

Determining the need for HRA

Alton Neighborhood Development Plan

HRA Screening

The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the assessment required for any plan or project to assess the potential impacts against the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 wildlife sites. The assessment must determine whether the plans would adversely affect, or are likely to affect, the integrity of a site(s) in terms of its nature conservation objectives. Where negative effects are identified other options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.

Regulation	Yes/No	Reason
Regulation 5(3) Has the PP, in view of the likely effect on sites, been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive.	No	Natural England has been consulted in relation to the requirement. The settlement of Alton is well over 5km from the Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area, Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area and the Solent European sites therefore no further assessment work will be required.

Following consultation, Natural England have returned the following opinion:

Consultation Body	HRA required?	Comments
Natural England	No	09/02/21 Having taken a look at the screening document and based on the proximity to designated sites we would agree with the conclusion that SEA would not be required in this instance – as per our previous response back in

		<p>2015 and <i>that an HRA would equally not be required as part of this process.</i> We would however suggest that the LPA records this fact in a short document to ensure they have the decision is noted for reference should it be required as our opinion in this instance is purely an advisory one and it is down to the responsible authority to make the final decision.</p>
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Determination of the requirement for HRA

As a result of the assessment set out above, incorporating the comments from Natural England as the specific consultation body, East Hampshire District Council, as the responsible authority determines that:

A HRA of the Alton Neighborhood Plan is not required as there is no likelihood of significant effects in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected sites, as could be effected by the Alton Neighbourhood Plan, or in combination with other known plans, taking particular account of the sites conservation objectives.