

Mr Edward Rehill  
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council  
Planning Policy  
Civic Offices London Road  
Basingstoke  
Hampshire  
RG21 4AH

**Our ref:** WA/2011/109908/OR-  
28/IS1-L01  
**Your ref:**  
**Date:** 22 February 2017

Dear Mr Rehill

### **SEA screening opinion – Old Basing and Lychpit Neighbourhood Plan**

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the SEA screening opinion for the Old Basing and Lychpit Neighbourhood Plan. We apologise for the delay of our response. We are a statutory consultee in the SEA process and aim to reduce flood risk and protect and enhance the water environment. We have reviewed the draft plan, and have identified the following environmental constraints that relate to the Neighbourhood Plan area:

#### Flood risk

As you have stated in paragraph 4.3 of your screening report, there are areas of flood zone 2 and 3 within the neighbourhood plan area. However, we note that the approved local plan site allocation site SS3.1, Swing Swang Lane, is outside of flood zones, and that policy SS3.9, East of Basingstoke, includes a requirement for development to avoid the areas of the site within flood zones 2 and 3. Furthermore we note that the neighbourhood plan does not propose to allocate any specific development sites.

#### Main rivers

The Rivers Loddon and Lyde run through the neighbourhood plan area as described in paragraph 4.3 of your screening report. These watercourses are currently failing to reach good ecological potential under the Water Framework Directive, and are both currently classified as poor. Developments within or adjacent to these watercourses should not cause further deterioration and should seek to improve the water quality based on the recommendations of the Thames River Basin Management Plan.

For your information we have published joint advice with Natural England, English Heritage and the Forestry Commission on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans.

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This is available at:

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT\\_6524\\_7da381.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_6524_7da381.pdf)

Your Lead local flood authority's Surface Water Management Plan will indicate if there are any critical drainage areas from local sources of flood risk (e.g. surface water, groundwater and sewerage) which coincide with the neighbourhood plan area.

In conclusion, whilst we are aware of the environmental constraints mentioned above which affect the plan area, we agree with your assessment that the neighbourhood plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

Yours sincerely

**Judith Johnson**  
**Sustainable Places team**

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