

Bromsgrove District Council  
Planning Policy  
Burcot Lane  
Bromsgrove  
Worcestershire  
B60 1AA

**Our ref:** SV/2018/109855/OT-01/IS1-L01  
**Your ref:**

**Date:** 23 July 2024

**FAO: Gemma Hawkesford**

Email Cc to: [strategicplanning@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanning@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

Dear Gemma,

**Consultation on SEA/HRA screening assessment - Wythall Parish Neighbourhood Plan (Bromsgrove District Council)**

I refer to your email of the 02 June 2024 with regard to the Wythall Parish SEA/HRA Screening Assessment for the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). We have reviewed the submitted documentation and offer the following comments for your consideration at this time.

**Flood Risk:** Based on our indicative Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea), the NDP area has no main rivers within the vicinity. The River Cole (ordinary watercourse) runs along the Southern and Eastern border of the Parish boundary bringing extents of Flood Zone 3 and 2 (the high and medium risk zones respectively). However, the plan area is shown to be predominantly located in Flood Zone 1, and therefore has a low fluvial flood risk potential.

It should be noted that the Flood Map provides an indication of 'fluvial' flood risk only. You are advised to discuss matters relating to surface water (pluvial) flooding with the drainage team at Bromsgrove District Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).

**Site Allocations:** We would not, in the absence of any site allocations proposed within the NDP, offer any bespoke comment at this time.

However, please note that other potential development areas may be at flood risk given the presence of 'ordinary watercourses' which are un-modelled based on the scale and nature of the stream and receiving catchment (less than 3km<sup>2</sup>).

**Water Catchment Quality:** It is noted that Wythall falls within the wider Tame Anker and Mease Management Catchment area and then into one sub catchment area. This consists of the Cole from Source to Springfield Water body which is considered as having a 'poor ecological status'. The aim is to achieve 'good' status by 2027.

## **SEA / HRA Screening Opinion**

To assist your Council's determination of the SEA and HRA Screening Opinion (dated July 2024), we note the conclusions achieved:

- The SEA Screening Opinion concludes that the 'Wythall Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant environmental effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, and therefore does not need to be subject to a full SEA.'
- The HRA Screening Opinion concludes that the 'Wythall Neighbourhood Plan will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of designated sites either on its own or in combination with other plans, and therefore does not require a Habitat Regulation Assessment to be undertaken.'

We therefore agree and advise based on the Screening Report submitted and in consideration of matters within our remit that the NDP is considered unlikely to have significant environmental impacts and or significant effects on European designated sites, based on the above conclusions we do not believe a full Appropriate Assessment will be required.

Furthermore, we do not offer detailed bespoke advice on policy but advise you ensure conformity with the local plan and refer to guidance within our area neighbourhood plan "pro-forma guidance", I have attached an updated version for your consideration. Notwithstanding the above, for example it is important that these plans offer robust confirmation that development is not impacted by flooding and that there is sufficient wastewater infrastructure in place to accommodate growth. I trust the above is of assistance at this time.

Yours faithfully

**Mr. Ewan Burvill**  
**Planning Officer**  
Direct e-mail [ewan.burvill@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:ewan.burvill@environment-agency.gov.uk)