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**Planning Strategy and
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10 September 2024

Dear Mr Flawn,

NOAK BRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA – SCREENING ASSESSMENT

I am writing in relation to your letter dated 20 June 2024, seeking Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening opinions for the draft Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan.

Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires that the responsible authority (Basildon Borough Council) shall determine whether or not a plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. As part of making this assessment, the responsible authority shall —

- (a) take into account the criteria specified in Schedule 1 to these Regulations; and
- (b) consult the consultation bodies.

The Regulations advise that where the responsible authority determines that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), it shall prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination. This statement will be published on our website in due course.

A screening report of the draft Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan has been undertaken by Pell Frischmann on behalf of Basildon Borough Council, the full report can be viewed under Enclosure 1 and the outcomes are summarised below:

- The SEA screening assessment concludes that the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. The Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan therefore does not need to be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- The HRA screening assessment concludes that there is no potential for likely significant effects to occur upon sites in the National Site Network as a result of the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan either alone or in-combination. Therefore, there is no requirement for Appropriate Assessment of the Plan.



In line with the regulations, the screening request and report were shared with consultation bodies, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency, the responses indicated that having regard to the matters within their remit, the proposed Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to have significant environmental effects, the full responses and supporting advice can be viewed at Enclosures 2-4.

The Council has had due regard to the statutory consultee responses and the criteria within Schedule 1 of the Regulation in coming to a view on whether the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. Based on the draft Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan, it is the Council's opinion that the Plan would not be likely to have significant environmental effects. On this basis, a Strategic Environmental Assessment would not be required for the draft Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan.

With regards to the Habitats Regulations Assessment and whether an Appropriate Assessment is required, the Council concludes that the proposed draft Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on European Designations.

You are advised that if the Neighbourhood Plan is subject to significant change, it would be appropriate to review the Screening Opinion and the position regarding the Habitat Regulations Assessment.

Yours sincerely,



Christine Lyons
Assistant Director
Planning and Regeneration

Enclosure 1 – SEA and HRA Screening Report of the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan by Pell Frischmann

Enclosure 2 - Historic England Screening Response to Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan

Enclosure 3 - Natural England Screening Response to Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan

Enclosure 4 - Environment Agency Screening Response to Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan