

19 May 2016

Tony Lewis
Bury Neighbourhood Development Plan
Bean Tree Cottage, Church Lane
Bury, Pulborough
RH20 1PB

Dear Tony,

I am writing in response to your request for a screening opinion to assess whether the Bury Neighbourhood Development Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

When adopted, Neighbourhood Development Plans will be used by the local planning authority to determine planning applications for the Neighbourhood Areas that they cover. As the parish falls within the South Downs National Park, the policies for the NDP, once adopted, will form the planning policy for that part of the National Park in the Parish of Bury.

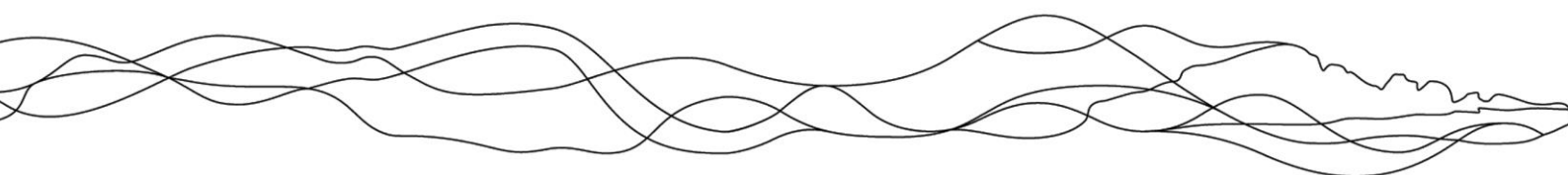
The EU's SEA Directive requires those making plans that could impact on the environment to consider whether they are likely to have a significant effect or not. Such a requirement can be screened out if it is felt, based on the information available, that the NDP would not have a likely significant environmental effect. In order to assess the likely significance of the plan on the environment, the scope of the plan has been appraised against Annex II of the directive which identifies criteria for determining significance.

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) has based its screening opinion on the understanding that the Parish Council will prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan that:

- will have policies consistent with national policy;
- will have policies consistent with existing and emerging local plan policies;
- will plan to allocate 6 dwellings in the period up to 2032 to meet the emerging South Downs Local Plan requirement for Bury Parish;

The SDNPA has considered a number of key environmental constraints located in the vicinity of the Neighbourhood Area and the potential environmental effects on these areas that may arise as a result of the NDP. It is considered that the Bury NDP should be screened out as requiring an SEA process. Whilst the parish has some distinctive landscapes, the NDP will not directly allocate housing and employments which may affect these. Given that the South Downs Local Plan will provide a range of policies for protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment, and the requirement for the NDP to be in conformity with these policies, the likelihood of significant effects taking place through the Patching NDP is diminished.

The SDNPA will notify Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency regarding these decisions.



Yours Sincerely

Amy

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