

Ivybridge Draft Neighbourhood Plan
(Submission Version October 2016)

**Strategic Environmental Assessment
and Habitats Regulations Assessment
Screening Report**

28/04/2017

SCREENING OPINION

SEA

Having taken all of the relevant policies of the draft Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan (Submission Version October 2016) into account, and assessed the potential environmental impact on designated sites and landscapes, it is the Council's opinion that a full SEA is not required for the Neighbourhood Plan, due to the limited nature of development proposed and the continuity in land use. The full reasons for this conclusion are set out in the screening report in Appendix 1.

Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency were consulted on the above screening opinion on 14th March 2017 and no concerns were raised in a period of six weeks.

The Council has therefore determined under regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and that a full strategic environmental assessment is not required.

HRA

Due to the limited amount of development proposed, the Council considers that the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan will not have a significant effect on a European site and that therefore further assessment under the Habitats Regulations is not required. The full reasons are set out in Appendix 2 of this report.

Summary

SEA

This statement has been produced to comply with Regulation 15(1) e (ii) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

A neighbourhood plan is required to meet a number of basic conditions, one of which being it must not breach, and must be otherwise compatible with EU and Human Rights obligations. This requires neighbourhood plans to fully consider the requirements of the SEA regulations which transpose the EU's SEA Directive into law and which requires those making plans that could impact on the environment to consider whether they are likely to have a significant effect or not.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion was prepared by South Hams District Council for the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan (see Appendix 1). The statutory environmental bodies (Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency) were consulted on March 14th 2017.

Having taken all of the relevant policies of the draft INP into account, and assessed the potential environmental impact on designated sites and landscapes, it is the Council's opinion that a full SEA is not required for the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan. The reasons for this conclusion are set out in the screening report in Appendix 1.

HRA

The legislative basis for the **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)** is EU Habitats Directive Article 6(3) and Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

The 'Natura 2000 network' (more commonly referred to as 'European Sites') of sites are designated for the importance of habitats, species and birds (under the 'Habitats Directive' for Special Areas of Conservation, and the 'Birds Directive' for Special Protection Areas). The designation of European Sites was intended to provide legal protection for this flora and fauna of a European importance, requiring their maintenance or restoration in a favourable condition.

The process of HRA encompasses the requirements of the Habitats Directive and Habitats Regulations, and includes a decision on whether the plan (including Neighbourhood Plans) should be subject to appraisal. The 'screening' process is used to consider whether the plan would be likely to have significant effects on a European Sites, and if so whether an 'appropriate assessment' is necessary.

Due to the limited amount of development proposed, the Council considers that the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan will not have a significant effect on a European site and that therefore further assessment under the Habitats Regulations is not required. The full reasons are set out in Appendix 2 of this report.

Consultation

Consultation responses were received from two statutory consultees who raised no concerns. Full responses can be seen in Appendix 3.

Appendix 1

Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion

1.1 - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Process

The need for environmental assessment of plans and programmes is set out in the EU Directive 2001/42/EC, this was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 or SEA Regulations. The Localism Act 2011 requires neighbourhood plans to comply with EU legislation, although not all neighbourhood plans will require full environmental assessment, depending on what they propose and what effect this might have on the environment.

The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (General) 2012 as amended in January 2015 require qualifying bodies to submit to the LPA with their neighbourhood plan either a SEA report or a statement of reasons as to why this has not been necessary (Regulation 15(1)e). The latter will only be appropriate where the neighbourhood plan has been assessed using the criteria referred to in Regulation 9 (1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and where this assessment has shown that the neighbourhood plan is plan proposal is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. The 'Regulation 9' criteria are set out in Schedule 1 as follows:

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to—
 - (a) 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;
 - (b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
 - (c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
 - (d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and
 - (e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—
 - (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
 - (b) the cumulative nature of the effects;
 - (c) the transboundary nature of the effects;
 - (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);
 - (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
 - (f) 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; or
 - (iii) intensive land-use; and
 - (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

As part of its duty to support neighbourhood plans, South Hams District Council agreed to undertake the screening process to determine whether the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, and consequently whether SEA is required.

1.2. Ivybridge and environmental constraints in the Neighbourhood Plan Area

Ivybridge is a small town in South Hams District, Devon. While it is close to Dartmoor National Park, the town has few significant environment constraints. The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains a stretch of the River Erme which means that there is some potential for impacts on the River Erme SSSI further downstream. It also contains a designated County Geological site.

1.3. Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan

The Ivybridge Draft Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) sets out policies and approaches which will add local detail to policies within the Joint Local Plan. The Plan sets out a vision for Ivybridge as follows:

Ivybridge

A friendly mill town - along the river, beside the moor - offering healthy, creative, sustainable future lifestyles

The Plan contains eight policies as summarised in the table below.

Table 1. Summary of policies in the Plan

Policy	Summary of aims and key environmental effects
INP1: Town centre regeneration	Policy aims to support the regeneration of the town centre, including conservation and enhancement of historic buildings and features. Environmental effects are likely to be positive
INP2: Town centre land east of the River Erme	Proposes a mixed-use development on a brownfield site. Regard should be had to any possible impacts on the River Erme SSSI, but given that the proposed use is similar to previous use of the site, no major environmental effects are anticipated. The policy encourages 'a better relationship' with the River Erme, but there is no proposal to materially alter or change the river.
INP3: Glanville's Mill site	As above, a mixed-use development on a brownfield site. Likely effects are the same as INP2.
INP4: North of fore street	As above, a mixed-use development on a brownfield site. This site is less likely to have any impact on the River Erme SSSI and no significant environmental effects are anticipated.
INP5: Community facilities	Requires new development to contribute towards community infrastructure in order to help achieve existing local priorities. The policies lists prioritised projects but does not allocate sites for any of them. The environmental effect of the policy is therefore minimal.
INP6: Housing and employment	Requires major new housing development to include or contribute towards the provision of employment and

	work space, affordable homes and homes built to high standards. No sites are allocated and environmental impact is minimal.
INP7: Traffic and movement	Requires new development to contribution towards a transport study to help improve traffic issues in the Plan area. The policy aims to encourage walking and cycling and improve air quality. Environmental effects are likely to be positive.
INP8: Historic and natural environment	Requires new development to respect historic features and natural environment assets, discourages development in woodlands and open spaces and requires water quality in the River Erme to be protected and its ecological status enhanced. Environmental effects are likely to be positive.

2.0. SEA Screening and Statement of Reasons

Table 2 below provides the screening determination of the need to carry out a full Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan, including a statement of reasons for why this has not been considered necessary. The statutory consultees consisting of Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency will be consulted to ask for their comments.

Table 2: SEA screening

Criteria	Significant environmental effect?	Reason
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to—		
(a) 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;	NO	The broader policy framework is set by the NPPF and the Local Plan. The Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan does not propose significant new development in addition to or in contradiction to the Local Plan.
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	NO	Neighbourhood plans should be taken into account by other proposed plans, including the Local Plan, but there are no plans or programmes that need to be in conformity with it. The Plan will therefore not significantly influence other plans and programmes.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	NO	The policies in the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan are not considered likely to have a significant environmental impact on the integration of environmental considerations. Any development proposed will be in accordance with environmental

		protection policies of the adopted Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	NO	The Neighbourhood Plan area contains a stretch of the River Erme and consequently there is potential for impacts on the River Erme SSSI. The only other significant designation in the area is a County Geological site which includes the town centre. The nature of the proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan are not considered likely to have significant effects on either the SSSI or the County Geological site. See the screening opinion below for more detail.
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	NO	The Neighbourhood Plan is not relevant as a plan for implementing EC legislation.
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—		
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	NO	Any effects are considered to be minimal. While the proposals in the Plan would not be easily reversible should they be implemented, the proposed land use is not significantly different from existing uses. The plan provides some mitigation through policies such as INP 8, and if necessary in the future, further mitigation measures would be possible (such as programmes to minimise litter entering the River Erme).
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	NO	The effects from the Plan as a whole are not considered to be significantly greater than those from any individual policy.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;		The Plan will not have any transboundary effects.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	NO	There are considered to be no risks to human health.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	NO	The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the town of Ivybridge and a small part of the parish of Ugborough adjacent to the town. The population of the Neighbourhood Area is approximately 12,000. This is considered to be a small area in terms of wider environmental effects.
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to— (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;	NO	As discussed, the only vulnerable area which may be effected is considered to be the River Erme SSSI, and any effects are likely to be minimal.

(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and		
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	NO	As above. In addition, the Plan contains policies which are likely to have a positive effect on the environment generally and on the River Erme and the SSSI, in particular Policy INP8.

2.1 SEA Screening Opinion

Whilst the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan does identify areas for development, the land uses are broadly the same as those already in use. The brownfield nature of the town centre sites identified, and the proposed future use of these sites, would not result any significant environmental impact.

Whilst minimal impact is anticipated from the INP town centre policies, regard must be given to any potential impact downstream on the River Erme SSSI. Whilst the proposals in the INP do make reference to ‘creating a better relationship with the River Erme’, there are no proposals to materially alter or change the river, but instead to increase awareness of the river, and align future uses to face the river, rather than away from it. No new river crossings are proposed. Whilst increased footfall along the river via walkways or over the existing bridges may result in a small amount of additional littering entering the water course, the objective of these town centre policies is to achieve greater recognition of the river as an asset, and to conserve and enhance the benefits that the river brings to the town. As such, the proposals contained within the INP are unlikely to have a negative impact on the SSSI downstream.

A County Geological site is designated in the upstream area of the River Erme, and includes the town centre. Due to the nature and scale of development proposed in the INP town centre policies described above, it is not felt that any negative impact will result regarding the County Geological Site.

Whilst the INP does make reference to housing in policy INP6, no new housing allocations are proposed. The existing housing allocations for Ivybridge were subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment prior to the allocations being approved by an Inspector in 2011, and as such no further work is required regarding the housing proposals for Ivybridge.

Of the policies and proposals contained within the draft INP, policy INP7 and the associated proposals map make reference to road improvements that fall outside the designate neighbourhood plan for Ivybridge. As such, these policies cannot be assessed as they do not fall within the designated area, and should not be contained in the final draft of the INP.

Having taken all of the relevant policies of the draft INP into account, and assessed the potential environmental impact on designated sites and landscapes, this screening opinion has concluded that a full SEA is not required.

Appendix 2

Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan

Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening

1.0. The HRA process

The legislative basis for the **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)** is EU Habitats Directive Article 6(3) and Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

The 'Natura 2000 network' (more commonly referred to as 'European Sites') of sites are designated for the importance of habitats, species and birds (under the 'Habitats Directive' for Special Areas of Conservation, and the 'Birds Directive' for Special Protection Areas). The designation of European Sites was intended to provide legal protection for this flora and fauna of a European importance, requiring their maintenance or restoration in a favourable condition.

With respect to this HRA, all of the following designations, to which the HRA process applies, are referred to as 'European sites':

- **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)** special protection to flora, fauna and habitats
- **Special Protection Areas (SPAs)** are areas of land, water or sea of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare, vulnerable or migratory species of birds
- **Ramsar sites**, identified through the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
- **Proposed and candidate SPAs and SACs (pSPA, cSPA, pSAC, cSAC)** that are being considered for designation

1.1. The HRA screening process for neighbourhood plans

There are particular requirements for plans and projects set out within the European Directives (and transposed into domestic legislation in England by the 'Habitats Regulations').

The process of HRA encompasses the requirements of the Habitats Directive and Habitats Regulations, and includes a decision on whether the plan (including Neighbourhood Plans) should be subject to appraisal. The 'screening' process is used to consider whether the plan would be likely to have significant effects on a European Sites, and if so whether further assessment is necessary.

Straightforward mitigation measures can be included at this screening stage, which may rule out the likelihood of significant effects. If likely significant effects remain after straightforward mitigation measures are applied, the HRA process should proceed to a second stage which is called an 'Appropriate Assessment.'

An Appropriate Assessment will consider the implications for the European Site in view of the conservation objectives (generally to restore or maintain the features which led to the designation of the site), and consider whether the plan could affect the integrity of the site. More detailed mitigation measures may be considered at this stage. A plan should only be agreed once the competent authority has established that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of the European Sites.

With respect to Neighbourhood Plans, the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 require a submitted neighbourhood plan to include a statement explaining how the proposed Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. One of the basic conditions requires Neighbourhood Plans to be compatible with EU obligations and to demonstrate that it is not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

The Habitats Regulations do not prescribe a specific methodology for undertaking or reporting the appraisal of plans, however there is guidance within various documents and the following are most relevant:

- ODPM Circular 06/2005
- *The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Document (David Tyldesley and Associates for Natural England – final draft 2009)*
- *Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans, Guidance for Plan-Making bodies in Scotland (David Tyldesley and Associates, 2012).*

As this Neighbourhood Plan is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of a European site for nature conservation purposes it must proceed through the HRA screening process.

2.0. Selecting European sites that should be considered in the HRA screening

The decision about which European Sites should be considered in the Appraisal is based upon the checklist below (*adapted from Figure 2 of HRA of Plans, David Tyldesley and Associates, 2012*).

- Sites within the plan area
- Sites upstream or downstream of the plan area in the case of river or estuary
- Wetland sites with relevant hydrological links to land within the plan area
- Sites which have significant ecological links with land in the plan area (e.g. migratory birds/mobile species)
- Sites which may receive increased recreational pressure from the plan
- Sites that may be used for water abstraction
- Sites that could be affected by discharge of effluent from waste water treatment
- Sites that could be affected by significant increases in emissions from traffic

EUROPEAN SITES THAT COULD POTENTIALLY BE AFFECTED BY THE IVYBRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SOUTH HAMS EUROPEAN SITES				
Site Name & Designation	Qualifying Interests	Site vulnerabilities	Potential effects of plan	Relevance to Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan
Dartmoor SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heath with <i>Erica tetralix</i> European dry heath Blanket bog Old sessile oak woodlands <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>	Visitor and recreational pressure including accidental and deliberate burning, trampling and erosion particularly of blanket bog, disturbance of otters by activity on/near rivers Nutrient/acid deposition causing habitat loss Water quality – effect on Atlantic salmon and Otter	Increased recreational pressure resulting from new development Air pollution associated with new development	New residents from development in Ivybridge will lead to a small increase in visitor numbers on Dartmoor. Sensitive parts of the SAC are commonly not subject to high visitor pressure due to their isolation in remote areas, away from the main honey-pot sites at which visitors are absorbed. Where honeypot sites are close, car parking capacity is low with little or no potential for expansion. The nearest point of the SAC is 4km from Ivybridge and it is unlikely that at this distance regularly recreational activity (e.g. dog walking) would occur.
Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time Estuaries Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide Large shallow inlets and bays Reefs Atlantic salt meadows Shore dock Allis shad	Increased pressure for recreational moorings and facilities, port development, dredging Sensitivity to oil pollution Allis shad vulnerable to noise, vibration and degraded water quality	Increased recreational pressure - physical damage	Work has been commissioned with respect the SAC and recreational pressure associated with development. This work which supports the recently completed HRA of the Joint Local Plan (February 2017) proposes a 12km Zone of Influence around the SAC which would encompass Ivybridge. It is reasonable to anticipate that Ivybridge will be inside the zone of influence.
South Dartmoor Woods SAC	Old sessile oak woodlands <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles European dry heath	Visitor and recreational pressures Air pollution (associated with atmospheric nitrogen deposition from agriculture, industry, vehicles)	Increased recreational use – trampling and erosion/fires Air pollution associated with new development	The nearest part of South Dartmoor Woods SAC to Ivybridge is c.10km at Shaugh Prior. Sensitive parts of the SAC are commonly not subject to high visitor pressure due to their isolation in remote areas, away from the main honey-pot sites at which visitors are absorbed. Where honeypot sites are close, car parking capacity is low with little or no potential for expansion. There is no likely significant impact from proposed development in Ivybridge foreseen on the South Dartmoor Woods SAC.
Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	Internationally important populations of Avocet and Little Egret	Disturbance to Avocet and Little Egret Habitat loss – water quality, acid and nitrate deposition in important wetland areas	Increased recreational pressure associated with development – visual and noise disturbance of Avocet and Little Egret Additional housing in vicinity of SPA increasing discharge of pollutants from waste water treatment works (non-toxic contamination)	Work has been commissioned with respect the SAC and recreational pressure associated with development. This work which supports the recently completed HRA of the Joint Local Plan (February 2017) proposes a 12km Zone of Influence around the SAC which would encompass Ivybridge. It is reasonable to anticipate that Ivybridge will be inside the zone of influence.

2.1. Conservation Objectives

Natural England publish Conservation Objectives for each European site. Conservation Objectives are intended to assist competent authorities with meeting their obligations under the Habitats Regulations, providing a framework to inform HRA, in particular the Appropriate Assessment stage of HRA.

Where Conservation Objectives are met for the Qualifying Species, the site is considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be achieving a Favourable Conservation Status for that species or habitat.

With regards to the European sites, natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the Qualifying Features):

- *Avoid deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.*
- *Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:*
 - *The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;*
 - *The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;*
 - *The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;*
 - *The populations of qualifying species;*
 - *The distribution of qualifying species within the site.*

2.2 Criteria with which to screen the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan

The following table sets out criteria to assist with the screening process of policies and proposals within the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan to consider their potential effects on European Sites. Policies and proposals that fall within categories A and B are considered not to have an effect on a European Site and are not considered further within the HRA process. Policies and proposals that fall within categories C and D are considered further, including an in-combination consideration. If straightforward mitigation measures cannot be applied to avoid any significant effects, then any remaining policies and proposals that would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination must be taken forward to an Appropriate Assessment.

Category A: No negative effect	
A1	Options / policies that will not themselves lead to development e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy.
A2	Options / policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
A3	Options / policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European Site .
A4	Options / policies that positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.
A5	Options / policies that would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European Sites and associated sensitive areas.
Category B: No significant effect	

B	An option or policy or proposal that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a significant (negative) effect because the effects are trivial or 'de minimis', even if combined with other effects.
Category C: Likely significant effect alone	
C1	The option, policy or proposal could directly affect a European site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development onto a European site, or adjacent to it.
C2	The option, policy or proposal could indirectly affect a European site e.g. because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it or it may increase disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressures.
C3	Proposals for a magnitude of development that, no matter where it was located, the development would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.
C4	An option, or policy that makes provision for a quantity / type of development (and may indicate one or more broad locations e.g. a particular part of the plan area), but the effects are uncertain because the detailed location of the development is to be selected following consideration of options in a later, more specific plan . The consideration of options in the later plan will assess potential effects on European Sites, but because the development could possibly affect a European site a significant effect cannot be ruled out on the basis of objective information.
C5	Options, policies or proposals for developments or infrastructure projects that could block options or alternatives for the provision of other development or projects in the future, which will be required in the public interest, that may lead to adverse effects on European sites, which would otherwise be avoided.
C6	Options, policies or proposals which depend on how the policies etc are implemented in due course, for example, through the development management process. There is a theoretical possibility that if implemented in one or more particular ways, the proposal could possibly have a significant effect on a European site.
C7	Any other options, policies or proposals that would be vulnerable to failure under the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage; to include them in the plan would be regarded by the EC as 'faulty planning.'
C8	Any other proposal that may have an adverse effect on a European site, which might try to pass the tests of the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage by arguing that the plan provides the imperative reasons of overriding public interest to justify its consent despite a negative assessment.
Category D: Likely Significant effect in combination	
D1	The option, policy or proposal alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if its effects are combined with the effects of other policies or proposals provided for or coordinated by Our Plan the cumulative effects would be likely to be significant.
D2	Options, policies or proposals that alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if their effects are combined with the effects of other plans or projects , and possibly the effects of other developments provided for in Our Plan as well, the combined effects would be likely to be significant.
D3	Options or proposals that are, or could be, part of a programme or sequence of development delivered over a period, where the implementation of the early stages would not have a significant effect on European sites, but which would dictate the nature, scale, duration, location, timing of the whole project, the later stages of which could have an adverse effect on such sites.

3.0. Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan screening

Table 1: HRA Screening

Policy/Proposal	Category (A,B,C,D)	Reason for category (unless clear)	Potential impacts on European sites	European sites affected	Mitigation required
INP1, INP2, INP3, INP4, INP5, INP6, INP7	A1	Policy will not lead to development itself, and does not specify quantum of development, instead relating to qualitative criteria for development			
INP8	A2	Policy intended to protect the environment			

3.1. Additions/revisions required to the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan

Reflecting the HRA of the Joint Local Plan, the Ivybridge NP should include reference to the requirement for development in Ivybridge to contribute towards mitigating the recreational impacts of new residents from development on the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC and Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA.

Policy STP13 of the Joint Local Plan states:

European Protected Sites – mitigation of recreational impacts from development.

Mitigation measures for recreational impacts on European Sites will be required where development is proposed within the identified zones of influence around those European Sites that are vulnerable to adverse recreational impacts. Residential development, student and tourist accommodation within these zones of influence will be required to provide for appropriate management, mitigation and monitoring on site, and / or financial contributions towards off site mitigation and management. This will need to be agreed and secured prior to approval of the development. Mitigation measures will include:

1. On site access and management.
2. Off-site provision of suitable alternative recreational facilities

The detail of the Zone of Influence (within which Ivybridge will fall), and financial contributions through planning obligations will be defined in the forthcoming Supplementary Planning Documents in support of the Joint Local Plan. Using evidence from the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries Recreation Study (Marine Biological Association, 2017), a single mitigation strategy will identify the interventions required and the SPD will then set out the charge that will be applied to all new dwellings and tourist developments within a 'Zone of Charging' as set out in Policy SPT13 '*European Protected Sites – mitigation of recreational impacts from development*'.

3.2. HRA CONCLUSION AND SCREENING OPINION

It is considered that the INP will not have a significant effect on a European site and that therefore further assessment under the Habitats Regulations is not required.

Appendix 3

Consultee responses

1. Historic England

Dear Jackie

Thank you for your consultation on the SEA Screening for the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan. Our apologies for not getting this response to you before now.

In our response to the recent Regulation 16 Consultation we indicated that we felt obliged to defer to your authority in the determination of the conformity of, and suitable evidence base for, the Plan. A copy of this response is attached again for information.

For the same reasons we are similarly obliged in our response to this SEA Screening consultation. In terms of the specific policies INP1 – 4 we note from the Screening Report that these relate to brownfield sites and the assertion that no significant environmental effects are anticipated. We therefore conclude that your authority has satisfied itself as to the evaluation of the potential for these policies – and the Plan generally - to have harmful effects upon the significance of designated heritage assets.

On that basis we have no objection to the conclusion that an SEA will not be required.

Kind regards

David

David Stuart | Historic Places Adviser South West
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We have launched four new, paid-for Enhanced Advisory Services, providing enhancements to our existing free planning and listing services. For more information on the new Enhanced Advisory Services as well as our free services go to our website: [HistoricEngland.org.uk/EAS](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/EAS)



2. Natural England

Date: 31 March 2017
Our ref: 211132
Your ref: Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan- Screening SEA/HRA



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Dear Jackie

Planning consultation: Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan and SEA/HRA draft screening report

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 14 March 2017 and the March 2017 screening report which was received by Natural England on 21 March 2017.

Natural England provided comments dated 9 January 2017 on the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan Screening Opinion October 2016.

We concur with the findings of the March 2017 SEA/HRA draft screening report that neither a full SEA or nor further assessment under the Habitats Regulations are required. We also advise that the Neighbourhood Plan should include references to the requirements for mitigation of any adverse effects on European sites as being developed in forthcoming Supplementary Planning Documents to support the emerging Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise. For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Alison Slade Alison.Slade:@naturalengland.org.uk. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Alison Slade
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