

**BASSETT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – PUBLICATION
VERSION**

**SEA AND HRA FORMAL SCREENING OPINION AND
SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF POLICIES**

JANUARY 2015

1. Southampton City Council Formal Screening Opinion

- 1.1 As provisionally indicated in the Draft Bassett Neighbourhood Plan SEA/SA and HRA Screening Report (August 2014), Southampton City Council is now able to provide a formal screening determination which confirms that SEA and a full Appropriate Assessment are not required. This follows confirmation from the statutory environmental bodies which constitutes Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage agreeing with the approach and conclusions of the Draft Bassett Neighbourhood Plan SEA/SA and HRA Screening Report. The responses from the environmental bodies to the request for a formal screening opinion can be viewed in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The reasons for the Council reaching its screening opinion are due to there being no new land use allocations or set development quantum proposed as part of the Plan. This view is also based on how the policies seek to reinforce and do not go outside or deviate from the remit of the existing Core Strategy and Local Plan policies whilst other policies provide a specific focus upon protection and enhancement.

2. Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.1 Although not a legal requirement for meeting basic conditions, a Sustainability Appraisal exercise was undertaken alongside the Regulation 14 consultation draft of the Plan in order to demonstrate that the Neighbourhood Plan has taken account of the need to contribute towards the delivery of sustainable development¹. This document includes an update of the previous Sustainability Appraisal exercise and has been undertaken for the purposes of assessing the policies in the publication Plan.

Consideration of Alternative Options

- 2.2 The Draft Bassett Neighbourhood Plan SEA/SA and HRA Screening Report (August 2014) set out how alternative options were considered in the context of the existing Development Plan through the policies of the Amended Local Plan (2010), Core Strategy (2010) and other supporting documents where necessary with justification provided for why the preferred options in developing the Plan policies were chosen. Some of the alternatives to the preferred options were not directly drawn from existing Plan policies or had no specific protection of an existing use where it was considered necessary to draw out a key issue.
- 2.3 Policy BAS 2 – Consultation constitutes a new policy within the publication Plan. No alternative options need to be considered in this instance due to its content previously being incorporated within the remit of Regulation 14 consultation draft Plan Policies BAS 1 – New Development and BAS 3 – Windfall Sites whereby alternative options have already been considered.
- 2.4 Policy BAS 14 – Drainage constitutes a new policy following its publication as a recommendation within the Regulation 14 consultation draft of the Plan. Therefore, no alternative options have previously been considered. Table 1 provides an assessment of how the alternatives and preferred option have been considered for Policy BAS 14.

¹ Draft Bassett Neighbourhood Plan SEA/SA and HRA Screening Report:
<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/policies/Bassett%20Neighbourhood%20Plan%20SEA%20SA%20HRA%20Screening%20Report.pdf>

Table 1: Consideration of Preferred and Alternative Options for Policy BAS 14 Drainage

Bassett Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Summary of Preferred Option	Summary of Alternative Option 1
BAS 14 – Drainage	To ensure that new developments over 1 dwelling provide evidence that the means of drainage has been examined to ensure it is capable of coping with the extra peak flows. Also to attach a condition as part of a planning approval for the submission a drainage statement to be submitted to and agreed by the LPA.	No alternative options considered.
<p>Preferred Option Justification for Policy BAS 14: The preferred option will help towards ensuring that adequate drainage infrastructure is maintained for new residential development within the Bassett Neighbourhood Area. This will therefore comply with the broader approach of Core Strategy Policies CS 20 – Adapting to Climate Change and CS 25 – The Delivery of Infrastructure and Developer Contributions. It will also comply with Paragraph 162 of the NPPF whereby it is stated that Local Planning Authorities should work with other authorities and providers to assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure which includes water supply and wastewater infrastructure. In this context, it is therefore considered that there are no alternative options to consider.</p>		

Sustainability Objectives

2.5 The sustainability objectives in Table 2 are considered to comprise a balance of social, economic and environmental considerations and have again been used for assessing each of the policies. These were also used for assessing each of the policies in the Draft Bassett Neighbourhood Plan SEA/SA and HRA Screening Report (August 2014). A broad overview regarding how the Plan meets social, economic and environmental sustainability considerations is also provided within the Bassett Neighbourhood Plan Publication Version Basic Conditions Statement (January 2015).

Table 2: Sustainability Objectives

Sustainability Objectives	
1	Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, well designed, sustainably constructed and affordable home.
2	Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.
3	Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health.
4	Reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas of the City and the rest of the region.

Sustainability Objectives	
5	Facilitate educational achievement levels across the City. Develop opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work, to support long-term competitiveness of the City.
6	Create and sustain vibrant communities with reduced crime and fear of crime.
7	Improve accessibility to and enhance services and facilities.
8	Encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the City's community. Support cultural events and sporting activities in the City's parks, commons and open spaces.
9	Improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including re-use of materials from buildings, and encourage urban renaissance and improvements in townscape.
10	Reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve.
11	Address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and ensure that the City is prepared for its impacts.
12	Conserve and enhance the City's biodiversity.
13	Reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice, promoting sustainable travel and reducing the need for travel by car/lorry.
14	Encourage sustainable consumption and production by promoting sustainably produced local products.
15	Reduce waste generation and achieve the sustainable management of waste.
16	Maintain and improve the water quality of river, estuary, coastal and groundwater, and achieve sustainable water resources management.
17	Increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the City.
18	Facilitate high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from economic growth and stimulate economic revival in priority regeneration areas.
19	Develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities.
20	Protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the City's green spaces and historic environment.

Sustainability Appraisal of Publication Policies

- 2.6 Table 3: Screening of Publication Policies provides an assessment of changes that have been made to the policies following the Regulation 14 consultation draft of the Plan against the relevant sustainability objectives (as shown in Table 2). To accompany the commentary, a simple scoring methodology which is set out below has been applied to broadly illustrate the effect of potentially significant changes on each area of sustainability. The assessment in Table 3 follows on from the initial sustainability appraisal of the policies which was undertaken in the Draft Bassett Neighbourhood Plan SEA/SA and HRA Screening Report (August 2014). Table 3 shows that for the large part, the changes that have been made will result in no changes to the initial SA findings of the Regulation 14 consultation draft plan policies that were assessed with just a few resulting in changes to these initial SA findings.

Scoring	Effect
Positive effect – change made to publication policy would help in achieving noted objective(s)	
Negative effect – change made to publication policy would be in conflict with noted objective(s).	
Uncertain effect – change made to publication policy would have an uncertain effect upon the noted objective(s). Or effect concluded to be uncertain as more detail is required.	

Table 3: Screening of Publication Policies

Policy Number	Description of Change Reason / Comment	Is it likely to change the SA assessment and why?
BAS 1 – New Development	Support will be given to new development proposals for family houses, including large detached family houses as defined in Paragraph 66 of the NPPF and Paragraph 8.7 of this plan, in areas of low density, outlined within the neighbourhood plan, that provide a wide choice of high quality homes, particularly family houses and large family homes (NPPF paragraph 58).	The added reference to providing a wide choice of high quality homes will help to reduce some of the uncertain effects identified in relation to sustainability objective 4. However, there is still some uncertainty as to whether the policy (or Plan generally) would cater for the provision of smaller households for which there is also a strong need due to the particular preference for family houses and large family homes. Therefore, the uncertain effect identified against sustainability objective 4 remains.
BAS 1 – New Development	New developments, or any development in existing garden land, will be strongly encouraged to	Text alteration unlikely to change the SA assessment. However, it

Policy Number	Description of Change Reason / Comment	Is it likely to change the SA assessment and why?
	<p>undertake consultation with, and take note of the views of, the local community via the local residents association or group, or the Bassett Neighbourhood Forum, prior to the submission of a planning application. (NPPF Paragraph 189). should follow the national guidelines (NPPF paragraph 59) regarding overall scale, density, massing, height and landscape in relation to neighbouring buildings and the local area generally, and BAS 4 and BAS 5 of this plan.</p>	<p>is possible that it could help to strengthen the previously identified positive effects for Sustainability Objective 9 by encouraging urban renaissance and improvements in townscape.</p>
BAS 2 – Consultation	<p><u>New development, or any development in existing garden land, will be strongly encouraged to be subject to consultation with, and take note of, the views of the local community (NPPF paragraph 189).</u></p>	<p>Constitutes a new policy in the publication Plan. However, this was previously incorporated within as separate criteria within Policy BAS 1 as part of the Regulation 14 Draft Consultation and is not considered to have any effects against any of the sustainability objectives. However, it is considered that the policy would have a positive social benefit through enlightening community empowerment through the planning application process.</p>
BAS 3 – Windfall Sites (previously BAS 2)	<p>Windfall sites will be supported, provided that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They conform to the density and character of the area and surrounding property properties as per policies BAS 3 4 and BAS 4 5 of this Plan and Policies CS 5 and CS 16 of the Core Strategy. 	<p>Text alteration unlikely to change the SA assessment.</p>
BAS 3 – Windfall Sites (previously BAS 2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <u>They meet the requirements of relevant Core Strategy and other development plan policies and policy BAS 2 of this plan.</u> 	<p>Text addition unlikely to change the SA assessment.</p>

Policy Number	Description of Change Reason / Comment	Is it likely to change the SA assessment and why?
BAS 3 – Windfall Sites (previously BAS 2)	2. <u>They meet the requirements of relevant Core Strategy and other development plan policies and policy BAS 2 of this plan.</u>	Text addition unlikely to change the SA assessment.
BAS 3 – Windfall Sites (previously BAS 2)	2. There is consultation with local residents via their Residents Association or Group or the Bassett Forum and note is taken of their views. (NFFP Paragraph 189)	Text deletion unlikely to change the SA assessment. For further information, see Policy BAS 2 – Consultation which now incorporates this text.
Policy BAS 4 – Character and Design (previously BAS 3)	To ensure that new development takes account of the existing character within the context of the street scene <u>is designed appropriately</u> , it must follow:	Text alterations unlikely to change the SA assessment.
Policy BAS 4 – Character and Design (previously BAS 3)	1. <u>The densities set out in BAS 5.</u>	Text addition is more specific to that previously included in the policy (ie previously stated that new development takes account of the relevant density of surrounding properties). This will therefore help to eliminate some of the uncertainty against Sustainability Objective 9 relating to improving efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings.
Policy BAS 4 – Character and Design (previously BAS 3)	2. <u>The need to take account of the existing character within the context of the street scene by</u> a. Compliment <u>Complementing and enhance enhancing</u> the existing rhythm, proportion, height, scale, massing, materials and storey heights of its surroundings, with regard to neighbouring properties and visual amenity;	Text alterations unlikely to change the SA assessment.

Policy Number	Description of Change Reason / Comment	Is it likely to change the SA assessment and why?
	<p>b. Following a strong contextual approach to ensure that it complements and enhances the existing character and context of the street scene in the streets of smaller properties including properties that are semi-detached, terraced and bungalows.</p> <p>c. Take account of the relevant density of surrounding properties.</p>	
Policy BAS 5 – Housing Density (previously BAS 4)	<u>Guidelines explaining the densities and their locations are contained in the annex in this plan.</u>	Text addition unlikely to change the SA assessment.
Policy BAS 6 – Houses in Multiple Occupation (previously BAS 5)	e. The proposal complies with the current provisions of the adopted <u>SCC SPD Houses of Multiple Occupation Policy for Bassett Ward</u> and City Policy H4.	Text alterations unlikely to change the SA assessment.
Policy BAS 7 – Highways and Traffic (previously BAS 6)	No changes made.	n/a
Policy BAS 8 – Bassett Green Village (previously BAS 7)	1. The village must retain its status and character as a Conservation Area and the village green maintained as amenity space. <u>(As designated in Bassett Green Village Conservation Area 1977).</u>	Text addition unlikely to change the SA assessment.
Policy BAS 9 – Trees (previously BAS 8)	1. Development that damages or results in the loss of <u>ancient trees protected by tree preservation orders</u> or trees of good arboricultural and amenity value will not be permitted <u>(see paragraph 16.5).</u>	Text additions unlikely to change the SA assessment.
Policy BAS 9 – Trees (previously BAS 8)	2. <u>Proposals for development should be designed to retain ancient trees or trees of good arboricultural and amenity value described above.</u>	Text alterations unlikely to change the SA assessment.

Policy Number	Description of Change Reason / Comment	Is it likely to change the SA assessment and why?
Policy BAS 9 – Trees (previously BAS 8)	3. Proposals should be accompanied by a tree survey that establishes the health and longevity of any affected trees and a management plan setting out how they will be se maintained, <u>to preserve the sylvan character of Bassett.</u>	Text alterations unlikely to change the SA assessment.
Policy BAS 10 – Grass Verges (previously BAS 9)	No changes made.	n/a
Policy BAS 11 – Local Shops (previously BAS 10)	No changes made	n/a
Policy BAS 12 - Business and Industry (previously BAS 11)	No changes made	n/a
Policy BAS 13 – Southampton Sports Centre and Southampton City Golf Course (previously BAS 12)	1. That ALL existing lands within the boundaries of the Outdoor Sports Centre, City Golf Course and the amenity woodland lying between these sites and Winchester Road, <u>Dunkirk Road and Coxford Road</u> , be retained as public open space and for sports and recreation related use for the benefit of future generations of Southampton residents in accordance with their status as public open space.	Text addition unlikely to change the SA assessment.
Policy BAS 13 – Southampton Sports Centre and Southampton City Golf Course (previously BAS 12)	2. <u>That only development proposal for sporting and recreational facilities will be permitted within the area described in 1 above, as this is of particular importance in the Bassett Plan (see 19.10 above).</u>	Text addition provides clarity on the type of development that will be permitted within the Sports Centre although unlikely to change the SA assessment.
Policy BAS 13 – Southampton Sports Centre and Southampton City Golf Course (previously BAS 12)	3. That any development proposal for sports and recreation related use within the boundaries of the Outdoor Sports Centre, City Golf Course and the amenity woodland lying between these sites and Winchester Road be	Text deletion unlikely to change the SA assessment.

Policy Number	Description of Change Reason / Comment	Is it likely to change the SA assessment and why?
	subject to rigorous, City-wide public consultation.	
Policy BAS 14 – Drainage (new policy, previously a recommendation)	<u>New developments over 1 dwelling must provide evidence that the means of drainage has been examined to ensure it is capable of coping with the extra peak flows and if necessary there should be a condition as part of planning approval that a drainage statement be submitted to and agreed by the Local Planning Authority (NPPF paragraph 162).</u>	It is considered that the policy will have a positive effect upon sustainability objective 2 in respect of surface water flooding.

3. Overall Summary of Findings

3.1 Table 3 illustrates that the publication Plan policies will not change the majority of the broad effects that were initially identified within the Plan which was published for Regulation 14 draft consultation. The overall effects against each sustainability objective for each of the publication policies is also shown in Table 4: Sustainability Assessment of Publication Policies. The only additional positive effect identified is through the introduction of Policy BAS 14 – Drainage which will address surface water flooding in respect of new residential development. The uncertain effect previously identified for Policy BAS 4 – Character and Design has also been eliminated. Pending the uncertain effects being dealt with, the Plan is mostly sustainable and will contribute towards a number of sustainable development objectives. The overall findings for each of the policies along with potential mitigation or enhancement measures where these have been identified are set out below.

Policy BAS 1 – New Development

3.1.1 The policy would encourage a decent residential environment and would be in line with the PUSH strategy where a need is identified for homes with 4 or more bedrooms. The main concern of this policy relates to the uncertainty identified through a potential gentrification of communities.

Policy BAS 2 – Consultation

3.1.2 This constitutes a new policy in the publication Plan. However, this was previously incorporated within as separate criteria within Policy BAS 1 as part of the Regulation 14 Draft Consultation and is not considered to have any effects against any of the sustainability objectives. However, it is considered that the policy would have a positive social benefit through enlightening community empowerment through the planning application process.

Policy BAS 3 – Windfall Sites

3.1.3 The policy is continuing along the lines of the Core Strategy whereby windfall sites are promoted as an acceptable contribution towards the overall housing supply within the city. It is not known how many opportunities could come forward over the period of the Plan further to those sites which have been identified through the 2013 SHLAA. However, should such opportunities arise, they should be planned for appropriately, with sites coming forward in the

medium and higher density areas being allowed to cater for the recommended density range in these areas if considered appropriate against other planning considerations.

Policy BAS 4 – Character and Design

- 3.1.4 The policy will help towards achieving developments which are well designed and take account of the character of the existing neighbourhood. However, it will be necessary to ensure that criteria c would not prevent appropriate development proposals for medium and high density developments in these areas as noted above.

Policy BAS 5 – Housing Density

- 3.1.5 It is acknowledged that the identified low density areas will help towards retaining the character of existing neighbourhoods in relation to Policy BAS 3 Character and Design. However, it will be important for the Policy BAS 4 Residential Density to counter balance the requirement for lower densities in the lower density areas through higher density developments being permitted in the higher density areas. This will help towards ensuring that the Plan takes account of its share of residential development in the northern part of the city over the Plan period.

Policy BAS 6 – Houses of Multiple Occupation

- 3.1.6 The policy is considered to be similar to Policy H 4 Houses of Multiple Occupation of the Local Plan in respect of the amenity and character related criteria. It is acknowledged that the application of the thresholds allows for a fine balance in allowing HMOs proposals in circumstances where these (as also applied through the HMO SPD) are met and for the vibrancy of existing communities to be sustained in respect of continued pressures for this particular type of housing. Overall, the policy is considered to strike a good balance and is therefore considered to have positive effects. However, it is important to note that the policy would score negatively if criteria e or any other of the criteria within the policy was used as a tool to refuse all HMO proposals irrespective of the thresholds.

Policy BAS 7 – Highways and Traffic

- 3.1.7 Traffic congestion and related environmental impacts are noted to be a particular issue during the morning and evening peak rush hour periods along the main routes running through the Bassett Neighbourhood Area. It is considered that the policy, particularly with reference to criteria e and sustainable travel plans being promoted to the staff at Southampton General Hospital and The University of Southampton would help towards reducing private car use. However, the traffic calming and traffic mitigation proposals included in the policy may not be significant enough to ameliorate these traffic related issues on their own without public transport measures and behavioural changes. However, it is acknowledged that behavioural change is a wider issue to that which the Bassett Neighbourhood Plan will be able to deal with.

Policy BAS 8 – Bassett Green Village

- 3.1.8 The policy would continue the approach of the Local Plan and Core Strategy through providing continued protection to the Conservation Area status of Bassett Green Village. Positive effects have therefore been identified through the SA assessment.

Policy BAS 9 – Trees

- 3.1.9 The policy would expand upon the approach of Policies NE 6 Protection / Improvement of Character and SDP 12 Landscape and Biodiversity of the Local Plan with specific coverage to the protection of trees of good arboricultural and amenity value throughout the Bassett Neighbourhood Area. It will be important for this policy to be considered alongside these Local Plan and Core Strategy policies in order to ensure maximum protection to the natural green environment and its assets.

Policy BAS 10 – Grass Verges

- 3.1.10 The policy would expand upon the approach of Policies NE 6 Protection / Improvement of Character and SDP 12 Landscape and Biodiversity of the Local Plan by providing specific coverage to the protection of grass verges throughout the Bassett Neighbourhood Area. However, it is important to note that the policy will only be beneficial where grass verges are included within the red line boundary of any submitted planning application. It will be important for this policy to be considered alongside these Local Plan and Core Strategy policies in order to ensure maximum protection to the natural green environment and its assets.

Policy BAS 11 – Local Shops

- 3.1.11 The protection of local shops in Copperfield Road would expand upon the approaches of Policy REI 6 Local Centres of the Local Plan and Policy CS 3 – Town, district and local centres, community hubs and community facilities of the Core Strategy. This is because Copperfield Road has not previously been identified as a local shopping centre within the existing statutory planning framework. However, it is important to note that whilst the benefits of retaining the local shops in Copperfield Road are recognised, this also needs to be considered against changes to permitted development rights being made at the national level. This is because change to the Use Class Order which have applied since 6th April 2014 allow permitted development rights for retail (under 150 m²) to be changed to residential use under a new Class IA and to other uses such as B1a. However, there is further uncertainty as to how permanent these measures will be with it being possible that these recent changes to the use class order could be changed again over the course of the Plan period.

Policy BAS 12 – Business and Industry

- 3.1.12 The retention of Hollybrook Industrial Estate will be important for the local economy with this being the only such protected employment site within the Bassett Neighbourhood Area. Its retention will help to provide a wider range of jobs such as for those in skilled and manufacturing trades. The policy will need to be considered alongside REI 11 Light Industry of the Local Plan (where it is referred to as Northbrook Industrial Estate) and Policy CS 7 Safeguarding Employment Sites of the Core Strategy and the associated criteria of this policy.

Policy BAS 13 – Southampton Sports Centre and Southampton City Golf Course

- 3.1.13 The retention of the Southampton Sports Outdoor Centre and Southampton City Golf Course would help towards the continued protection of an important facility which serves the wider community within the city as well as residents within the Bassett Neighbourhood Area. The policy is considered to be positive in this respect especially when taking into account previous objections made through the Local Plan Review consultation prior to its adoption in 2006 whereby enabling residential development was proposed on part of the site.

Policy BAS 14 – Drainage

- 3.1.14 The policy will help towards ensuring that adequate drainage infrastructure is maintained for new residential development within the Bassett Neighbourhood Area. This is considered to be particularly important due to historical drainage problems experienced within the Neighbourhood Area and will particularly help towards reducing surface water flooding.

Potential Mitigation Measures

- 3.2 Further to the mitigation provided by Policies CS 15 and CS 16 of the Core Strategy, it may be necessary for policy criteria to be included in Policy BAS 1 – New Development or for alternative policies to take account of a wider range of housing needs.
- 3.3 It is considered that the uncertain effects identified for Policy BAS 3 – Windfall Sites can be appropriately eliminated by Core Strategy Policy CS 13 – Fundamentals of Design, the

Amended Local Plan design urban led policies and Policy BAS 4 – Character and Design within the publication Neighbourhood Plan.

- 3.4 It is considered that the uncertain effects identified under Policy BAS 5 – Housing Density can be eliminated by Core Strategy Policy CS 18 – Transport: Reduce – Manage – Invest by helping towards improving public transport provision and links in order to encourage a modal shift. This will help towards promoting patterns of development that reduce the need to travel, especially by car and also help to increase walking and cycling. The uncertain effects identified for Policy BAS 5 – Housing Density can also be eliminated by Core Strategy Policy CS 21 – Protecting and Enhancing Existing Open Space and Amended Local Plan Policy CLT 3 – Protecting and Enhancing Existing Open Space by ensuring that open spaces which are already identified on the Local Plan Proposals Map will be given continued protection.

Overview of Effects Identified through the Sustainability Appraisal Assessment

- 3.5 Table 4 provides a summary of the effects identified through the SA process for each of the proposed policies which includes new policies BAS 2 – Consultation and BAS 14 – Drainage. For further information, a detailed assessment for each of the policies that were published as part of the Regulation 14 Draft Consultation can be viewed in the SEA/SA and HRA Screening Report.

Table 4: Sustainability Assessment of Publication Policies

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Sustainability Objectives																			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
BAS 1	+			?		+			+										+	
BAS 2																				
BAS 3						?	?		+											
BAS 4	+					+														
BAS 5													?							?
BAS 6	+			+		+														
BAS 7										+	+		+							
BAS 8									+											+
BAS 9		+								+		+								+
BAS 10		+								+		+								+
BAS 11								+					+							
BAS 12				+		+	+						+					+	+	
BAS 13			+			+		+				+								+
BAS 14		+																		

Identified Effects

+	Positive effect	?	Uncertain Effect	-	Negative effect		No identified effect
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**APPENDIX 1: LETTERS FROM STATUTORY
ENVIRONMENTAL BODIES CONFIRMING
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL SEA/SA AND
HRA SCREENING OPINION**

Date: 09 October 2014
Our ref: 130684
Your ref: Basset Neighbourhood Plan- Reg 14 Draft Consultation



Councillor Les Harris
Chair of the Basset Neighbourhood Forum
Southampton City Council

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

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Planning consultation: Formal opinion/conformation on whether Natural England agree with the approach and conclusions of the Basset Neighbourhood Plan SEA/SA & HRA Screening Report
Location: Basset, Southampton, Hampshire

Thank you for your consultation on the neighbourhood plan and its associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) dated 29 August 2014 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

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.

Natural England agrees with the conclusions of the assessment, and does not consider that it poses any likely or significant risk to those features of the natural environment¹ for which we would otherwise provide a more detailed consultation response, and so does not wish to make specific comment on the details of this consultation.

If you disagree with our assessment of this plan as low risk, or should the plan be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment, then in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, please consult Natural England again.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Chelsea Hayward
Hampshire Coast, Isle of Wight and New Forest

¹ Cases which might affect a SSSI, Natura 2000 site, National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or a large population of a protected species and/or cases or generic issues which affect a large suite of sites or may set a precedent and thereby affect a significant quantity of habitat across the country



Southampton City Council
Civic Centre
Southampton
Hampshire
SO14 7LH

Our ref: HA/2006/000318/OR-06/PO1-
L01
Your ref:
Date: 10 October 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Bassett Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation Draft

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the Bassett Neighbourhood Plan. We have the following comments to make.

Draft Plan

Based on the environmental constraints within the area, we have no detailed comments to make in relation to the Plan. However 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:

<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GEHO0212BWAZ-E-E.pdf>.

We will continue to work with partners to influence the Development Plan Documents in your area.

SA/SEA

As a statutory consultee, I can confirm that we agree with the approach and conclusions of the Bassett Neighbourhood Plan SEA/SA Report.

If you require any further information regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact me using the information below.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Laura Lax
Senior Planning Adviser

Direct dial 01794 834587
Direct e-mail laura.lax@environment-agency.gov.uk

Environment Agency
Canal Walk, ROMSEY, Hampshire, SO51 7LP.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency
END



ENGLISH HERITAGE

SOUTH EAST

Councillor Les Harris
C/o Democratic Services
Southampton City Centre
Civic Centre
Southampton, SO14 7LY.

Our ref: HD/P6025/05
Your ref:
Telephone 01483 252040
Fax

9th October 2014

Dear Councillor Harris,

Bassett Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation Draft

Thank you for your e-mail of 29th August advising English Heritage of the consultation on the Draft Bassett Neighbourhood Plan. We are pleased to make the following comments.

We welcome Chapter 10 on the character of Bassett as we consider that an understanding of character is an essential starting point for neighbourhood plans. We also welcome and support Policy BAS 3.

Mention could perhaps be made of the listed buildings within the ward in this section, or in a new section specifically on heritage. Is there a list of locally important heritage assets in Bassett ?, If so, this could usefully be referenced in this section; if not, the Plan could propose the compilation of such a list as a project. Advice on local listing is available from English Heritage or the City Council's Conservation Officer.

We also welcome paragraphs 15.1 and 15.3 and welcome and support Policy BAS 7, although the first part of the policy is more an objective or statement of intent than a planning policy. Is there a Conservation Area Character Appraisal and/or Management Plan for Bassett Green ? Again, if so, this could usefully be referenced within this section; if not, then the Plan could propose one as a project. Advice on Character Appraisals and Management Plans is also available from English Heritage or the City Council's Conservation Officer.

Do you have a definition for "ancient" trees in Policy BAS 8 ? Should the policy seek replacements for trees that may be lost through development proposals to maintain the sylvan character of Bassett ?

EASTGATE COURT 195-205 HIGH STREET GUILDFORD SURREY GU1 3EH

Telephone 01483 252000 Facsimile 01483 252001

www.english-heritage.org.uk

Please note that English Heritage operates an access to information policy.
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available



Whilst not a concern for English Heritage, we note that paragraph 24.3 refers to a “pressing need for family houses”, but the housing register indicates that more than 50% of total households on the waiting list need 1-bedroomed accommodation.

The description of the character of Bassett Green in paragraph 24.7 is very brief. Could more be said about the special architectural or historic interest of the Conservation Area ?

English Heritage confirms that, in its opinion, the Bassett Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects and that, therefore, a full Strategic Environmental Assessment is **not** required.

We hope these comments are helpful, but please contact me if you have any queries.

Thank you again for consulting English Heritage.

Yours sincerely,

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