

# **Curdrige Neighbourhood Plan 2025 - 2041**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Statement - Determination**  
under Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes  
Regulations 2004

**Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Statement – Determination**  
under Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017  
(as amended)

**Determination 18 May 2026**

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report is to determine whether the content of the Curdrige Neighbourhood Plan 2025 – 2041 requires a strategic environmental assessment in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.2 This report also contains a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening to determine whether the plan would have a likely significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects as required by the Habitats Directive.
- 1.3 This draft has been prepared to inform consultation with the statutory consultees, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. The consultation commenced on 30 March 2026 for the five week period up until Friday 8 May 2026 (allowing for bank holidays). The responses are set out in Appendix 2.

## 2. Neighbourhood Plan Area

- 2.1 The Curdridge Neighbourhood Plan area aligns with the boundary of the civil parish of Curdridge:



Map 1 : Plan of Neighbourhood Area

- 2.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Curdridge Parish Council ('the parish council') as the qualifying body. The Neighbourhood Plan was designated by Winchester City Council 7 August 2024. The Plan was subject to consultation [under Regulation 14](#) from 17 February 2026 to 10 April 2026.

### **3. Existing Development Plan**

- 3.1 The neighbourhood plan area falls within the remit of Winchester City Council, which adopted the [Winchester District Local Plan 2040](#) on 24 March 2026.
- 3.2 In addition, the plan area is covered by the [Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan](#), adopted in 2013, and subject of a [partial update](#) . Examination hearings took place in February 2025 with an additional hearing, in September 2025 and main modifications consulted on during December 2025 and February 2026. The Inspectors Report was issued on 16 April 2026 concluding that the Plan is sound, legally compliant, and capable of adoption. The updated Minerals and Waste Plan is due to be adopted by Hampshire County Council on 23 July 2026.
- 3.3 This screening is based on the information within the [Regulation 14](#) version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

## **4. Key information on the emerging neighbourhood plan**

### **Vision, and objectives of neighbourhood plan.**

- 4.1 A combined vision and objective for Curdridge is set out at para 33 of the neighbourhood plan and as follows:

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*The character and form of Curdridge should be retained by providing clear guidance as to preferred forms of development and a requirement that relevant planning applications are tested against that guidance.*

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### **Approach to Development**

- 4.2 Para 31 and 32 of the neighbourhood plan explains that given the detail within the recently adopted Winchester District Local Plan which provides “*appropriate high level control over development within Curdridge. That includes protection for open spaces, landscape and the village environment. Additional policies at a neighbourhood plan level would simply duplicate these and are not necessary*”. In addition there is no requirement for sites for residential or employment sites to be allocated, therefore the neighbourhood plan simply, “*provide more detailed guidance as to appropriate forms of development.*”
- 4.3 Accordingly, the neighbourhood plan includes a single policy, with the purpose of adding local design and layout detail when considering applications :

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#### *Policy CNP1*

*Development proposals should maintain the settlement pattern and distinctive character of Curdridge informed by the Curdridge Design Guidance and Codes document which is annexed to this plan.*

*Development proposals that do not conform with the principles expressed in the Curdridge Design Guidance and Codes will not normally be supported.*

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## **5. SEA and HRA Legislative Background**

- 5.1 The basis for strategic environmental assessment (SEA) legislation is European Union Directive 2001/42/EC4 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.
- 5.2 To decide whether a draft neighbourhood plan might have significant environmental effects, it must be assessed (screened) at an early stage of the plan preparation according to the requirements set out in Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These include a requirement to consult the environmental assessment consultation bodies.
- 5.3 Where it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), a statement of reasons for the determination should be prepared. A copy of the statement must be submitted with the neighbourhood plan proposal and made available to the independent examiner.
- 5.4 If likely significant environmental effects are identified, a Strategic Environmental Assessment needs to be carried out and an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Regulation 12 of those regulations.
- 5.5 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, Curdridge Parish Council (the qualifying body) has requested Winchester City Council to consider whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the emerging neighbourhood plan is required due to significant environmental effects.
- 5.6 Sustainability Appraisal is not legally required for neighbourhood plans, but it must be demonstrated how the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development in the area, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework. It is the responsibility of the qualifying body to demonstrate how its neighbourhood plan will contribute to achieving sustainable development.
- 5.7 In addition, a Habitats Regulations Assessment identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This assessment must determine whether significant effects on a European site can be ruled out based on objective information.
- 5.8 European sites are defined in Regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017 and include special areas of conservation and special protection areas, potential special protection areas, and potential special areas of conservation. The National Planning Policy Framework requires decision

makers to apply the same protection and process to listed or proposed Ramsar sites. The sites collectively are referred to as habitats sites in this document.

- 5.9 If the conclusion of the habitats regulations assessment screening is that the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site then an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan for the site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site, must be undertaken. If a plan is one which has been determined to require an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive, then it will normally also require a strategic environmental assessment.
- 5.10 Winchester City Council has recently adopted a [new local plan](#) and have therefore undertaken an Integrated Impact Assessment (incorporating Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment) and a Habitat Regulation Assessment, throughout the [plan making process](#).

#### The SEA Screening Process

- 5.11 The process for determining whether or not an SEA is required is called screening. In order to conduct this screening exercise, it is necessary to determine if a plan will have significant environmental effects using the criteria set out in Schedule I of the 2004 Regulations. The following table provides details of the screening assessment for Curdridge Neighbourhood Plan. A determination cannot be made until the three statutory environmental consultation bodies have been consulted: the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.
- 5.12 Within 28 days of making its determination the authority must publish a statement such as this one, setting out its decision. If it determines that an SEA is not required, the statement must include the reasons for this.

#### The HRA Screening Process

- 5.13 A Habitats Regulations Assessment screening will need to be carried out which identifies whether a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a 'European site', either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This assessment must determine whether significant effects on a European site can be ruled out on the basis of objective information. Consultation for this process is with Natural England alone.

## 6. SEA and HRA Assessments

### SEA Screening Assessment

- 6.1 A neighbourhood plan may have a significant effect on the environment depending on the proposals within it and a case-by-case assessment is required. The criteria for undertaking this assessment are drawn from Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC (Annex II) and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 as set out in the table below:

Table 1 SEA Screening and Assessment of likely significant effect

Criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations	Winchester City Council comments for SEA Screening – ‘is there likely to be a significant effect?’
<b>Characteristics of the plan and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:</b>	
<p>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</p>	<p>The strategic framework for development is set by the adopted Development Plan, which has been subject to SEA.</p> <p>Growth set by the new Local plan is expected to be delivered through the Local Plan site allocations.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not include site allocations.</p> <p><b>Overall there would be no significant effect.</b></p>
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not influence other plans or programmes, it supplements them. The NP once made will be applied alongside the other plans that form part of the Development Plan for the District.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan provides local detail of importance to the community.</p> <p><b>Overall there would be no significant effect.</b></p>
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>The neighbourhood plan does not seek to allocate sites for development and does not promote development above and beyond that expressed in the adopted Local Plan.</p> <p>Policy CNP1 seeks to retain the existing character of the area, by allowing development that reflects existing building form, massing, materials and layout.</p>

<b>Criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations</b>	<b>Winchester City Council comments for SEA Screening – ‘is there likely to be a significant effect?’</b>
	<b>Overall there would be no significant effect.</b>
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	<p>Whilst the parish is rural in nature there are few designations within it. There are a number of locally designated Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (see Appendix 1) and various Tree Protection Orders.</p> <p>The River Hamble along the southern boundary of the parish falls within the Solent and Southampton Water RAMSAR, which is also part of the Solent Maritime SAC and the Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI.</p> <p>The parish and surrounding areas fall within the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone. But there are no source protection zones within the parish.</p> <p>The river Hamble and its various tributaries fall within flood zone 2 and 3.</p> <p><b>Overall there would be no significant effect.</b></p>
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (for example plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	<p>Strategies relating to waste disposal or water protection, and other community legislation on the environment, are dealt with in higher tier plans which have already been tested in full.</p> <p><b>Overall there would be no significant effect.</b></p>
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</b>	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	<p>The neighbourhood plan will provide a local context to guide the layout and appearance of future development within the parish and will supplement adopted planning policy. The Neighbourhood plan covers the period to 2041.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are envisaged due to the scope and duration of the neighbourhood plan.</b></p>
The cumulative nature of the effects	As above

<b>Criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations</b>	<b>Winchester City Council comments for SEA Screening – ‘is there likely to be a significant effect?’</b>
	<b>No significant effects are envisaged.</b>
The trans-boundary nature of the effects;	No transboundary (international) effects with another EU member state would arise from the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);	No risks to human health have been identified as a result of the proposed policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.  <b>Overall there would be no significant effect.</b>
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The designated neighbourhood area which coincides with the civil parish of Curdrige covers an area of 1,197 hectares with a population of about 1,354 (Census 2021)  Neighbourhood Plans cover small geographical areas and their policies must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. As such they contain non-strategic development plan policies to address specific local issues. The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a context and framework to guide future sustainable development in the area.  <b>Overall there would be no significant effect.</b>
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 And The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	The various environmental designations that lie within the neighbourhood plan area are set out above.  In terms of the built environment there are a number of listed buildings in the parish: Granary at Fairthorne Grange Farm, Sherecroft House Sherecroft Gardens, St Peters Church, Church View, Lower Wangfield Farm, High House Netherhill Lane, Granary (Netherhill House), Durley Mill Farm, Harfields Farmhouse, Harfields Barn, Stables and workshop (Harfields Farm), Woodmans Farm House, Durley Mill, Hill Farm, Woollams.  Land at Fairthorne Manor and Sherecroft are listed on the Hampshire Gardens Trust inventory of historic parks and gardens.

Criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations	Winchester City Council comments for SEA Screening – ‘is there likely to be a significant effect?’
	<p>The neighbourhood plan area lies about 3.5 km from the nearest point of the South Downs National Park to the east.</p> <p><b>In light of the fact that the neighbourhood Plan is not allocating sites for development or supporting development above and beyond that expressed in the adopted development plan for the area, which themselves have been subject to SEA, it is not considered that the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have any significant effects on local heritage assets or nature conservation interests.</b></p> <p><b>As such, an SEA of the plan is not considered necessary.</b></p>

6.2 Based on these findings, the Council’s initial conclusion is that a SEA of the Curdridge Neighbourhood Plan is not necessary under the SEA Directive and Regulations because it has been demonstrated that there will not be significant environmental effects as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan.

6.3 In addition, Curdridge Neighbourhood Plan has also had regard to the following:

- The draft Neighbourhood Plan has been written to support policies from the Strategic Policies of the Winchester District Local Plan 2040 which was subject to SEA (as part of a Sustainability Appraisal) at a higher tier.
- The draft Neighbourhood Plan also accords with the latest National Planning Policy Framework December 2024:

Curdridge Neighbourhood Plan references	Relevant National Planning Policy Framework (2024) theme:
Whole plan	2. Achieving Sustainable Development 3. Plan-making 4. Decision making
No specific policies apply	5. Delivering a sufficient supply of homes 6. Building a strong, competitive economy 7. Ensuring the vitality of town centres 8. Promoting healthy and safe communities

Curdridge Neighbourhood Plan references	Relevant National Planning Policy Framework (2024) theme:
	9. Promoting sustainable transport 10. Supporting high quality communications 13. Protecting Green Belt land 14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
Policy CNP1	11. Making effective use of land 12. Achieving well-designed places
No specific policies apply – not a function of neighbourhood plans	17. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

## HRA Screening Assessment

6.4 Within the Curdridge Neighbourhood Plan area, the River Hamble flows into the southern part of the parish, and along the border with Botley parish. This falls within the Solent and Southampton Water SPA/RAMSAR, which is also part of the Solent Maritime SAC. It is also a SSSI (Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods). There are no other European designated sites within the neighbourhood plan area.

6.5 There are, however, a number in this part of Hampshire:

- River Itchen SAC (5.40km<sup>1</sup>)
- Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar (7.70km)
- New Forest SAC/Ramsar (11.96km)
- Emer Bog SAC (13.40km)
- Butser Hill SAC (15.87km)
- Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar (16.11km)
- Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC (16.58km)
- East Hampshire Hangers SAC (20.77km)

Source : Defra Magic [application](#)

6.6 The whole parish falls within the zone of influence for designated sites in the Solent and is consequently covered by the mitigation strategies in place with regard to recreational disturbance, through the [Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership](#) known as Bird Aware Solent. This partnership utilises developer and other contributions in a shared approach to reducing bird disturbance as a result of new overnight accommodation across the Solent.

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<sup>1</sup> Distance measured (approximate) as the crow flies from the nearest part of the parish to the designated site

- 6.7 There are a number of locally designated sites of nature conservation interest (SINCs), either wholly or partially within the neighbourhood area, these are listed in Appendix A.
- 6.8 At the Local Plan level, the [HRA](#) screening of the Winchester District Local Plan 2040 screened in a number of impacts for the designated sites within Curdrige parish:

Habitat Site/Type of impact	Physical damage /loss	Non-physical disturbance	Air pollution	Changes in water quality or quantity	Recreational pressure
Solent Maritime SAC	Screened in	Screened out (no pathway)	Screened out (no LSEs <sup>2</sup> )	Screened in	Screened out (no pathway)
Solent & Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar	Screened in (incl FLL <sup>3</sup> )	Screened in (incl FLL)	Screened out (no LSEs)	Screened in (incl FLL)	Screened in

Source : WCC HRA report 2024

- 6.9 Accordingly, an appropriate assessment was undertaken to determine what safeguards and mitigation are in place to prevent these impacts from occurring. This concluded that the range of local plan policies within the Biodiversity and Natural Environment chapter of the local plan and to some extent the design policies, provided the necessary safeguards to ensure proposals would be sufficiently assessed to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of habitat sites or their FFL alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- 6.10 It is therefore, concluded that given the nature of the Neighbourhood Plan, in that it does not allocate any sites for development and simply expresses a single policy with a focus on design and layout for new development, it is unlikely that the outcomes of this would change the outputs of the Local Plan HRA for Neighbourhood Plan purposes. Accordingly likely significant effects on any European site can be screened out.

<sup>2</sup> LSEs – likely significant effects

<sup>3</sup> FFL – functionally linked land.

## 7. Screening outcome

- 7.1 This report contains the detail of the assessment of the need for the Curdrige Neighbourhood Plan to be subject to strategic environmental assessment as required by Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) and appropriate assessment as required by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).
- 7.2 The assessment for both these requirements has been undertaken on the basis of the single policy set out in the neighbourhood plan and summarised above. Based on the environmental information, and the scope of the policy in the Curdrige Neighbourhood Plan, the preliminary outcome of the assessment is:
- In respect of strategic environmental assessment, significant environmental effects can be screened out (para 6.2-6.3, Table 2).
  - In respect to habitats regulations assessment, likely significant effects can be screened out (paras 6.4 – 6.10).
- 7.3 The statutory consultees, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, were consulted on the draft screening report for a period of 5 weeks as per the legislative requirements from 30 March 2026 until 8 May 2026.

## **8. Screening Conclusions**

- 8.1 On the basis of the above, and following consultation with the statutory bodies, it is concluded that the Curdrige Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and therefore does not need to be subject to a SEA Report.
- 8.2 Similarly, the screening assessment concludes that no likely significant effects are likely to occur with regards to the integrity of any European sites and a full HRA is not required.

## **Appendix 1 – List of SINCs within the neighbourhood plan area**

Calcott Farm Meadow 1

Calcott Farm Meadow 2

Durley Roughett

Railway Copse

Great Gold Copse

Mount Folly Copse 1

Mount Folly Copse 2

Little Gold Copse

Marshy Grassland, Botley

Meadow west of Wangfield Copse

Wangfield Copse

Railway Line Field

Sherecroft Farm Meadow

The Glebe Field

St Peter's Churchyard

Trullmill and Pinkmead Copses

Landing Place Copse

Silford Copse

Outlands Copse and Meadow

Lyons Copse (north west)

Lyons Copse Meadows

Lyons Copse Long Meadows

Grange Copse

## Appendix 2 - Statutory Consultee Responses

Consultation body	Comments
Environment Agency	<p>Response dated 31/3/2026</p> <p>As the plan has a single policy which focuses on design matters, we concur with your conclusion that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required for this plan, and that this is consistent with the requirements placed on other statutory development plans that have been prepared by the local planning authorities for the area which have gone through the SEA process. Natural England will comment on the HRA screening opinion.</p>
Historic England	<p>Response dated 29/4/2026</p> <p>Given the unlikely significant effects upon the historic environment/heritage assets, Historic England hence considers that a Strategic Environmental Assessment will not be required. We also note that no site allocations are proposed.</p>
Natural England	<p>Response dated 7/5/2026</p> <p>Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)</p> <p>It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely; and,</li> <li>• significant effects on Habitats sites, either alone or in combination, are unlikely.</li> </ul>

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## Curdridge Neighbourhood Plan SEA/HRA screening request

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From Anna Rabone [REDACTED]

Date Tue 31-Mar-26 3:14 PM

To Jenny Wood [REDACTED]

**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the SEA/HRA screening opinion for the Curdridge Neighbourhood Plan,

As the plan has a single policy which focuses on design matters, we concur with your conclusion that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required for this plan, and that this is consistent with the requirements placed on other statutory development plans that have been prepared by the local planning authorities for the area which have gone through the SEA process. Natural England will comment on the HRA screening opinion.

I trust the above is satisfactory.

*Kind regards,*  
Anna

**Anna Rabone MRTPI**  
Sustainable Places Technical Specialist | Solent & South Downs  
Environment Agency | Oving Road, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 2AG

[REDACTED]  
Direct dial [REDACTED]

Working days: Monday to Friday

*My pronouns are She/Her (why is this here?)*

Team email: [PlanningSSD@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:PlanningSSD@environment-agency.gov.uk)



Creating a better place  
for people and wildlife





By email only to: [REDACTED]

Our ref: PL00801644  
Your ref: Curdridge Neighbourhood Plan SEA

Main: 020 7973 3700  
[e-seast@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:e-seast@historicengland.org.uk)  
[REDACTED]

Date: 29/04/2026

Dear Sir or Madam

### **Curdridge Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Opinion**

Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment on this 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. 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.

Given the unlikely significant effects upon the historic environment/heritage assets, Historic England hence considers that a Strategic Environmental Assessment will not be required. We also note that no site allocations are proposed.

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.

We should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by you with your correspondence. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the NP 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 these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.



Historic England, 4th Floor, The Atrium, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA  
Telephone 020 7973 3700 [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.

Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.





Please do contact me, via email if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Louise

**Louise Dandy**  
Historic Places Adviser



Historic England, 4th Floor, The Atrium, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA  
Telephone 020 7973 3700 [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.  
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.



Date: 07 May 2026  
Our ref: 544960  
Your ref: Curdridge Neighbourhood Plan



Ms Jenny Wood  
Winchester City Council

BY EMAIL ONLY

Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 8GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Ms Wood

### Curdridge Neighbourhood Plan - SEA/HRA Screening Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 30 March 2026.

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.

### Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that:

- significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely; and,
- significant effects on Habitats sites<sup>1</sup>, either alone or in combination, are unlikely.

The proposed neighbourhood plan is unlikely to significantly affect any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection areas (SPA), Ramsar wetland or sites in the process of becoming SACs or SPAs ('candidate SACs', 'possible SACs', 'potential SPAs') or a Ramsar wetland. The plan area is unlikely to have a significant effect on a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coast, and is unlikely to impact upon the purposes for which these areas are designated or defined.

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 is contained within the [Planning Practice Guidance](#). This identifies three triggers that may require the production of an SEA:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected

<sup>1</sup> Habitats sites are those referred to in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (Annex 2 - glossary) as "any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites".

species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require an SEA. Further information is included in Natural England's [standing advice](#) on protected species.

Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant an SEA. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission [standing advice](#).

We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a SEA is necessary.

Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If a SEA is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.

Please send any new consultations, or further information on this consultation to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Sally Wintle  
Consultations Team