

**Strategic Environmental Assessment
Screening Report
Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood
Plan**

October 2018

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Appendix A: Responses from Statutory Bodies

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report is used to determine whether or not the content of the Carlton Neighbourhood Plan (NP) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These require an SEA to be undertaken for:
 - i. Plans which are prepared for town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive; or
 - ii. Plans which have been determined to require an assessment under the Habitats Directive.
- 1.2 Plans which determine 'the use of a small area at local level' or which only propose 'minor modification to a plan' might be exempt if they are unlikely to have significant environmental effects. NPs containing land allocations for development that are not included in the local authority's plan, are more likely to require an SEA. The main determining factor as to whether SEA is required on a NP is if it is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.
- 1.3 The final outcome of this assessment will subsequently inform what is submitted under Regulation 15 (1).
- 1.4 Section 2 of this report outlines the regulations that set the need for this screening exercise. Process and criteria of the assessment are set out in Section 3. A brief summary of the draft Carlton NP is provided in Section 4.
- 1.5 The screening assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the NP is set out in Section 5 and the decision on the screening is provided in Section 6.

2. Legislative Background

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Regulation 9 sets out the process as follows:

“Determinations of the responsible authority

9. (1) The responsible authority shall determine whether or not a plan, programme or modification of a description referred to in –

- (a) paragraph (4) (a) and (b) of regulation 5;
- (b) paragraph (6)(a) of that regulation; or
- (c) paragraph (6) (b) of that regulation,

is likely to have significant environmental effects.

(2) Before making a determination under paragraph (1) the responsible authority shall –

- (a) take into account the criteria specified in Schedule 1 to these Regulations; and
- (b) consult the consultation bodies

(3) Where the responsible authority determines that the plan, programme or modification is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), it shall prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination.

The regulations define that a responsible authority in relation to a plan or programme as:

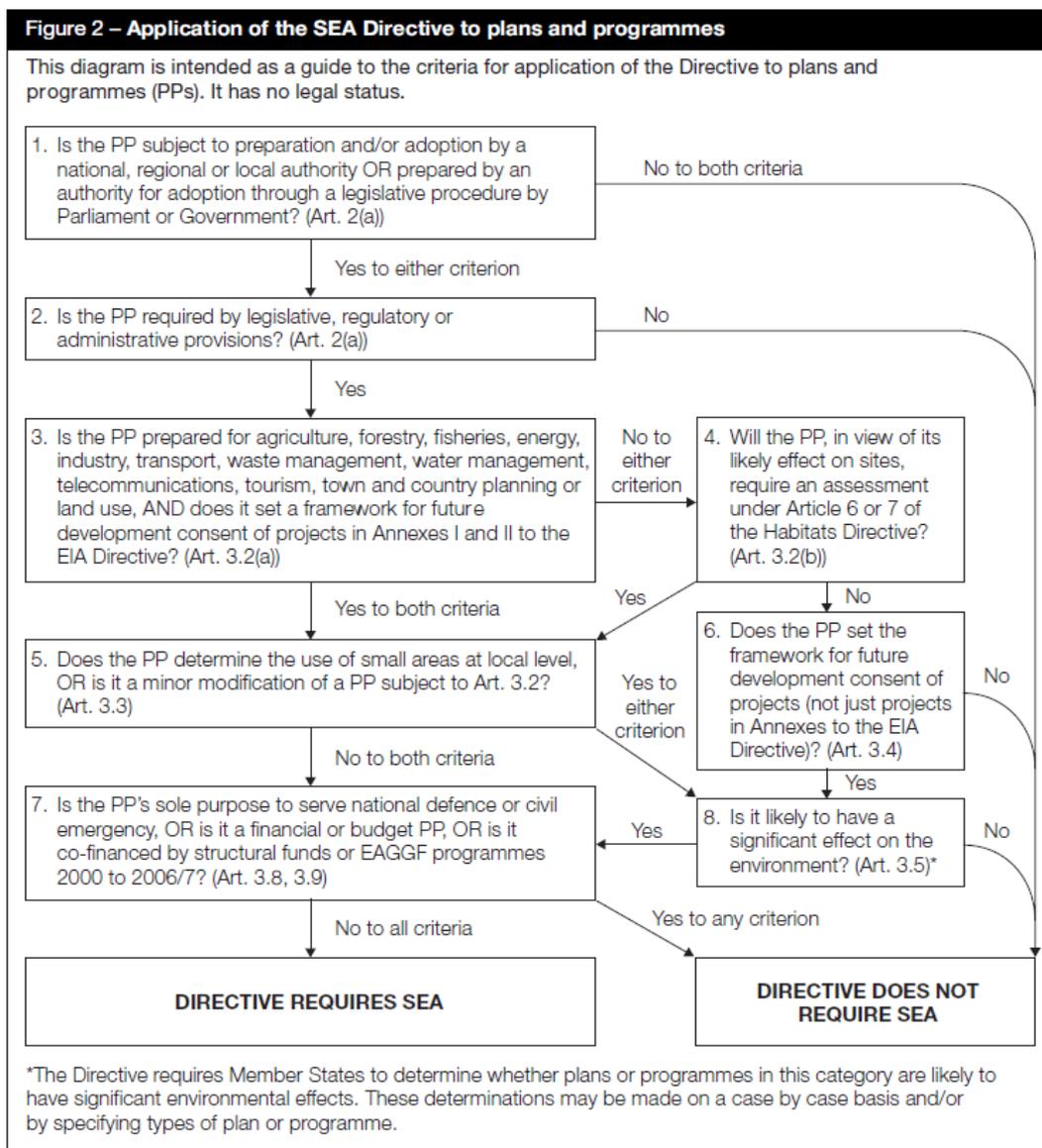
(a) the authority by which or on whose behalf it is prepared; and

(b) where, at any particular time, that authority ceases to be responsible, or solely responsible, for taking steps in relation to the plan or programme, the person who, at that time, is responsible (solely or jointly with the authority) for taking those steps;

- 2.2 The Government has stated that Sustainability Appraisals are not needed for Neighbourhood Plans (NPPG). It must however be demonstrated how the NP contributes to achievement of sustainable development in the area.

3. Screening assessment process

- 3.1 The screening opinion assessment is undertaken in two parts: the first part will assess whether the plan falls into a category of plans requiring SEA; and the second part of the assessment will consider whether the NP is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, using criteria drawn from Schedule 1 of the EU SEA Directive and the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 3.2 The government guidance 'A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2005; sets out the following approach to be taken in determining whether SEA is required, shown in the figure below.



3.3 The criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC and Schedule 1 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 are set out below:

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 transboundary 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 II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

3.4 The three statutory consultation bodies (Historic England, Environment Agency and Natural England) are to be consulted to determine whether they agree with the findings and conclusions of this screening opinion, in establishing whether the Carlton NP requires an SEA and whether it may have a significant environmental effect.

4. Summary of Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan

4.1 Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Area was designated on 17 March 2016. Following designation the Steering Group carried out consultation with the community based on a number of village surveys and exhibitions/events which involved contact with residents and interested groups.

4.2 This has led to the formulation of a draft plan.

4.3 The Vision for Carlton and Chellington is as follows:

“By 2030 we aim to have created a Carlton that will:

- be a sustainable, thriving and prosperous community;
- have maintained its village character within its rural surrounding by preserving the heritage of the village and protecting areas of archaeological significance;
- with a thriving natural environment promoting biodiversity and have seen changes that will have benefited the whole community”

4.4 In order to deliver the vision the plan has the following objectives:

- a) Conserve and enhance Carlton’s rural character, heritage and seeks to protect and improve features which contribute to this village environment.
- b) Preserve and improve access to green spaces and the surrounding countryside together with the protection and promotion of green infrastructure and biodiversity.
- c) Preserving views into and from the village.
- d) To ensure new housing is small in scale within the settlement boundary.
- e) To ensure that any housing proposals are proportionate in scale and provide a range of different types and size of accommodation to meet the needs of the community, and are of a design which is consistent with the identity and character of the village.
- f) To meet the objectives of the Borough’s housing land supply to the period 2030, the Plan will allocate development for up to 32 dwellings as a Group 2 Village, within the defined settlement boundaries.
- g) To maintain and enhance the provision of existing facilities and public services (e.g. schools) and ensure appropriate new provision is made for any future developments both within the Parish and in the surrounding areas
- h) To continue to support the local economy, sustaining existing businesses where possible and providing opportunities for new small and suitable businesses.
- i) Highway safety, traffic congestion and parking will be addressed to improve movement and safety in and around the village for all road users, including private cars, public transport, cyclists and pedestrians.

- j) Providing community infrastructure to ensure all residents' needs are met.

4.5 The delivery of the vision and objectives is governed by a number of policies which are summarised as follows:-

Policy CC1 – Settlement Policy Area Boundary and Design Principles

Policy defines the Settlement Policy Area boundary and sets out design principles to be taken into account in assessing proposals to protect the character and setting of Carlton. These include location of development within the settlement boundary, protection of prominent sites, ensuring development is appropriate in scale, use of native species, complement the traditional character and historic core of the village, not affecting open land which is of particular significance to the form and character of the village, protection of biodiversity and minimising impact on amenity.

Policy CC2 – Protection of Local Green Spaces

This policy proposes two Local Green Spaces for protection. Development of LGS only permitted in accordance with national policy.

Policy CC3 – Protection of Heritage Assets Including Listed Buildings

Policy seeks to ensure that development within the Conservation Area preserves or enhances the character of the area. Sets out principles to be applied for proposals involving important character buildings

Policy CC4 – Housing Delivery

Supports the provision of 32 dwellings over the plan period as a Rural Service Centre as defined in the emerging Borough Local Plan.

Policy CC5 – Land at the Causeway

Supports the allocation of up to 10 dwellings on land at The Causeway as identified on the Proposals Map and provides detailed criteria to apply.

Policy CC6 – Land at 55 Causeway

Supports the allocation of up to 18 dwellings on land at 55 Causeway as identified on the Proposals Map and provides detailed criteria to apply.

Policy CC7 – Land north of the Moor

Supports the allocation of up to 4 dwellings on land north of the Moor as identified on the Proposals Map and provides detailed criteria to apply.

Policy CC8 – Local Housing Needs

Policy seeks the provision of a mix of house types and tenures and specific housing to meet local needs.

Policy CC9 – Protection of Local Community Services

Policy proposes a number (8 in total) of community facilities for protection. Development that would result in loss would be subject to a number of criteria including

provision of local alternative facilities, evidence of unsuccessful marketing or community benefits.

Policy CC10 – The Provision of New Community Facilities

Policy supports to diversify or enhance the range of community facilities subject to specified criteria relating to acceptable traffic movements; amenity; adequate parking; appropriate scale and conveniently accessible.

Policy CC11 – Supporting the Development of Small Businesses

Policy supports the development of small-scale businesses which involve conversion of existing buildings and diversification subject to criteria. These include impact on amenity, access, traffic and parking, impact on landscape and character and design.

Policy CC12 – Residential parking in new developments

Policy requires development to provide satisfactory parking arrangements; ensuring highway safety and avoiding the creation of car-dominated environments.

Policy CC13 – Developer Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy

Policy seeks developer contributions and where appropriate CIL towards a number of proposed community projects. Six proposals are prioritised.

- 4.6 To fulfil one of the basic conditions these policies are required to be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area. This comprises the Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan, the Allocations and Designations Local Plan and the emerging Local Plan 2030.
- 4.7 In addition to policies, the Carlton NP also includes a section on non-land use actions which principally relates to traffic and transport matters within the village.

5. Assessment

- 5.1 The first part of the assessment is to establish the need for the SEA. The table below shows the assessment determining whether the Carlton NP falls into a category of plans requiring SEA. The references to Articles are from Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Council on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

Stage	Y/N	Reasons
1. Is the NP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Article. 2(a))	Y	The Carlton NP is being prepared by a steering group with the involvement of Carlton and Chellington Parish Council and not by a national, regional or local authority. If the plan receives support from the majority of the votes cast through a referendum it will be 'made' by Bedford Borough Council.
2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Article. 2(a))	Y	While it is not mandatory for a neighbourhood plan to be prepared, however once made, it will form part of the statutory development plan for assessing planning applications.
3. Is the NP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Article. 3.2(b))	N	The Carlton NP is prepared for town and country planning and land use purposes, however it does not explicitly set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive.
4. Will the NP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N	An Appropriate Assessment has been carried out which determined that in order to offer protection to European sites, rewording of policies was required. The amended policies will avoid or mitigate the likely significant effects.
5. Does the NP determine the use of small areas at local level OR is it a minor modification of a plan/programme (Article 3.3)	Y If yes, go to Q8	Yes, the Carlton Neighbourhood Plan relates to the local area of the designated Neighbourhood Area.

Stage	Y/N	Reasons
6. Does the NP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Article. 3.4)		Not applicable
7. Is the NP's sole purpose to serve national defence or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Article. 3.8 & Article. 3.9)		Not applicable
8. Is the NP likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Article. 3.5)	N	See the following table.

5.2 The next step in the screening assessment is to establish whether the Carlton NP is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The criteria for determining the likely significance of effects are drawn from the Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and is also set out in Schedule 1 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Criteria for determining the likely significant effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Summary of significant effects	Likely to have significant environmental effects Y/N
The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to—		
1a 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 draft plan provides for up to 32 new dwellings over 3 sites.	N
1b The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The plan will be complementary to the Bedford Borough Development Plan.	N
1c The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	The achievement of sustainable development is one of the basic conditions that a Neighbourhood Plan must meet.	N
1d Environmental problems relevant to the plan.	There are no environmental problems relevant to the plan in this parish.	N
1e The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and	The plan does not relate to waste management or water protection.	N

Criteria for determining the likely significant effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Summary of significant effects	Likely to have significant environmental effects Y/N
programmes linked to waste management or water protection or renewable energy generation)		
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—		
2a The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	The plan includes allocations for up to 32 dwellings and considering the sites were put forward during the process, it is highly likely that these sites will be developed.	N
2b The cumulative nature of the effects	The plan covers a small area and considering that the plan is for a small number of dwellings up to 2035, the cumulative effects impacts are considered to be minimal.	N
2c The transboundary nature of the effects	Given the small scale development proposed, it is not considered that the effects will have any impact outside the borough or indeed the parish.	N
2d The risks to human health or environment (e.g. due to accidents)	The allocations are only for housing and it is not considered that this will cause a risk to human health or the environment due to accidents.	N
2e The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The population as measured from the 2011 census was 874 and there were 371 dwellings. The area of the parish was 880 hectares which equates to a population density of one person per hectare.	N
2f The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; • Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or 	The plan includes policies to ensure that cultural heritage is either preserved or enhanced. There are no other special natural characteristics that are related to the allocated development sites or within the SPA boundary. The proposed development is not considered to be an intensive land use due to the scale of development.	N

Criteria for determining the likely significant effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Summary of significant effects	Likely to have significant environmental effects Y/N
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive land use 		
2g The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	There are no national or internationally recognised areas or landscapes within the parish.	N

6. Conclusions and recommendations of the Screening Assessment

- 6.1 A screening assessment to determine the need for a SEA in line with regulations and guidance was undertaken and can be found in section 5 of this report. The assessment finds that no significant effects will occur as a result of the implementation of the Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.2 Consequently from the findings of the screening assessment it is recommended that a full SEA is not required for the Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan.

APPENDIX A

Date: 29 November 2018
Our ref: 263670
Your ref: Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan & SEA Screening report



Ms M Wilson
Clerk to Carlton and Chellington Parish Council

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Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

carltonwithchellingtonpc@gmail.com

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Ms Wilson

Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan & SEA Screening report

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 8th November 2018.

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

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (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.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#). The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance 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
- 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.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

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 SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

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

Yours sincerely

Sharon Jenkins
Consultations Team



Historic England

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Carlton and Chellington Parish Council
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Sharnbrook
Bedford
Bedfordshire
MK44 1PJ

Direct Dial: 01223 582746

Our ref: PL00501248

6 December 2018

Dear Ms Wilson

RE: Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening

Thank you for your email of the 2nd November 2018 regarding 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 Carlton and Chellington 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 neighbourhood plan will not have any significant effects on the historic environment. We note from a review of the Regulation 14 Draft plan, which we have previously been consulted upon, that the plan proposes to allocate land for up to 32 residential dwellings. The majority of these dwellings are to be located on two sites adjacent to and facing onto the Causeway, south-east of Carlton. One of these is adjacent to the conservation area, but is likely to be a small scale development. We would recommend that the neighbourhood plan takes the opportunity to set out in more detail the form and layout of development - including access arrangements, boundary treatments etc, to ensure that the setting of the conservation area is enhanced in this location. However, the scale of potential development is not great, and therefore 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



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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 2nd November 2018. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the SA/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/guidance) where we consider that, despite the SA/SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.

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 contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Edward James
Historic Places Advisor, East of England
Edward.James@HistoricEngland.org.uk



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From: Benn, Neville A [mailto:neville.benn@environment-agency.gov.uk]
Sent: 06 December 2018 10:37
To: Sonia Gallaher
Subject: RE: CARLTON AND CHELLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN –SEA SCREENING

Many apologies. I thought I had responded to Mandy.

We agree with the conclusions that have been reached.

Kind regards

Neville Benn
Senior Planning Advisor

Sustainable Places
East Anglia Area (West)

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From: Sonia Gallaher [mailto:Sonia.Gallaher@bedford.gov.uk]
Sent: 30 November 2018 12:09
To: Benn, Neville A <neville.benn@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: CARLTON AND CHELLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN –SEA SCREENING

Bedford BC - OFFICIAL-Unsecure

Hi Neville,

Further to my email below, I have not heard from you as yet. With regards to the SEA screening, the regulations state that the Qualifying Body (in this case the Parish Council) can submit the screening request.

I hope that this clarifies the situation, but I am in the office all day today if you would like to discuss. Neighbourhood Planning is very complicated!

Kind regards

Sonia Gallaher
Senior Planning and Transportation Officer
Planning Policy
Bedford Borough Council

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