



29 November 2022

Rosie Healy,
Chair Hermitage NDP Steering Group

Planning Policy

Development and Regulation,
West Berkshire Council
Market Street, Newbury
Berkshire, RG14 5LD

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Sent by email only

Dear Rosie,

Hermitage Neighbourhood Development Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion

This letter sets out the screening opinion by West Berkshire District Council concerning the need for SEA and HRA in relation to the Hermitage Neighbourhood Development Plan. This screening opinion has been underpinned by a detailed report and the opinions of the three statutory consultation bodies who are the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England.

The screening process undertaken concluded that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not considered to be required to accompany the Hermitage Neighbourhood Development Plan and it would not need to be subject to HRA. The consultation bodies have all agreed with the conclusion reached. The reasons for the decision are set out in the accompanying 'SEA and HRA Screening Report – Post Consultation Version'.

Yours sincerely,

Umrah Mahadik

Umrah Mahadik
Senior Planning Officer