

Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion (including consultation responses)

Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

October 2020

Quality information

Prepared by

Nick Chisholm-Batten
Associate Director

Checked by

Alastair Peattie
Associate Director

Approved by

Alastair Peattie
Associate Director

Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorized	Name	Position
V.1.0	28/08/2020	Draft for group comment	28/08/2020	Kevin Whiteside	Milton Ernest NP Steering Group
V.2.0	04/09/2020	Consultation version	04/09/2020	Nick Chisholm-Batten	Associate Director
V.3.0	10/10/2020	Final version incorporating statutory consultee responses	10/10/2020	Nick Chisholm-Batten	Associate Director

Prepared for:

Milton Ernest Parish Council

Prepared by:

AECOM Limited
3rd Floor, Portwall Place
Portwall Lane
Bristol BS1 6NA
United Kingdom

T: +44 117 901 7000
aecom.com

© 2020 AECOM Limited. All Rights Reserved.

This document has been prepared by AECOM Limited ("AECOM") for use of Locality (the "Client") in accordance with generally accepted consultancy principles, the budget for fees and the terms of reference agreed between AECOM and the Client. Any information provided by third parties and referred to herein has not been checked or verified by AECOM, unless otherwise expressly stated in the document. No third party may rely upon this document without the prior and express written agreement of AECOM.

Table of Contents

1.	Purpose of this SEA Screening Opinion.....	1
2.	Context for the Neighbourhood Plan	2
3.	Screening assessment.....	6
4.	Summary of screening opinion.....	10

Appendix A: Responses on screening opinion from statutory consultees

This page has been left intentionally blank.

1. Purpose of this SEA Screening Opinion

- 1.1 This SEA Screening Opinion has been prepared in relation to the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan by AECOM.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Screening Opinion is to set out a screening opinion in relation to whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process is required to accompany the development of the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan. The Screening Opinion has been provided to the statutory consultation bodies for SEA (Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England) for their opinion.
- 1.3 SEA is a systematic process undertaken to evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of plans. The requirement for SEA in England was introduced in 2004 through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 ('The SEA Regulations'), which transposed the European SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).
- 1.4 One of the 'Basic Conditions' that a Neighbourhood Plan is tested against is whether the making of the Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with European Union obligations, including obligations under the SEA Directive. Neighbourhood Plans only require SEA where they are likely to lead to significant environmental effects. To decide whether a proposed Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it should be screened against the criteria set out in Annex 2 of the SEA Directive.
- 1.5 Where it is determined that the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require SEA), a statement of reasons for this determination should be prepared and published for consultation with the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England). Where a Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, an SEA process must be carried out.
- 1.6 This Screening Opinion therefore provides a screening opinion as to whether the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environment effects, and as such requires an SEA process. In this context it presents the following:
 - Details and context of the Neighbourhood Plan, including its scope and likely content, its relationship with the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 and the key environmental constraints in the vicinity of the Neighbourhood Plan area (**Chapter 2**)
 - A discussion of the potential significant environmental effects of the Neighbourhood Plan and their significance (**Chapter 3**); and
 - A summary of the screening opinion (**Chapter 4**).
- 1.7 The statutory environmental bodies for SEA are subsequently invited to provide their comments.

2. Context for the Neighbourhood Plan

Key information relating to the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan is presented in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1: Key information relating to the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Qualifying Body	Milton Ernest Parish Council
Title of the Plan	Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan
Area covered by the Plan	The Neighbourhood Plan covers the village of Milton Ernest in the Borough of Bedford in Bedfordshire. Milton Ernest is located approximately 7km north of Bedford. The boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, which aligns with that of the parish of Milton Ernest, is presented in Figure 2.1 below.
Timescale	The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period to 2030 to align with that of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030.
Purpose, aims and objectives	The vision for the Neighbourhood Plan is as follows: <i>“The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to ensure that Milton Ernest remains a safe, successful and rural village with a balanced and diverse community. It will reflect the aspirations of the community and ensure that facilities and services are provided should any additional housing or business development be required and that such development retains and improves its character and value.”</i> To help implement this vision, seven aims have been identified for the Neighbourhood Plan: • Character: To preserve, protect and enhance the green and rural identity of our surroundings and the distinct character of our village. • Natural environment: To protect the ecological value and biodiversity of our area, our local wildlife and its habitat. • Community Facilities: To seek to maintain, enhance and increase appropriate community facilities within and around the village. • Sustainable development: To ensure that any future development, including employment sites, within the parish contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. • Housing need: To meet any new and identified housing demand in a way that is appropriate to the needs of the local community. • Transport: To improve the safety, sustainability and convenience of all forms of transport within the village and to reduce any negative impacts to the local community. • Community well-being: To ensure that the local environment enables residents to have an enjoyable, safe, and peaceful place to live, including mitigating severance of the community by the A6.
Neighbourhood Plan contact	Kevin Whiteside, Chair of the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan Working Group kevin.whiteside49@gmail.com

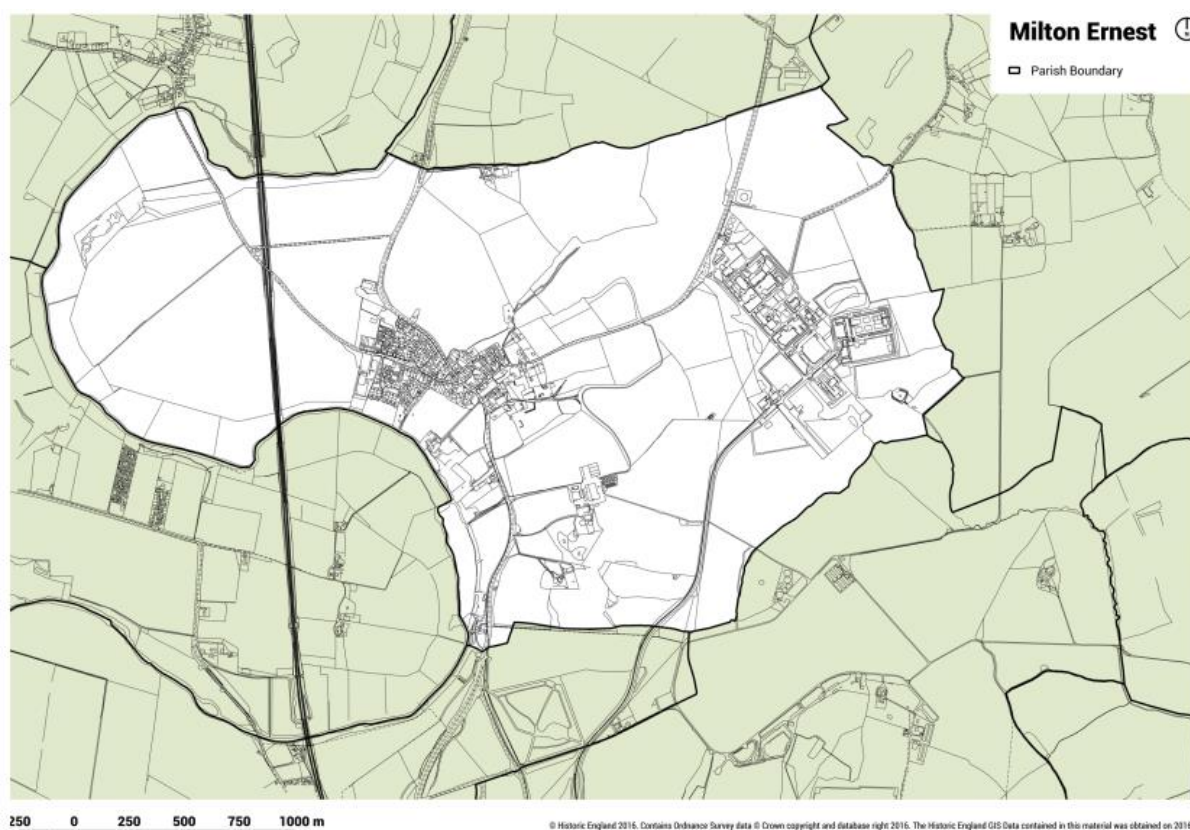


Figure 2.1: Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan area

Further context for the Neighbourhood Plan, including the key environmental constraints in the Neighbourhood Plan area, is presented in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2: Further context relating to the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan

Local Plan context for the Neighbourhood Plan

The current development plan for Bedford Borough comprises the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030. The Local Plan 2030 was adopted in January 2020.

Milton Ernest in the Local Plan has been identified as a 'rural service centre'. Rural service centres are defined in the Local Plan as having fewer facilities, which provide a more localised convenience and service role to meet day to day needs of residents and businesses in the rural areas. In the settlement hierarchy, they sit below the Bedford and Kempston urban area and the eight key service centres identified for the borough.

Policy 4S of the Local Plan (*Amount and distribution of housing development*) highlights that Milton Ernest should deliver in the region of 25-50 homes in the plan period. The policy also highlights that the allocation of sites to deliver this number should take place through the Neighbourhood Plan, and such allocations should generally take place in and around the defined Settlement Policy Area boundary in the village.

What are the key components of the Neighbourhood Plan?

The purposes and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan are presented above in Table 2.1.

In terms of key land use policies which should be considered for their potential for significant environmental effects, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to allocate a site for in the region of 25 homes at a site north of Rushden Road (Figure 2.2).

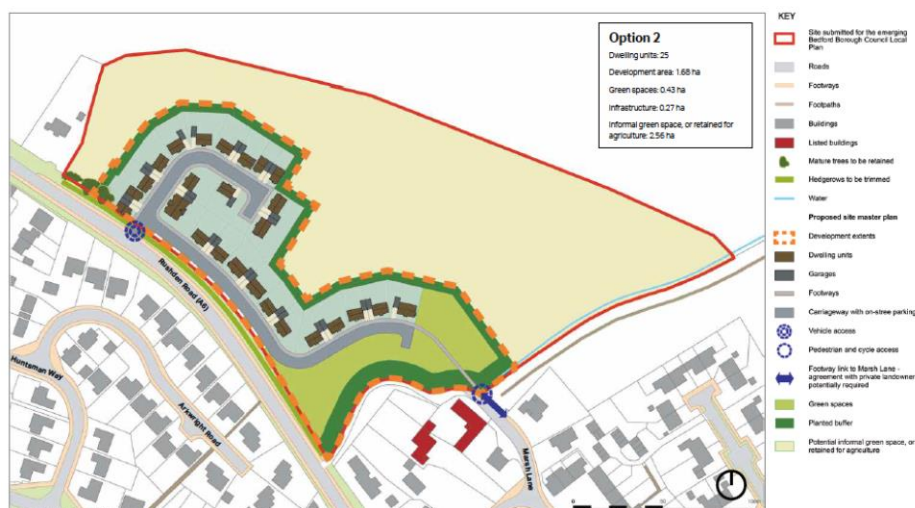


Figure 2.2: Location of proposed residential site allocation at Rushden Road

Are there any sensitive receptors within or in close proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area?

A key determinant of whether effects are likely to be significant is the sensitivity of the asset affected. In this context, the more environmentally sensitive a location, the more likely it is that potential environmental effects from a plan will be significant.

The NPPG provides guidance on this topic through providing a list of sites and areas which should be deemed as 'sensitive areas' for the purposes of environmental assessment.¹

These comprise:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- Natura 2000 sites;
- National Parks;
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- World Heritage Sites; and
- Scheduled Monuments².

In the context of the NPPG, there are two sensitive areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area, both of which are scheduled monuments:

- Shrunken medieval village at Milton Ernest, Bedfordshire (covering two areas to the north east and south east of the village)
- Yar!s Wood hermitage and moated site (located in the east of the parish at Yar!s Wood).

In addition, there is a further scheduled monument located just outside of the boundaries of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the south west (Enclosures E of East End Farm).

The locations of the scheduled monuments are highlighted in Figure 2.3 below:

¹ I.e. those sites and areas that should be considered 'sensitive' for the purposes of screening projects for Environmental Impact Assessment.

² <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment/screening-schedule-2-projects/interpretation-of-project-categories/>

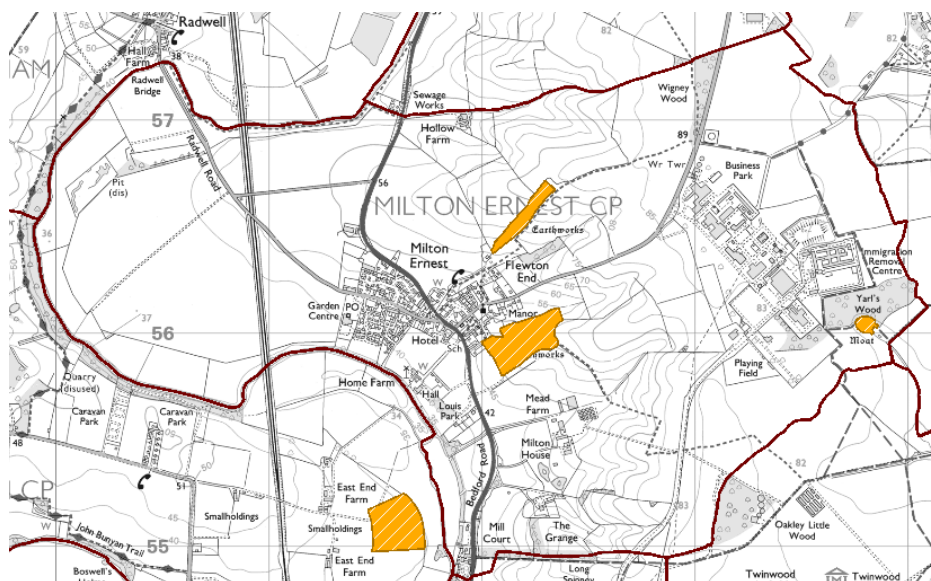


Figure 2.3: Location of scheduled monuments in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan area (source www.magic.gov.uk)

In terms of other key environmental assets (i.e. those which are not defined as 'sensitive areas' by the NPPG), these include in the Neighbourhood Plan area:

- Two Grade I listed buildings (Milton Ernest Hall and Parish Church of All Saints)
- 22 Grade II listed buildings
- Three County Wildlife Sites (Milton Ernest Pits, Yarl's Wood and the Glebe).

There are no conservation areas or Grade II* listed buildings present in the parish. Whilst flood risk associated with the River Great Ouse is present in the parish, this does not affect a significant number of dwellings given the built-up part of the village is elevated above the river's floodplain.

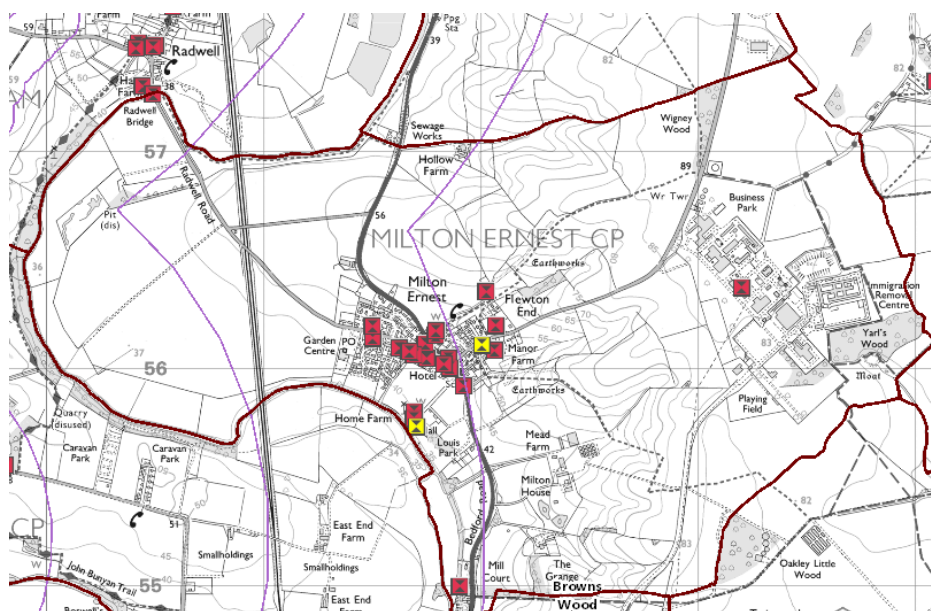


Figure 2.4: Location of listed buildings in the Neighbourhood Plan area (source www.magic.gov.uk)

3. Screening assessment

Table 3.1 discusses the significance of the potential environmental effects of the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan, and their likely significance.

Table 3.1: Potential environmental effects of the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan and their significance

SEA Topic	Discussion of potential effects and their significance	Is there the potential for a significant effect (Yes/No)?
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	No SSSIs are present in the parish. In addition, no parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area are within Impact Risk Zones for SSSIs located outside of the parish. With regards to Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, initial Habitats Regulations Assessment screening undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan has highlighted that there are not likely to be impacts on internationally designated sites in the vicinity of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to allocate 25 homes at the H1: Land at Rushden Road site. The site largely comprises arable land with little biodiversity value. A small area on the south eastern boundary comprises permanent grassland. However, the proposed allocation seeks to protect this area as part of a landscaped buffer, and also facilitate biodiversity enhancements more widely on the site. This will limit the scope for significant effects on biodiversity as a result of potential Neighbourhood Plan proposals. Alongside, a key facet of the evolving plan is the protection and enhancement of key habitats and ecological networks and supporting enhancements through the Biodiversity Opportunity Network. This will help limit effects on biodiversity and support biodiversity improvements. In light of this evidence, effects on biodiversity are <u>unlikely to be significant</u>.	No
Population and human health	The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a range of policies which have an explicit focus on improving the quality of life of residents, including improving the public realm, for accessibility to services and facilities and green infrastructure enhancements. Whilst the benefits which arise for residents from a well-designed Neighbourhood Plan have the potential to be wide-ranging, these are <u>not deemed to be significant</u> with regards to the SEA Regulations and their requirements.	No
Soil	Recent agricultural land classification has not been undertaken in the parish. According to Natural England's provisional agricultural land quality dataset, which is based on a high-level assessment undertaken prior to 1988, much of the parish is underlain by land classified as Grade 2 and 3 agricultural land. As such, a large proportion of undeveloped land in the parish is likely to be classified as the 'best and most versatile' land. The allocation of 25 homes proposed through the Neighbourhood has the potential to take place on the best and most versatile land. However, the allocation seeks to retain a significant part of the site for agriculture. Given the limited loss of agricultural land due to the limited scale of the allocation, the effect on soil resources is <u>deemed to be insignificant</u> with regards to the SEA Regulations and their requirements.	No

SEA Topic	Discussion of potential effects and their significance	Is there the potential for a significant effect (Yes/No)?
Water	Development proposals influenced by Neighbourhood Plan policies may lead to very limited changes in water demand in the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, in the context of water management within East of England, and wider population pressures, the effect on water resources is <u>deemed to be insignificant</u> . Similarly, given the limited scale of the allocation taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (which is not located within a groundwater source protection zone), impacts on water quality in the Neighbourhood Plan area from the Neighbourhood Plan are unlikely to be significant.	No
Air	Given the distance of the Neighbourhood Plan allocation from the closest AQMA in Bedford town centre, it is unlikely to significantly increase congestion - or alternatively – secure improvements to traffic flows at this location. As such, effects on air quality as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan, are <u>unlikely to be significant</u> .	No
Climatic factors	In terms of climate change mitigation, the Neighbourhood Plan allocates land for 25 homes. Whilst the allocation would lead to inevitable increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the village and an intensification of uses at this location, these are unlikely to be significant given the size of the site and the scale of likely development. In addition, given the Local Plan already stipulates that this level of development should be taken forward, any increase in emissions would be unlikely to exceed that which would be seen otherwise. Fluvial flood risk associated with the presence of the River Great Ouse is present to the west of the village. Whilst it is considered that statutory requirements (including the requirements of the NPPF) will help ensure that flood risk is addressed through new development proposals, the Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate in locations at risk of flooding. As such significant impacts on flood risk are not anticipated as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan. Effects in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation are therefore <u>unlikely to be significant</u> with regard to the SEA Regulations and their requirements.	No
Material assets	The Neighbourhood Plan may lead to small but very limited increases in the Neighbourhood Plan area's waste management requirements. Effects are likely to be further limited by statutory requirements regarding waste management. No mineral sites are likely to be affected as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan. Effects are therefore <u>unlikely to be significant</u> in the context of the SEA Regulations and their requirements.	No

SEA Topic	Discussion of potential effects and their significance	Is there the potential for a significant effect (Yes/No)?
Cultural heritage	A key potential effect on the historic environment from the Neighbourhood Plan relates to the allocation of 25 homes at the H1: Land at Rushden Road site. In this respect, the allocated site is located close to the Grade II listed 'Lindham Court' and the Grade II listed 'Barn and Outhouse at Lindham Court'. The locations of these two listed buildings in association with the proposed allocation are indicated in red below.  In recognition of these potential effects, the Neighbourhood Plan sets out a number of provisions which seek to limit impacts on the setting of these features. This includes a 10-metre-wide planted buffer to the south of the site specifically designed to support the setting and conserve the character of the two listed buildings from new development areas. In addition, a significant proportion of the site will remain undeveloped to serve as an informal green space for the community. These provisions have been informed by a number of background evidence base studies undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan. This includes the Milton Ernest Character Assessment 2017, which undertook a detailed analysis of the historical, built and natural character of the village. Through describing the distinct appearance and feel of different parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area, it seeks to communicate the key physical features and characteristics that combine to give the village its local distinctiveness and unique identity. Through this approach the Character Assessment has been tailored to inform the policies relating to character areas, design and local heritage. In addition, a masterplanning exercise was undertaken for the site which considered a number of different options for the allocation. This was with a view to limiting potential negative effects of development. More broadly, the draft Neighbourhood Plan policies set out a range of provisions which will conserve and enhance the fabric and setting of the historic environment. This includes a close focus on protecting and enhancing historic villagescape character and the setting of the historic environment, and on implementing high quality design. These provisions will help ensure that any undue harm to the integrity of features and areas of historic environment value is avoided through new development in the Neighbourhood Plan area. In addition, there will be no direct or indirect effects on the fabric and setting of the two scheduled monuments in the parish from the proposed Neighbourhood Plan allocation. Given the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to draw on evidence to proactively limit and manage potential effects on key heritage assets in Milton Ernest, and, where possible, facilitate enhancements, any negative effects are <u>unlikely to be significant</u> in the context of the SEA Regulations and their requirements.	No

SEA Topic	Discussion of potential effects and their significance	Is there the potential for a significant effect (Yes/No)?
Landscape	No nationally or locally designated areas of landscape value are present in the Neighbourhood Plan area. Whilst the allocation of 25 dwellings through the Neighbourhood Plan at the Rushden Road site has some potential to have effects on landscape character, these are likely to be limited by site specific policies which seek to limit impacts on landscape and villagescape character. This includes the integration of landscaping buffering which seeks to delineate the new edge of the built-up area from the countryside to the north in order to ensure a sympathetic village edge transition. Furthermore, a significant proportion of the allocated site will remain undeveloped to serve as an informal green space for the community. In addition, the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan have a close focus on protecting and enhancing landscape and villagescape character and the setting of the historic environment, and on implementing high quality design. This will help reduce impacts on landscape character. Given the relatively small scale of the allocated site, and its location in an area of lower landscape sensitivity, effects are unlikely to be significant in the context of the SEA Regulations and their requirements.	No

4. Summary of screening opinion

This screening opinion has considered whether the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects in conjunction with Directive 2001/42/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and accompanying regulations.

The screening has considered a number of potential environmental effects that may arise as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan. Whilst some limited environmental effects have the potential to take place as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered that these are unlikely to be significant in the context of the SEA Regulations and their requirements.

The SEA topic for which effects have the most potential to be significant relates to the historic environment. This relates to the potential effects of the Neighbourhood Plan allocation at Rushden Road on the setting of two Grade II listed buildings located to the south of the site. However, the Neighbourhood Plan takes an evidence base-led approach to the allocation which proactively seeks to preclude negative effects on these features of historic environment interest. In addition, the Neighbourhood Plan has a strong focus on conserving and enhancing the historic environment and supporting high quality design and local distinctiveness. For this reason, the allocation taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant effects on the fabric and/or setting of key heritage assets in the parish.

More broadly, key elements of the Neighbourhood Plan's objectives and emerging policies are to limit potential environmental effects, secure environmental enhancements and to bring benefits for the quality of life of the village's residents. This will further limit the potential for significant negative environmental effects.

For these reasons, it is considered that the Neighbourhood Plan is not subject to the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and associated regulations. As such, **an SEA process meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations is not deemed to be required to accompany the development of the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan.**

Appendix A Responses on screening opinion from statutory consultees



Historic England

Mr Nick Chisholm-Batten
AECOM
Portwall Place
Portwall Lane
Bristol
BS1 6NA

Direct Dial: 01223 582746

Our ref: PL00714282

2 October 2020

Dear Mr Chisholm-Batten

RE: Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening

Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment on 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 Milton Ernest 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 plan will not have any significant effects on the historic environment. We the allocation of 25 homes at the H1: Land at Rushden Road site, but concur with the Screening Report's conclusion that the development of this site in the way suggested is unlikely to cause significance effects in the context of the historic environment.

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.

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



24 BROOKLANDS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 8BU

Telephone 01223 582749
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.



Historic England

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, either via email or the number above, if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

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

cc:



24 BROOKLANDS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 8BU

Telephone 01223 582749
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

Date: 10 September 2020
Our ref: 327071
Your ref: Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan



Nick Chisholm-Batten
AECOM
nick.chisholm-batten@aecom.com

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

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Chisholm-Batten,

SEA Screening Opinion: Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan, Bedford

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 04 September 2020 which was received by Natural England on 04 September 2020

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.

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

Yours sincerely,

Ben Jones
Consultations Team

Chisholm-Batten, Nick

From: Benn, Neville <neville.benn@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Sent: 16 September 2020 11:31
To: Chisholm-Batten, Nick
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: 200908/SSR16 - Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan: Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion
Attachments: Milton Ernest NP_SEA Screening Opinion V2.0_040920.pdf

Dear Nick

We agree with the conclusions that have been reached.

Kind regards

Neville Benn
Senior Planning Advisor
Sustainable Places
East Anglia Area (West)

✉ Environment Agency, Bromholme Lane, Bampton, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE28 4NE
☎ Internal: 51906
☎ External: 0203 0251906
☎ Mobile: 07471 021540
💻 neville.benn@environment-agency.gov.uk



From: Chisholm-Batten, Nick [<mailto:nick.chisholm-batten@aeacom.com>]
Sent: 04 September 2020 17:30
To: Enquiries, Unit <enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Cc: kevin.whiteside49@gmail.com
Subject: 200908/SSR16 - Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan: Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion

Dear the Environment Agency,

SEA Screening Opinion: Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan, Bedford

The Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan Working Group is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish of Milton Ernest in Bedford Borough.

In association with the requirement for Neighbourhood Plans to demonstrate that they have met the relevant European obligations, please find attached a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion for the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan.

The attached Screening Opinion sets out the reasons for which it is considered that a full SEA process is not required for the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan in association with the requirements of the SEA Regulations. This is given that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan.

On this basis, please could you confirm whether you agree with this screening determination.

We look forward to receiving your response. If you could respond to this email address within four weeks from today (i.e. with a consultation end date of 2nd October 2020), we would be very grateful.

Best regards,

Nick Chisholm-Batten

Nick Chisholm-Batten

Associate Director
Environment - Policy and Appraisal
M +44-07824-413331
nick.chisholm-batten@aecom.com

AECOM

Portwall Place
Portwall Lane
Bristol, BS1 6NA
United Kingdom
T +44-01179017000
aecom.com
[Environmental Sustainability](#)

[LinkedIn](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)



Information in this message may be confidential and may be legally privileged. If you have received this message by mistake, please notify the sender immediately, delete it and do not copy it to anyone else. We have checked this email and its attachments for viruses. But you should still check any attachment before opening it. We may have to make this message and any reply to it public if asked to under the Freedom of Information Act, Data Protection Act or for litigation. Email messages and attachments sent to or from any Environment Agency address may also be accessed by someone other than the sender or recipient, for business purposes.

