

Date: 18 February 2022
Our ref: 381706



Buckinghamshire Council

BY EMAIL ONLY

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

T 0300 060 3900

Dear David Broadley,

Gerrards Cross Neighbourhood Plan - Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening

Thank you for your consultation request on the above dated and received by Natural England on 26th January 2022.

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.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening: It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SEA is necessary.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening: Based on the plan submitted, Natural England agree with the assessment that the Plan does require an Appropriate Assessment.

We would like to bring to your attention the work that Dacorum Borough Council are undertaking regarding recreational pressures. Visitor surveys are currently underway to assess visitor numbers at Chilterns Beechwood SAC to inform their Local Plan HRA. Please note this is just for your information at this stage.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact me at ellen.satchwell@naturalengland.org.uk. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Ellen Satchwell
Sustainable Development Lead Adviser
Thames Solent Team