be required to be in conformity with the Botley Neighbourhood Plan. This means that it will be considered by Planning Officers in Eastleigh Borough Council when determining planning applications.

3.5 The Botley Neighbourhood Plan is structured as follows:

##### **Part 1: Introduction**

3.6 The first part of the Neighbourhood Plan outlines the purpose of the plan and the policy context in the following sections:

- **Purpose of the plan:** This section provides a summary of the purpose of the plan.
- **Policy context:** This section sets the context of the plan within the Eastleigh Borough Council's adopted Local Plan.
- **Key stages in the preparation of the plan:** This section sets out a timeline for which the plan is set to be completed.
- **Monitoring the plan:** This section sets out the future need for monitoring and maintaining the plan.

##### **Part 2: Local Context**

3.7 Part 2 of the Neighbourhood Plan sets out the local context of the area, covering the following topics:

- History of Botley
- Botley Today
- Local Infrastructure
- Profile of the community in 2011 and 2020
- Local infrastructure and growth

##### **Part 3: Vision and Objectives**

3.8 Part 3 of the Neighbourhood Plan outlines the Vision and Objectives for the plan. This

includes a vision statement that covers the economy, environment and character, housing and transport.

#### **Part 4: Policies**

- 3.9 Part 4 of the Neighbourhood Plan gives an introduction to the policies, and the relevance of sustainable development.

#### **Part 5: Economy Policies**

- 3.10 Part 5 of the Neighbourhood Plan sets out the following policies:

- Policy 1: Retention of Existing Commercial Premises
- Policy 2: Retail development sites

#### **Part 6: Environment & Character Policies**

- 3.11 Part 6 of the Neighbourhood Plan sets out the following policies:

- Policy 3: Local Green Space
- Policy 4: Developer contribution
- Policy 5: Settlement gaps
- Policy 6: New cemetery provision

#### **Part 7: Development in Botley**

- 3.12 Part 7 of the Neighbourhood Plan outlines the aims of the development policies and provides a table of allocated sites.

#### **Part 8: Development Policies**

- 3.13 Part 8 of the Neighbourhood Plan sets out the following policies:

- Policy 7: Future development –SLAA-3-20-C / SLAA-3-21-C Woodhill School north/south
- Policy 8: Mitigation in Development
- Policy 9: site BO3
- Policy 10: Utilities provision
- Policy 11: Flood mitigation
- Policy 12: Strategic high and intermediate pressure pipelines and high voltage electric cables
- Policy 13: Parking standards for new residential developments
- Policy 14: Mix of housing
- Policy 15: Materials
- Policy 16: Renewable Energy

#### **Part 9: Traffic Policies**

- 3.14 Part 9 of the Neighbourhood Plan sets out the following policies:

- Policy 17: Parking infrastructure
- Policy 18: Community facilities

#### **Part 10: Community Aspirations**

- 3.15 Part 10 of the Neighbourhood Plan outlines the need to meet community aspirations and sets out the role of the Community Plan Steering Group.

#### **Part 11: Appendices**

- 3.16 Part 11 of the Neighbourhood Plan contains a number of appendices.

## **4.0 THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK**

### **a) What is the Sustainability Appraisal Framework?**

4.1 To effectively appraise the Neighbourhood Plan for Botley Parish Council, a clear, concise and effective framework is needed; one that addresses all aspects of sustainable development.

4.2 In order to assess what options would be most sustainable for the future development of the area, the key sustainability issues affecting the Plan were identified. These cover social, economic and environmental issues, although there is inevitably overlap between them. For example, certain issues, such as climate change, have environmental, economic and social implications.

4.3 The key sustainability issues identified under each of these themes include, for example:

- Social – housing supply; crime and community safety; health and recreation; and provision of social capital.
- Economic – business development (existing and new) and job creation; site and infrastructure provision; and town and rural centres.
- Environmental – preventing loss of priority habitats; protection and enhancement of the green infrastructure; protecting the historic environment; minimising flood risk and impacts on air quality; efficient use of resources; and minimising the impacts of climate change.

4.4 These sustainability issues have been taken into consideration in the production of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework for the Draft Plan, ensuring the Plan itself ultimately addresses all of the issues.

### **b) Developing the Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal Framework**

4.5 To ensure consistency with the Eastleigh Borough Council Local Plan 2016-2036, this SA for the Draft Neighbourhood Plan will broadly follow the framework as was used for the SA of the Local Plan. It has been agreed between members of Botley Parish Council and Planning Officers at Eastleigh Borough Council that this is an acceptable approach. However, several amendments to the framework have been made to reflect the smaller, more localised scale of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

4.6 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework developed for Eastleigh Borough Council's recently adopted Local Plan consists of a series of objectives and decision-making criteria. These have been devised with regard to both national and regional sustainability objectives and indicators, as well as to the environmental and sustainability issues assessed to be of key importance in Eastleigh. Full information on these and their formulation can be found in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, which is accessible via the following link:  
<https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/media/1687/sustainability-appraisal-scoping-report.pdf>

### **c) Botley Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal Framework**

4.7 The SA Objectives that will be used to appraise the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Plan for Botley are set out in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Sustainability Appraisal Framework**

<b>Botley Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal Framework</b>
1. Provide sufficient housing to meet identified local needs, including affordability and special needs
2. Safeguard and improve community health, safety and wellbeing
3. Develop a dynamic and diverse economy
4. Reduce road traffic and congestion through improved accessibility to services, homes and jobs; reducing the need to travel by car/lorry and improving sustainable travel choice
5. Protect and conserve natural resources
6. Reduce air, soil, water, light and noise pollution
7. Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change
8. Minimise Botley's contribution to climate change by reducing the area's carbon footprint and minimising other greenhouse gas emissions
9. Reduce waste generation and disposal, encourage waste prevention and reuse and achieve the sustainable management of waste
10. Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity, improving its quality and range. Avoid, mitigate or, at last resort, compensate for adverse effects on biodiversity
11. Enhance Botley's multifunctional green infrastructure network
12. Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities
13. Protect and enhance and manage buildings, monuments, features, sites, places, areas and landscapes of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance

4.8 Each of the SA Objectives has been matched with detailed decision-making criteria. These criteria comprise the key questions that will be asked of the Draft Plan to ascertain whether or not it works towards achieving the SA objective. These questions can be found in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. SA Objectives and Decision-making Criteria**

<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objectives</b>		<b>Decision-making Criteria: Will the Vision/Objective/Policy....</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Provide sufficient housing to meet identified local needs, including affordability and special needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to meeting the objectively assessed housing need/the housing requirement identified in the Neighbourhood Plan, including an appropriate mix of housing?</li> <li>• Meet need within the local area as well as the wider housing market?</li> <li>• Help to deliver affordable housing to meet Botley's identified housing needs?</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Safeguard and improve community health, safety and wellbeing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve opportunities for people to participate in cultural, leisure and recreation activities?</li> <li>• Promote healthy lifestyles, safety and wellbeing?</li> <li>• Provide good access to existing services, open space, facilities and community infrastructure?</li> <li>• Protect and enhance public rights of way?</li> <li>• Reduce crime, deprivation and promote social inclusion in the neighbourhood?</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Develop a dynamic and diverse economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver new diverse and knowledge- based employment opportunities?</li> <li>• Support or encourage new business sectors and contribute to GVA in Botley neighbourhood area?</li> <li>• Encourage and support business start-ups and assist the development of SMEs?</li> <li>• Provide good access to a range of employment areas?</li> <li>• Enhance the vitality and viability of the neighbourhood plan area centres?</li> <li>• Help to develop and maintain a skilled workforce to support long- term competitiveness?</li> <li>• Ensure a wide cross section of the community benefits from economic prosperity?</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Reduce road traffic and congestion through improved accessibility to services, homes and jobs; reducing the need to travel by car/lorry and improving sustainable travel choice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the capacity of the transport network?</li> <li>• Provide opportunities to encourage sustainable travel choice?</li> <li>• Improve road safety?</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>Protect and conserve natural resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have potential impact on natural resources?</li> </ul>

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives		Decision-making Criteria: Will the Vision/Objective/Policy....
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead to the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land?</li> <li>• Lead to the more efficient use of land, for example by utilising brownfield sites?</li> </ul>
6	<b>Reduce air, soil, water, light and noise pollution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve air quality?</li> <li>• Impact on soil pollution?</li> <li>• Help to remediate land affected by contamination?</li> <li>• Have an impact on water pollution?</li> <li>• Have an impact on light pollution?</li> <li>• Have an impact on noise pollution?</li> </ul>
7	<b>Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an impact on green infrastructure (including extent and quality of open space and linear routes for recreation)?</li> <li>• Increase or reduce the number of new properties at risk of flooding?</li> </ul>
8	<b>Minimise Botley's contribution to climate change by reducing the area's carbon footprint and minimising other greenhouse gas emissions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote a reduction in carbon emissions?</li> </ul>
9	<b>Reduce waste generation and disposal, encourage waste prevention and reuse and achieve the sustainable management of waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide, or be accessible to, facilities for the separation and recycling of waste?</li> </ul>
10	<b>Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity, improving its quality and range. Avoid, mitigate or, at last resort, compensate for adverse effects on biodiversity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an impact on biodiversity and geodiversity (including protected species, habitats, sites and landscapes at international, national and/or local levels of nature conservation designation)?</li> <li>• Provide new creation, restoration and/or enhancement opportunities for habitats and species?</li> <li>• Prejudice future biodiversity restoration?</li> <li>• Support creation, protection, enhancement and/or management of networks of biodiversity?</li> </ul>
11	<b>Enhance Botley's multifunctional green infrastructure network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help to reduce deficiencies in open space provision?</li> <li>• Support local and/or strategic Green Infrastructure networks?</li> <li>• Protect and enhance public rights of way?</li> <li>• Deliver good access to existing and/or create new Green Infrastructure?</li> </ul>

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives		Decision-making Criteria: Will the Vision/Objective/Policy....
12	<b>Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an impact on landscape?</li> <li>• Achieve high quality and sustainable design for buildings, spaces, and the public realm sensitive to the locality?</li> <li>• Protect the character and distinctiveness of the settlements and countryside within the neighbourhood plan area e.g. will the development adversely affect the separation of the settlements within the neighbourhood plan area?</li> </ul>
13	<b>Protect and enhance and manage buildings, monuments, features, sites, places, areas and landscapes of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact on the historic environment and features and areas of archaeological importance?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets and their settings?</li> <li>• Increase access to heritage assets?</li> </ul>

4.9 The sections of the Botley Neighbourhood Plan that are to be appraised (the Vision & Objectives and the Policies) are substantially different, in terms of both content and purpose. It is deemed necessary to adopt a differing approach to measuring the sustainability of these against the SA Objectives. The following criteria were used to assess the level of compatibility of the Draft Plan's Vision and Objectives:

**Table 3. Criteria used to appraise the Vision & Objectives**

<b>Key</b>	
<b>Compatible</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Neutral / No Impact</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Incompatible</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Uncertain Impact</b>	<b>?</b>

4.10 To make a more thorough assessment of their potential impacts, the Draft Neighbourhood Plan Policies were assessed against more detailed criteria. The appraisal criteria are as follows:

**Table 4. Criteria used to appraise the Neighbourhood Plan Policies**

<b>Key</b>	
<b>Significant Positive Impact</b>	<b>++</b>
<b>Positive Impact</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Negligible / No Impact / option not assessed</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Negative Impact</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Significant Negative Impact</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>Uncertain Impact</b>	<b>?</b>
<b>Mixture of Positive and Negative Impact</b>	<b>+/-</b>

4.11 Using the SA Objectives and the criteria established above in Tables 3 and 4, the following sections of this report set out the appraisal of the Vision & Objectives, and Policies of the Botley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan.



## **5.0 VISION AND OBJECTIVES APPRAISAL**

### **a) Sustainability Appraisal**

- 5.1 The Vision & Objectives contained within the Draft Plan have been produced by the Botley Neighbourhood Plan Committee utilising results obtained through consultation with local residents. The Vision and Objectives are presented below:

#### **Botley Neighbourhood Plan Vision**

*“In 2036, Botley remains a warm and friendly place to live, work and to visit. New developments have been well incorporated into the parish through our sensitive Neighbourhood Plan policies, and have provided homes needed by both the local and wider community and for all generations.*

*Well-managed infrastructure and resource facilities provide residents with a quality environment, good access to health care, excellent educational opportunities and reliable access to modern technologies.*

*Local children and young people can walk or cycle safely to their educational establishments or the play and green areas, on the many footpaths and cycleways introduced over the last 20 years. These routes provide a healthy alternative network for pedestrians and cyclists throughout the locality and link to neighbouring parishes.*

*The bypass has been built, and an update to the routing system traffic calming measures in the parish has led to a decrease in rat-runs and have been effective in creating safer roads.*

*The village centre has been recognised as an important for its heritage, businesses and shops and provides a popular destination for locals and visitors alike.”*

#### **Botley Neighbourhood Plan Objectives**

##### Economy

1. Where appropriate, preserving and safeguarding employment uses, and maintain a lively mix of retail and similar uses in the shopping area
2. Promoting the further retail development of the Botley Mills site
3. Supporting the development of retail facilities in Boorley Park and Boorley Gardens earlier than identified in the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan.

##### Environment & Character

4. Protecting and maintaining existing green space, archaeological sites and heritage assets
5. Protecting the River Hamble, its tributaries and the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation including the provision of new green spaces
6. Preserving native wildlife and wildflowers in local green spaces and in and along the River Hamble
7. Creating a Botley Museum through use of developer contribution
8. Improving pedestrian access from the Village Square to Botley Mills through use of developer contribution
9. Creating local gaps between Botley and neighbouring settlements to prevent coalescence
10. Identifying a site for a new cemetery in the parish

### Housing

11. Allocating the most appropriate sites for future small scale residential development
12. Ensuring any new development does not have an unacceptable impact on its environment and is implemented alongside identified infrastructure needs
13. Ensuring that housing on allocated sites provides an integrated mix of open market housing and affordable housing
14. Ensuring an appropriate infrastructure is in place to deal with surface water and sewerage within any new development
15. Ensuring new development in Botley is of appropriate design and fits with the general character of Botley
16. Ensuring any new development, including housing extensions, out-buildings, garages and conservatories, including those under Permitted Development Rights, are consistent with the requirements of the strategic high and intermediate pressure pipelines passing through the parish
17. Supporting the use of renewable energy systems
18. Ensuring all dwellings in new developments have direct access to electric vehicle charging points
19. Requiring new developments to provide acceptable re-cycling facilities
20. Ensuring off road parking is available in all residential developments.

### Transport

21. Ensure there is sufficient provision for off-road parking for all users of schools
22. Ensure existing community infrastructure is retained or improved for the benefit of the community
23. Using developer contribution to increase parking space at the Botley Centre
24. Identifying land within development sites for parking
25. Using developer contribution to improve the network of movement routes linking key services, schools and recreational areas, both from existing and new developments.

5.2 The following table appraises the Vision and each of the Objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives.

**Table 5. Sustainability Appraisal of Vision & Objectives**

Element of Draft Plan	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives												
	SAO 1	SAO 2	SAO 3	SAO 4	SAO 5	SAO 6	SAO 7	SAO 8	SAO 9	SAO 10	SAO 11	SAO 12	SAO 13
Vision	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
Objective 1	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective 2	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective 3	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective 4	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+
Objective 5	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+
Objective 6	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0
Objective 7	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
Objective 8	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0
Objective 9	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0
Objective 10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective 11	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0
Objective 12	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0
Objective 13	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective 14	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0
Objective 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
Objective 16	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective 17	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0
Objective 18	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
Objective 19	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
Objective 20	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Element of Draft Plan	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives												
	SAO 1	SAO 2	SAO 3	SAO 4	SAO 5	SAO 6	SAO 7	SAO 8	SAO 9	SAO 10	SAO 11	SAO 12	SAO 13
Objective 21	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective 22	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Objective 23	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective 24	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Objective 25	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**b) Justification**

- 5.3 Following on from the appraisal of the Vision & Objectives above, a reasoned justification is necessary to briefly explain why these elements of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan have been judged as such. In addition to this, any issues that have arisen regarding the sustainability of an element of the Plan are discussed, and any required alterations are also suggested below.
- 5.4 As the above table demonstrates, all of the Neighbourhood Plan objectives and Sustainability Appraisal objectives are compatible with one another or have a neutral impact.
- 5.5 **Vision:** The vision promotes new developments to provide homes for the community, along with infrastructure and resource facilities. This will help to improve access to amenities and support local families in meeting their housing need. The promotion of green spaces, footpaths and cycleways will assist in enhancing the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes, townscapes, and historic environment.
- 5.6 **Objective 1:** By seeking to preserve employment uses and enhancing retail uses and shopping areas, the Neighbourhood Plan will help to develop a diverse and dynamic economy as well as safeguarding jobs which will assist with improving community wellbeing.
- 5.7 **Objective 2:** By promoting the retail development of Botley mills, the retail sector will be developed and preserved and the economy will be enhanced.
- 5.8 **Objective 3:** Supporting the development of retail facilities in Boorley Park and Boorley Gardens earlier than identified in the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan will contribute to the faster development of these retail sites and help to develop a more dynamic economy.
- 5.9 **Objective 4:** By seeking to protect and maintain green space, archaeological sites and heritage assets, the biodiversity and historical characteristics of the area will be protected.
- 5.10 **Objective 5:** Protecting the River Hamble will help to protect the area's natural resources, biodiversity, and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, as well as enhancing Botley's green infrastructure network through the provision of new green spaces.
- 5.11 **Objective 6:** Preserving native wildlife and wildflowers will protect the biodiversity of the area surrounding the River Hamble as well as enhancing the green infrastructure network.
- 5.12 **Objective 7:** The creation of a Botley Museum will enhance the heritage of the area and attract tourism, bringing investment and employment into the area.
- 5.13 **Objective 8:** Improving pedestrian access will help to ensure that the Village Square and Botley Mills are accessible whilst promoting pedestrian footfall will help to enhance the townscape and improve accessibility to key services and facilities within the neighbourhood plan area, including by promoting a more sustainable means of access.
- 5.14 **Objective 9:** Creating gaps between Botley and neighbouring settlements will help to retain green spaces, enhance the appearance of the landscape and reduce urban sprawl.
- 5.15 **Objective 10:** Identifying a site for a new cemetery will allow land to be allocated and reserved, preventing development on unsuitable sites.
- 5.16 **Objective 11:** Allocating sites for future residential development will help to meet identified local housing needs.
- 5.17 **Objective 12:** Minimising the environmental impacts of new developments will allow housing needs to be met whilst ensuring such developments are sustainable.
- 5.18 **Objective 13:** By seeking to provide more affordable housing within the neighbourhood area, will help to ensure that specific local housing needs are met.
- 5.19 **Objective 14:** Ensuring that new development has appropriate water and sewerage infrastructure will minimise environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable management

of waste.

- 5.20 **Objective 15:** Ensuring that new development is of appropriate design will help to enhance the character and appearance of the townscape.
- 5.21 **Objective 16:** Ensuring that new development is consistent with the requirements of the strategic high and intermediate pressure pipelines of the parish will safeguard community safety.
- 5.22 **Objective 17:** Encouraging renewable energy will help to minimise climate change by reducing carbon emissions.
- 5.23 **Objective 18:** Ensuring that residents have access to vehicle charging points will encourage the use of electric cars, reducing diesel and petrol emissions and reducing the area's carbon footprint.
- 5.24 **Objective 19:** Ensuring that new developments have recycling facilities will encourage residents to recycle and enable the sustainable management of waste.
- 5.25 **Objective 20:** Providing off-road parking will keep pavements clear, allowing greater access for pedestrians, whilst also reducing congestion caused by parked cars.
- 5.26 **Objective 21:** Providing off-road parking for school users will make access to schools safer as traffic will be reduced.
- 5.27 **Objective 22:** Retaining and improving existing community infrastructure will help to enhance community wellbeing.
- 5.28 **Objective 23:** Increasing availability of parking at the Botley Centre may encourage increased road traffic and congestion and may encourage increased travel by car.
- 5.29 **Objective 24:** Identifying land within new development sites for parking will enhance the appearance of the townscape and ensure that new developments won't increase congestion.
- 5.30 **Objective 25:** Improving the network of movement routes linking key services will improve accessibility for residents.

**c) Required Alternatives**

- 5.31 Only one element of the Neighbourhood Vision or Objectives scored negatively against the Sustainability Objectives (Objective 23). When taken as a whole the Vision and Objectives are deemed to have an overall positive impact against the Sustainability Objectives.
- 5.32 As a result of this appraisal, it is recommended that Objective 23 is reworded to mitigate the potential increased impact on road traffic and air pollution that may result from provision of additional car parking at Botley Centre.
- 5.33 No further alterations to the Vision and Objectives are considered necessary as a result of this appraisal.

## **6.0 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICIES APPRAISAL**

### **a) Sustainability Appraisal**

- 6.1 The policies contained in the Neighbourhood Plan have been developed by Botley Parish Council to ensure they are in accordance with the strategic policies contained in the adopted Eastleigh Local Plan. These policies will deliver the aspirations of the local community, as outlined in the Draft Vision & Objectives.
- 6.2 The SA of the plan policies can be found in Table 6 on the following page.
- 6.3 Each policy has been appraised against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework using the criteria set out in Table 4 to evaluate the level of impact it is expected to have against each of the Sustainability Appraisal objectives.

**Table 6. SA of the Botley Neighbourhood Plan Policies**

Element of Draft Plan	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives												
	SAO 1	SAO 2	SAO 3	SAO 4	SAO 5	SAO 6	SAO 7	SAO 8	SAO 9	SAO 10	SAO 11	SAO 12	SAO 13
<b>Policy 1: Retention of Existing Commercial Premises</b>	0	++	++	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	This policy supports the preservation of existing commercial sites and promotes the development of new retail uses at certain sites and within the existing settlement boundary. This policy is therefore expected to have a significant positive impact on SAO 2 and SAO 3 by providing improved access to community services and facilities and enhanced employment opportunities. The development of retail facilities may cause a slight negative impact on SAO 4. Policy 4 seeks to improve pedestrian access to Botley Mills which will help to encourage people to travel to the site on foot, therefore decreasing congestion.												
<b>Policy 2: Retail development sites</b>	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
	Supporting the development of business units will create employment opportunities, having a strong positive impact on SAO 3 and providing local shops within walking distance will reduce the need for travel by car. The development of brownfield land and re-use of redundant agricultural buildings will prevent a loss of green spaces, having a positive impact on SAO 11. The potential impact on SAO 4 from the developments is likely to be positive overall by providing local shops within walking distance, which should encourage sustainable and active forms of travel.												
<b>Policy 3: Local Green Space</b>	0	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	++	++	++	0
	This policy focuses on the protection and preservation of sites that have been identified as Local Green Spaces. This policy will have a significant positive impact on community wellbeing, the neighbourhood's green infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape character. This policy is not expected to have any negative impacts on the SAOs.												
<b>Policy 4: Developer contributions</b>	0	++	0	++	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
	The use of developer contributions to support the delivery of infrastructure, as set out in Policy 4, will help to increase connectivity, parking and pedestrian access, having a strong positive impact on SAO 4. This policy also helps to add to the cultural significance of the area through the creation of a Botley Museum, having positive impacts on SAO 2 and SAO 13. These developments, including additional parking in Botley Centre and the creation of a Botley Bypass, may have a slight negative impact on light, air and noise pollution (SAO 6). However the cumulative impact across all SAOs is likely to be positive.												
<b>Policy 5: Settlement gaps</b>	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	0
	The retention of physical and visual gaps between Botley and neighbouring settlements will help to retain access to green spaces whilst preventing urban sprawl, having a strong positive impact on SAO 11, as well as protecting the character of the landscape, having a strong positive impact on SAO 12. The retention of green spaces in the parish will in turn help to protect biodiversity having a slight positive impact on SAO 10. Preventing gaps between settlement from being lost through												



Element of Draft Plan	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives												
	SAO 1	SAO 2	SAO 3	SAO 4	SAO 5	SAO 6	SAO 7	SAO 8	SAO 9	SAO 10	SAO 11	SAO 12	SAO 13
	development will help to protect natural resources and agricultural land, having a slight positive impact on SAO 5. This policy is not expected to have any negative impacts on the SAOs.												
<b>Policy 6: New cemetery provision</b>	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
	Emphasis on the suitability of the proposed cemetery site will ensure that the land allocated is suitable in planning terms and contains appropriate ancillary facilities. This policy will therefore have a slight positive impact on SAO 2 as the building of a new cemetery will provide a new community facility. As open spaces, cemeteries also offer opportunities for enhanced biodiversity provision, and as such this policy may also have a positive impact on SAO 10..												
<b>Policy 7: Future development – SLAA- 3-20-C / SLAA- 3-21-C Woodhill School north / south</b>	++	0	0	+	+/-	0	0	0	0	+/-	+/-	0	+
	This policy allocates a site for the development of up to 58 dwellings with open space and an overflow car park. The policy indicates that the site will only be permitted when a need for housing has been established. This will help to prevent unnecessary development, thereby having a positive impact on SAO 5. The development may however have a slight negative impact on SAO 5 due to the impact on natural resources. Ensuring that the site meets a 40% affordable housing requirement will help to meet housing needs, having a strong positive impact on SAO 1. Ensuring that open space is provided on the site will help in counteracting any negative effects the development may have on SAO 10 and SAO 11. Providing an overflow car park will prevent congestion, having a positive impact on SAO 4. This policy supports the provision of flats in the Grade II listed parts of the site, which will help to safeguard the future of this heritage asset.												
<b>Policy 8: Mitigation in Development</b>	0	++	0	0	+	+	++	+	0	++	++	++	++
	This policy outlines proposals for mitigating any adverse effects of development in the Neighbourhood Plan boundary. The inclusion of this policy will ensure that the impact of development on designated sites is minimised and ensures that development meets the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. It also ensures that development does not have an unacceptable impact on environmental designations of importance. This will have a positive effect on SOA 9, SAO 10, SAO11 and SAO 12.												
<b>Policy 9: Site BO3 (Strategic Allocation) proposals</b>	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	+/-	0	0
	This policy allocates a site intended to deliver a mix of housing to meet the requirements of Policy 14. Ensuring that the site meets a 40% affordable housing requirement and is formed of mixed housing will help to meet housing needs, having a strong positive impact on SAO 1. The inclusion of community space will enhance the character of the area whilst increasing wellbeing, having a strong positive impact on SAO 2. Emphasis on biodiversity and wildlife will help to reduce any negative impacts the development may have on the environment, mitigating the negative impacts that the development may have on SAO 10 and												

Element of Draft Plan	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives												
	SAO 1	SAO 2	SAO 3	SAO 4	SAO 5	SAO 6	SAO 7	SAO 8	SAO 9	SAO 10	SAO 11	SAO 12	SAO 13
	SAO 11.												
<b>Policy 10: Utilities provision</b>	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	++	0	0	0	0
	This policy ensures that development proposals will not worsen the existing drainage situation, helping to reduce pollution and enable the sustainable management of waste (including waste water and foul sewage), thereby having a strong positive impact on SAO 6 and SAO 9. This will have a slight positive impact on SAO 7 due to sustainable surface water drainage helping to mitigate the impact of flooding.												
<b>Policy 11: Flood mitigation</b>	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
	This policy focuses on ensuring appropriate means of surface water disposal in new developments, which will reduce flood risk. The use of SuDs and infiltration systems will contribute to sustainable drainage design and reduction in pollution, thereby having a strong positive impact on SAO 6 and SAO 7.												
<b>Policy 12: Strategic high and intermediate pressure pipelines and high voltage electric cables</b>	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	This policy requires development proposals to comply with safety requirements in relation to pipelines and electric cables, which will prevent possible hazards during construction. This may have a slight positive impact on SAO 2 as it will help to keep the community safe.												
<b>Policy 13: Parking standards for new residential developments</b>	0	+	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ensuring that developments provide off road parking will make roads safer for all users whilst protecting public rights of way, thereby having a slight positive impact on SAO 2. This policy will also have a positive impact on SAO 4 as it will decrease road congestion through decreasing the number of vehicles parked on the roads, however it may also have a negative impact on SAO 4 by encouraging the use of the car and not improving sustainable travel choice. This policy should not negatively affect SAOs focused on preserving open spaces as the policy indicates that the off road parking must be included in development proposals and therefore does not immediately threaten the loss of open space or the use of additional natural resources.												
<b>Policy 14: Mix of housing</b>	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	This policy focuses on providing a mix of housing which will help to meet local housing needs – especially affordable housing needs – having a strong positive impact on SAO 1. By encouraging the provision of specialist forms of older persons accommodation and buildings that meet Lifetime Homes Standards this policy will also have a strong positive impact on SAO 2												

Element of Draft Plan	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives												
	SAO 1	SAO 2	SAO 3	SAO 4	SAO 5	SAO 6	SAO 7	SAO 8	SAO 9	SAO 10	SAO 11	SAO 12	SAO 13
	by enhancing community health and wellbeing.												
<b>Policy 15: Materials</b>	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	++	++
	Ensuring that all new development adheres to the Botley Design Guide will result in the enhancement of the townscape character and appearance of the neighbourhood area, which will have a significant positive impact on SAO 12 and SAO 13. This policy will also have a positive impact on SAO 10, through the retention of distinctive trees, as well as positive impacts on SAO 4, through the promotion of non-car use on larger residential sites, and on SAO 8, through the introduction of EV charging points in line with Policy 16 of the Plan.												
<b>Policy 16: Renewable energy</b>	0	+	0	0	+	++	++	++	+	0	0	0	0
	This policy supports the development of renewable energy generation and alternative energy systems, which will help to contribute positively towards sustainability by reducing pollution and therefore mitigating the effects of climate change.												
<b>Policy 17: Off-road parking for educational facilities</b>	0	++	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	The provision of off road parking for educational facilities will have positive impact of decreasing congestion whilst enhancing pedestrian safety. The creation of additional car parking provision may however also have a negative impact on SAO 4 which seeks to enhance sustainable travel options.												
<b>Policy 18: Community facilities</b>	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
	This policy seeks to preserve and enhance existing community infrastructure whilst supporting the development of new community facilities subject to certain criteria being met. This policy is therefore likely to positively contribute towards community health and wellbeing, whilst enhancing the economy and protecting the local characteristics of the area. Resisting proposals that would result in a loss of existing community facilities in particular is likely to have a direct strong positive impact on SAO 2.												

**b) Summary**

- 6.4 The majority of the policies contained within the Neighbourhood Plan score positively or neutrally against the Sustainability Objectives.
- 6.5 Policy 1 scores negatively against SAO 4, however Policy 4 also seeks to improve pedestrian access to Botley Mills which will help to encourage people to travel to the site on foot, therefore decreasing congestion. This should assist in mitigating any potential negative impact.
- 6.6 Policy 4 is expected to have a negative impact on SAO 6 through the provision of additional car parking and creation of Botley Bypass which may encourage car use and increase levels of air pollution. However, the cumulative impact of this policy on the Sustainability Objectives overall is expected to be positive
- 6.7 Policy 7 and Policy 9 were found to have a mixture of both positive and negative impacts when assessed against a number of the Sustainability Objectives including SAO 5, SAO 10 and SAO 11. However, it is considered that the overall impact of each of these policies when assessed against all of the Sustainability Objectives combined is likely to be either positive or neutral.
- 6.8 Policy 3, Policy 8 and Policy 16 were assessed as having the most positive impact overall, having significant positive impacts on many of the Sustainability Objectives related to climate change and environmental sustainability.

## 7.0 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE ALTERNATIVES

7.1 As part of this Sustainability Appraisal, a number of alternatives to the implementation of the current Neighbourhood Plan have been identified and assessed. These include:

- Alternatives to having a Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. no neighbourhood plan)
- Alternative scales of growth (i.e. no allocations, allocations in excess of housing requirement, and allocations well in excess of housing requirement)
- Alternative locations for growth (i.e. assessment of reasonably alternative sites)

7.2 The overall contribution of the Neighbourhood Plan and of the alternatives towards sustainable development can be determined by assessing the Neighbourhood Plan and each alternative against the impacts on each individual SA Objective. The outcome of these assessments is detailed below.

### a) Alternatives to having a Neighbourhood Plan

7.3 The first alternative is to revert to the existing policy position for the area, managing development through the existing local and national legislation and plans. The table below summarises the impacts of this alternative on the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

**Table 7. Assessment of impact of having no neighbourhood plan**

Alternative	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>No Botley NDP</b>	--	--	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	--	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	-
	<p>No neighbourhood plan would mean that there are no sites allocated for housing, having a strong negative impact on SAO 1 as affordable housing targets will not be met. There would be a strong negative impact on SAO 2 as the policies promoting retention of existing community facilities and enhanced pedestrian safety would not be in place. There would be both positive and negative impacts on SAO 4 and SAO 5 as whilst it would mean there are no allocated sites for development, there would also be no policies relating to enhancing access and reducing congestion. This would also have a positive and negative effect on SAO 6 and SAO 7 as it would mean that there are no neighbourhood policies in place to minimise pollution and reduce flood risk. There would be a strong negative impact on SAO 8 as Policy 6 relates to promoting use of renewable energy generation which would help to reduce carbon emissions. There would be both positive and negative effects on SAO 10, SAO 11 and SAO 12 as whilst the exclusion of allocated sites would mean there is less development, there would also not be any policies in place to safeguard the identified Local Green Spaces in the neighbourhood area. There would be a slight negative impact on SAO 13 as there would be no policies in place that support the creation of a Botley Museum.</p>												

7.4 The above assessment identifies that the alternative of having no Neighbourhood Plan would likely have an overall negative effect on the Sustainability Objectives. Whilst Eastleigh Local Plan's policies would broadly contribute towards achieving the Objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan, they would not present sufficient location-specific provisions to tackle issues that are particular to Botley, such as enhancing the accessibility of Botley centre, supporting the early delivery of retail developments, meeting local housing needs and protecting Local Green Spaces.

**b) Alternative Scales of Growth**

- 7.5 The next set of reasonable alternatives that have been assessed relate to the level of housing growth that has been proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan. The work undertaken to review sites is included at Appendix 2. The Neighbourhood Plan proposes to allocate housing for up to 58 dwellings on one site:
- **Policy 7 – Woodhill School North / South:** This policy provides for up to 58 dwellings, together with associated open space and an overflow car park for the Botley Community Centre.
- 7.6 The strategic policies set out in the adopted Eastleigh Local Plan do not identify a specific housing requirement figure for Botley (or for any other designated neighbourhood plan areas).
- 7.7 Strategic Policy S2 of the Local Plan aims to deliver 14,580 over the plan period (2016-2036), which is expected to include 7,187 dwellings on sites with extant planning permission and 732 dwellings on new sites allocated in the plan (in addition to some dwellings already completed prior to 2019 and an allowance for windfall development).
- 7.8 In respect of the Neighbourhood Plan area, these permitted or allocated strategic sites, as set out in Local Plan Policy S3, are set to deliver a total of 2,455 dwellings and include:
- Land north and east of Boorley Green and Botley (1,400 dwellings)
  - Land to the north-west of Boorley Green (680 dwellings)
  - Land northeast of Winchester Street (Uplands Farm) (375 dwellings)
- 7.9 Policy S3 of the Local Plan also states that provision is also made for dwellings on new smaller greenfield and urban sites within and adjoining a number of existing settlements, including Botley. These smaller sites are expected to deliver a further 308 dwellings (net) across the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 7.10 Within the Local Plan, Botley is identified as a 'level 3' settlement within the Settlement Hierarchy, described as *"larger villages, principally serving the day to day needs of their local catchment, and employment centres"*. Boorley Green is currently identified as a 'level 4' settlement, however it is anticipated that the development that is allocated here will result in its changing position in the hierarchy.
- 7.11 Strategic Policy S6 of the Local Plan also requires that development does not undermine the physical extent and/or visual separation of settlements, including between Hedge End, Botley and Boorley Green. Any new development should not physically and/or visually undermine the gap between these settlements.
- 7.12 The Botley Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in accordance with the above strategic policies as set out in the Local Plan.
- 7.13 As no minimum housing requirement figure for the Botley neighbourhood area has been set through the Local Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan is therefore in accordance with Strategic Policies S2 and S3 relating to housing delivery. Paragraph 29 of the NPPF states that *"Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area or undermine those strategic policies"*. It is possible therefore for a Neighbourhood Plan to allocate *more* development than set out in the Local Plan, so long as these allocations do not undermine the Local Plan's strategic policies and allocations.

7.14 In terms of assessing reasonable alternatives for the scale of housing growth proposed in the Botley Neighbourhood Plan, we have identified three reasonable alternatives below:

- No housing allocations – this would involve allocating fewer housing sites than currently proposed within the Neighbourhood Plan, and because the Local Plan does not identify a minimum housing requirement for the neighbourhood plan area would still be in accordance with strategic policies.
- Allocate sites in excess of Local Plan housing requirement – this reflects the current Neighbourhood Plan position which allocates two further sites (58 dwellings) in excess of those currently allocated through the Local Plan.
- Allocate sites well in excess of Local Plan housing requirement – this represents a reasonable alternative scenario in which more housing sites are allocated than the two currently included in the Neighbourhood Plan. For the purposes of this assessment we have assumed the allocation of a further site at Land South of Winchester Road, which has potential for 30 additional dwellings. This is the only other site that was not excluded at the first ‘high level’ assessment stage and was taken through to detailed site assessment as part of the Neighbourhood Plan site selection process, and as such is considered a potential ‘reasonable alternative’ for increasing the scale of growth in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

7.15 The following table sets out the assessment of each of these reasonable alternative scales of growth against each of the Sustainability Objectives.

**Table 8. Assessment of impact of planning for different levels of housing**

Alternative	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>No housing allocations</b>	-	-	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Allocating no sites for housing in the Neighbourhood Plan would likely have a negative impact on SAO 1 and SAO 2 as it would lead to no additional land being allocated specifically to meet local identified housing needs, which would also have a negative impact on community wellbeing. It would also mean that there are no policies specifically related to providing affordable housing on these sites were they to be brought forward as ‘windfall’ development. However, removing Policies 7 and 8 from the Neighbourhood Plan would have a slight positive impacts on SAO 5 as it would conserve natural resources that would otherwise be used in the construction process. Removal of these policies would also have a negative impact on SAO 13 as there would be no specific policy in place to conserve and encourage appropriate re-use of the Grade II listed building located in the Policy 7 site allocation.												
<b>Allocate sites in excess of Local Plan housing requirement (current NDP position)</b>	++	++	0	+/-	-	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+
	Allocating sites in excess of the Local Plan housing requirement (the current Neighbourhood Plan position) would have a strong positive impact on SAO 1 and SAO 2 as it would facilitate the building of additional housing to meet local needs, including affordable housing. There would be a positive impact on SAO 11 as the site allocation policies include details about open space and access. There would be both positive and negative impacts on SAO 4 as whilst building more housing may increase traffic, the policies state the need for off-road parking which in turn will reduce congestion. There may be a slight negative impact on SAO 5 due to the natural resources that would be required in developing these additional allocation sites. There would be positive impacts on SAO 13 as Policy 7 requires development to consider how the Grade II listed parts of the site will be incorporated into any new development, which will help to protect and enhance this listed heritage asset.												

Alternative	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>Allocate additional sites well in excess of full housing requirement</b>	++	+/-	0	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
	Allocating sites well in excess of the full housing requirement (a further 30 additional dwellings on top of the 58 currently allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan) would have a strong positive impact on SAO 1 as it would ensure that enough affordable houses are built. There would be positive and negative impacts of SAO 2 as the provision of housing in excess of that currently allocated could place strain on existing community facilities, whilst also benefiting local residents by providing increased choice of accommodation. There would be likely negative impacts on SAO 4, SAO 5 and SAO 6 as further housing development would likely create additional road traffic and associated increased air pollution, as well as loss of natural resources (i.e. land). There would be negative impacts on SAO 10 and SAO 11 as the development of Land South of Winchester Road is located in a countryside gap which, without appropriate mitigation, would therefore likely result in a reduction in open and green space, potentially threatening biodiversity.												

7.16 On the basis of the above assessment, each alternative option presents a mixture of positive and negative impacts when assessed against all of the Sustainability Objectives. The third option of allocating land ‘well in excess’ of the Local Plan had the most significant negative impacts. The first option of including no housing allocations had mostly neutral impacts, however it had negative impacts upon SAO 1, SAO 2 and SAO 13 as it fails to meet locally-identified housing needs and fails to consider the future re-use of the Grade II listed building situated in the Woodhill School site (Policy 7).

7.17 The alternative option of allocating sites for the delivery of 58 dwellings (as reflected in the Neighbourhood Plan) is the most sustainable option, as it is assessed as having the fewest negative impacts and the most positive impacts overall.

**c) Alternative Locations for Growth**

7.18 This section considers the alternative site options for delivering the level of growth set out in the Botley Neighbourhood Plan (58 dwellings). A comprehensive site selection process was undertaken as part of the plan preparation process. A total of 29 sites were assessed by the Steering Group as part of an initial high-level assessment to establish whether they were suitable, available and deliverable.

7.19 Further assessment of sites was undertaken in March 2024 which resulted in three sites being considered appropriate for further detailed assessment where:

- The site is not considered suitable for residential use, including:
  - Where it is situated within a local settlement gap as identified in the adopted Local Plan (Policy S6) and Neighbourhood Plan Policy 5.
  - Where development is constrained by designation such as environmental designation, Conservation Area or Asset of Community Value listing.
  - Where it is located in Flood Zone 2 or 3.
  - Where it is assessed as suitable for an alternate commercial use (in the Eastleigh Borough Council SHLAA).
- The site is not confirmed as being available for development.
- The site is already included as an allocation in the Local Plan.
- The site already benefits from extant planning permission.

7.20 A summary of sites and reasons for exclusion from further consideration in the NP is below, with a detailed assessment contained in a table within a separate document, Appendix Two.



## BOTLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - REVIEW OF SITES

1st MARCH 2024

The following sites were considered as part of the review:

- SHLAA-3-19-C: Garage off Broad Oak
- SHLAA-3-20-C: Woodhill School.
- SHLAA-3-21-C: Woodhill School.
- SHLAA-3-23-C: Land south of Winchester Road
- SHLAA-3-24-C: Land adjacent to the Peartree Public House
- SHLAA-3-35-C: Land south of Long Garden Cottage, Winchester Road
- SLAA-3-28-C: Land south of Snakemoor Lane
- SLAA-3-30-C: WYG/Highwood (very large site but could be added to short list)
- SLAA-3-33-C: Land north of Myrtle Cottage, Winchester Road
- SLAA-3-38-C: Land south of Marls Road, Hedge End
- SLAA-3-39-C: Land south of Maddoxford Lane, Boorley Green

Strategic scale sites were not included in the assessment. These sites should be considered as part of the Eastleigh Local Plan process.

### Sites that are no longer available

Site	Reason
SHLAA-3-35-C: Land south of Long Garden Cottage, Winchester Road	This has been developed for housing.
SLAA-3-33-C: Land north of Myrtle Cottage, Winchester Road	This site is allocated in the Eastleigh Local Plan (Policy BO4).
SLAA-3-39-C: Land south of Maddoxford Lane, Boorley Green.	Site is under construction for residential development

### Sites that have potentially fundamental constraints

Site	Reason
SHLAA-3-19-C: Garage off Broad Oak.	Existing car garage still is still in use so there is no up to date evidence regarding its availability.  50% of site is within flood zone 3 (another 25% is flood zone 2), which means that part of the site could not be allocated for residential development. This renders the site almost undevelopable for residential uses.
SHLAA-3-23-C: Land south of Winchester Road.	Within a settlement gap so contrary to Eastleigh Local Plan Policy S6.

SLAA-3-28-C: Land south of Snakemoor Lane.	The site is completely separate from the urban edge.
SLAA-3-30-C: WYG/Highwood (very large site but could be added to short list).	The SLAA assessed that the site plays an important role in ensuring the separation of the settlements of Hedge End, Horton Heath and Botley / Boorley Green.  In order to avoid the Site of Nature Importance (SINC) ( <i>which is necessary otherwise it would be contrary to Eastleigh Local Plan Policy DM11</i> ), development would be completely separate from the urban edge.
SLAA-3-38-C: Land south of Marls Road, Hedge End	Within a settlement gap so contrary to Eastleigh Local Plan Policy S6.

### Remaining sites that were suitable for detailed assessment

1. SHLAA-3-20-C: Woodhill School.
2. SHLAA-3-21-C: Woodhill School.
3. SHLAA-3-24-C: Land adjacent to the Peartree Public House

These sites have been assessed and these assessments are presented in the accompanying spreadsheet at Appendix xx.

- 7.21 This initial stage assessment resulted in the exclusion of 26 sites. The remaining three sites were considered to be suitable reasonable alternatives for development included:
- Land South of Winchester Road
  - Land at Woodhill School (North)
  - Land at Woodhill School (South)
- 7.22 The following table sets out the further assessment of these sites that was undertaken against a detailed range of site assessment criteria including those related to context, ability to deliver housing, sustainability and access to services, biodiversity and landscape constraints, heritage constraints, environmental quality, transport and access, and consistency with the Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Objectives.

## **8.0 APPRAISAL OF SECONDARY, CUMULATIVE AND SYNERGISTIC EFFECTS**

- 8.1 Secondary (or indirect) effects are effects that are not a direct result of a policy but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway. Cumulative effects occur where two or more insignificant impacts combine to form a significant impact. Synergistic effects occur as the result of interactions between individual effects producing a total effect greater than the sum of each of the individual effects. Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects may be either positive or negative. The secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects of the policies in the Botley Neighbourhood Plan have been assessed and are summarised in the table below.

**Table 11. Appraisal of Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects**

Sustainability Appraisal Objective		Policies	Effects Identified	Significance
1	<b>Provide sufficient housing to meet identified local needs, including affordability and special needs</b>	7, 9, 14	All of these policies are assessed as having a significant positive impact on this objective. Together, the cumulative effect of these policies will have a positive impact on this objective. Some of the plan's other policies which restrict development in certain areas (e.g. settlement gaps, flood risk areas) may have a slight secondary (indirect) negative impact on the achievement of this objective.	Overall, the impact of the plan's policies on the achievement of this objective will be positive.
2	<b>Safeguard and improve community health, safety and wellbeing</b>	1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18	All of these policies are assessed as having either a significant positive or positive impact on this objective through the provision or enhancement of community facilities, safety and wellbeing. Together, the cumulative effect of these policies will have a positive impact on this objective.	The cumulative impact of the plan's policies on the achievement of this objective will be positive.
3	<b>Develop a dynamic and diverse economy</b>	1, 2, 18	These policies are assessed as having either a significant positive or positive impact on this objective by providing support for sustainable growth of retail and commercial premises. Together, the cumulative effect of these policies will have a positive impact on this objective.	The cumulative impact of the plan's policies on the achievement of this objective will be positive.
4	<b>Reduce road traffic and congestion through improved accessibility to services, homes and jobs; reducing the need to travel by car/lorry and improving sustainable travel choice</b>	1, 2, 4, 7, 13, 15, 17	These policies are assessed as having a combination of both positive and negative impacts on this objective. The overall cumulative effect of these policies is considered to be neutral, as the policies which seek to promote sustainable and active travel options will be enacted alongside policies which may encourage increased travel by car.	The cumulative impact of the plan's policies on the achievement of this objective will be neutral.

Sustainability Appraisal Objective		Policies	Effects Identified	Significance
5	<b>Protect and conserve natural resources</b>	2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 16,	These policies will have a combination of both positive and negative impacts on the achievement of this objective. The policies which allocate sites and promote new development (and thereby encourage increased use of natural resources) will be enacted alongside policies which seek to reduce natural resource consumption, including through the promotion of renewable energy generation, protection of open spaces and preventing development of countryside in gaps between settlements. The overall impact of the plan's policies upon the achievement of this objective are therefore considered to be neutral.	The cumulative impact of the plan's policies on the achievement of this objective will be positive.
6	<b>Reduce air, soil, water, light and noise pollution</b>	3, 4, 10, 11, 16	The majority of these policies are expected to have a positive impact on the achievement of this objective by including mitigation measures which seek to minimise instances of pollution. Policy 4 promotes the creation of Botley Bypass which may have a negative impact in terms of air quality. However, the overall cumulative impact of policies within the plan is considered to be positive.	The overall cumulative impact of policies within the plan on the achievement of this objective is considered to be positive.
7	<b>Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change</b>	10, 11, 16,	These policies are expected to have either a significant positive or positive impact on the achievement of this objective. The cumulative impact of the plan's policies is therefore expected to be positive.	The overall cumulative impact of policies within the plan on the achievement of this objective is considered to be positive.
8	<b>Minimise Botley's contribution to climate change by reducing the area's carbon footprint and</b>	15, 16	These policies are expected to have either a significant positive or positive impact on the achievement of this objective. The cumulative impact of the	The overall cumulative impact of policies within the plan on the achievement of this objective is considered to be positive.

Sustainability Appraisal Objective		Policies	Effects Identified	Significance
	<b>minimising other greenhouse gas emissions</b>		plan's policies is therefore expected to be positive.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Reduce waste generation and disposal, encourage waste prevention and reuse and achieve the sustainable management of waste</b>	10, 16	These policies are expected to have either a significant positive or positive impact on the achievement of this objective. The cumulative impact of the plan's policies is therefore expected to be positive.	The overall cumulative impact of policies within the plan on the achievement of this objective is considered to be positive.
<b>10</b>	<b>Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity, improving its quality and range. Avoid, mitigate or, at last resort, compensate for adverse effects on biodiversity</b>	3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15	These policies are expected to have either a positive impact or a mixture of positive and negative impacts on the achievement of this objective. The cumulative impact of the plan's policies is therefore expected to be neutral.	The overall cumulative impact of policies within the plan on the achievement of this objective is considered to be neutral.
<b>11</b>	<b>Enhance Botley's multifunctional green infrastructure network</b>	2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9	These policies are expected to have either a positive impact or a mixture of positive and negative impacts on the achievement of this objective. The cumulative impact of the plan's policies is therefore expected to be neutral.	The overall cumulative impact of policies within the plan on the achievement of this objective is considered to be neutral.
<b>12</b>	<b>Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities</b>	3, 5, 15, 18	These policies are expected to have either a significant positive or positive impact on the achievement of this objective. The cumulative impact of the plan's policies is therefore expected to be positive.	The overall cumulative impact of policies within the plan on the achievement of this objective is considered to be positive.
<b>13</b>	<b>Protect and enhance and manage buildings, monuments, features, sites, places, areas and landscapes of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance</b>	4, 7, 15, 18	These policies are expected to have either a significant positive or positive impact on the achievement of this objective. The cumulative impact of the plan's policies is therefore expected to be positive.	The overall cumulative impact of policies within the plan on the achievement of this objective is considered to be positive.

## **9.0 MONITORING**

- 9.1 Monitoring of this Sustainability Appraisal will be carried out by Botley Parish Council alongside its monitoring of the Neighbourhood Plan. The monitoring cycle should be aligned to the Neighbourhood Plan review period.

**APPENDIX 1 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT (SEA) AND HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (HRA) SCREENING STATEMENT FOR THE DRAFT BOTLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EA SCREENING OPINION, EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL (FEBRUARY 2022)**



**Strategic Environment Assessment  
(SEA) and Habitats Regulations  
Assessment (HRA) Screening  
Statement for the Draft Botley  
Neighbourhood Plan**

**February 2022**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to determine whether the initial screening draft of the Botley Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. to be referred throughout this report as the BNP) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) through a process referred to as SEA and HRA screening.
- 1.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental effects of a plan. The SEA screening determines whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and, if so, an environmental report is required. This is undertaken in accordance with the 'European Directive 2001/42/EC'<sup>2</sup> and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.3 A Habitats Regulations Assessment identifies whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on a European site (Natura 2000 sites), either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. An Appropriate Assessment or full HRA will be required when it is deemed that likely significant effects may occur as a result of the implementation of a plan/project. The HRA screening will determine whether significant effects on a European site are likely. This is undertaken in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended, including through EU Exit legislation) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- 1.4 Eastleigh Borough Council has prepared this SEA/HRA screening report on behalf of Botley Parish Council who are the qualifying body for the BNP. The Council as the competent authority has a responsibility to advise the Botley Neighbourhood Plan Committee who form part of Botley Parish Council whether there is a need for a full SEA and/or Appropriate Assessment or full HRA of the draft plan.
- 1.5 One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner once the Plan proceeds to that stage of the process is whether the making of the neighbourhood plan will be compatible with EU obligations (including under the SEA Directive).
- 1.6 The initial screening draft of the BNP is considered to show a clear vision and policy content subject to further changes which may be forthcoming following consultation which would be undertaken at the Regulation 14<sup>1</sup> draft and Regulation 16<sup>2</sup> submission stages. Therefore, the BNP is considered to be at an appropriate stage for an initial screening exercise to be undertaken.
- 1.7 This report is split into two parts. The first part covers the screening for the SEA along with the conclusions of this assessment (see Sections 3 to 6). The second part covers the screening process for the HRA along with the conclusions of this assessment (see Sections 7 to 10).

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<sup>1</sup> Published in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

<sup>2</sup> Published in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

## 2. Background Context on the Botley Neighbourhood Plan (BNP)

- 2.1 The BNP is being prepared by Botley Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Committee. The initial screening draft of the BNP constitutes the first version of the document that Eastleigh Borough Council has been provided to date. The purpose of the BNP is to provide a set of statutory planning policies to guide development within Botley Parish over the life of the plan.
- 2.2 The initial screening draft of the BNP proposes to cover the period between 2016 to 2036 which is consistent with the emerging Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036). This latter is now considered to carry at least considerable weight apart from those policies which may be subject to further potential material changes in the form of final main modifications set out by the inspector.
- 2.3 The initial screening draft of the BNP contains a vision for the future of Botley and includes a number of planning policies to realise this vision. The vision for Botley 2036 which has been established through consultation undertaken by Botley Parish Council with the local community is as follows:

### Vision for Botley

**In 2036, Botley remains a warm and friendly place to live, work and to visit. New developments have been well incorporated into the parish through our sensitive Neighbourhood Plan policies, and have provided homes needed by both the local and wider community and for all generations.**

**Well-managed infrastructure and resource facilities provide residents with a quality environment, good access to health care, excellent educational opportunities and reliable access to modern technologies.**

**Local children and young people can walk or cycle safely to their educational establishments or the play and green areas, on the many footpaths and cycleways introduced over the last 20 years. These routes provide a healthy alternative network for pedestrians and cyclists throughout the locality and link to neighbouring parishes.**

**The bypass has been built, and an update to the routing system traffic calming measures in the parish has led to a decrease in rat-runs and have been effective in creating safer roads.**

**The village centre has been recognised as an important for its heritage, businesses and shops and provides a popular destination for locals and visitors alike.**

- 2.4 The Plan also proposes 25 objectives which underpin themes relating to the economy, environment and character, housing and transport. The objectives provide the basis for the 18 policies as currently drafted. Some of the policies are general and apply throughout the plan area, whilst others are site or area-specific and apply

only to the areas illustrated on the relevant map. This includes two residential site allocation policies for a maximum of 20 dwellings each. Once 'made', the plan's policies will form part of the Eastleigh Development Plan and will be used alongside those of the emerging Local Plan (2016-2036) once adopted for determining planning applications in the Botley Neighbourhood Area.

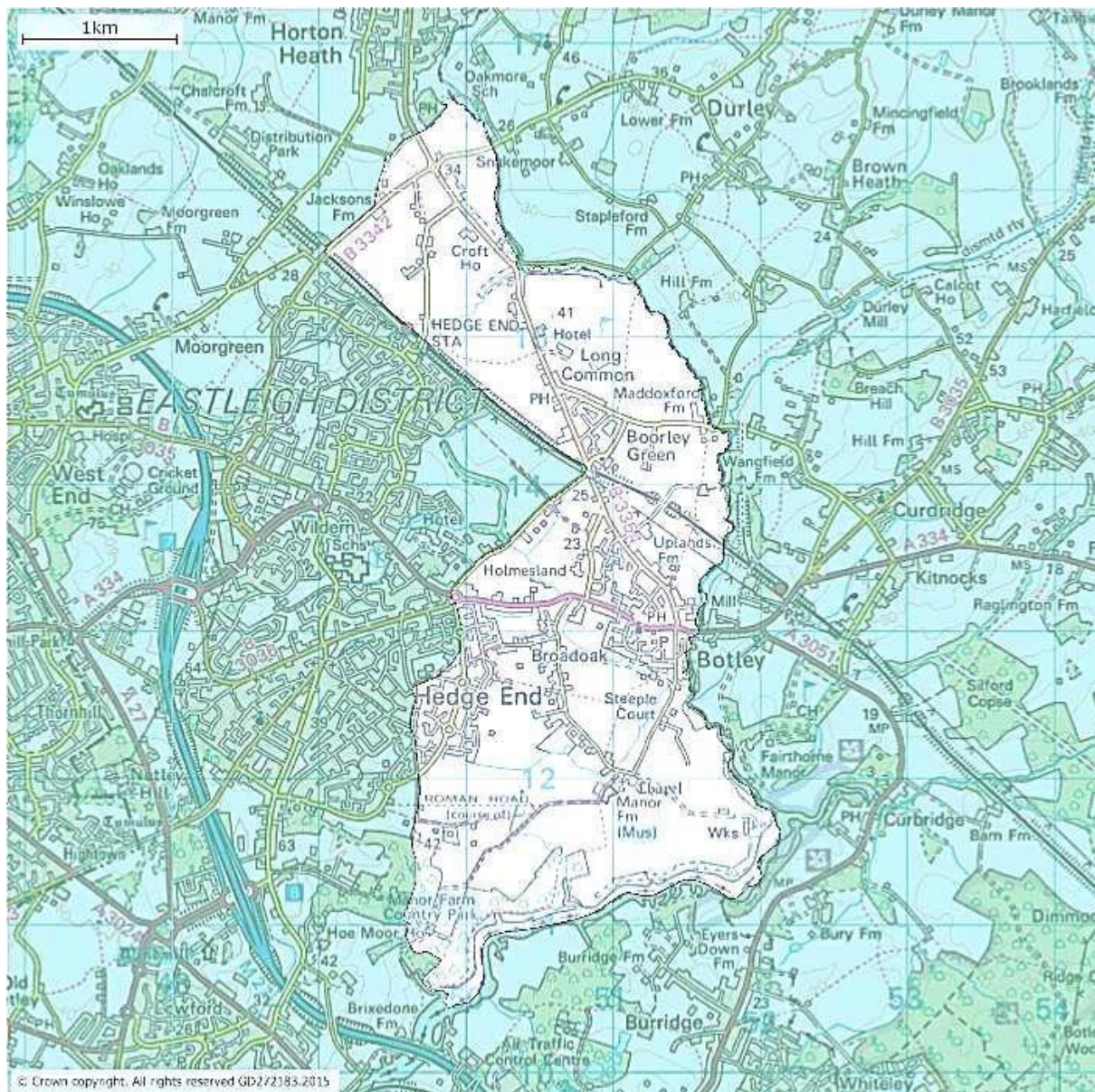
2.5 The policies proposed in the initial screening draft (2022) of the BNP are as follows:

- Policy 1: Retention of Existing Commercial Premises**
- Policy 2: Retail development sites**
- Policy 3: Protection and maintenance of Local Green Spaces**
- Policy 4: Developer contribution**
- Policy 5: Settlement gaps**
- Policy 6: New cemetery provision**
- Policy 7: SLAA-3-20-C / northern parcel Woodhill**
- School Policy 8: SLAA-3-21-C southern parcel Woodhill**
- School Policy 9: Site BO3 (Strategic Allocation)**
- Policy 10: Utilities Provision**
- Policy 11: Flood mitigation**
- Policy 12: Strategic high and intermediate pressure pipelines and high voltage electric cables**
- Policy 13 Parking standards for new residential developments**
- Policy 14: Housing mix and affordable housing**
- Policy 15: Built form, design and materials**
- Policy 16: Renewable energy**
- Policy 17: Off-road parking for educational facilities**
- Policy 18: Community infrastructure**

2.6 This screening report assesses the initial screening draft of the BNP and makes any appropriate recommendations for the purpose of SEA/HRA screening only. It makes no further observations on the wider content of the Plan in terms of meeting the wider basic conditions such as whether the proposed objectives and drafted policies would be in conformity with the strategic policies of the emerging Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036). It simply seeks to meet the basic condition to not breach and to otherwise be compatible with EU obligations.

2.7 Figure 1 which follows shows the extent of the Botley Neighbourhood Area which was approved at an Eastleigh Borough Council Cabinet meeting on 30 November 2015.

**Figure 1: Map of the Botley Neighbourhood Area**



### 3. Strategic Environment Assessment

- 3.1 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) concerns the evaluation of the environmental impacts of a plan or programme. The requirement for an SEA is detailed in the 'European Directive 2001/42/EC' which is adopted into UK legislation as the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans or Programmes Regulations 2004', or SEA Regulations. Local Plans often comply with SEA requirements by being the subject of a Sustainability Appraisal.
- 3.2 The Neighbourhood Planning (Amendment) Regulations 2015 introduced the requirement for an environmental report (prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004), or a statement of reasons for why an environment assessment is not required to be

submitted to the Local Planning Authority. This is to inform the public and to ensure independent examiners have sufficient information to determine whether a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.

- 3.3 Planning Practice Guidance also states that in some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. It further states that draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.

## **4. SEA Screening Process**

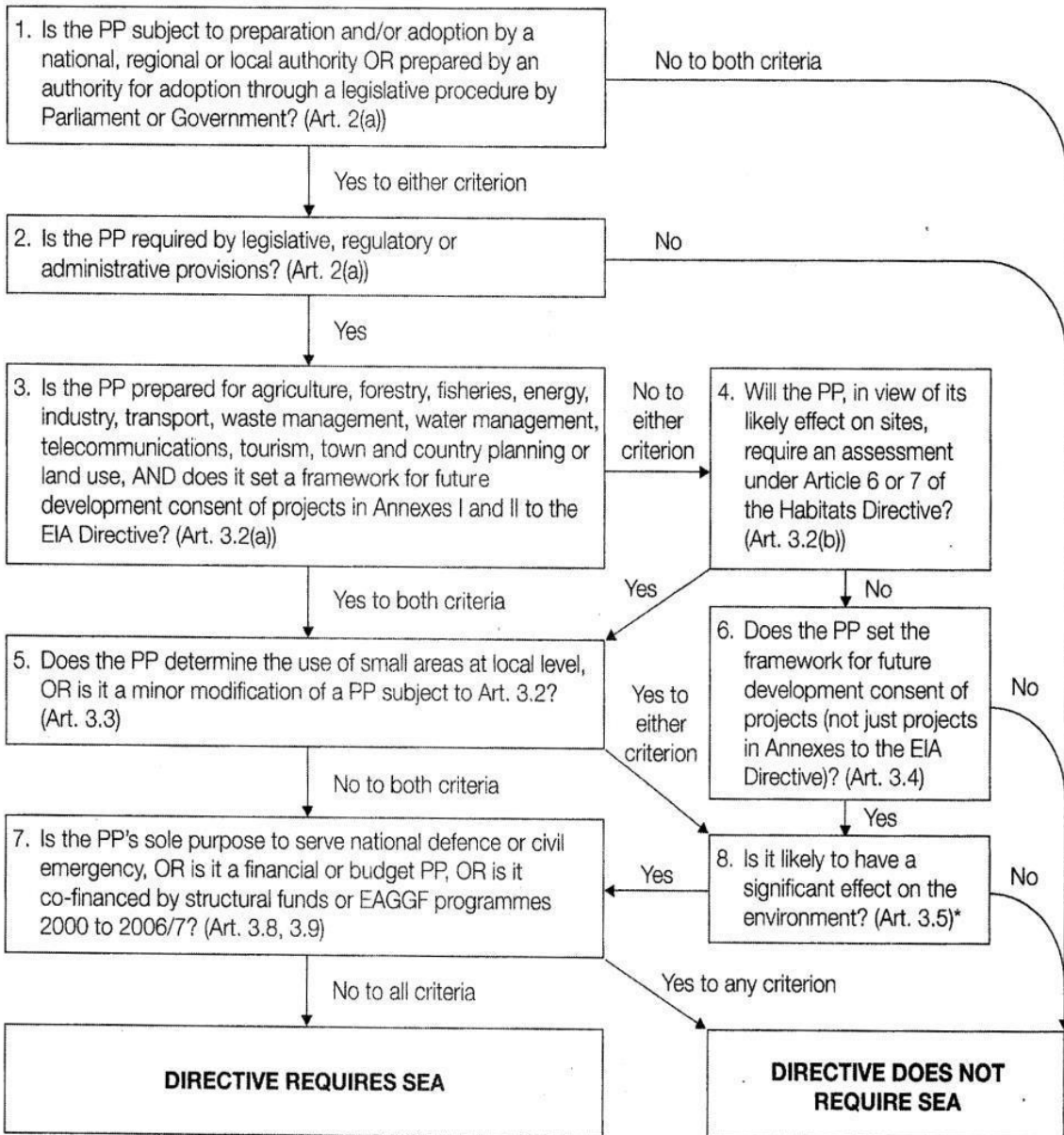
- 4.1 To determine if the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environment effects, Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 advises that draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be screened (assessed) to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, taking into account the criteria specified in schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and comments from the environmental consultation bodies.
- 4.2 Planning Practice Guidance also recommends local planning authorities take account of the criteria specified in schedule 1 and consult the consultation bodies cited in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency will therefore be consulted for their formal view on the initial screening opinion of the initial screening draft of the BNP with regards to any identified significant environmental effects and associated conclusions.
- 4.3 A SEA may be required, for example, where the neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development or the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by proposals in the plan.
- 4.4 Where it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects, and accordingly does not require an environmental assessment, the authority is required to prepare a statement for its reasons for the determination. If likely significant environmental effects are identified then an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of Regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 4.5 Table 1 of this report presents the criteria specified in schedule 1 in table form along with a commentary on the policies of the initial screening draft of the BNP. Table 2 shows the results of the screening process. Section 6 presents the overall conclusion for the decision.

## **5. SEA Determination and Reasoning**

- 5.1 The diagram which follows illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required.

**Figure 2 – Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes**

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.

5.2 The following assessment in Table 1 applies the questions from the preceding diagram. The answers have been used to inform Table 2 which determines whether the initial screening draft of the Botley NP in the view of the Eastleigh Borough Council requires a full Strategic Environmental Assessment.



**Table 1: Establishing the need for SEA**

Stage	Yes / No	Reason
<p>1. Is the BNP 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? (Art.2(a))</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The BNP is being prepared by the Botley Neighbourhood Plan Committee and will be 'made' by Eastleigh Borough Council should it progress through the various statutory preparation stages. This includes meeting the basic conditions along with a successful examination and referendum outcome.</p> <p><b>Go to Stage 2</b></p>
<p>2. Is the BNP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art.2(a))</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan is not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions. However, if the BNP is 'made' it will become part of the statutory development plan for the Botley Neighbourhood Area. It would then form part of the statutory Eastleigh Development Plan for Eastleigh Borough along with the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036) once this is adopted.</p> <p><b>Go to Stage 3</b></p>
<p>3. Is the BNP 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</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>	<p>The initial screening draft of the BNP includes policies relating to water management (e.g. for covering flood mitigation and surface water drainage) and is being prepared for town and country planning and land use within the Botley Neighbourhood Area.</p>

Stage	Yes / No	Reason
projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a))		<p>It does not set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive.</p> <p><b>Go to Stage 5</b></p>
4. Will the BNP, in view of this likely effect on sites require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art.3.2(b))	Yes	<p>The two residential site allocations proposed in the initial screening draft of the BNP may have uncertain effects upon the integrity of protected Habitats sites. The proposed movement routes along with the proposed Botley Centre car park expansion may also have such uncertain effects. Further details are set out in Table 2 below.</p> <p>A HRA screening assessment has also been undertaken to access these effects which has concluded that Appropriate Assessment is required. See Table 3 for details.</p>
5. Does the BNP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a plan or programme subject to Art 3.2? (Art.3.3)	Yes	<p>The initial screening draft of the BNP proposes to allocate two sites for residential development. An expansion of an existing car park at the Botley Centre is also proposed.</p> <p>A number of Local Green Spaces are also proposed to be designated along with new movement routes and a heritage an history trail, which can be interpreted as determining the use of land at a local level.</p>

Stage	Yes / No	Reason
		<b>Go to Stage 8</b>
6. Does the BNP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)	Yes	The initial screening draft of the BNP would be used for the determination of planning applications based on the proposed policy content relating to more general thematic and more specific land use policies. This is subject to the BNP proceeding through each of the statutory stages and then being 'made' by Eastleigh Borough Council following a successful referendum.
7. Is the BNP's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget plan or programme, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 3.8, 3.9)	Not applicable	Not applicable
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.4)	Yes	See Part 2, assessment of the likely significant environmental effects in Table 2. This concludes that the initial screening draft of the BNP may have a significant effect on the Environment.  <b>DIRECTIVE DOES REQUIRE SEA</b> of the initial screening draft of the BNP.

## SEA Screening Assessment

- 5.3 Table 2 sets out the Council’s assessment against the Strategic Environmental Assessment criteria for the initial screening draft of the BNP. This provides the reasoning behind the conclusions drawn in question 8 in Table 1. The criteria against which the screening is carried out are taken directly from Annex II of the SEA Directive, as required by Article 3 (5).

**Table 2: Screening Draft of the Botley Neighbourhood Plan - criteria for determining the likely significant environmental effects referred to in Article 3(5) (as taken from Annex II of the SEA Directive)**

Criteria specified schedule 1 SEA Regulations	Assessment
<b>1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to -</b>	
a) The degree to which the BNP 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 initial screening draft of the BNP is not the main framework for projects and activities, but rather it applies national and local strategic policies to a neighbourhood level.</p> <p>The initial screening draft of the BNP includes two new residential allocations (for a maximum of 20 dwellings each, one of which would be located on countryside on the edge of the settlement boundary) as well as policies which would guide the use of developer contributions for a range of identified projects and schemes in the Botley Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>The policies in the initial screening draft of the BNP also propose to set criteria which would be used in the determination of planning applications. A number of these policies supplement those in the emerging Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036)<sup>3</sup> with their neighbourhood level detail.</p>
b) The degree to which the BNP influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The initial screening draft of the BNP will need to comply with higher-tier policies and plans. It proposes to build upon the policies proposed within the emerging Eastleigh Local Plan (2016-2036) through the inclusion of neighbourhood-specific policies which

<sup>3</sup> With the advanced stage of the emerging Local Plan 2016-2036, the Botley Neighbourhood Plan Committee is proposing to develop the BNP to be in general conformity with its strategic policies in order to meet the basic conditions. Some of these policies may subject to final modifications following receipt of the inspector’s report. Eastleigh Borough Council will assess the BNP against the basic conditions which must be met prior to it proceeding to the referendum stage.

Criteria specified schedule 1 SEA Regulations	Assessment
	<p>cover a number of themes that are grouped under a set of developed objectives.</p> <p>Due to the neighbourhood specific nature of these policies, the effects of the initial screening draft of the BNP on other plans and programmes within the wider development plan will not be significant in their nature. Rather, the initial screening draft of the BNP is influenced by higher-tiered plans. There is no lower tier below the neighbourhood plan within the statutory development plan which covers Eastleigh Borough.</p>
<p>c) The relevance of the BNP for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;</p>	<p>The initial screening draft of the BNP seeks to integrate environmental measures with a view to promoting sustainable development. This would be achieved through policies proposed which are aimed at creating a network of movement routes (which would increase active travel such as walking and cycling) and increasing the installation of small-scale renewables and EV charging points.</p> <p>The initial screening draft of the BNP as currently drafted in proposing two new residential allocations (for a maximum of 20 dwellings each), increased car parking provision for the Botley Centre and 4 off-road vehicle parking spaces for 4+bed dwellings (therefore more than the existing Parking Standards SPD for dwellings of this size) could result in localised increase in vehicle traffic movements and associated air pollution.</p> <p>If the BNP reaches the Regulation 16 submission stage, it will be assessed to see if it complies with the basic conditions as prescribed by national legislation. This requires neighbourhood plans to promote sustainable development. The Plan will be extensively consulted on through both the Regulation 14 and Regulation 16 stages prior to this point of the process to ensure this is achieved. The Plan will also be subject to an examination process which will further help to determine whether sustainable development will be achieved prior to proceeding to referendum to be 'made'.</p>
<p>d) Environmental problems relevant to the BNP; and</p>	<p>The River Hamble defines the south eastern boundary the Botley Neighbourhood Area. This part of the River Hamble is the Solent &amp; Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar and Solent Maritime SAC.</p>

Criteria specified schedule 1 SEA Regulations	Assessment
	<p>Some parts of the Botley Neighbourhood Area including those adjoining tributaries of the River Hamble are at greater risk of flooding (i.e. located in Flood Zones 2 &amp; 3 with regards to fluvial flood risk). There are also LNR and SINC designations and important wildlife corridors within the Botley Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>The edges of the northern and southern parcels of the Woodhill School site allocations subject to proposed policies 7 and 8 are located within Flood Zones 2 and 3.</p> <p>Broad Oak and High Street are also located in an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). The two proposed residential allocations could also have potential uncertain effects upon air quality in this area depending on the level of traffic generated.</p>
<p>e) The relevance of the BNP for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)</p>	<p>The policies in the initial screening draft of the BNP will seek to address environmental issues in the Botley Neighbourhood Area. The Plan is therefore considered to be relevant to various aspects of community legislation, such as environmental protection (e.g. relating to water management).</p>
<p><b>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to -</b></p>	
<p>a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</p>	<p>The two residential site allocation policies proposed in the initial screening draft of the BNP are in addition to those already identified in the emerging Eastleigh Local Plan (2016-2036) and are likely to have environmental effects. It is considered they could result in a localised increase and frequency of traffic movements leading to an uncertain localised effect upon local air quality. This is exacerbated through the adjacent location of the Botley Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) which runs along Broad Oak through to Botley High Street. These effects are likely to be irreversible since they relate to new development.</p> <p>Other environmental impacts are likely to be associated with flood risk and drainage issues due to the location of the two residential site allocations</p>

Criteria specified schedule 1 SEA Regulations	Assessment
	<p>adjacent to the Pudbrook watercourse. Such effects are likely to occur during periods of higher rainfall or high tide. The southern parcel of the Woodhill School site allocation would also incorporate site access crossing the Pudbrook Lake watercourse corridor. This could lead to uncertain environmental impacts upon this watercourse and its associated habitats.</p> <p>There is the likelihood of effects upon water quality, nutrients, air quality and protected species (e.g. otters and bats) caused by increased disturbance upon the Solent &amp; Southampton Water (SPA and Ramsar) and Solent Maritime (SAC) European designated sites located approximately 1 kilometre from the two proposed residential site allocations – including tributaries to these designations. Other potential impacts are likely through anthropogenic disturbance to protected habitats and species – including that from domestic animals (and predation).</p> <p>There may also be uncertain impacts beyond the SPA/Ramsar and SAC designations such as upon the Local Nature Reserve designations in the Botley Neighbourhood Area. This includes that located within nearby proximity to the site to the north of Broad Oak and the presence of existing habitats and species.</p> <p>There are further uncertain environmental effects due to the potential loss of trees and the potential loss of habitat for protected species (e.g. bats) with regards to the proposal for new site access and routes such as the newly proposed access from Brook Lane to access the southern parcel of the Woodhill School proposed site allocation.</p> <p>The proposed movement routes and heritage and history trail could lead to increases in walking and cycling across the Botley Neighbourhood Area. Whilst these could lead to positive environmental benefits such as reduced car use, they may also have uncertain recreational impacts such as upon the Solent &amp; Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar and Solent Maritime SAC European designated sites, other habitats and existing biodiversity corridors.</p>

Criteria specified schedule 1 SEA Regulations	Assessment
	<p>The uncertain environmental impacts associated with the two proposed residential allocations would be expected over the longer term since they are not expected to be developed in the shorter-term period in relation to the policy criteria proposed.</p> <p>.</p> <p>The land proposed for the expansion of the Botley Centre car park which constitutes the northern part of the northern parcel of the Woodhill School site may also lead to uncertain air quality impacts with regards to the issues outlined above. However, if this car park is dependent on the residential site allocations coming forward, these effects might not be expected over the shorter-term period.</p> <p>Policy 9 (Strategic Allocation) proposes changes to proposed Policy BO3 Land east of Kings Copse Avenue and east of Tanhouse Lane on the basis it is not removed from the emerging Local Plan (2016-2036). This may have uncertain environmental impacts through the provision of a cemetery on the site. This is due to the impacts this could have upon existing biodiversity value. Any such impacts would be likely over the shorter-term in accordance with the projected delivery of this site as shown in the Council's Housing Trajectory.</p>
b) The cumulative nature of the effects;	<p>It is possible that the two proposed residential site allocations and proposed movement routes and heritage and history trail could have limited cumulative effects upon the noted European designated sites. The two residential allocations and proposed car park expansion at the Botley Centre may also have localised cumulative effects upon lower air quality.</p> <p>It is also considered that there will be positive cumulative effects upon air quality across the Botley Neighbourhood Area arising from the network of proposed movement routes (which would increase active travel such as walking and cycling) and from increasing the installation of small-scale renewables and EV charging points. However, the limited, localised and uncertain cumulative effects as referenced above could potentially outweigh these benefits.</p>
c) The transboundary nature of the effects	There are not expected to be any significant trans-boundary effects arising from the initial screening draft of the BNP (i.e. those beyond the Botley



Criteria specified schedule 1 SEA Regulations	Assessment
	Neighbourhood Area or beyond the Eastleigh Borough Council administrative boundary). The policies which are proposed including the two residential site allocations would apply at a neighbourhood level, and as such, will generally provide a greater level of detail on local circumstances and characteristics compared to those referenced in the emerging Local Plan (2016-2036).
d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	It is considered unlikely that the policies of the initial screening draft of the BNP would result in any risks to human health or the environment which could arise from accidents.
e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	It is considered unlikely that the policies of the initial screening draft of the BNP would result in significant environmental effects in terms of their magnitude and spatial extent. Any effects as per those identified in this screening assessment would be of a localised nature within the boundary of the Botley Neighbourhood Area.
<p>f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to –</p> <p>(i) Special nature characteristics or cultural heritage;</p> <p>(ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;</p> <p>or</p> <p>(iii) Intensive land-use</p>	<p>Whilst the two housing allocations as proposed are likely to have uncertain environmental effects as already set out, it is also noted that the northern parcel would result in the reuse of a vacant Listed Building (Brook House). Therefore, it is likely the value and vulnerability of the area would be enhanced with regards to cultural heritage factors. The proposed heritage and history trail would also have cultural heritage related benefits.</p> <p>The proposals to identify seven new movement routes and one footbridge for enhancing local footpath and cycleway links and enable access on foot and by bicycle are not set out in detail the initial screening draft of the BNP. Therefore, the magnitude of these impacts upon special nature characteristics whilst expected to be localised are uncertain at this stage with regards to the proximity of these movement routes to the banks of the River Hamble and its European designations.</p> <p>The two proposed housing allocations would also make use of previously developed land and buildings which are currently vacant and unused. However, there is scope to further optimise the density of the two proposed housing allocations for the purposes of achieving intensive land use provided the</p>

Criteria specified schedule 1 SEA Regulations	Assessment
	environmental concerns highlighted in this screening assessment are sufficiently addressed.
g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised natural, Community or international protection status.	It is considered unlikely that the policies of the initial screening draft of the BNP would have effects on landscapes which have a recognised natural, Community or international protection status. This is because there are no internationally protected landscapes located across the Borough (the boundary of the South Downs National Park is also not located in close proximity).

## 6. SEA Conclusions and Next Steps

6.1 **This SEA screening has identified that the initial screening draft of the BNP may have significant effects on the environment meaning that there is a need for a full SEA to be undertaken.**

6.2 Before this screening opinion is confirmed as final, it will be subject to consultation and feedback from the three designated consultation bodies – Historic England, Natural England, and the Environment Agency.

## 7. Habitats Regulations Assessment

7.1 The Habitats Regulations transpose the Habitats Directive into UK law. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to one of the several distinct stages of Assessment. These must be undertaken in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

7.2 A HRA screening assessment should explore whether the implementation of a plan or project not connected to or necessary for a sites management, would be likely to have a significant effect upon or harm the habitats or species for which the European sites otherwise also known as ‘Natura 2000 sites’ are designated. The European sites are:

- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) – designated by the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended and 2009/147/EC), and:
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) – designated by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

7.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also states that Ramsar sites should be afforded the same level of protection as the European sites.

7.4 A screening process has been followed as per this HRA screening assessment to assess if the initial screening draft of the BNP requires a full Appropriate

Assessment. The Appropriate Assessment stage of HRA is only required should this preliminary screening assessment not be able to rule out likely significant effects on a European site.

## 8. HRA Screening Process

- 8.1 The HRA is undertaken in separate stages and should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy would adversely affect the integrity of any sites. The stages of the HRA process are further described below.

### Stage 1 – Screening

- This is the process which identifies the likely effects upon a European site (Natura 2000 or Ramsar site(s)) of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and determines whether these effects are likely to be significant.
- If there is uncertainty, and it is not possible, based on the information available, to confidently determine that there will be no significant effects on a site then the precautionary principle<sup>4</sup> will be applied. The screening assessment must reflect the outcomes of the 2018 judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union<sup>5</sup> which has ruled that where mitigation is necessary this must be identified through an Appropriate Assessment. This means that measures that are necessary to avoid or reduce impacts on the European site, even when considered standard environmental best-practice, cannot be taken into account at this stage. This ruling necessitated a change to the habitat conservation regulations (The Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018) which amended the basic condition. Examiners must now consider whether “The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.”
- If no likely significant effects are determined, the project or plan can proceed without the need to progress onto the Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment stage. If any likely significant effects are identified, Stage 2 commences.

### Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment

- This is the consideration of the impact on the integrity of the site(s), either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site’s structure and function and its conservation objectives.

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4 The Precautionary Principle – Prudent action that avoids the possibility of irreversible environmental damage in situations where the scientific evidence is inconclusive but the potential damage could be significant.

5 C-323/17 – People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta.

- Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts should be provided.

### Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternative Solutions

- This is the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site (Natura 2000 and Ramsar site(s)); and

### Stage 4 – Compensatory Measures

- This is an assessment of the compensatory measures where, in light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the plan should proceed.

## 9. HRA Determination and Reasoning

9.1 In order to understand the context of the likely effects of the BNP as initially drafted, it is important to consider the likely effects of the emerging Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036) which has been subject to a continuous and iterative HRA screening and assessment process.

9.2 In summary, therefore, the HRA report for the emerging Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036) considers the following European sites (Natura 2000 and Ramsar site(s)) as shown in the box below. These have been designated to conserve a wide variety of habitats of European importance, along with species populations of high conservation significance:


- New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar
- River Itchen SAC
- Solent Maritime SAC
- Solent & Dorset Coast pSPA<sup>6</sup>
- Solent & Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar

9.3 Those scoped out of the assessment of the emerging Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036) Habitats Regulations Assessment include the two following European sites (Natura 2000 sites) as shown in the box below:

- Emer Bog SAC
- Mottisfont Bats SAC

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<sup>6</sup> formally designated in January 2020



9.4 The HRA screening report (AECOM, 2015) for the Local Plan at that stage in its preparation considered that Emer Bog SAC and Mottisfont Bats SAC could be screened-out of the assessment process. This was on the basis of their reasons for designation and distance from Eastleigh Borough, reasons which remain valid for the emerging Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036) HRA (UE Associates 2021) whereby it has been considered that it is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of these sites for nature conservation.

9.5 The latest conclusions of the emerging Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036) HRA constitute the following:

- No likely significant effects were identified in relation to Emer Bog SAC, Mottisfont Bats SAC, New Forest SAC/Ramsar or Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- Significant effects through coastal squeeze are not likely for Solent Maritime SAC or Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- Significant effects through atmospheric pollution are not likely for Solent Maritime SAC or Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- Significant effects through impacts to land outside the boundary of Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar (non-designated terrestrial wader and Brent goose sites) are not likely, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- Significant effects resulting from recreation are not likely for River Itchen SAC, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- There will be no adverse effect on the integrity of River Itchen SAC as a result of atmospheric pollution, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- Taking account of the mitigation strategy, it can be concluded that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of River Itchen SAC as a result of noise and vibration, hydrological impacts, impacts to land outside the SAC boundary (otter dispersal corridors), non-native species, water abstraction or water pollution, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- Taking account of the mitigation strategy, it can be concluded that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of Solent Maritime SAC as a result of non-native species, site-specific hydrological impacts or water pollution, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

- Taking account of the mitigation strategy, it can be concluded that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of New Forest SPA as a result of disturbance, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- Taking account of the mitigation strategy, it can be concluded that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar as a result of disturbance, noise and vibration or water pollution, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

9.6 The initial screening draft of the BNP introduces 18 new draft policies which includes two new residential site allocation policies. These are in addition to the minimum 14,580 dwellings that are proposed to be allocated through the emerging Eastleigh Borough Local Plan Review (2016-2036). The initial screening draft of the BNP also proposes locally specific policies and supports additional residential development on small scale infill sites within the settlement boundaries falling in the Botley Neighbourhood Area provided this meets its wider policy objectives.

9.7 Whilst many of the policies as currently drafted in the BNP provide a local steer and address issues in addition to those policies in the emerging Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036), it has been concluded that there is uncertainty as to whether the two newly proposed residential allocations with proposed new access over the Pudbrook Lake (Policies 7 & 8), car parking expansion for the Botley Centre (Policy 4), movement routes (due to their unknown location) for walking and cycling (Policy 4) and proposed local heritage and history trail (due to its known location) would have adverse effects on European sites (Natura 2000 and Ramsar site(s)) either alone or in combination with other plan or projects which include the Eastleigh Local Plan (2016-2036).

9.8 The full screening assessment can be viewed in Table 3 which follows.

**Table 3: HRA Screening Assessment**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Likely Significant Effects</b>	<b>Potential Risks</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Policy 1: Retention of existing commercial premises	Policy encouraging the retention, provision and protection of existing business (Class E uses) in the Botley Neighbourhood Area	No likely significant effects – policy does not allocate new sites	None	None
Policy 2: Retail development sites	Policy which supports the provision of small business units, the provision of local shops and re-use of redundant agricultural buildings for business use	No likely significant effects – policy does not allocate new sites	None	None
Policy 3: Protection and maintenance of Local Green Spaces	Protective policy which identifies 30 existing open spaces for protection as Local Green Space	No likely significant effects – this is a protective policy which does not promote development	None	None
Policy 4: Infrastructure investment priorities	Policy identifies projects for spending developer contributions	Uncertain effects – in relation to the increased parking at the Botley Centre and improving the network of movement routes	Possibility of in combination effects arising from increased atmospheric pollution levels. The unknown size of the proposed increase in parking provision means that the magnitude of these effects is uncertain. However, these effects are likely to be on a more localised scale	For consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage (Stage 2)

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Likely Significant Effects</b>	<b>Potential Risks</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
			The creation of the new movement routes may have uncertain effects relating to disturbance and water quality on the Solent & Southampton Water (SPA and Ramsar) and Solent Maritime (SAC) designated sites – including tributaries to these designations.	
Policy 5: Settlement gaps	Identifies a number of new settlement gaps including those proposed in addition to those identified in the emerging Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036)	No likely significant effects – protective policy which aims to prevent physical and visual coalescence of settlements	None	None
Policy 6: Site for new cemetery	Policy supports the provision of a new cemetery in the Botley Neighbourhood Area but is not site specific	No likely significant effects – policy does not allocate new sites	None	None
Policy 7: SLAA-3-20-C northern parcel Woodhill School	Policy supports development for a maximum of 20 dwellings which will include making use of the existing Grade II listed parts of the site. 40% affordable housing is required along with associated open space	Significant effects likely – the site falls within approximately 1km from the Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar and Solent Maritime SAC. Impacts upon other European designated sites within the Solent Protection Zone are more uncertain.	Likelihood of effects upon water quality, nutrients, air quality, and protected species caused by increased disturbance on the Solent & Southampton Water (SPA and Ramsar) and Solent Maritime (SAC) designated sites – including tributaries to these designations	For consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage (Stage 2)



<b>Policy</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Likely Significant Effects</b>	<b>Potential Risks</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Policy 8: SLAA-3-21-C southern parcel Woodhill School	Site supports development for a maximum of 20 dwellings. 40% affordable housing is required along with associated open space and safe pedestrian access for linking Botley Bridleway 17 to the Pudbrook Green Route via the southern end of the site.	Significant effects likely – the site falls within approximately 1km from the Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar and Solent Maritime SAC. Impacts upon other European designated sites within the Solent Protection Zone are more uncertain.	Likelihood of effects upon water quality, nutrients, air quality and protected species caused by increased disturbance on the Solent & Southampton Water (SPA and Ramsar) and Solent Maritime (SAC) designated sites – including tributaries to these designations	For consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage (Stage 2)
Policy 9 Site BO3 (Strategic Allocation) proposals	Policy proposes additional criteria further to that in Policy BO3 of the emerging Eastleigh Local Plan (2016-2036) if retained following consideration by the inspector. This includes additional requirements such as biodiversity measures and the type of development (e.g. 40% affordable housing, the provision of a cemetery and allotments or community space).	No likely significant effects for the purposes of the HRA – uncertain environmental effects are considered for the proposed cemetery use of the land for the purposes of the SEA screening in Table 2.	None	None
Policy 10: Utilities Provision	Policy proposes to ensure that new development proposals have the required infrastructure for surface water drainage, wastewater and electricity.	No likely significant effects – policy does not allocate new sites but instead gives details of the necessary utility infrastructure that will be required for new development	None	None

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Likely Significant Effects</b>	<b>Potential Risks</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Policy 11: Flood mitigation	Policy proposes that new development incorporates the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) for ensuring the discharge of surface water flows	No likely significant effects – protective policy which aims to reduce the risk of surface water flooding	None	None
Policy 12: Strategic high and intermediate pressure pipelines and high voltage electric cables	Policy seeks to ensure all new development complies with the existing safety requirements in relation to Consultation Distances around major accident hazard pipelines and for the Health and Safety Executive Planning Advice Web App to be used for identifying if a proposed site lies within the Consultation Distance of any of these strategic pipelines or cables.	No likely significant effects – policy aims to reduce the risks associated with major accident hazard pipelines and cables upon all new development	None	None
Policy 13 Parking standards for new residential developments	The policy sets the requirements for off-street parking for new residential development (standards are proposed for 1-5 bed dwellings)	No likely significant effects – policy does not promote development	None	None
Policy 14: Housing mix and affordable housing	The policy includes criteria for meeting specified local needs and requirements for affordable housing (e.g. all new development is	No likely significant effects – policy does not allocate new development and is criteria based for controlling the type and level of affordable housing	None	None

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Likely Significant Effects</b>	<b>Potential Risks</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	expected to provide at least 35% affordable housing with 40% to be achieved on developments of 50 dwellings and above).			
Policy 15: Built form, design and materials	Policy includes criteria for ensuring new development in the Botley Neighbourhood Area is well designed and promotes measures such as non-car use in larger schemes, EV charging points and facilities for storing refuse and recycling bins out of sight. This also includes new development being consistent with the requirements of the Botley Design Guide.	No likely significant effects – the policy does not promote development but aims to ensure new development is well designed and incorporates sustainability measures	None	None
Policy 16: Renewable energy	Policy supports the provision of a range of small-scale and micro-scale renewable energy schemes in new development where possible and practical.	No likely significant effects – the policy does not promote development but would have positive environmental effects by encouraging the use of renewable energy sources	None	None
Policy 17: Off-road parking for educational facilities	Policy supports increased parking provision for where this is currently considered to be inadequate for users of educational facilities	No likely significant effects – policy is criteria based and does not promote development. Uncertain effects relating to the Botley Centre car park expansion are	None	None

Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effects	Potential Risks	Recommendation
		considered separately under Policy 4.		
Policy 18: Community infrastructure	Policy supports the retention of community facilities unless their replacement can be justified through the criteria included in the policy. New and improved community facilities are also supported.	No likely significant effects – the policy does not promote development but sets criteria for replacement and new community facilities.	None	None

## 10. HRA Screening Conclusions and Next Steps

- 10.1 The screening assessment identifies Policies 4, 7 and 8 as having the potential for significant effects upon protected European designated sites – primarily upon the Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar and Solent Maritime SAC designations due to their nearby proximity to development which is proposed in the screening draft of the BNP. This means likely significant effects on these sites in combination with other growth proposed and being built out through the targets set in the emerging Eastleigh Local Plan (2016-2036) cannot be ruled out.
- 10.2 To ensure compliance with the Sweetman judgement it is not possible to take into account mitigation measures to screen out likely significant effects at this stage. Therefore, the requirement for Botley Parish Council undertake an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations 2017 is screened in.

**The conclusions therefore mean that Stage 2 of the HRA process as set out on pages 17 & 18 will be necessary whereby an Appropriate Assessment will be required.**

- 10.3 This screening opinion will be published alongside the Regulation 14 draft of the BNP and will also be subject to public consultation. Before this screening opinion is confirmed as final, it will also first require feedback from the three designated consultation bodies – Historic England, Natural England, and the Environment Agency.

## Appendices

### Screening Opinion response from the Environment Agency

Dear Planning Policy

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the SEA/HRA screening opinion for Botley Neighbourhood Plan.

Having reviewed the screening document, along with the draft plan, and considering issues within our remit, we would agree that a SEA is required for this plan. There is potential for the Botley NP to have significant effects on the environment. Our main concern is in relation to flood risk.

The NP looks to allocate 2 sites. We have concerns regarding these sites due to the fact that according to our flood map for planning they are within current day flood zone 3. The NPPF is very clear that flood risk areas should be avoided wherever possible to ensure that risk is not increased either to the site itself or others as a result of the development. As part of the evidence base for bringing the plan forward, we would expect the flood risk sequential test to be undertaken to demonstrate that there are no other sites available at lower flood risk. If this can be passed, then a strategic flood risk assessment should be undertaken to demonstrate that the sites can be made safe for the lifetime of the development proposed and do not increase flood risk to others. Only if this is possible should the sites be allocated.

In terms of the HRA, we would defer to Natural England's advice on this matter as they are the relevant body in regard to this.

I hope that the above information is useful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details below.

Kind regards

## Screening Opinion response from Natural England

Botley Neighbourhood Plan & draft SEA/HRA Screening

Dear

Thank you for your consultation request on the above dated and received by Natural England on date 10 February 2022.

At this time, Natural England is not able to fully assess the potential impacts of this plan on statutory nature conservation sites or protected landscapes or provide detailed advice in relation to this consultation. If you consider there are significant risks to statutory nature conservation sites or protected landscapes, please set out the specific areas on which you require advice.

The lack of detailed advice from Natural England does not imply that there are no impacts on the natural environment. It is for the deciding authority to determine whether or not the plan is consistent with national and local environmental policies. Other bodies and individuals may provide information and advice on the impacts of the plan on the natural environment to assist the decision-making process.

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance. 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.

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.

Yours sincerely

## Screening Opinion response from Historic England

Dear

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the Botley Neighbourhood Plan strategic environmental assessment (SEA) screening report (February 2022).

The proposed neighbourhood plan includes two housing-led site allocations (Policy 7: SLAA-3-20-C northern parcel Woodhill School and Policy 8: SLAA-3-21-C southern parcel Woodhill School). The grade II listed Brook House (1337023) is located within the Policy 7 allocation and the setting of the building may extend into the area proposed for allocation by Policy 8. Therefore, we consider that the plan is likely to result in significant effects on cultural heritage and it is our opinion that a full SEA of the neighbourhood plan is required.

Kind regards



