

# **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion**

**Draft Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Plan (Pre – Regulation 14)**

**March 2018**

Prepared by:

London Borough of Camden

## **Contents**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Vision, objectives & priorities of the Plan
- 3.0 Assessment
- 4.0 Screening outcome

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. A neighbourhood plan may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to comply with European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”. The European Directive is transposed into law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. However, there is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. Neighbourhood plans are not defined as Local Plans, having their own designation and are produced by qualifying bodies under the Localism Act.
- 1.2. Under Article 3(3) and 3(4) of the SEA Directive, SEA is required for plans and programmes which “determine the use of small areas at a local level and minor modifications to plans and programmes” where they are determined to be likely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.3. A neighbourhood plan will be capable of being a material consideration in the assessment of future planning applications. It is the Council’s responsibility to identify whether an SEA should be undertaken. This is determined through an SEA screening exercise (table below).
- 1.4. The screening process is based upon consideration of standard criteria in Annex II of the Directive to determine whether the plan is likely to have “significant environmental effects”. The result of the Camden’s screening process is detailed in this screening statement.
- 1.5. The draft Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Plan sent to Camden Council in February 2018 has been screened to consider whether an SEA is required. Should policies within the plan change, the screening opinion of the borough could also change.
- 1.6. The screening report has been informed by the views of the statutory consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency).

## **2. Vision, objectives & policy priorities of the plan**

- 2.1. The stated vision of the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Plan is to “This Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Plan seeks to ensure that Dartmouth Park is a vibrant neighbourhood with a balanced and diverse community, with thriving local centres and excellent connectivity with the rest of London. While welcoming sustainable development that provides new jobs and needed housing, the people of Dartmouth Park wish to ensure that the area’s village character, rich architectural heritage, attractive green streets, open spaces and natural environment are not only maintained but enhanced.”

2.2. The draft Neighbourhood Plan's key policy areas include:

- Design and character
- Housing
- Community
- Neighbourhood centres and employment
- Environment and sustainability
- Transport and streets
- Specific neighbourhood sites

2.3. The plan also contains a number of projects. These are not considered as policies within the plan and therefore do not require testing for SEA.

### 3. Assessment

3.1. The 'responsible authority' must determine whether a plan or programme, in this case the draft Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Plan, is likely to have significant environmental effects with reference to the criteria specified in Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

3.2. These criteria are set out in the table below, along with consideration of the likely impact of the neighbourhood plan against each.

SEA Directive criteria	Comments	Likely Significant Effects?
<b>Characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular to:</b>		
1a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan must have regard to National Policy and be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the borough.</p> <p>The draft Neighbourhood Plan, if adopted, would form part of the statutory Development Plan for the borough and as such contribute to the framework for future projects and activities in the Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>The Plan does not allocate sites for development or address issues outside of those already assessed in the Council's Local Plan SA (incorporating SEA) and as such is not considered to have significant effects in this regard.</p>	No
1b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan must be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework and in general conformity with the Council's strategic policies.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan may form the context for and influence other documents for this area.</p>	No

including those in a hierarchy	However, it is considered the extent of impact is unlikely to be significant in this regard.	
1c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	<p>If passed at referendum, the plan will sit alongside the Council's current development plan documents which have undergone SA (incorporating SEA).</p> <p>The draft Plan considers all three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The policies seek to protect residential amenity and conserve natural and heritage assets identified as important by the local community. The extent of these effects are not considered sufficient to warrant SEA.</p>	No
1d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	The draft Neighbourhood Plan seeks to address some environmental problems within Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Area, such as increasing/protecting open/green space and limiting impermeable surfaces. These issues are addressed in the SA of the Local Plan and as such do not need further assessment.	No
1e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	The draft Plan is not directly relevant to the implementation of community legislation on the environment.	No
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
2a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	As discussed under Criterion 1a above, the policies are not considered to extend significantly beyond those already tested for SEA in the Council's Development Plan for the borough	No
2b) The cumulative nature of the effects	<p>Cumulative effects are where several policies or site allocations have insignificant effects but when put together have a significant combined effect.</p> <p>The draft Plan does not allocate sites for development nor do the policies extend significantly</p>	No

	beyond those already tested for SEA in the Council's Development Plan for the borough.	
2c) The trans-boundary nature of the effects	There are no trans-boundary effects arising from the draft Plan.	No
2d) The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	There are unlikely to be risks to human health or the environment arising from the Plan in respect of this criterion.	No
2e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The Plan would apply to development in the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Area.  A population of approximately 8,900 may be considered significant, however the neighbourhood plan does not allocate sites for development nor do the policies extend significantly beyond those already tested for SEA in the Council's Development Plan for the borough.	No
2f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values iii) intensive land-use	The Plan identifies a number of buildings not currently noted for their heritage value but are considered of merit in the neighbourhood area. Some shopfronts and public houses are also noted for their historic value. The extent of these effects are not considered sufficient to warrant SEA.	No
2g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	There are no landscapes of national or international protection status in the Plan area.	No

#### 4. Screening outcome

4.1. Having reviewed the draft Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Plan against the above criteria, as written, the Council considers that the Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

4.2. The London Borough of Camden's planning policies have undergone Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA). Policies in neighbourhood plans that are consistent with those policies need not go through further screening and assessment. There are policies in the draft Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Plan that seek to enhance and protect the environment. The extent to which these go beyond existing policy in the Council's Development Plan are not considered sufficiently significant to warrant carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

4.3. This determination has also been subject to consultation with the statutory consultation bodies. The consultation bodies, specified in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, that have been consulted are:

- Natural England
- Historic England; and
- Environment Agency.

4.4 The responses from the consultation bodies were received in March 2018 and set out below:

Natural England – confirms that the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites.

Historic England - agrees that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan does not set out policies likely to have sufficient significant environmental impacts likely to require full SEA.

Environmental Agency – do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects. However they note that the Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) will indicate if there are any Critical Drainage Areas (CDAs) from local sources of flood risk.

4.5 Regarding the Environment Agency's comments, officers note that the SWMP identifies that CDAs cover the majority of the borough (with the exception of a narrow strip of land along the northern boundary near Hampstead Heath). The York Rise Local Flood Risk Zone is located in the neighbourhood area which the SWMP notes could be vulnerable to flooding in an extreme (1 in 100 year) weather event. The Neighbourhood Plan however should enable better drainage. It includes policies which seek to resist hard surfacing of gardens, and protect green spaces and trees. Overall, flood risk in the neighbourhood area is likely to be low. The Council has therefore not consider that this issue justifies altering the assessment.

4.6 Copies of the representations from the consultation bodies can be found below.

Mr Benjamin Vickers  
London Borough of Camden  
Forward Planning & Projects  
PlanningPolicy@camden.gov.uk

**Our ref:** NE/2007/102642/OR-  
21/IS1-L01

**Date:** 27 February 2018

Dear Mr Vickers

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening report for Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Plan**

Thank you for consulting us on the above screening opinion. This consultation was received on 16 February 2018.

Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, there are no areas of fluvial flood risk, Source Protection Zones for groundwater or watercourses affected by the neighbourhood plan area. Therefore we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints.

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

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

This is available at:

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/lit\\_6524\\_7da381.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/lit_6524_7da381.pdf).

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Mr Demitry Lyons**  
**Sustainable Places Planning Advisor**

Direct dial 02084748769

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

End

Date: 19 March 2018  
Our ref: 239492  
Your ref: Dartmouth Park NP – SEA Screening



Mr B Vickers  
Planning Policy Officer  
London Borough of Camden  
Strategic Planning and Implementation  
Regeneration and Planning  
2nd Floor  
5 Pancras Square  
London N1C 4AG

Hornbeam House  
Crew e Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crew e  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

[PlanningPolicy@camden.gov.uk](mailto:PlanningPolicy@camden.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Vickers

**Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

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 are concerned (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 SEA Directive is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance<sup>i</sup>. 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](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Sharon Jenkins  
Consultations Team

---



Historic England

By email : [Planningpolicy@camden.gov.uk](mailto:Planningpolicy@camden.gov.uk)

Our ref. PL00322023

FAO

Telephone 020 7973 3717

Benjamin Vickers  
Planning Policy Officer  
London Borough of Camden  
Strategic Planning and Implementation  
Regeneration and Planning  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 5 Pancras Square  
London  
N1C 4AG

20 March 2018

Dear Camden Planning Policy Team

**Draft Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening - Pre Regulation 14**

Thank you for consulting Historic England.

The Government through the Localism Act (2011) and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) has enabled local communities to take a more pro-active role in influencing how their neighbourhood is managed. The Regulations require Historic England, as a statutory agency, be consulted on Neighbourhood Plans where the Neighbourhood Forum or Parish Council consider our interest to be affected by the Plan.

As the Government's adviser on all matters pertaining to the historic environment and a consultation body for the purposes of Regulation 10(4) of the Town and Country (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 ("the EIA Regulations"), English Heritage writes to inform the London Borough of Camden's Screening Assessment on the Environmental Statement for the Proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Dartmouth Park, London.

On the basis of this information provided we agree with the assessment set out in Draft SEA Screening Report, prepared by the London Borough of Camden, that the proposed



Historic England, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA  
Telephone 020 7973 3700 Facsimile 020 7973 3001  
[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)



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

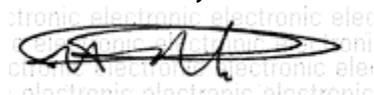
Neighbourhood Plan does not set out policies likely to have sufficient significant environmental impacts likely to require full SEA.

Having reviewed the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, we consider this to be well written, accurate and accessible, and likely to have positive benefits for the heritage, local character and vitality of the Plan area. The Plan clearly identifies the architecture and the history of the area as a key strength to be protected but also to inspire the way in which the area should develop. In light of this we do not wish to make detailed comments regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

If however there are any aspects of the Draft Plan which you consider would benefit from further consideration by Historic England please do not hesitate to contact us.

It must be noted that this advice does not affect our obligation to advise you on, and potentially object to any specific development proposal which may subsequently arise from this request and which may have adverse effects on the environment. We trust this advice is of assistance in the preparation of your scoping opinion.

Yours faithfully



Richard Parish  
Historic Places Adviser



Historic England, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA  
Telephone 020 7973 3700 Facsimile 020 7973 3001  
[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

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

