

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall Mount Pleasant Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN1 1RS

Our ref: KT/2006/000284/OR-
21/PO1-L01

Your ref: Paddock Wood NDP

Date: 13 January 2022

Dear Planning Team

PADDOCK WOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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

This is available at: <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/Environment-Toolkit-20181220.pdf>

We also recommend your Plan takes account of relevant Local Planning Authority's policies, plans and strategies including Local Planning Authority's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, flood risk strategies (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/flood-risk-management-current-schemes-and-strategies>), and the South East River Basin Management Plan (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/south-east-river-basin-management-plan/>) Thames River Basin Management Plan (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/289937/geth0910bswa-e-e.pdf) as appropriate.

The information below explains the key issues we would consider in reviewing your Plan. We aim to reduce flood risk, while protecting and enhancing the water environment.

Flood risk

Development must be safe and should not increase the risk of flooding. Neighbourhood Plans should conform to national and local policies on flood risk: If a Neighbourhood Plan is proposing sites for development please check whether there are any areas of Flood Zones 2 or 3 within the proposed site allocations. You can view a site's flood zone on the Flood Map for Planning on our website: <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>

If the proposed allocation is located within Flood Zone 2 or 3 you should consult the Flood Risk and Coastal Change pages of the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG): <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change/>

Environment Agency
Orchard House Endeavour Park, London Road, Addington, West Malling, Kent, ME19 5SH
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/environment-agency



Here you can determine whether the flood risk vulnerability of the proposed development and the flood zone are compatible. In accordance with national planning policy the Sequential Test should be undertaken to ensure development is directed to the areas of lowest flood risk. This should be informed by the Environment Agency's floodmap for planning and the Local Planning Authority's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), if they have one. We recommend you contact the Local Planning Authority to discuss this requirement further. We would have concerns if development is allocated in this high risk flood zone without the Sequential Test being undertaken.

It is important that your Plan also considers whether the flood risk issues associated with these sites can be safely managed to ensure development can come forward. We can provide any flooding information which we have available – such as predicted flood levels and historical flood data. Please note that there may be a charge for this information. Please contact our Customers and Engagement Team at ksle@environment-agency.gov.uk for further details.

In addition to the above you should also check with the Local Planning Authority's Neighbourhood Planning team with regards to other sources of flooding (such as surface water, groundwater, sewers and historic flooding) as detailed in their Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). The Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), now has responsibility for local flood risk management and may hold flooding information that is not identified on our Flood Map.

Climate Change Allowances

The Local Authority's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment should indicate the extent of flood zones with likely climate change.

On 19 February 2016, we published new guidance for planners and developers on how to use climate change allowances: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances>.

Flood Defences

Areas of your Neighbourhood Plan area, or proposed sites, may be given protection by a flood defence/alleviation scheme. Where this is the case the Plan should acknowledge this and identify the level of protection provided (including any climate change allowance). It should be noted that flood defences are intended to protect existing properties and are not to facilitate new development in areas that would otherwise be impacted by flooding. Any assessment of development behind flood defences should consider the impacts of a breach or overtopping. Where it is determined that new development should be behind a flood defence financial contributions may be sought to maintain or improve the structure.

Thames Estuary 2100 (Tidal Defences)

In line with requirements set out in the Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100) plan, developments in this location will need to demonstrate how the flood defence could be raised in the future to meet the demands of climate change.

No activities on site should preclude access to the flood defence from maintenance or prevent the future raising of flood defences. In some cases we hold technical drawings of flood defence structures which may be of use. To request these you should contact our Customers and Engagement Team at ksle@environment-agency.gov.uk

Ecology

Main rivers can be viewed on the Environment Agency's map:

<https://environment.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=17cd53dfc524433980cc333726a56386>

We normally require a buffer zone of 8 metres (fluvial) and 16 metres (tidal) between any new development and the top of the bank of the main river. The permanent retention of a continuous unobstructed area is an essential requirement for emergency access to the river for repairs to the bank and for future maintenance and/or improvement works. A buffer between new development and the river wall is also required to ensure no adverse loading which could impact the stability of the channel wall. This buffer zone will help provide more space for flood waters, provide improved habitat for local biodiversity and allows access for any maintenance requirements.

Where development is proposed next to the river we recommend that it includes a green buffer strip alongside the watercourse. Where such a buffer strip does not currently exist, we normally seek that it is established. This is a key way in which we carry out our legal duty to further and promote the ecological and landscape value of rivers and land associated with them. In urban areas, in particular, rivers have often been degraded by past development, and we expect that any new development should go some way to redress the balance.

The provision of green infrastructure, particularly along rivers, and the inclusion of sustainable drainage techniques can help reduce the risk of flooding. This can also provide recreational and wildlife benefits. Opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in the Plan will be encouraged. In accordance with national policy, any development proposal should avoid significant harm to biodiversity and seek to protect and enhance it; delivering biodiversity net gain. We would not support development proposals if there was shown to be a likely detrimental impact on the water environment.

Water Management and Groundwater Protection

Local level actions and decision making can help secure improvements to the water environment. This is widely known as the catchment-based approach and has been adopted to deliver requirements under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). It seeks to:

- deliver positive and sustained outcomes for the water environment by promoting a better understanding of the environment at a local level; and
- encourage local collaboration and more transparent decision-making when both planning and delivering activities to improve the water environment.

Neighbourhood Plans provide an opportunity to deliver multi-functional benefits through linking development with enhancements to the water environment. Local WFD catchment data can be obtained from:

<http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/>

Overall deterioration in water quality and promoting improvement in the ecological status of any water body. Actions to achieve this are listed in the Thames River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and the South East River Basin Management Plan [https://www.gov.uk/search?q=River Basin Management Plans](https://www.gov.uk/search?q=River+Basin+Management+Plans)

Where appropriate, a WFD Assessment (<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/water-supply-wastewater-and-water-quality/water-supply-wastewater-and-water-quality-considerations-for-planning-applications/>) should assess any potential impacts on the watercourse and demonstrate that the required enhancements will be delivered. Any development that has the potential to cause deterioration in classification under WFD or that precludes the recommended actions from being delivered in the future is likely to be considered unacceptable to us.

Groundwater Quality

Development must not cause pollution to the water environment.

Aquifers and Source Protection Zones

Some of your local area, and specific potential site allocations, may be located upon or within aquifers and Source Protection Zones (link below). SPZ 1 is especially sensitive. You might consider these within your Plan and when allocating sites. The relevance of the designation and the potential implication upon development proposals should be seen with reference to our Groundwater Protection guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-protection>

To see if a proposed development is located within a Source Protection Zone, please use our online map: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/groundwater-source-protection-zones-spzs>

Land Contamination

You must consider land contamination when preparing your plan. Managing it during development is key to addressing past contamination and preventing further impacts during development.

You can establish if a site may be contaminated in several ways. Your Local Authority may hold a register of sites it knows to be contaminated. A list of potentially contaminated sites can be accessed on the following link:

<https://www.clare.co.uk/useful-government-legislation-and-guidance-by-country/76-key-documents/198-doe-industry-profiles>

We recommend you contact your Local Authority's Environmental Health team who may hold records on known/potential land contamination. Please note our primary concern is with regards to water quality. Your Local Authority's Environmental Health

team will advise you on issues related to human health.

Further information can be accessed on the following links:

- Guiding principles for the Land Contamination
<https://www.clare.co.uk/useful-government-legislation-and-guidance-by-country/192-guiding-principles-for-land-contamination-gplc>

- Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination:
<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328160926/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/scho0804bibr-e-e.pdf>

- Approach to Groundwater Protection
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/692989/Environment-Agency-approach-to-groundwater-protection.pdf

Water supply and foul drainage

When allocating sites in your Plan, you will need to consider if the water supply and foul drainage infrastructure can accommodate the development. Your local water company can provide further information about water supply and sewerage capacity. Surface water drainage

The inclusion of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) should always be a consideration within any development to reduce the risk of surface water flooding on and off site. The Lead Local Flood Authority, is the main contact for SUDS issues. However, we have interest in SUDS from a groundwater protection perspective and those areas of critical drainage.

The collection and dispersal of clean surface water to ground to recharge aquifer units and prevent localised drainage or surface systems flooding in heavy rainfall is encouraged. However, dispersal into the ground through soakaways or other infiltration systems requires a site-specific investigation and risk assessment.

Generally, we would accept roof drainage going to soakaway (or other systems), but other surface drainage may need to go through treatment systems or to foul main, for instance vehicle parking. Infiltrating water has the potential to cause mobilisation of contaminants present in shallow soil/made ground which could ultimately cause pollution of underlying groundwater resources. Where contamination is known or suspected, remedial or other mitigating measures will likely be required so that it can be demonstrated that there is no resultant unacceptable risk to Controlled Waters. We advise applicants to follow our guidance – Groundwater Protection. This is a report that highlights the importance of groundwater and encourages industry and other organisations to act responsibly and improve their practices. This can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-protection>

The design of the drainage systems should be in line with G1, G9, G12 and G13 position statements: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/groundwater-protection-position-statements>

Yours sincerely

Joanna Hodgson
Sustainable Places Technical Specialist

Direct dial 0208 4746716

Direct e-mail KSLPLANNING@environment-agency.gov.uk

Date: 11 February 2022
Our ref: 380411
Your ref: Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan



Ms K McFloyd
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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

BY EMAIL ONLY

Katie.McFloyd@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Ms McFloyd

Neighbourhood Plan – Review SEA & draft HRA Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 12 January 2022.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

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 (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 Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), 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.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening

Natural England agrees with the report's conclusions that the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.

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

Yours sincerely

Sally Wintle
Consultations Team



FW: SEA Screening - Paddock Wood NDP

1 message

Katie McFloyd <Katie.McFloyd@tunbridgewells.gov.uk>
To:

14 February 2022 at 17:01

Please see response from HE below.

From: Lloyd Sweet, Robert <Robert.LloydSweet@HistoricEngland.org.uk>
Sent: 28 January 2022 17:02
To: Katie McFloyd <Katie.McFloyd@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk>
Cc: Byrne, Alan <Alan.Byrne@HistoricEngland.org.uk>
Subject: Fw: SEA Screening - Paddock Wood NDP

Dear Katie

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the draft screening statement for SEA of the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood plan.

Based on the information provided I'm happy to confirm Historic England's agreement that SEA would not be merited on grounds within our areas of interest. We do, as ever, reserve the right to request a review of this decision should the scope of the plan change or if fresh information demonstrates an unanticipated significant effect for the historic environment could arise.

I would be happy to answer any queries with regard to these comments

Yours sincerely

Robert Lloyd-Sweet

Robert Lloyd-Sweet | Historic Places Adviser | South East England | Historic England

Cannon Bridge House | [25 Dowgate Hill](#) | London | EC4R 2YA

Mobile: 07825 907288

From: Katie McFloyd <Katie.McFloyd@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk>

Sent: 12 January 2022 13:08

To: 'KSLPlanning' <KSLPLANNING@environment-agency.gov.uk>; 'consultations@naturalengland.org.uk'; 'e-seast@historicengland.org.uk'

Cc: Hannah Young <Hannah.Young@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk>; 'jherbert@troyplanning.com' <jherbert@troyplanning.com>

Subject: SEA Screening - Paddock Wood NDP

THIS IS AN EXTERNAL EMAIL: do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and were expecting the content to be sent to you

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a SEA screening opinion report for your consideration. The report is for a Neighbourhood Development Plan being prepared within our Borough for Paddock Wood Parish. The draft NDP can be found at the following location alongside the Design Guidelines and Codes report (too large to email):

<https://filetransfer.midkent.gov.uk/>

Username - pwndp

Password - nprR0z/j

I understand that the legislation does not specify the timescales required for a response to an SEA Screening Request (only scoping) so I presume that we should follow the same timescales for an EIA screening request i.e. 3 weeks (Wednesday 2nd February).

Many thanks,

Katie



Katie McFloyd MSc BSc (hons) MIEMA

Planning Environmental Officer

(Part-time Mon, Tues and Weds)

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