

West Berkshire District Council
Cold Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan

**Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment
Screening Report**

Post Consultation Version

29 November 2022

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Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report of the Cold Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document sets out whether or not the contents of the Cold Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- 1.2. The purpose of the Cold Ash NDP is to provide planning policies to guide development in the designated Cold Ash Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.3. SEA is required for all plans which may have a significant effect on the environment. A SEA aims to protect the environment at a high level, and ensures the environment is considered during the preparation and adoption of plans. This promotes sustainable development.
- 1.4. Not all neighbourhood plans will require a SEA to be carried out. To decide if a SEA is required, a screening exercise is used to look at the proposals in a neighbourhood plan, and see if a significant effect is likely.
- 1.5. This document also assesses whether a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to consider potential impacts on sites of European importance for Nature Conservation is necessary. The HRA screening is set out on pages 11-12.
- 1.6. The legislative background set out below outlines the regulations that require the need for this screening exercise. A screening assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Cold Ash NDP and the need for a full SEA has been undertaken.

2. Legislative background

- 2.1. European Directive 2001/42/EC, transposed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004¹ (or SEA Regulations), requires a SEA to be undertaken for certain types of plans or programmes that would have a significant environmental effect. The Regulations require that this is determined by a screening process, which should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations). The results of this process must be set out in a SEA Screening Statement which must be publically available.
- 2.2. In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Regulations, Cold Ash Parish Council (as the qualifying body) asked West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) as the responsible authority, to screen the emerging Cold Ash NDP to determine whether an environmental report is required due to significant environmental effects. In making this determination, WBDC have had regard to Schedule 1 of the Regulations.
- 2.3. In line with the advice contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), the Plan's potential scope has been assessed against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the 2004 Environmental Assessment Regulations.

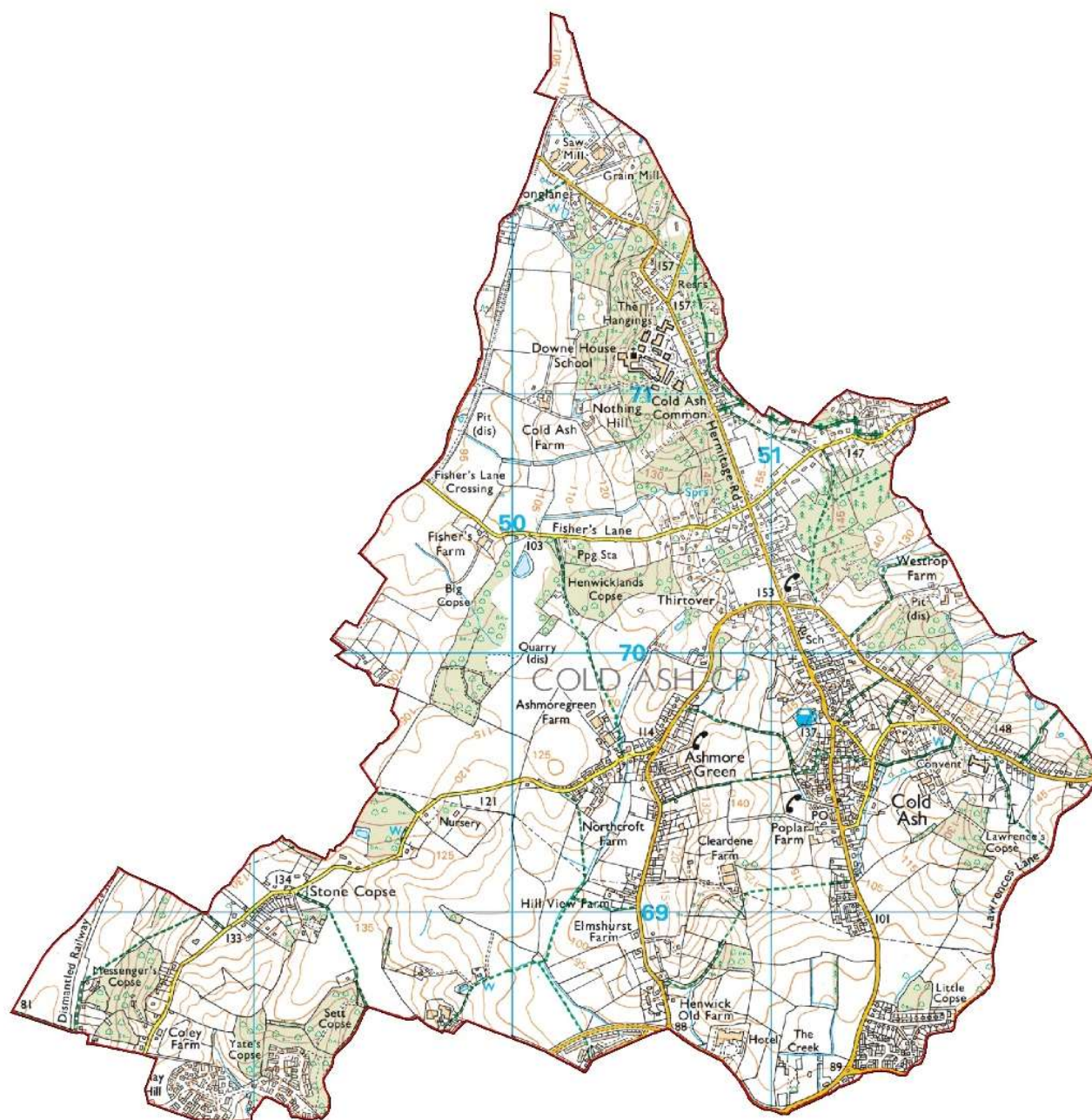
¹ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/contents/made>.

- 2.4. SEA can be required in some limited situations where a sustainability appraisal is not needed. Neighbourhood planning is one of these situations. Sustainability Appraisals (SAs) may incorporate the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, which implement the requirements of the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.
- 2.5. A Sustainability Appraisal ensures that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues and it is good practice to do one to understand how a plan is to deliver sustainable development. However, there is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal as set out in Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is down to the qualifying body to demonstrate whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This is the purpose of the SEA Screening Report.

3. Background to the emerging Cold Ash NDP

- 3.1. West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) designated a Neighbourhood Area for the whole of Cold Ash Parish in March 2018. The Parish and Plan boundaries are the same and that is shown in Figure 3.1.

Figure 3.1: Cold Ash designated Neighbourhood Area



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3.2. The NDP will sit alongside, and complement the West Berkshire Local Plan which covers the period 2006 to 2026. The Local Plan comprises of the West Berkshire Core Strategy (2006-2026) Development Plan Document² (adopted July 2012), the

² West Berkshire Core Strategy (2006-2026) Development Plan Document:
<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/corestrategy>.

Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document (HSA DPD)³ (adopted May 2017), and the West Berkshire District Local Plan 1991-1996 (Saved Policies 2006) as amended in July 2012 and May 2017⁴.

- 3.3. In the adopted Core Strategy, the village of Cold Ash is identified as a Service Village within the district settlement hierarchy meaning that, along with the other Service Villages, it has a limited range of services and has some limited development potential. To the west of Cold Ash village lies the hamlet of Ashmore Green which is a 'smaller village with settlement boundary' and therefore suitable only for limited infill development subject to the character and form of the settlement. The far southern end of the parish includes parts of the settlements of Newbury and Thatcham. Within the district settlement hierarchy both Newbury and Thatcham lie within the top tier and are 'Urban Areas'. Urban Areas have a range of services and are to be the focus for development.
- 3.4. As aforementioned, the Cold Ash NDP will supplement policies within the West Berkshire Local Plan. The Core Strategy and HSA DPD were both subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and SEA. The SA/SEA for the West Berkshire Core Strategy was produced in order to ensure that sustainability issues were considered throughout the preparation of the Core Strategy. The SA/SEA was an iterative process which identified the likely significant effects of the Core Strategy and the extent to which its implementation would achieve social, environmental and economic objectives.
- 3.5. The SA/SEA was published at key stages of the Core Strategy process and updated as necessary. Each of the stages was assessed against the 11 SA framework objectives and the 29 sub objectives to determine the predicted economic, environmental and social effects of the Core Strategy on the District. At each stage, the findings of the SA/SEA were used to inform the formulation of policies, thereby improving the sustainability of the Core Strategy in the process. The process of the SA/SEA means that the overall spatial strategy and the housing distribution strategy of the Core Strategy have been tested.
- 3.6. The SA/SEA for the HSA DPD considered reasonable alternatives for the scope of the HSA DPD, and for each of the sites and policies included within the DPD. The SA/SEA clearly demonstrates the progression of the preferred strategy from the regulation 18 stage through to the submission stage. The social, economic and environmental dimensions were therefore taken into account throughout the preparation of the DPD to ensure sustainable development.
- 3.7. In order to realise the vision for Cold Ash and meet the objectives, the draft Cold Ash NDP proposes 16 policies grouped under the following themes:
 - Spatial Strategy
 - Policy CAP1: Location of Development
 - Character, design and heritage
 - Policy CAP2: Character and design of development
 - Policy CAP3: Sustainable design
 - Policy CAP4: Minimising the risk of flooding
 - Environment and Landscape (including Green Space and Biodiversity)
 - Policy CAP5: Conserving and enhancing the natural landscape

³ Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document (2006-2026): <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/hsa>.

⁴ West Berkshire District Local Plan 1991-2006 (Saved Policies 2007): <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/28783>.

- Policy CAP6: Biodiversity and the network green infrastructure
- Policy CAP7: Iconic views
- Policy CAP8: Local Green Spaces
- Policy CAP9: Dark Skies
- Getting around the parish
 - Policy CAP10: Encouraging sustainable movement
 - Policy CAP11: Sunken Lane Policy
 - Policy CAP12: Public car parking
- Community and social
 - Policy CAP13: Important community facilities
- Commercial
 - Policy CAP14: Supporting new businesses and expansions
 - Policy CAP15: Supporting SMEs, flexible start-ups and homeworking
- Infrastructure
 - Policy CAP 16: Community and utility infrastructure provision

3.8. No site allocations are proposed in the NDP.

3.9. Any policies relating to these matters will be of a localised effect.

3.10. Section 5 below provides a summary of the policies proposed in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. It also considers the potential for environmental effects to occur as a result of these policies. It is based on the emerging draft (Version 0.20) Draft 9 Pre-Submission Screening Draft) of the NDP as at May 2021.

4. The SEA screening process

4.1. Producing the Cold Ash NDP requires the Council to look at whether a SEA is required; this is known as the screening process. The screening is based on the criteria set out in Annex II of European Directive 2001/42/EC and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, and considers the likely significant environmental effects as a result of the NDP.

5. SEA determination and reasons for determination

5.1. The Council has assessed the Cold Ash NDP against the criteria set out within Annex II of European Directive 2001/42/EC and Schedule 1 of the Regulations (as summarised in Table 5.1).

Overview of the plan area

5.2. Cold Ash is a largely rural parish that is located in the southern part of West Berkshire district. Newbury lies to the south west of the parish and Thatcham to the south east. The Parish is also bounded by the parishes of Bucklebury to the east, Hermitage to the north and Donnington and Chieveley to the west.

5.3. It covers an area of about 3 square miles (7.9 square kilometres) and has a population of 4,063 (2011 Census). The main settlement within the parish is the village of Cold Ash, however the parish also includes the hamlet of Ashmore Green and some urban areas, principally in Manor Park, which is contiguous in its southern boundary with the area between Shaw and Benham Hill.

5.4. There are various constraints to development in Cold Ash. The River Lambourn Special Area of Conservation Nutrient Neutrality Zone (NNZ) cuts through the middle

part of the parish, whilst the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty washes over the eastern edge of the parish.

- 5.5. Other constraints to development in Cold Ash include many listed buildings, one SSSI (Cold Ash Quarry), several Local Wildlife Sites, areas of ancient semi-natural woodland and ancient replanted woodland. There are issues of surface water flooding. Close to the southern boundary of the parish (c.677m) is the River Lambourn Special Area of Conservation and the River Lambourn SSSI.

Screening analysis

Spatial strategy

- 5.6. The draft NDP includes a policy (Policy CAP1 Location of Development) that guides the location of any new development. The policy seeks to locate development within the settlement boundary, and substantial weight is given to development proposals on previously developed land.
- 5.7. The policy takes a restrictive approach to development outside of any settlement boundary with criteria identifying instances when development may be acceptable, for example it relates to necessary utilities infrastructure and no alternative location is available.
- 5.8. No housing allocations are proposed in the NDP.

Character, design and heritage

- 5.9. A number of draft policies (Policy CAP2 Character and Design of Development, Policy CAP3 Sustainable Design and CAP4 Minimising the Risk of Flooding) are included with the aim of achieving sustainable, high quality developments that reduce the risk of flooding.
- 5.10. It is unlikely that this policy will result in any likely adverse environmental effects, either alone or in combination with other plans in the area. It is likely that these policies will result in minor improvements in the local area.

Commercial Economy and employment

- 5.11. No employment allocations are proposed. There is a draft policy (Policy CAP14 Supporting New Businesses and Expansions) that supports new businesses and expansion to existing businesses, subject to there being no unacceptable harmful impacts on the local environment, the amenity of neighbouring uses, and upon the local road network.
- 5.12. There is also a policy (Policy CAP15 Supporting SMEs, Flexible Start-ups and Homeworking) which supports small medium enterprises, flexible start-ups, and homeworking subject to a set of criteria being met which includes:
- respect to the surrounding rural landscape;
 - sensitive to loss of wildlife habitat;
 - the provision of protected species and habitat surveys at the planning application stage;
 - avoidance of adverse impacts on biodiversity;
 - achievement of net gain through.

- 5.13. It is unlikely that these policies will result in any likely adverse environmental effects, either alone or in combination with other plans in the area.

Infrastructure

- 5.14. There is a draft policy (Policy CAP16 Community and Utility Infrastructure Provision) which aims to ensure that utilities infrastructure, for example utilities, broadband, and telecommunications masts, are in place to support any new development. Criteria is set out to ensure that infrastructure has, amongst other things, no visual impact, does not impede the planting of trees, and has no adverse effect of the character or appearance of the historic, natural or rural environment of the Parish.
- 5.15. It is unlikely that these policies will result in any adverse environmental effects, either alone or in combination with other plans in the area.

Getting around the Parish

- 5.16. A number of draft policies (Policy CAP10 Encouraging Sustainable Movement, Policy CAP11 Sunken Lane Policy and Policy CAP12 Public Car Parking) are included which seek to ensure that development does not detract from areas identified as 'dark skies zones', protect the network of sunken lanes in the Parish, and ensure that publically accessible car parking is protected.
- 5.17. It is unlikely that these policies will result in any likely adverse environmental effects, either alone or in combination with other plans in the area. It is likely that these policies will result in minor improvements in the local area.

Community and social

- 5.18. There is a policy in the draft NDP (Policy CAP13 Important Community Facilities) which seeks to restrict against the loss of important community facilities, namely the Acland Memorial Hall and Cold Ash Post Office and Village Shops unless alternative facilities of equivalent standard and convenience have been agreed. The policy also supports the upgrade or extension of existing facilities subject to a set of criteria being met.
- 5.19. It is unlikely that these policies will result in any likely adverse environmental effects, either alone or in combination with other plans in the area.

Environment and landscape

- 5.20. There are five policies (Policy CAP5 Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Landscape, Policy CAP6 Biodiversity and the Network Green Infrastructure, Policy CAP7 Iconic Views, Policy CAP8 Local Green Spaces and Policy CAP9 Dark Skies) which seek to protect and enhance the environment. In particular they designate a number of areas as Local Green Space, restrict against the loss of existing open space, recreational facilities and buildings, create new Public Rights of Way within new development sites and prevent unacceptable harm to existing Public Rights of Way, a measurable net gain for biodiversity and which restricts against the loss or deterioration of existing green infrastructure that supports protected habitats and species.

- 5.21. It is unlikely that these policies will result in any likely adverse environmental effects, either alone or in combination with other plans in the area. It is likely that these policies will result in some improvements to the local environment.
- 5.22. The Council has assessed the Cold Ash NDP against the criteria set out within Schedule 1 of the Regulations (as summarised in Table 5.1 below).

Table 5.1: Assessment of likely significant effects (screening)

Criterion (Schedule 1 of Regulations)	West Berkshire District Council's Response
<i>1. Characteristics of plans or programmes, having regard, in particular, to:</i>	
(a) 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>The NDP, if adopted, will become part of the development plan for the area. It will not set a framework for other plans or policies outside of the Cold Ash NDP area (see Figure 3.1 on page 3 above). It will help inform decisions within the parish relating to development up to 2037.</p> <p>It sets out a local policy framework for development proposals. It supports the implementation of policies in the Local Plan which have been subject to SEA and assessed as having no significant effects.</p> <p>Overall there would be no significant effect.</p>
(b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	<p>The NDP does not influence other plans or programmes in the Local Plan; instead it supplements them. The NDP will form part of the Development Plan for the District and will only apply to the designated Neighbourhood Area, the parish of Cold Ash. Neighbourhood Plans by their nature are locally driven and focused, providing detailed guidance to local development.</p> <p>Overall there would be no significant effect.</p>
(c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	<p>A number of policies seek to promote sustainable development that can be considered to be in conformity with the NPPF. This is a 'basic condition' requirement of the Neighbourhood Plan making process.</p> <p>The draft plan, policy CAP3: Sustainable Design includes support for incorporating design and environmental performance measures and standards to reduce energy consumption and climate effects. This includes the optimisation of passive solar gain, the thermal efficiency of building materials, energy efficiency measures such as loft and wall insulation, and double glazing and on-site energy generation from renewable sources such as solar panels, ground source heating and energy generation.</p> <p>The draft plan also supports the reduction of water consumption through water re-use measures (rainwater harvesting, surface water harvesting and grey water</p>

Criterion (Schedule 1 of Regulations)	West Berkshire District Council's Response
	<p>recycling systems), low carbon sustainable design, the avoidance/mitigation of regulated emissions ideally using on-site energy efficiency measures and zero carbon technologies.</p> <p>In addition, it supports adequate infrastructure for electric charging points, sustainable design and construction standards, and the generation of renewable energy where appropriate.</p> <p>Overall there would be no significant effect, and it is likely that the draft policies proposed will result in minor improvements to the local environment.</p>
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	<p>The River Lambourn Special Area of Conservation Nutrient Neutrality Zone (NNZ) cuts through the middle part of the parish and the North Wessex Downs AONB washes over the eastern edge of the parish. There are many listed buildings, one SSSI (Cold Ash Quarry), several Local Wildlife Sites, areas of ancient semi-natural woodland and ancient replanted woodland. There are issues of surface water flooding. Close to the southern boundary of the parish (c.677m) is the River Lambourn Special Area of Conservation and the River Lambourn SSSI (c.677m).</p> <p>The draft Cold Ash NDP seeks to minimise existing environmental problems in the area. The plan does not propose development that would give rise to environmental problems.</p> <p>Overall there would be no significant effect, and it is likely that the draft policies proposed will result in improvements to the local environment.</p>
(e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (eg. 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. The NDP will not impact on EU legislation on the environment.</p> <p>Overall there would be no significant effect.</p>
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected [by the plan or programme], having regard, in particular, to:	
(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	<p>The NDP will provide a context and framework to guide future development within the Neighbourhood Area and will supplement adopted planning policy. It will guide development up to 2036.</p> <p>It includes policies that seek to protect and improve the environment, and to minimise the effects of development on its immediate surroundings and ensure development is delivered to high levels of sustainability.</p>

Criterion (Schedule 1 of Regulations)	West Berkshire District Council's Response
	No significant effects are envisaged due to the scope and duration of the NDP.
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects	As above. No significant effects are envisaged.
(c) The transboundary* nature of the effects <i>* Transboundary effects are understood to be in other Member States</i>	Effects will be local with limited effects on neighbouring areas. No transboundary effects are expected. The NDP will supplement adopted policy and is not envisaged, in itself, to have a significant effect.
(e) The risks to human health or the environment (eg. due to accidents)	No risks to human health have been identified as a result of the proposed policies in the NDP. Policies relating to environmental nuisance, pollution control and noise pollution are included in higher tier planning documents. Overall there would be no significant effect.
(f) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The designated Neighbourhood Area is about 7.9 square kilometres in size, and covers 1.1% of West Berkshire District. At the last census in 2011, the population of Cold Ash was 4,063. 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. (NPPF paragraph 29). The NDP will provide a context and framework to guide future sustainable development in the area. The majority of effects would be focused within Cold Ash Parish. Overall there are likely to be no significant effects.
(g) 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 • intensive land-use <p>And</p> <p>The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national,</p>	The built and natural environmental designations within or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Area, along with the proposed NDP policies to protect these are considered below. Cold Ash Parish has the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 Grade II Listed Buildings; • 14 Local Wildlife Sites; • Areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and Ancient Replanted Woodland; • Tree Preservation Orders; • North Wessex Downs AONB; • 1 SSSI; • River Lambourn SAC Nutrient Neutrality Zone partially falls within the Parish. <p>Within the NDP area there are no known:</p>

Criterion (Schedule 1 of Regulations)	West Berkshire District Council's Response
Community or international protection status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation; • Special Protection Areas; • World or National Heritage Sites; • Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; • Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites or Local Geological Sites <p>Within the NDP area there are no known:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International conservation designations (or adjacent to it), outside of those listed above; <p>The draft plan includes support for reducing energy consumption and climate effects, the optimisation of passive solar gain, thermal efficiency of building materials, energy efficiency measures, on-site energy (renewable sources), ground source heating, reduction of water consumption, low carbon sustainable design, regulated emissions, on-site energy efficiency measures, zero carbon technologies, electric charging points, sustainable design and construction standards, and the generation of renewable energy where appropriate.</p> <p>It is not considered that the NDP is likely to have any significant effects on local heritage assets or nature conservation interests and it is likely that the draft policies proposed will result in minor improvements to the local environment. As such, an SEA of the plan is not considered necessary.</p>

5.23. Based on these findings, the Council's initial conclusion is that a SEA of the Cold Ash NDP is not necessary under the SEA Regulations because it has been demonstrated that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects as a result of the NDP.

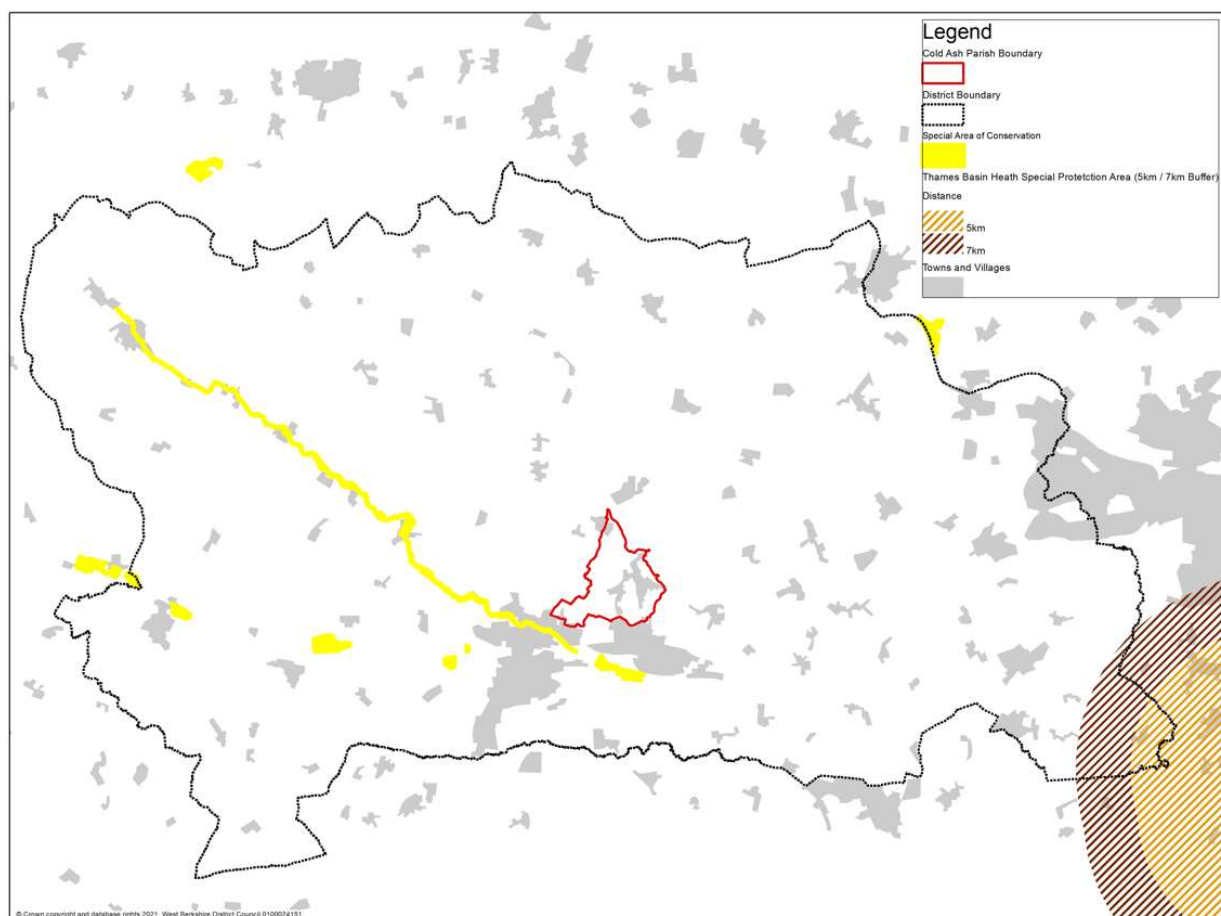
Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report

- 6.1. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required to determine if a neighbourhood plan would have a significant impact upon the integrity of nature conservation sites of international importance, ie. Ramsar sites, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), and Special Protection Areas (SPA). The principal aim of this part of the document is to 'screen' the potential of the Cold Ash NDP for its likely effect, either alone or in combination, on these sites.
- 6.2. This was a requirement under EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC⁵, and has been transposed into British law by Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010⁶. The Directive states that any plan or project not connected or necessary to a sites management, but likely to have significant effects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. An Appropriate Assessment determines the impact that plans and projects would have on internationally important nature conservation sites.
- 6.3. Within West Berkshire there are three SACs (River Lambourn, Kennet and Lambourn floodplain and Kennet Valley Alderwoods), and no Ramsar sites or SPAs. However, a very small area of the district around Beech Hill falls within the 5km buffer area of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA which Natural England has determined as being needed to regulate development near the SPA. This is illustrated in Figure 6.1 below.

⁵ EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1992L0043:20070101:EN:PDF>

⁶ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/pdfs/uksi_20100490_en.pdf

Figure 6.1: Location of SACs and Thames Basin Heaths SPA buffer within West Berkshire District



- 6.4. An Appropriate Assessment of all Core Strategy policies has been undertaken to ensure that either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, the policies do not adversely affect any of the SACs or the buffer area for the Thames Basin Heath SPA.
- 6.5. In addition, a HRA screening was undertaken on the HSA DPD and this concluded that an Appropriate Assessment was not required because the allocations and policies would not result in impacts and effects divergent to those assessed in the Core Strategy. The screening also concluded that there would be no negative effects on nature conservation sites of international importance.
- 6.6. The Neighbourhood Area is not in any close proximity to the SPAs or the Thames Basin Heaths SPA buffer area. The Cold Ash NDP is therefore considered unlikely to have significant effects on nature conservation sites of international importance (alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and therefore, an Appropriate Assessment for the Cold Ash NDP is not considered necessary.

SEA and HRA – Conclusions of West Berkshire District Council

- 7.1. Based on the findings in Sections A and B, WBDC’s initial conclusion is that a SEA of the Cold Ash NDP is not required under the SEA Directive because it has been demonstrated that there will be no significant environmental effects as a result of the NDP.
- 7.2. It is also WBDC’s initial conclusion that a HRA is not required because there are no internationally designated sites within or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Area
- 7.3. Nonetheless, a final determination could not be made until the three statutory bodies (Historic England, Environment Agency, and Natural England) commented on this SEA Screening Report. This SEA Screening Report was subject to a five week period that ran from Monday 24 October 2022 to 5pm on Monday 28 November 2022.
- 7.4. Responses from Historic England and Natural England were received by 28 November 2022. No response was received from the Environment Agency.

Consultation

- 8.1 The consultation responses from Historic England and Natural England to the SEA and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report are detailed below and are also included in Appendix 1:

Table 8.1: Responses from the statutory bodies

Consultation body	Comments	Action
Environment Agency	No response.	No further action necessary
Historic England	<p>Cold Ash Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Opinion</p> <p>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 Cold Ash Neighbourhood Plan) likely to have a significant effect on the historic environment?”. Our comments are based on the information supplied.</p> <p>The information supplied however indicates that the plan will not have any significant effects on the historic environment. We also note that the plan does not propose to allocate any sites for development.</p> <p>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’</p>	No further action necessary

Consultation body	Comments	Action
	<p>Directive], Historic England concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I should be pleased if you can send a copy of the determination as required by REG 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.</p> <p>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 SEA process and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan) where we consider that, despite the SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Natural England	<p>Many thanks for consulting Natural England regarding the SEA/HRA screening for the Cold Ash NDP.</p> <p>Having taken a look at the submitted document I can confirm that we would agree with the local authorities screening decision that no SEA/HRA would be required for the plan, as set out within the report submitted.</p> <p>The plan doesn't allocate any housing in itself and would purely be providing more local detail to that already set out within the Local Plan policies and as such we wouldn't consider it to have an impact on its own or in combination.</p> <p>We would say however that should the plans change and allocations are made then this would need re-assessment and potential further work under the SEA/HRA regulations due to potential for impacts upon the River Lambourn.</p>	No further action necessary

9. Conclusions following consultation with the statutory bodies

- 9.1 On the basis of the screening process detailed in this report, it is the Council's opinion that the NDP is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and as such does not require an SEA under EU Directive 2001/42/EC and The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), or a Habitats Regulations Assessment under EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
- 9.2 This determination has been made on 29 November 2022.

Appendix 1 Responses from Historic England and Natural England



Historic England

By email only to: [REDACTED]

Our ref: PL00791526

Your ref: Cold Ash Neighbourhood Plan SEA

Main: 020 7973 3700

e-seast@historicengland.org.uk

Date: 29/11/2022

Dear Sir or Madam

Cold Ash 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 Cold Ash Neighbourhood Plan) likely to have a significant effect on the historic environment?". Our comments are based on the information supplied.

The information supplied however indicates that the plan will not have any significant effects on the historic environment. We also note that the plan does not propose to allocate any sites for development.

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

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

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



Historic England, 4th Floor, The Atrium, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA

Telephone 020 7973 3700 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.





Historic England

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 SEA process and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan) where we consider that, despite the SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.

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

Please do contact me, 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
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[REDACTED]

From: Behnke, Piotr <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 25 November 2022 17:19
To: PlanningPolicy
Subject: Natural England Response - 410897 - Cold Ash Neighbourhood Plan - SEA & HRA Screening

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

FAO: Umrah Mahadik,

Dear Umrah,

Many thanks for consulting Natural England regarding the SEA/HRA screening for the Cold Ash NDP.

Having taken a look at the submitted document I can confirm that we would agree with the local authorities screening decision that no SEA/HRA would be required for the plan, as set out within the report submitted.

The plan doesn't allocate any housing in itself and would purely be providing more local detail to that already set out within the Local Plan policies and as such we wouldn't consider it to have an impact on its own or in combination.

We would say however that should the plans change and allocations are made then this would need re-assessment and potential further work under the SEA/HRA regulations due to potential for impacts upon the River Lambourn.

I trust that this satisfies your requirements however do let me know if there's anything further you would need.

Regards,

Piotr Behnke
Lead Adviser
Planning and UAS
Thames Solent Team
[REDACTED]