



North Norfolk District Council

# **Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination**

Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan - Submission Version

**March 2020 (Final)**

**North Norfolk District Council  
Planning Policy Team**

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# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 In some circumstances a neighbourhood plan could have significant environmental effects and may fall within the scope of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment, SEA is the process by which environmental considerations are required to be fully integrated into the preparation of plans and programmes prior to their final adoption. SEA is a tool used internationally to improve the environmental performance of plans so that they can better contribute to sustainable development.
- 1.3 Establishing whether a Neighbourhood Plan takes into account SEA is an important legal requirement. The Independent Examiner subsequently appointed to consider the Neighbourhood Plan for Ryburgh will check that it meets the 'Basic Conditions' set out in the national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)<sup>1</sup>. One of the Basic Conditions is whether the Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with European obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. Whether a neighbourhood plan requires a strategic environmental assessment and the level of detail needed will depend on what is proposed in the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the characteristics of the local area
- 1.4 In meeting these obligations, the national PPG sets out that an initial screening stage is required to establish whether a Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. As the “responsible body” this report sets out North Norfolk District Council's conclusions in respect of the:
- Screening report undertaken by NNDC on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group, which can be viewed online at:  
[www.northnorfolk.gov.uk/ryburghnp](http://www.northnorfolk.gov.uk/ryburghnp).
  - The responses to this report from the statutory consultees – contained in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.6 This assessment relates to the submission version of the Draft Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan 2019 - 2036 and follows earlier consultation on the pre submission version of the emerging plan at regulation 14 stage of neighbourhood plan preparation and consultation of the screening assessment with the statutory bodies.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

## 2 Legislative Background

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment legislation is European Union Directive 2001/42/EC<sup>2</sup> which requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans or programmes that could have a significant environmental effect. This was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, commonly referred to as the SEA Regulations<sup>3</sup>. The Government published 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005)<sup>4</sup>, which provides more detailed guidance on how an SEA should be carried out.
- 2.2 In accordance with the provisions of the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) (Regulation 9(1)), the Council must determine if a plan requires an environmental assessment. This process is commonly referred to as a "screening" assessment. Where the Council determines that an SEA is not required, then the Council must, under Regulation 9(3), prepare a statement setting out the reasons for this determination- this report. Where it is determined that proposals in a Neighbourhood Plan are likely to have significant environmental effects, the Neighbourhood Plan may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft Neighbourhood Plan proposals should then be assessed to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant Environmental effects as prescribed in regulation 12 (2)& (3) of the above legislation.
- 2.3 An SEA can be required in some limited situations where a sustainability appraisal is not needed. Neighbourhood planning is one of these situations. Sustainability Appraisals (SAs) may incorporate the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, which implement the requirements of the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.
- 2.4 A Sustainability Appraisal ensures that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues and it is good practice to do one to understand how a plan is to deliver sustainable development. However, NPPF Planning Practice Guidance states that there is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to undertake a sustainability appraisal as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It does however remain a basic condition test for neighbourhood planning to demonstrate whether the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This is the purpose of the SEA Screening Report and the subsequent issue of the Determination Report.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

2.5 Whether a Neighbourhood Plan requires an SEA, and if so, the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan. The national PPG<sup>5</sup> suggests that an SEA may be required, 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; and
- 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.

2.6 It remains the responsibility of the Local planning authority to ensure that all the regulations appropriate to the nature and scope of a [Neighbourhood Plan](#) proposal submitted to it have been met in order for the proposal to progress to examination. It remains the qualifying body's responsibility to make every effort to ensure the resultant draft neighborhood plan that it submits to the local planning authority for independent examination:

- Meets each of the Basic Conditions ;
- Has been prepared in accordance with the correct process and all those required to be consulted have been;
- Is accompanied by all the required documents<sup>6</sup>

2.7 The draft neighbourhood plan is shortly to commence publication under regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This has been informed by the earlier screening report which has been undertaken by North Norfolk District Council and consulted on with the statutory bodies, Historic England, Natural England & the Environment Agency.

### **Habitat Regulations**

2.8 Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012<sup>7</sup> refers to the Habitats Directive. The Regulations require Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening to be undertaken (by the qualifying Body) to identify if a Neighbourhood Plan would have a significant impact on nature conservation sites that are of European importance, also referred to as Natura 2000 sites. Article 6 (3) of the EU habitats Directive<sup>8</sup> and Regulation 61 of the Habitats and Species Regulations 2010<sup>9</sup> (as

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal> para 013 Ref ID: 11-013-20140306

<sup>6</sup> PPG Paragraph: 031 Reference ID: 11-031-20150209

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/pdfs/ukxi\\_20120637\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/pdfs/ukxi_20120637_en.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>

amended) requires that an Appropriate Assessment is carried out on any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

- 2.9 European Sites are defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2010, and consist of candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, as defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species. These are also reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework, NPPF, which also refers to Ramsar sites, which are listed in accordance with the international Ramsar Convention. The NPPF requires decision makers to apply the same protection and process to Ramsar sites as that set out in legislation for European sites<sup>10</sup>.
- 2.10 To fulfil the legal requirements to identify if likely significant effects will occur on European Sites through the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan group have requested a separate HRA Screening Assessment and Determination from the District Council as the competent authority in Law.

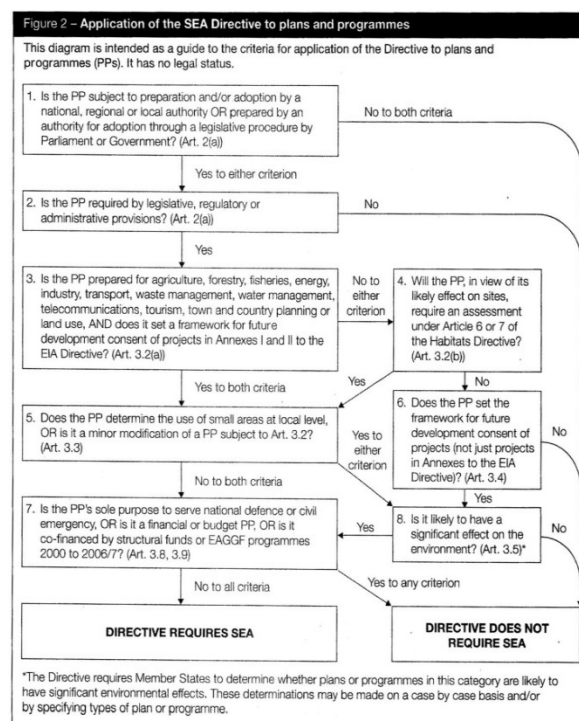
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<sup>10</sup> NPPF para 118

### 3 SEA Screening Criteria

- 3.1 The process for determining whether or not an SEA is required is called screening. The SEA screening is a two stage interrelated process. The first part considers the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA assessment flow chart set out in the national guidance “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive”<sup>11</sup>, (Paragraph 2.18, Figure 2, ODPM, 2005). The second part of the assessment is required in order to answer specific questions contained in the above, specifically question 8 and considers whether the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, using criteria drawn from the EU SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004<sup>12</sup>.
- 3.2 The regulations state that before making a determination the three statutory consultation bodies, The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, must be consulted.
- 3.3 The process taken follows the application of the SEA Directive as set out in Figure 2 of ‘A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’ followed by application of the criteria determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC (Annex 11) and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004:

Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes



<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/contents/made>



Table 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects

**Table 1: Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Effects.**

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to

- the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
- the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
- the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development, - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
- the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to

- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
- the cumulative nature of the effects,
- the trans-boundary nature of the effects,
- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
- special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
- exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
- intensive land-use,
- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Source: Annex 11 of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004:

## 4 Assessment of the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan

### 4.1 Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes.

STAGE	Y/N	REASON
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan 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))	Y	The preparation and adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The NP is being prepared by the parish council (as the “relevant body”) and will be “made” by North Norfolk District Council as the local authority subject to passing an independent examination and community referendum. The preparation of NP’s is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012, and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? ( Art.2(a))	Y	Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan is not a requirement of the Town and Country Planning Act as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it will be “made” and eventually form part of the Development Plan for the District. These are directed by legislative processes and it is important that the screening process considers whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive
3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan 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? (Art 3.2(a))	Y	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan can include these policy areas and could provide, at a Neighbourhood Area level, the framework for development that would fall within Annex II of the EIA Directive. Developments that fall within Annex I are ‘excluded’ development for Neighbourhood Plans (as set out in the Localism Act 2011 and Section 61(k) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as subsequently amended).</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared to set out a framework for town and country planning and land use within the parish of Ryburgh. Its intention is to complement the higher order strategic Framework that already exists for land use planning across the District.</p> <p>The strategic framework for development is set by the adopted Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan of the North Norfolk District Council. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to align and be in general conformity with these.</p>

STAGE	Y/N	REASON
		<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not anticipate being the tool to manage development of the scale and nature envisaged by Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive.</p>
<p>4. Will the Neighbourhood Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the habitats Directive?(Art.3.2(b))</p>	<p>Y/N</p>	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have impacts on sites covered by the Habitats Directive. The River Wensum SAC European site is located in the Neighbourhood Plan Area.</p> <p>The North Norfolk plan level HRA work undertaken for the adopted Site Allocations document, 2011 concluded that the site allocations set out within the plan would not cause an adverse effect on any of the European sites, with the commitment of North Norfolk District Council to progress key measures at a strategic level in relation to recreation. However, no sites were allocated in Ryburgh.</p> <p>An Interim Habitats Regulation Assessment was carried out as part of North Norfolk District Council emerging Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation in May 2019 and acknowledges that policies in the emerging Local Plan have been developed with the need to protect European sites understood, and as such the policies contain strong wording and supporting text that enables a conclusion of no likely significant effects for most of the emerging policies, concluding that there are measures in progress capable of necessary strategic measures to conclude NLSE A HRA screening report for the RNP ahead of consultation with the statutory bodies concludes on that that there are likely to be no adverse effects upon the integrity of any European sites. This will be reviewed on receipt of comment from the statutory bodies.</p> <p>The intention is that the Neighbourhood Plan will be in general conformity with the existing Local Plan, especially given the small scale growth and local context it is reasonable to conclude at this stage that this Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any substantial effect on the network of protected sites as detailed in the interim HRA Screening. However, The RNA does include the River Wensum Special Area of Conservation and the screening opinion is out to consultation with the statutory bodies. It is therefore, appropriate and precautionary at this stage to conclude that there remains a possibility that an assessment may be required at this stage. Given this ambiguity both question 5 and 6 of the flowchart are enacted.</p>

STAGE	Y/N	REASON
5 Does the Neighbourhood Plans determine the use of small areas at local level, Or is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art 3.2? ( Art3.3)	Y	A Neighbourhood Plan can determine the use of small areas at a local level. The Neighbourhood Plan for Ryburgh includes a permissive and positive policy supporting small scale infill development subject to specifies criteria in a tightly defined settlement boundary. The Plan proposes no site allocations and only very limited growth.
6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of Projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? ( Art 3.4)	Y	Once “made” a Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory Development Plan and will be used by North Norfolk District Council in the determination of planning applications. The intention is that the Neighbourhood Plan will provide a land use policy framework for future development at a local level and be used together with the adopted higher order Plan form part of the Development Plan for the neighbourhood plan area.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment	N	The Neighbourhood Plan seeks general conformity with the adopted Core Strategy and Development Plan Documents and regard to the emerging local plan. From the application of criteria for determining the likely significant effects below it is considered it is unlikely that there will be any significant effect.

#### 4.2 SEA Screening Stage 2: SEA Directive Article 3(5) Annex II – Application of Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects of a Neighbourhood Plan

Criteria in Annex 11 of the SEA Directive	Response	Is there a significant effect?
(1) Characteristics of the plan and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:		
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size, and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	The strategic framework for development is set by the adopted Development Plan and the emerging Local Plan of North Norfolk District Council. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to align and be in general conformity with this. The expected scale of development in the RNA is expected to affect small areas and to be predominately infill development within the built up area of the village.	No
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or	The Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted alongside the higher order Local Plan and form part of the District’s Development Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will expand	No

programmes including those in a hierarchy;	upon some of the emerging Local Plan policies, providing supplementary information on a local scale.	
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	Any Development that comes forward through the NP will be subject to environmental considerations of the Core Strategy and the Local Plan when adopted. These policies have been (will be) subject to sustainability appraisal, and are in place to ensure that sustainable development is achieved. The expected scale of development in the RNA is expected to affect small areas and to be predominately infill development within the built up area of the village.	No
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;	There are not considered to be any significant environmental problems which are specific to the area, above and beyond those considered and addressed in the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies which provide additional environmental protection.	No
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The implementation of community legislation is unlikely to be significantly compromised by the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan introduces planning policies which introduce further protection for the environmentally sensitive locations.	No
(2) Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:		
The probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of the effects;	The Neighbourhood Plan introduces a new settlement boundary that could promote infill development. The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to bring forward development of an extent that would result in a significant intensification of Local land Use. The Neighbourhood Plan introduces planning policies which introduce further protection for the environmentally sensitive locations.	No
The cumulative nature of the effects;	It is considered unlikely that the degree of development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan when combined with the Core Strategy and the emerging local plan will introduce significant environmental effects. Whilst both documents are being written, the Local Plan will be subject to full SEA and Habitats Regulations and a Sustainability Appraisal is recommended as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process. The Neighbourhood Plan	No

	introduces planning policies which introduce further protection for the environmentally sensitive locations.	
The trans-boundary nature of the effects;	The Neighbourhood Plan policy areas outlined provide supplementary policy areas on a local scale. The River Wensum SAC runs through the RNA and there is the potential for impacts beyond the parish. However, given the scale and level of growth proposed it is considered that the trans-boundary effects would not be significant.	No
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);	The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to produce any significant effects in relation to this criteria	No
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The Neighbourhood Plan covers the parish of Ryburgh. The 2011 census recorded the usual resident population of Ryburgh as 694. The parish area is approx. 1,003 hectares. This is in comparison to the usual resident population of 101,499 of North Norfolk and an area of 96,333 hectares. The small spatial extent and the magnitude of the population affected are not considered significant for the purpose of the SEA. <sup>13</sup>	No
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:  i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;  ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values  iii) Intensive land use	<p>i) The Plan Area contains a number of listed buildings and part of the RNA is a Conservation Area. The Neighbourhood Plan by virtue of the “basic conditions” will however conform to the existing Development Plan, and emerging Local Plan which provides protection to environmental characteristics across the District to ensure that they are not vulnerable to significant impacts from development.</p> <p>ii) The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in exceedance of environmental quality standards, such as those relating to air, water, and soil quality.</p> <p>iii) The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to bring forward development of an extent that would result in a significant intensification of Local land Use.</p>	<p>i) No</p> <p>ii) No</p> <p>iii) No</p>
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or	The Plan Area includes listings which reflect the cultural and heritage value of the area such as listed buildings and conservation area. The environmental effects on areas of biodiversity designations have been considered and the Neighbourhood Plan introduces planning policies which	No

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.norfolksight.org.uk/profiles/profile?profileid=18&geoTypeid=10>

international protection status.	introduce further protection for the environmentally sensitive locations.	
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4.3 As a result of the assessment, it is considered that it is unlikely to be any significant environmental effects from the implementation of the proposals in the emerging Draft Neighbourhood Plan for Ryburgh. As such it is considered under the Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and programmes Regulations 2004, that the emerging draft Ryburgh neighbourhood plan does not require an SEA to be undertaken.

## 4 Determination.

4.1 The screening assessment identifies that based on the information available to date, there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the implementation of the proposals contained in the emerging Draft Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan.

4.2 Natural England, Historic England and The Environment Agency as the statutory bodies were consulted between 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 on the Screening Report issued January 2020. Their responses are appended to this report.

4.3 On the basis of material supplied and that the plan is concluded to be in general conformity with the North Norfolk Districts emerging Local Plan along with the understanding that there are no housing allocations included in the Ryburgh neighbourhood plan Natural England agree with the Council's SEA screening assessment. Historic England also concurs with the Council's assessment.

4.4 In considering the level of future growth which the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan demonstrates within the parish over the plan period the Environment Agency conclude that the policies limit the impact of larger growth sites in the plan area and conclude that the recommendations and conclusions of the screening assessment are suitable.

4.5 In light of the Screening report consulted on and the responses from the three statutory bodies it is determined that the Draft Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan does not require a strategic Environmental Assessment in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Programmes Regulations 2004.

**Appendix 1 Consultation Responses.**





Mr [REDACTED]  
North Norfolk District Council  
Council Offices  
Holt Road  
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NR27 9EN

**Our ref:** AE/2020/124893/01-L01  
**Your ref:** SEA/HRA Screening  
**Date:** 14 February 2020

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

**RYBURGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SEA/HRA SCREENING OPINION**  
**GREAT RYBURGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA, NORFOLK**

Thank you for your consultation dated 30 January 2020. We have reviewed the SEA/HRA Screening Report for the Ryburgh Neighborhood Plan, as submitted, and do not disagree with the conclusions detailed in the report.

We have considered the level of future growth which the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan demonstrates within the parish over the plan period. The policies do not currently highlight any specific newly allocated sites for development; other than those that already carry planning permission, as described in Evidence Document 1 – Housing Report. The policy relating to infill housing development, within the settlement boundary, alongside the North Norfolk Core Strategy (2008) & Site Allocations Plan (2011), further limit the impact of larger sites in the plan area: We therefore conclude that the recommendations and conclusions of the reports are suitable.

We trust this advice is useful.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
**Planning Advisor**

Direct dial 02084749980

Direct e-mail [REDACTED]@environment-agency.gov.uk

Environment Agency  
Cobham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9JD.  
Customer services line: 03708 506 506  
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)  
End



Historic England

Mr [REDACTED]  
North Norfolk District Council  
Council Offices  
Holt Road  
Cromer  
Norfolk  
NR27 9EN

Direct Dial: 01223 582746

Our ref: PL00679226

5 March 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening**

Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment on the above consultation. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process. Therefore we welcome this opportunity to review the Screening Report for this plan. For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question, "Is it (the Neighbourhood Plan) likely to have a significant effect on the historic environment?". Our comments are based on the information supplied with the Screening Opinion.

The Screening Report indicates that the Council considers that the plan will not have any significant effects on the historic environment. We note that the plan does not propose to allocate any sites for development.

On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

The views of the other two statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for an SEA is made.

I should be pleased if you can send a copy of the determination as required by REG 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

We should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by you with your correspondence dated 30 January 2020. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the SEA process and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan) where we consider that, despite the SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.



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Historic England

Historic England strongly advises that the conservation and archaeological staff of the relevant local authorities are closely involved throughout the preparation of the plan and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on; local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the Historic Environment Record (HER), how the allocation, policy or proposal can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.

Please do contact me, either via email or the number above, if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Historic Places Advisor, East of England  
[REDACTED]@HistoricEngland.org.uk

cc:



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*Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.*

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 26 February 2020 12:20  
**To:** Planning Policy  
**Subject:** RE: 2020-03-09 307458 Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan SEA & HRA Screening Opinion Consultation

To whom it may concern

Thank you for consulting Natural England.

Based on the documents provided, it is Natural England's understanding that there are no housing allocations included within Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan and that it is in general conformity with North Norfolk District Council's emerging Local Plan. On this basis we agree with the conclusions of the HRA and SEA.

If you have any question please do get in touch.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Sustainable Development Lead Adviser  
Natural England  
2 Gilders Way, Norwich  
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Tel: 02082257617  
<https://www.gov.uk/natural-england>