

**Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan – Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
Scoping Report - May 2019**

Representations Received:

Arun District Council

Environment Agency

Highways England

Natural England

South Downs National Park Authority

West Sussex County Council

From: Local Plan <localplan@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 April 2019 15:25
To: Neighbourhood Planning
Subject: RE: Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment - Scoping Report

Hello

Thank you for consulting Arun District on the Westbourne NDP SEA Scoping document.

In terms of the content of the document we are glad to note the mention of the Joint Mitigation Strategy (Bird Aware Pagham) relating to the designated site of Pagham Harbour SPA and Ramsar.

Simply for further information, the 2019 version of the NPPF at paragraph 177 specifically dealt with the need for where appropriate assessment may be needed, so it is suggested that this be added to the box relating to the NPPF in the Plans & Programmes table. In addition, you may also wish to insert Biodiversity 2020 into the table of relevant Plans & Programmes -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf.

Kind Regards

The Local Plan Team

Visit Arun's web site at www.arun.gov.uk



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Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan – Strategic Environmental Assessment - Scoping Report

Chichester District Council has undertaken and published the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Appropriate Assessment Statement for the Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan.

As a consequence, however, Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan must now also be undertaken. The first stage of the process is to publish the SEA Scoping Report for the Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 for consultation and comment.

This has now been published for a period of 5 weeks public consultation. A copy is attached to this email and is also available to view on the District Council's website

<http://www.chichester.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplan>

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Chichester District Council

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(08:45 – 17:10 Mon – Thurs/ 08:45 – 17:00 Fri)

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All representations received will be available to view publicly.

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From: Hyland, Hannah <hannah.hyland@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 May 2019 09:02
To: Neighbourhood Planning
Subject: RE: Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment - Scoping Report
Attachments: Neighbourhood Plan Checklist Chichester.pdf

Thank you for your consultation on the SEA Scoping Report for the Westbourne Neighbourhod Plan.

The Environment Agency is a statutory consultee for Strategic Environmental Assessments and provides advice to Local Planning Authorities on the scope and findings of the SEA. We note that the scope of the SEA has been directed solely to issues associated with biodiversity and therefore scoped out, e.g. water and soil. Whilst we do not have concerns with this approach, given the higher level SEA undertaken for the Chichester Local Plan, we would recommend that these issues still fully considered as part of the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Attached is the Neighbourhood Plan Checklist we have produced for Plans in Chichester District Council area which Westbourne may find useful in progressing their Plan.

Kind regards,

Hannah

Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan – Strategic Environmental Assessment - Scoping Report

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Chichester District Neighbourhood Plan Checklist

This checklist is for Neighbourhood Plans covering Chichester District. Due to the high volume of neighbourhood plans across the county we have had to focus our detailed engagement to those areas where the environmental risks are greatest.

Together with Natural England, English Heritage and Forestry Commission we have published joint advice on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/lit_6524_7da381.pdf

The below checklist takes you through the issues we would consider in reviewing your Plan. We aim to reduce flood risk, while protecting and enhancing the water environment.

We recommend completing this to check whether we are likely to have any concerns with your Neighbourhood Plan at later stages.

Flood Risk

Your Neighbourhood Plan should conform to national and local policies on flood risk:

- National Planning Policy Framework – para.155
'Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing risk elsewhere.'
- Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014 - 2029 - Policy 42
'... Flood and erosion risk will be taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at current or future risk, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk... '

If your Neighbourhood Plan is proposing sites for development check whether there are any areas of Flood Zones 2 or 3 within the proposed site allocations.

How?

Input postcodes or place names at:

<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk>

If there are no areas of Flood Zones 2 or 3:

We are pleased to see that all development proposed through your Neighbourhood Plan has been directed to areas of lowest risk of flooding. This is consistent with the aims of national planning policy and the policies in the Chichester Local Plan.

If you are aware that any of the sites have previously suffered flooding or are at risk of other sources of flood risk such as surface water or groundwater flooding we recommend you seek the advice of West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council.

If sites proposed include areas at risk of flooding: In accordance with national planning policy the Sequential Test should be undertaken to ensure development is directed to the areas of lowest flood risk. This should be informed by the Environment Agency's flood map for planning and Chichester District Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). We recommend you contact Chichester District Council to discuss this requirement further.

We would have concerns if development is allocated in this high risk flood zone without the Sequential Test being undertaken.

It is important that your Plan also considers whether the flood risk issues associated with these sites can be safely managed to ensure development can come forward.

Next steps Please contact us (see details below) for further advice if any sites include areas of Flood Zone 3, which is defined as having a high probability of flooding, as we may have concerns with your Plan.

Natural Flood Management

The EA and Lead Local Flood Authorities are seeking to work in partnerships to deliver more natural flood management measures to complement and support traditionally engineered flood defences where appropriate. Natural flood management (NFM) is the alteration, restoration or use of landscape features to reduce flood risk.

NFM is therefore about working with natural processes in whole catchments and has the potential to help us manage and reduce flood risk in a more efficient, cost-effective and sustainable way. It can hopefully lead to sustainable, resilient catchments that benefit people, nature and the economy.

We can use a wide range of techniques to reduce flood risk by storing water (by using and maintaining the capacity of, ponds, ditches, embanked reservoirs, channels or land), increasing soil infiltration (through better soil and crop management), slowing flows (by increasing resistance to its flow, for example, by planting floodplain or riverside woods) and reducing water flow connectivity (by interrupting surface flows of water, for example, by water storage or planting buffer strips of grass or trees). Larger-scale works that also help reduce flood risk to communities downstream may include re-meandering rivers, and reconnecting them to their floodplain.

There may be opportunities through your neighbourhood plan where development could seek to deliver and indeed benefit from natural flood management measures. More information is available at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-with-natural-processes-to-reduce-flood-risk>

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Water Management

In February 2011, the Government signalled its belief that more locally focussed decision making and action should sit at the heart of improvements to the water environment. This is widely known as the catchment-based approach and has been adopted to deliver requirements under the Water Framework Directive. It seeks to:

- deliver positive and sustained outcomes for the water environment by promoting a better understanding of the environment at a local level; and
- to encourage local collaboration and more transparent decision-making when both planning and delivering activities to improve the water environment.

Neighbourhood Plans provide an opportunity to deliver multi-functional benefits through linking development with enhancements to the environment.

Chichester District Council lies within the South East River Basin Management Plan area. This area is subdivided into catchments. The relevant catchment for your District is the Arun and Western Streams catchment. A Catchment Partnership has been established for each of these to direct and coordinate relevant activities and projects within the catchment through the production of a Catchment Management Plan. The Catchment Partnerships are supported by a broad range of organisations and individuals representing a whole host of interests.

The following websites provides information that should be of use in developing your Neighbourhood Plan:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/south-east-river-basin-management-plan>

<http://www.arunwesternstreams.org.uk>

Wastewater Treatment

Chichester City, Fishbourne, Donnington and Apuldrum Neighbourhood Plan areas fall within the drainage catchment of the Apuldrum Wastewater Treatment Works. There are concerns regarding the impact of the storm overflow from the treatment works on the water quality in Chichester Harbour. We would recommend that you check with Chichester District Council that any allocation is in line with their Surface Water and Foul Drainage Supplementary Planning Document 2016.

Infrastructure Delivery

We would recommend that environmental infrastructure, including habitat enhancements, water storage areas, and green space, is taken into account when looking to fund and deliver local infrastructure, including from any CIL funds that you receive.

For further information or advice please email us at planningssd@environment-agency.gov.uk

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

From: Cleaver, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Cleaver@highwaysengland.co.uk>
Sent: 10 May 2019 14:59
To: Neighbourhood Planning
Cc: Planning SE
Subject: Highways England response: Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment - Scoping Report consultation

Consultation: Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment - Scoping Report

Highways England reference: #7374

Dear Neighbourhood Planning Team,

Thank you for your email of 17 April 2019 notifying Highways England of the Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment - Scoping Report consultation.

Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the strategic road network. The strategic road network is a critical national asset and as such Highways England works to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

Highways England does not wish to comment on this scoping report.

If you have any queries regarding this response, please contact us at PlanningSE@highwaysengland.co.uk

Kind regards,

Elizabeth Cleaver, Assistant Spatial Planning Manager

Highways England | Bridge House | 1 Walnut Tree Close | Guildford | Surrey | GU1 4LZ

Web: <http://highwaysengland.co.uk/>

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From: Crooks, Lucy <Lucy.Crooks@naturalengland.org.uk>
Sent: 22 May 2019 13:05
To: Neighbourhood Planning
Subject: Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan SEA Scoping
Attachments: 280390_SEA Scoping Westbourne NP_Response.pdf

Please find attached Natural England's formal response to the above consultation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries relating to this consultation.

Best wishes,

Lucy

Lucy Crooks
Lead Advisor
Natural England
Floor 9, International House
Ashford, Kent, TN23 1HU
☎ 07554116046

Working days are Tuesday, and Wednesday and Thursday until 2.30pm

www.gov.uk/natural-england

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

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Date: 22 May 2019
Our ref: 280390
Your ref: SEA Scoping report for Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan



Principal Planning Officer
Planning Policy
Chichester District Council

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

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Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan – SEA Scoping report for consultation

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Section 19 (Sustainability Appraisal) and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (Strategic Environmental Assessment)

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 17 April 2019.

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.

Natural has previously commented on the pre-submission consultation, Regulation 14 (our response dated 25 January 2016). This response provides some brief, general comments below and then goes on to provide more detailed comments on those areas which are relevant to Natural England's remit.

Relevant plans, policies and programmes

Overall the Scoping Report appears to provide good coverage of the various plans, policies and programmes that are relevant to the SA process for Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora. However Natural England has not reviewed in detail the plans listed. However, we advise that the following types of plans relating to the natural environment should be considered where applicable to your plan area;

- Green infrastructure strategies
- Biodiversity plans
- Rights of Way Improvement Plans
- Shoreline management plans
- Coastal access plans
- River basin management plans
- AONB and National Park management plans
- Relevant landscape plans and strategies

Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora

This is a key topic for Natural England and overall the main issues have been identified and we are pleased with the references to conservation, improvements and connections. However it would be advised to use the terminology 'net gain' to support the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, 'Environmental net gain principle for development'. Net gain is about using the development process to leave the environment in a measurably better state than it was previously and halting the loss of biodiversity¹, please see below for further comments on net gain. Furthermore we advise that there is an acknowledgement of the impact that climate change is likely to have on biodiversity. We note that the environmental issues relating to the South Downs Local Plan does take in to account the impact of climate change on biodiversity. Additionally there is no clear justification why climate factors has been scoped out of the SEA.

Biodiversity Net Gain

We advise that this development provides a key opportunity to provide a demonstrable net gain in biodiversity.

Net gain through development is a key principle in the government's 25 Year Environment Plan², and Defra has recently consulted on making it mandatory. It is also required by national planning policy (National Planning Policy Framework) as follows:

- a) **Para 170.** Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
 - d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- b) **Para 174.** To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
 - a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
 - b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

Net gain is already being provided by many authorities and companies across the country, including housing companies such as Berkeley Group, Barrats³ and Redrow Homes.

Developments can provide opportunities to provide enhancement and creation for biodiversity both on-site and off-site. This could include wildflower meadows with twice a year cuts (and removing cuttings); enhancing hedgerows with mixed native species; enhanced ponds for wildlife including providing ideal habitat for GCN; scrub for reptiles; rough grassland as hunting habitat for barn owls etc.

Ecology

As well as the European Sites, which have been highlighted in the SEA scoping report, it is imperative to also consider: regionally and locally important sites; wildlife habitats; priority and protected species and habitat; ancient woodland and veteran trees; as well as biodiversity net gain (please refer to

¹ https://www.cieem.net/data/files/Publications/Biodiversity_Net_Gain_Principles.pdf

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

³ <https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2019/01/22/barratt-developments-commitment-to-ensuring-biodiversity-net-gain/>

Annex A).

There is a risk that in some situations, development on land of limited biodiversity value in its own right can lead to the creation of islands of biodiversity, permanently severed from other areas. We thus suggest that it is considered that current ecological networks are not compromised, and future improvements in habitat connectivity are not prejudiced. We welcome the comment to *'Identify, protect and enhance wildlife corridors and other connective features'* for the implications of the neighbourhood plan in response to the Chichester District Local Plan.

Green Infrastructure should be considered as part of the SEA scoping report. Your Plan can offer exciting opportunities to enhance your local environment through inclusion of green infrastructure (GI). Green infrastructure can help you provide the required 'biodiversity net gain' and also comply with the NPPF. Furthermore we would advise the use of a green infrastructure standard as an indicator, such as Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt).

Landscape

It has been noted that landscape has not been included in the SEA. Previous Natural England comments (dated 25th January 2016) have mentioned that the nature, scale and content of development are such that any effects are unlikely to be significant. However there needs to be clear justification as to why landscape has not been included as part of the SEA process considering the proximity of the AONB to the neighbourhood plan area.

Further advice

As set out in [Planning Practice Guidance](#), you should be monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementing the current Neighbourhood Plan. This should include indicators for monitoring the effects of the plan on biodiversity.

The natural environment metrics in the baseline information are largely driven by factors other than the plan's performance. They are thus likely to be of little value in monitoring the performance of the Plan. It is important that any monitoring indicators relate to the effects of the plan itself, not wider changes. Bespoke indicators should be chosen relating to the outcomes of development management decisions.

Whilst it is not Natural England's role to prescribe what indicators should be adopted, the following indicators may be appropriate.

Biodiversity:

- Number of planning approvals that generated any adverse impacts on sites of acknowledged biodiversity importance.
- Percentage of major developments generating overall biodiversity enhancement, including net gain.
- Hectares of biodiversity habitat delivered through strategic site allocations.

Landscape:

- Amount of new development in AONB/National Park/Heritage Coast with commentary on likely impact.

Green infrastructure:

- Percentage of the city's population having access to a natural greenspace within 400 metres of their home.
- Length of greenways constructed.
- Hectares of accessible open space per 1000 population.

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 Lucy Crooks on 07554116046. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Crooks
Lead advisor.

From: Amy Tyler-Jones <Amy.Tyler-Jones@southdowns.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 May 2019 16:50
To:
Subject: Westbourne SEA Scoping

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I've taken a look at the Westbourne SEA Scoping Report and have the following comments to make. Firstly, we agree with the scoping approach whereby just significant effects on biodiversity have been screened in given the HRA screening assessment that has triggered the need for SEA.

However, we do note two omissions from the scoping report. There is no outline of the contents of the NDP or its main objectives – although these can be accessed by looking at the NDP itself.

We also note that Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC have been scoped out as they are assessed to be too far from the parish, with no potential mechanism of impact. However, the eastern half of the parish is within the 12km wider conservation area for the SAC where significant impacts or severance to flightlines should be considered. Given that the 3 sites allocated for development are adjacent to the settlement of Westbourne and are beyond the 12km wider conservation area, we consider that significant impact can be screened out. We suggest that the SEA report includes further commentary on Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC to this effect.

If you have any queries on the above comments, please do get in touch.

Best wishes

Amy

Amy Tyler-Jones
Senior Planning Policy Officer
South Downs National Park Authority
Tel: 01730 819272

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From: Eloise Short <Eloise.Short@westsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 April 2019 14:38
To: Neighbourhood Planning
Cc: Caroline West
Subject: RE: Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment - Scoping Report

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the Westbourne SEA Scoping Report in preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The County Council does not have sufficient resources available to respond in detail to Neighbourhood Plan consultations (including SA/SEA/HRAs) unless there are potentially significant impacts on its services that we are not already aware of, or conflicts are identified with its emerging or adopted policies. When consulted we consider whether or not we will submit a response and if a response is needed, whether this be in the form of a formal County Council response to a consultation or general planning policy advice and development management guidance.

We can confirm we have no comments to make on this SEA Report.

Please continue to send consultations on the Neighbourhood Plan to planning.services@westsussex.gov.uk and caroline.west@westsussex.gov.uk, liaison will take place with services within the County Council and respond if it is considered appropriate.

Kind regards,

Eloise Short

Assistant Planner | Planning Policy and Infrastructure | Planning Services
Ground Floor, Northleigh, County Hall, Chichester, PO19 1RH
Phone: 033022 27805
Email: eloise.short@westsussex.gov.uk | Web: www.westsussex.gov.uk

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