

13 December 2021

Ivor McArdle  
Chair Cold NDP Steering Group

**Development and Planning**

Development and Regulation  
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**Sent by email only**

Dear Ivor,

**Cold Ash 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 Cold Ash 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 SEA is not considered to be required to accompany the Cold Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan and it would not need to be subject to HRA. Two of the consultation bodies (Historic England and Natural England) have agreed with the conclusion reached. No response was received from the Environment Agency despite a reminder email being sent.

The reasons for the decision are set out in the accompanying 'SEA and HRA Screening- Post Consultation Version (13 Dec 2021)'.

Yours sincerely,

*Umrah Mahadik*

Umrah Mahadik  
Senior Planning Officer