

Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment
Screening Report

October 2017

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening exercise for the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan, the purpose of which is to determine whether or not the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan requires an SEA.

This report provides details of the proposed Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan and explains the legislative background to SEA screening, before providing an account of the SEA screening exercise for the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan which was undertaken in August 2017.

The views of the statutory consultees were sought on the findings of this SEA screening in August 2017. Their responses, presented in Appendix A, were taken into account whilst concluding Plan in the final chapter of this report whether or not an SEA is required for the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood.

This report meets the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment and the Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations (2004).

2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND TO STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

European Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment ('SEA Directive') introduces the need to undertake a strategic environmental assessment ('SEA') during the development of some plans and programmes. The main purpose of SEA, according to Article 1 of the SEA Directive, is:

“to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development”.

The SEA Directive is transcribed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which establishes the requirement to undertake a sustainability appraisal ('SA') for some documents used for planning purposes. The SA process incorporates the requirement for SEA, but typically has a broader scope and considers the social and economic issues in addition to the environmental effects.

The requirement to undertake an SA of supplementary planning documents (SPD) was removed by the Planning Act 2008. However, the need to establish whether the planning document requires an SEA, through the SEA Directive, remains.

Articles 2 and 3 of the SEA Directive explain which plans and programmes require SEA. The Government's Planning Practice Guidance suggests that an SPD will only require an SEA “in exceptional circumstances...if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already have been assessed during the preparation of the Local Plan”.

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 amends the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 to provide clarification on the SEA related documents which must be submitted alongside neighbourhood planning proposals. Regulation 2(4) of the amendment regulations 2015 adds to the list of documents that a neighbourhood planning group must submit to a local planning authority with a proposal for a neighbourhood plan, which is presented in regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. The additional document which must be submitted is either an environmental report, should an SEA be required, or a statement of reasons why an environmental assessment is not required.

3. THE BROADWINDSOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

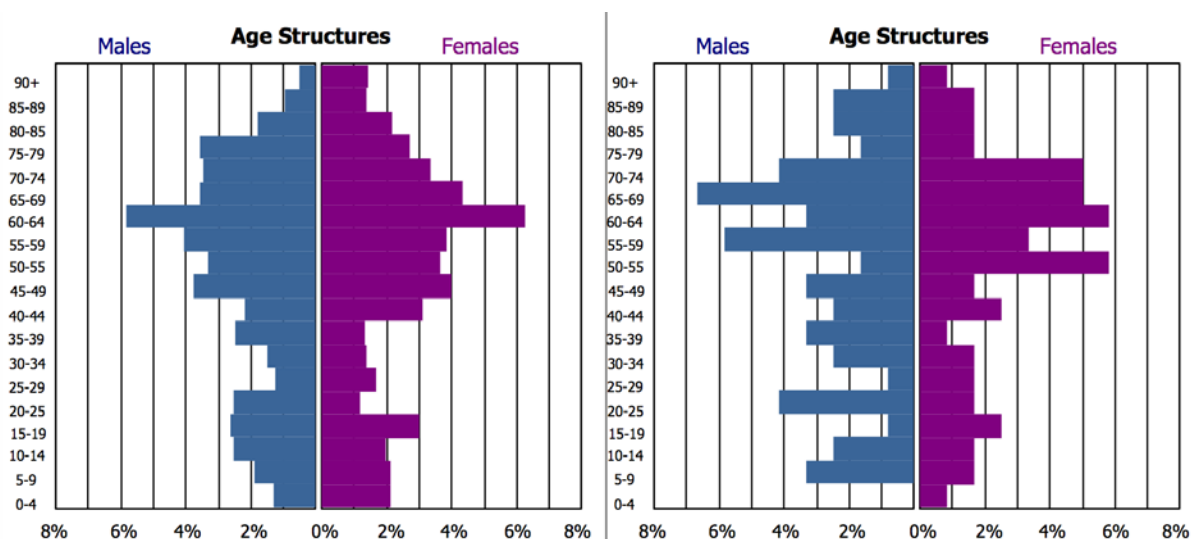
THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BROADWINDSOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area includes the parishes of Broadwindsor, Seaborough and Burstock, and occupies an area of approximately 34km² (3,400ha) and a population of approximately 1,498¹.

The population profiles for the plan area (figure 3.1) indicate a slightly greater proportion of older residents when compared to West Dorset as:

- median age of residents within the plan area is 54 years old, compared to 49 in West Dorset;
- 13% of residents are 15 years old or younger, compared to 16% in West Dorset;
- 30% of residents are 30 years old or older, compared to 26% in West Dorset.

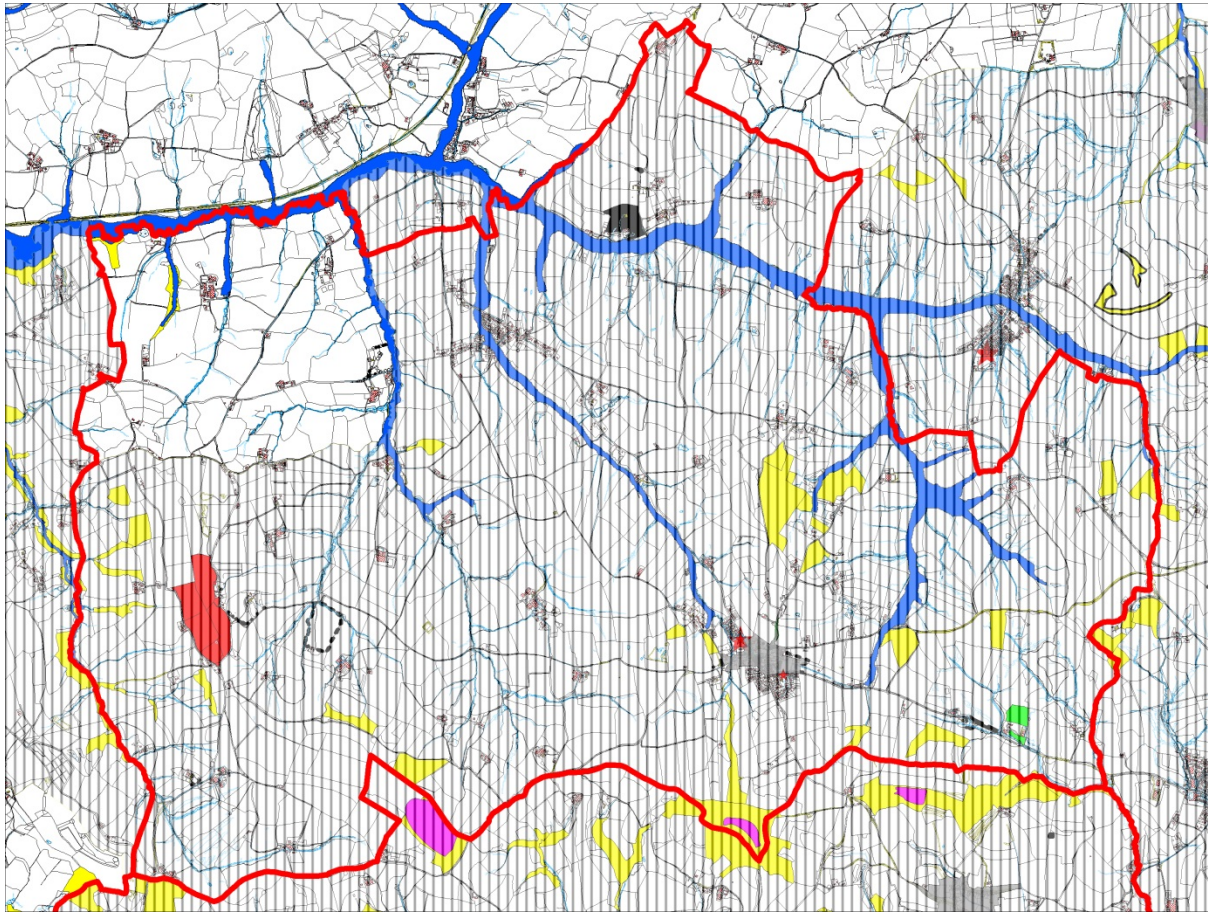
Figure 3.1: The population profiles of Broadwindsor and Seaborough (left) and Burstock (right), provided courtesy of Dorset County Council



The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area and surrounding areas include a number of environmental designations, particularly relating to wildlife, heritage assets, and flooding, indicating the importance and sensitivity of the plan area from an environmental perspective (Figure 3.2).







¹ Number of 'usual residents' according to the 2011 census

Figure 3.2: Environmental designations within the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area



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Legend

	Conservation Area
	Scheduled Monument
	SSSI
	SNCI
	High Flood Risk Zone
	AONB

The Dorset AONB occupies the majority of the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan Area with only the northwestern section of the plan area situated outside the Dorset AONB.

The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan includes the Scheduled Monument titled "Lewesdon hillfort, 525m north east of Brimbley Coombe Farm" which occupies an area of 2.3ha in the southern part of the plan area. There are two Scheduled Monuments adjacent and to the south of the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area which are titled "Pilsdon Pen hillfort

and associated remains" (occupying 9.8ha) and "Roman fort on Waddon Hill" (occupying 2.2ha).

The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan includes the Broadwindsor Conservation Area. In addition there are 95 Listed Buildings, 85 of which are Grade II Listed Buildings with the remaining 10 being the following Grade II* Listed Buildings:

- Barn 20m East of Childhay Maonr Farmhouse, Childhay
- Bere Chapel Farmhouse, Childhay
- Old Sandpitts, Sandpit
- Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Church Path
- Park
- Racedown House with Rear Garden Wall and Gate Pier, Birdmoorgate
- South Dibberford Farmhouse
- Burstock Grange, Grange Lane, Grange
- Parish Church of St Andrew, Burstock Village

The wildlife designations within the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area include two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (Figure 3.3), both of which are designated on the basis of their geological importance.

Figure 3.3: The Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area.

Name of SSSI	Approx. Area	Reason for designation
Horn Park Quarry SSSI	2.8ha	This quarry represents a key reference section for rocks of the Aalenian Stage of geological time, laid down approximately 170 million years ago during the Jurassic Period. The study of the sections seen here is critical for the definition of the Aalenian Stage in an international context.
Conegar Road Cutting SSSI	0.15ha	The Conegar Road Cutting comprises a 175m long road section located immediately north of Broadwindsor. The steep east and west-facing road sides expose a nationally important sequence through the upper parts of the Bridport Sands and the Lower Inferior Oolite and clearly demonstrate the stratigraphical relationships between these lithologies. The total thickness of the succession is approximately 20m.

The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area also includes 24 Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) which are areas of local wildlife importance(Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4: The Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) within the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area

Name of SNCI	Area	Description
Causeway Lane Meadows	5.3ha	Wet grazing meadows, grassland dominated by rushes.

Synderford/Causeway Coppices	2.9ha	Two adjacent woodlands along stream sides.
Lower Causeway Coppice	1.9ha	A narrow coppice with a rich flora.
River Synderford Valley	24.6ha*	A large site of woodland and grassland habitats
Dry Close Plantation & Coombe Lake Copse	2.5ha	Two areas of wet, broad-leaved woodland with some wet neutral grassland
Specket Lane	8.6ha	Two areas of neutral grassland with flora
Childhay Coppice	1.9ha	A small coppice of damp deciduous woodland
Hursey	1.2ha	Semi-improved neutral grassland with some rush pasture
Hursey Common	1.0ha	A small area of woodland and neutral grassland
Burstock Grange	5.1ha	Semi-natural woodland
Lewesdon Hill and Burstock Down	32.7ha*	An acid hilltop with beech wood and bracken
Little Windsor Meadows	13.8ha	Semi improved grassland, unimproved neutral grassland and marshy grassland
Locust Common Coppice	1.9ha	Dry and wet deciduous woodland
Park Meadows	5.3ha	Neutral grassland meadows, some unimproved
Potwell Covert	6.3ha	A large area of wet woodland with open glades
Potwell Nurseries Coppice	1.2ha	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland
Common Water Lane Meadows	5.3ha	Meadows with a good flora
Stoke Knapp Farm	2.2ha	Dry and wet neutral grassland
Wantsley Farm	4.6ha	Grassland with a varied flora
Old Park Coppice	3.2ha	Semi-natural deciduous woodland
South Dibberford	2.9ha	A wet meadow with a varied flora
South Buckham Farm	5.9ha*	A varied site of grassland and woodland habitats
West Woods	2.1ha*	Small deciduous woodland with a rich ground flora

Rapehole Coppice	3.6ha	A narrow broadleaved woodland, with a stream running through
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* Only partly within the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan Area

The plan area includes a high risk flood zone, associated with the River Axe which runs in an east to west orientation, along the northern boundary of the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area, and its tributaries which flow southwards into the plan area.

These are the main environmental considerations within the Broadwindsor Area Neighbourhood Plan which will need to be given consideration during the Plan's preparation. Other significant considerations not mentioned above should be referenced in detailed responses from the statutory consultees as part of the SEA screening consultation. In addition, other local factors and constraints will also need to be considered.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE BROADWINDSOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan has the following draft vision:

"Our vision is that during the next twenty years residents will have enough suitable and environmentally friendly homes, which fit into the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which they value so highly;; and that there will be good schools, safe roadways and support for local employment and local services which ensure that all ages, in all our villages, are able to enjoy life to the full."

The draft objectives of the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

Care for the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- maintain, protect and enhance the beautiful landscape, built heritage, rural character and environmental diversity of the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- ensure that all sites identified and needed for development preserve the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Plan for enough suitable and environmentally friendly homes

- provide the types of housing that the community needs, in appropriate locations.
- support development which is undertaken to recognised environmental and sustainability standards.

Support local services and employment

- support the vitality of the local economy and extend opportunities for established local and appropriate new businesses, including: agriculture, arts, cafes, crafts, equestrian, horticulture, leisure, offices, pubs, restaurants, shops, small businesses, and tourism.

Encourage the improvement of transport and communications

- seek opportunities to improve access for residents and visitors, particularly through increased passing places and improved safety for all road users.
- promote access to high quality telecommunications, for residents, business and visitors.

Support the quality of social life and community spirit.

- protect, support and improve community facilities including allotments, common land, playing fields and play grounds, the school, village halls and the village stores.

In addition, another important objective is to maintain the relevance of the Neighbourhood Plan, and it is proposed that the plan should be subject to review every 5 years, or sooner if significant social, political or economic factors affect these objectives.

SCOPE OF THE BROADWINDSOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan is at an early stage of development, with evidence currently being collected to facilitate the development of the plan.

Whilst specific details of the contents of the plan are not known at this stage, early indications are that the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan will allocate development sites to provide in the region of between 50 and 60 dwellings in the period up to 2031.

The West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan already provides a policy framework which the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan must conform with. The purpose of the policies in the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan is to seek to deliver development against the objectives specific to the area (presented in the section above).

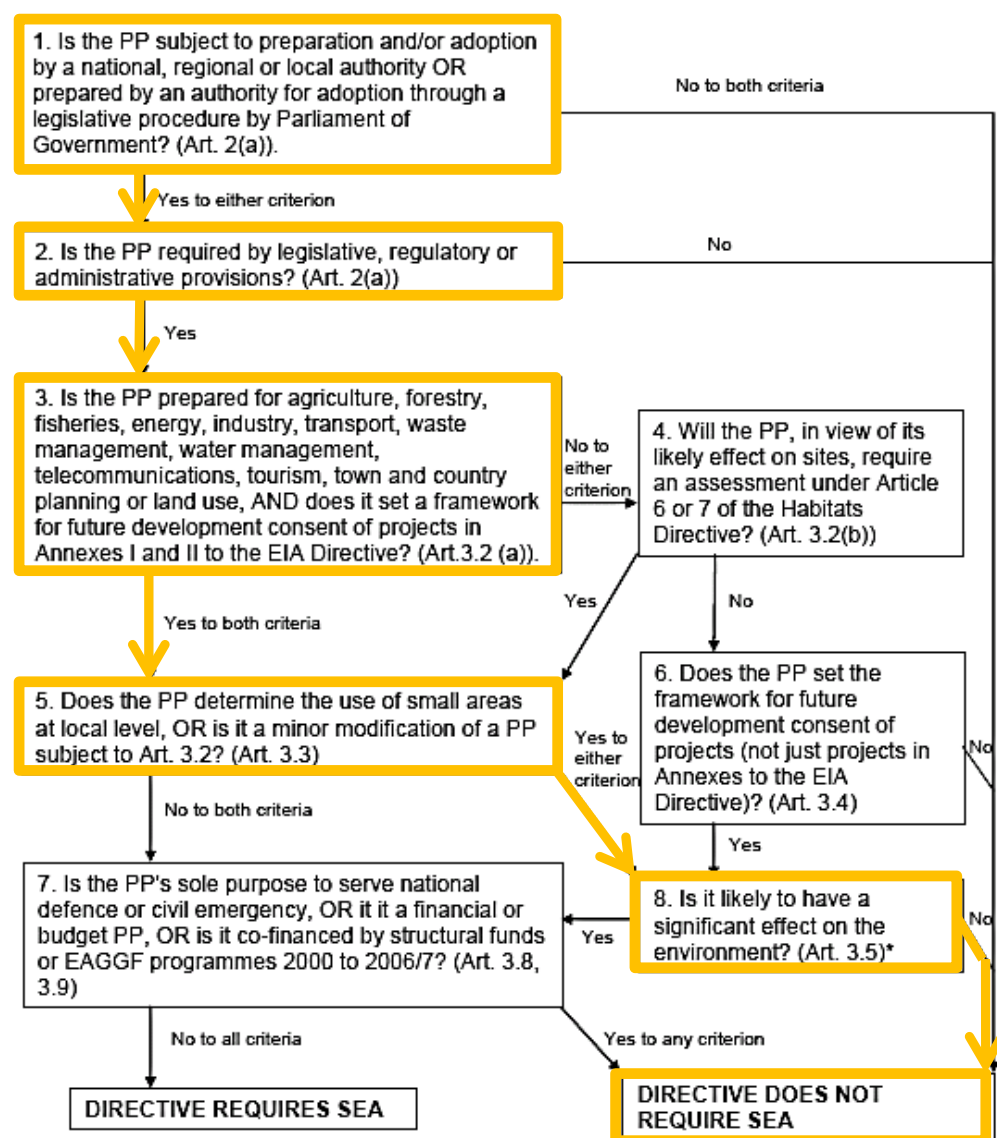
4. SEA SCREENING OF THE BROADWINDSOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

This Chapter provides an account of the SEA screening exercise for the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan.

Articles 2 and 3 of the SEA Directive provide the legislative framework for defining the types of plan and programme that require SEA.

The SEA screening process is summarised in diagrammatic form in the flowchart shown in Figure 4.1². The screening for the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan is highlighted in orange and justification for the decisions made at each stage in the SEA screening process is given in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.1: A diagram summarising the SEA screening process with the SEA screening for the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan outlined in orange.



² Diagram taken from the Government guidance on the Strategic Environmental Assessment regulations titled 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive', published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005

Figure 4.2: a summary of the justification made for the decisions during the SEA screening for the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan.

Question in SEA screening flow chart (Figure 4.1)	Response
1. Is the PP 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 of Government?	<u>YES</u> The intention is for the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan to be adopted by West Dorset District Council, a local authority, through a legislative procedure.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	<u>YES</u> The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan would be a Statutory document, prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive?	<u>YES</u> The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan is a document prepared for town and country planning purposes, and may indicate where future development which falls under Annex II of the EIA Directive which includes urban development projects under paragraph 10(b).
5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2?	<u>YES</u> The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan determines the use of small areas at a local level.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment (Article 3.5)?	<u>NO</u> Justification for this decision is given later in this chapter.

IS THE BROADWINDSOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LIKELY TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT?

The final question in the SEA screening process presented in Figures 4.1 and 4.2 for the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan was question 8: Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?

In asking this question, the SEA Directive refers to Article 3.5, which states that the relevant criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive shall be taken into account when determining whether there are likely to be significant effects. Therefore, the criteria in Article 3.5 have been taken into consideration when determining whether the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA, as presented in Figure 4.3.

Figure 4.3: The assessment of the likely significance of effects of the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan (Taken from Annex II of the SEA Directive)

Criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive	Response	Is there a significant effect?
(1) Characteristics of the plan and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:		
a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size, and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	The framework for development projects within the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area is set by the West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan ('Local Plan'), which provides the overarching policy for the location, size and nature of development projects in this area. The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan builds upon this framework by providing further details of development projects within this area, potentially allocating land for between 50 and 60 additional dwellings.	No
b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted alongside its parent document, the Local Plan. It will expand upon the existing policies in the Local Plan and provide supplementary information on a local scale rather than influencing the Local Plan.	No
c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	Any development which comes forward through the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to the environmental considerations of the Local Plan, the aim of which is to achieve sustainable development.	No
d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	The environmental problems within the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area are not considered exclusive to the area, and are similar to those considered and addressed in the Local Plan.	No
e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of	The implementation of community legislation is unlikely to be significantly compromised by the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan.	No

community legislation on the environment (e.g plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).		
(2) Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:		
a) The probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of the effects.	It is anticipated that the plan period will be 15 years (until 2031). Whilst some effects of the plan may be irreversible, it is not considered probable that the plan will have significant effect since it is only likely to bring forward in the region of 50 to 60 additional dwellings over this period.	No
b) The cumulative nature of the effects.	The Upper Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan area is located adjacent and to the south of the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area, and beyond this is the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan, approximately 4km to the south. The Corscombe, Halstock and District Neighbourhood Plan area is approximately 2.7km to the east of the site. Whilst these neighbourhood plan areas have been designated, the plans are at an early stage and there is no clear indication that they would come forward for adoption and if so, what their content would be. The development of 50 to 60 dwellings in combination with other existing or approved development considered unlikely to result significant environmental effects.	No
c) The transboundary nature of the effects.	The transboundary impacts, beyond the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area, are unlikely to be significant in light of the nature and scale of the proposals.	No
d) The risks to human health or the environment (e.g due to accidents).	The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to introduce significant risks to human health and the environment, for example due to accidents, in light of the scale and type the development.	No
e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the	The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area occupies approximately 34km ² and holds a	No

effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	population of 1,498 people according to the 2011 census. The spatial extent of the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area and the magnitude of the population affected are not considered of a significant scale for the purposes of SEA.	
<p>f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <p>i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</p>	<p>The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area and its surroundings contain environmental designations which reflect its special natural characteristics and rich cultural heritage.</p> <p>The special natural characteristics of the plan area include the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, an area of national importance for landscape. The Dorset AONB designation may be vulnerable to new development, which has the potential to compromise the special qualities of this designation, dependant on the nature and scale of the proposed development.</p> <p>Other special natural characteristics within the plan area include local and national wildlife designations. There are 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the plan area, which are nationally important sites, which are designated on the basis of their geological importance. The sites comprise of a quarry and a road cutting, both of which expose nationally important sequences of geological strata. These sites are unlikely to be vulnerable to new housing development, since the additional development within the plan area is unlikely to result in additional pressures upon these geologically important sites.</p> <p>The plan area also includes 24 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) which are of local importance to wildlife and are therefore less sensitive than the national wildlife designations. These sites mainly comprise of a variety of grassland and woodland habitats which to a degree may be vulnerable to additional recreational pressure.</p> <p>The cultural heritage within the plan area include 95 Listed Buildings (10 of which are Grade II* listed), a Scheduled Monument on the southern section of the site (titled "Lewesdon hillfort, 525m north east of Brimbley Coombe</p>	No

		Farm”) with two further Conservation Areas beyond the plan area to the south, and a Conservation Area at the settlement of Broadwindsor. These heritage assets of national importance may be vulnerable to new development, both directly and through impacts upon their setting.	
ii)	Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values	The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in the exceedance of environmental quality standards, such as those relating to air, water and soil quality, due to the nature and scale of the development.	No
iii)	Intensive land-use	The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to bring forward development of an extent which would result in a significant intensification of land use in light of the scale of development.	No
g)	The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	<p>The environmental designations within the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area and it’s surrounding areas of national, community or international protection status include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; • Site of Special Scientific Interest; • Scheduled Monuments; • Conservation Area; and • Listed Buildings (Grade II and II*). <p>The majority of the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area is within the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in recognition of the national importance of the landscape within this area. The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan area is considered unlikely to result in significant impacts upon the Dorset AONB due to the scale of the proposed development and the protection provided by policy ENV1(i) of the Local Plan, which prevents development which results in harm to the character of the Dorset AONB.</p> <p>The plan area includes Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which are nationally important sites. The SSSI within the plan area are designated on the basis of their geological importance and comprise of a quarry and a road</p>	No

	<p>cutting, both of which expose nationally important sequences of geological strata. The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in significant impacts upon these SSSI, since the additional development within the plan area is unlikely to result in additional pressures upon these geologically important sites. The plan area also includes 24 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) which are local wildlife designations, mainly comprising of a variety of grassland and woodland habitats. In light of the scale of the development which is likely to be brought forward through the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan and the lower level of sensitivity of the SNCI designation, it is considered unlikely that the plan will result in significant impacts upon wildlife. Furthermore, the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan will be in general conformity with policy ENV 2(iv) of the Local Plan, which requires mitigation against significant harm to the SNCI, or compensation where harm cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated.</p> <p>The cultural and heritage designations within the plan area include 95 Listed Buildings (10 of which are Grade II* listed), a Scheduled Monument on the southern section of the site (titled "Lewesdon hillfort, 525m north east of Brimbley Coombe Farm") with two further Scheduled Monuments beyond the plan area to the south, and a Conservation Area at the settlement of Broadwindsor. The Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan will bring forward in the region of 50 to 60 new dwellings, and will be in general conformity with policy ENV 4 of the Local Plan, which ensures that new development does not result in unacceptable impacts upon heritage assets. Therefore, it is considered that significant impacts upon heritage features are unlikely.</p>	
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5. CONCLUSION

The SEA screening report considered the environmental sensitivity of the plan area and the scope of the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan, including the scale of the development which is likely to come forward. The SEA screening concluded, in August 2017, that it is unlikely that the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan will have significant effects on the environment.

However, the views of the statutory consultees (the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Historic England) on the findings of the report were sought in August 2017, in accordance with the SEA Directive. Responses were received from all three consultees, which are presented in Appendix A.

Whilst the Environment Agency concurred with the view that SEA was not required, Natural England's response to the consultation concluded that an SEA should be completed due to the potential for significant adverse impacts upon the environment. Historic England also recommended SEA on the basis that the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan will allocate sites for development.

In light of these views, it is concluded that an SEA will be completed alongside the Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that the potential for significant environmental impacts is fully addressed throughout the development of the plan.

APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Date: 17 August 2017
Your Ref:
Our Ref: T 222695



Planning Ref: Dorset Councils Partnership (North Dorset District Council, West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council)

Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening

Dear Oliver

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by us on 07 August 2017.

Firstly, I would like to make a clarification regarding references to Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) as having a 'lower level of sensitivity'. This is technically incorrect. SNCI have a designation which is of local importance, rather than national and are protected through the planning system, rather than via primary legislation (as is the case with N2K/SSSI). However, the sensitivity of the habitats upon which SNCI status is conferred are as (or more due to generally smaller size of site) sensitive as those in a SSSI. Several SNCI are also of a quality which could, if put forward, qualify for SSSI designation.

Equally it should be noted that many of the habitats found in the suite of SNCI are also listed as Priority Habitats under the provisions of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC). These habitats are an essential component of the nation's biodiversity and are of high conservation concern. While the NP area has no national sites of a biological interest, it has many SNCI and an SEA would be a useful way in which to ensure adverse impacts are avoided and any opportunities for enhancement are recognised at an early stage.

With regard to the potential for allocation of up to 60 new dwellings within the NP area, Natural England consider that, due to the sensitivities of the AONB location of this plan, an SEA would be a suitable way in which to ensure the locations and numbers proposed are not detrimental to, but rather enhance and strengthen the Special Qualities of the AONB and the Landscape Character of this area (Axe Valley Hills LCA).

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Matt Low on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

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

Yours sincerely

Matt Low

Natural England
Dorset, Hants and Isle of Wight Area Team
Dorset Coast Team

www.gov.uk/natural-england

Please send mail to:

Mail Hub
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

From: Holm, Michael [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 September 2017 16:46
To: Oliver Rendle
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Strategic Environmental Assessment consultation: Broadwindsor NP

Hi Oliver

I can confirm that we agree with the conclusions of the screening opinion. Please accept this email as our formal response.

Yours sincerely



MICHAEL HOLM
Planning Advisor - Sustainable Places

Planning Advisor for Dorset and South Somerset

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Internal: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]



The Environment Agency has an email file transfer limit of 8MB. If you wish to send large files to my team please reply to our swx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk in –box and request a Sharefile link to be emailed to you. With this you can upload files of larger sizes to us.



From: Stuart, David [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 September 2017 17:45
To: Oliver Rendle
Subject: Strategic Environmental Assessment consultation: Broadwindsor NP

Dear Oliver

Thank you for your consultation on the SEA Screening Report for the emerging Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan. My apologies for not responding before now.

As you know from our previous correspondence on such matters concerning other West Dorset Neighbourhood Plans, it is our view that the provision of site allocations may prompt the requirement for SEA if at the time of Screening it is clear that significant environmental effects are likely or that there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that they are not.

But we also accept that this process is an adjunct to the perhaps primary statutory requirement to demonstrate that the process of site allocations is in conformity with national and local planning policy. If successful this may have the potential to obviate the need for SEA.

Given that at this stage the Broadwindsor Plan is unclear about how it proposes to make provision for the housing it aspires to and that the evidence has not yet been produced or shared to demonstrate conformity or otherwise with overarching planning policy we have no objection to an outcome now that an SEA is not required.

Once the community has decided upon its approach and prepared the evidence to support its decision(s) we would be happy to be consulted again – to advise on the merits of the draft Plan itself as well as whether it prompts a review of our advice concerning the need for SEA. The timing of such an exercise is obviously important – early enough while matters are still formative to allow for any further necessary work to be easily accommodated, but sufficiently developed to allow any implications for the historic environment to be adequately understood.

In the meantime I would take the opportunity to draw attention to our guidance on relevant aspects of the Plan preparation process and ask that this be shared with the Broadwindsor community:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>
<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>
<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-environment-and-site-allocations-in-local-plans/>

Kind regards

David

David Stuart | Historic Places Adviser South West

Direct Line: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]

Historic England | 29 Queen Square | Bristol | BS1 4ND

<https://historicengland.org.uk/southwest>



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