

Queen's Park Community Council Neighbourhood Plan

2018-2038

Strategic Environment Assessment

Screening Report

and

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report

March 2018

For consultation with Westminster City Council, Natural England,
Historic England and The Environment Agency

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1. Introduction

1.1. Legislative background

One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the making of the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European Union obligations, including under the Habitats Directive and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.

The Habitats Directive is transposed into English law under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, and seeks to avoid negative impacts on European protected sites.

The SEA Directive has been transposed into English law by the Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (hereafter referred to as the SEA Regulations), and seeks to make sure that the environmental implications of a plan or programme are taken into account.

1.2. HRA requirements for neighbourhood plans

The purpose of a Habitats Regulations assessment (HRA) is to identify whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The first step of the appropriate assessment process is a screening assessment, which' purpose is to screen out if any significant effect is likely for any European site, based on objective information. Where there is a risk of a significant effect on a European site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, then there will be a requirement to progress to an Appropriate Assessment.

1.3. SEA requirements for neighbourhood plans

Draft neighbourhood plan proposals are required to be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, which is commonly referred to as a "screening" exercise. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, a strategic environmental assessment will be required in accordance with the SEA regulations.

The National Planning Practice Guidance provides examples of when a strategic environmental assessment may be required:

- 'a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.'

If the requirement for a Habitat Regulations Assessment is identified, then a plan will normally also require a strategic environmental assessment.

2. Summary of the neighbourhood plan

Name of the neighbourhood plan	Queen's Park Neighbourhood Plan
Geographic coverage of the plan	The area covered is the political ward of Queen's Park in the City of Westminster. It is bounded in the south by The Harrow Road and The Grand Union Canal, in the west and the north by Kilburn Lane and in the east by Bravington Road and Fernhead Road. The ward is almost entirely residential with a small park, conservation gothic style houses, fine Edwardian Terraces and the famous Mozart Estate.
Vision of the plan	<p>We want to be proud of where we live.</p> <p>We want a neighbourhood that provides the best possible services and facilities for our residents of all ages and that is a safe and secure place to live.</p> <p>We want a neighbourhood with an excellent natural environment, that cherishes its park, gardens, allotments and trees.</p> <p>We want a neighbourhood that respects the work done in the past by our predecessors but now looks for the best design and plans for the future, supported by a community that works towards making this a low carbon area.</p>
Key issues/objectives	<p>Our policy objectives:</p> <p><u>Amenities</u> Continue to improve our existing community facilities, services and built and natural assets for residents, workers and visitors of all ages. This includes sports and leisure facilities.</p> <p><u>Environment and Open Space</u> Continue to improve the local environment, including Queen's Park Gardens and other open spaces of local importance. This includes recreation and play spaces, allotments and food growing spaces.</p> <p><u>Heritage, Design Quality and Sustainability</u> Respect and safeguard our neighbourhood's heritage and character and enhance its design quality whilst seeking appropriate ways to make the area more sustainable.</p> <p><u>Getting Around and Community Safety</u> Establish a safer and more pleasant street network that prioritises walking and cycling for all groups and ages, and seeks to minimise air pollution.</p> <p><u>High Streets Shops and Workspaces</u> Work collaboratively towards achieving lively, well used and commercially resilient high streets that attract retailers, residents, workers and visitors from further afield.</p> <p><u>New Residential Opportunities</u> Continue developing a neighbourhood that welcomes a diverse mix of people and that is a great place in which to live, where there are new homes that are affordable to people on local people and of excellent quality, and the existing housing stock is protected and enhanced.</p>

Summary of policies	<p>Policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protection and extension of local amenities 2. Queen's Park Hall. QPCC will support the renovation of the hall and its use of the hall for the local community. 3. Residential Gardens. Development which results in the loss of private residential gardens will not be permitted. 4. Allotments. Proposals for new allotments or an extension to existing allotments will be supported. 5. Queen's Park Gardens Hut. QPCC will support the development of the existing storage building to provide additional facilities for the local community for workshops and other activities and a toilet and kitchenette. The space would be shared with WCC parks staff. 6. Design. Proposals for new development must achieve an exemplary standard of sustainable and inclusive urban design. It must meet high standards of environmental performance. New and renovated shop frontages should complement the architectural design of the rest of the building where that building has architectural or historic merit. 7. Improving cycling infrastructure. Development proposals, where appropriate, will be required to be supported with measures to improve road safety, air quality and facilities for cyclists. 8. Safeguarding Pedestrian Access. Proposals that provide for improved pedestrian access shall be supported subject to the development meeting the following requirements: That sufficient pavement space is maintained for pedestrians and accessibility for disabled people. 9. Retail and Commercial Development. Proposals for development will be supported that maintain or improve retail and commercial uses within the defined core and secondary frontages in the Harrow Road District Centre and the Kilburn Road Local Centre 10. Residential Development. Proposals for narrowboats to be permanently moored for residential use on the Grand Union Canal will be supported. Proposals for infill development of affordable residential dwellings around the British Telecom building and Queen's Park Court area will be supported.
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3. HRA Screening

3.1. European sites which may be affected by the Neighbourhood Plan

For this assessment four Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and two Special Protection Areas have been identified which will be assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive. These are:

- Wimbledon Common SAC
- Richmond Park SAC
- Epping Forest SAC
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Thames Estuary and Marshes Special Protection Area and Ramsar
- Lee Valley Special Protection Area and Ramsar

Only Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park are within 10km of Queen's Park.

The site characteristics and conservation objectives of these sites can be found in Annex 1.

Westminster City Council's has conducted a screening exercise for the whole of Westminster and states:

"There is a great deal of difficulty and uncertainty in predicting how every potential policy scenario might affect the conservation objectives of the European sites. However, taking Westminster as a single authority area, and even taking account of cumulative effects over a 10 to 15 year plan period, the effects of the Special Policy Areas and Policies Map Revision to Westminster's City Plan are considered negligible. Furthermore, establishing causal links would be extremely difficult, if not impossible."

Westminster City Council concludes:

"It is considered that the Special Policy Areas and Policies Map Revisions to Westminster's City Plan do not change the conclusions set out in Appropriate Assessment screening reports that have previously been submitted to Natural England for the Core Strategy (adopted January 2011) and more recently for the NPPF Revision to the Core Strategy (now referred to as Westminster's City Plan: Strategic Policies – adopted November 2013).

These alterations do not envisage any significant changes to growth levels and seek, in line with the NPPF, a more sustainable outcome for all development. A comprehensive Appropriate Assessment is therefore not considered necessary."

The plan does not seek to make any changes to growth levels as it does not contain site allocations. Although there are few open spaces in QP, there are several large parks and open spaces nearby (Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens Holland Park Queen's Park and Paddington Recreation Ground), making it unlikely to affect visitor numbers to any of the European sites. For these reasons and taking account of the screening result for the Westminster City Plan, it is not considered that a full HRA needs to be undertaken

3.2. In combination effects

Other plans that may impact upon the assessed European sites include the Mayor of London's London Plan, the Westminster City Plan, Local Plans of other London Borough's and other neighbourhood plans in London.

Westminster City Council states:

"It is neither practical or necessary to assess the 'in combination' effects of a draft neighbourhood plan within the context of all other plans and projects within London. It is, however, recognised that there are

a number of interlocking and very complex factors constantly taking place in London as a whole – population change, travel patterns, larger-scale redevelopments, resource use and climate change, for example. The most obvious influences on the European sites, considering London as whole, will be changes to air quality, water resources, and increase in recreational use from growing visitor numbers as the population of the South-east grows further.

Air pollution associated with growth arising from Special Policy Area policies and Policies Map updates would be primarily be as a result of increases in traffic and construction activity and any associated plant and machinery associated with any new buildings. However, Westminster's Air Quality Action Plan 2013-2016 (published April 2013) seeks to redress these matters alongside emerging policies for sustainable development including those in later revisions to Westminster's City Plan. Westminster has limited opportunities for large scale growth and the majority of development is on sites with existing development and involves relatively small change. In addition, Westminster is well served by public transport and this is likely to improve with the arrival of Cross Rail in 2018.

It is considered that the Westminster's policies, in conjunction with those from other authorities and NPPF requirements for sustainable development will contribute to improving air quality over time in the South-East over time and that any changes arising from the Special Policy Areas and Policies Map Revision are not likely to affect the Natura 2000 sites."

The QPNP will seek to make a positive contribution to air quality. Project 2.9 in The Neighbourhood plan commits the council to work in whatever ways it can to improve the air quality in Queen's Park.

QPCC supports WCC's air quality policies and participates in WCC's A Quality Action Plan. It is also setting up An Air Pollution Working Group which should be confirmed in March 2018.

By contributing to sustainable development, the QPNP is in combination with other plans and projects considered to improve air quality and will not likely affect any European sites.

3.3. Screening outcome

It is concluded that no full HRA needs to be undertaken as there are no likely effects on European sites.

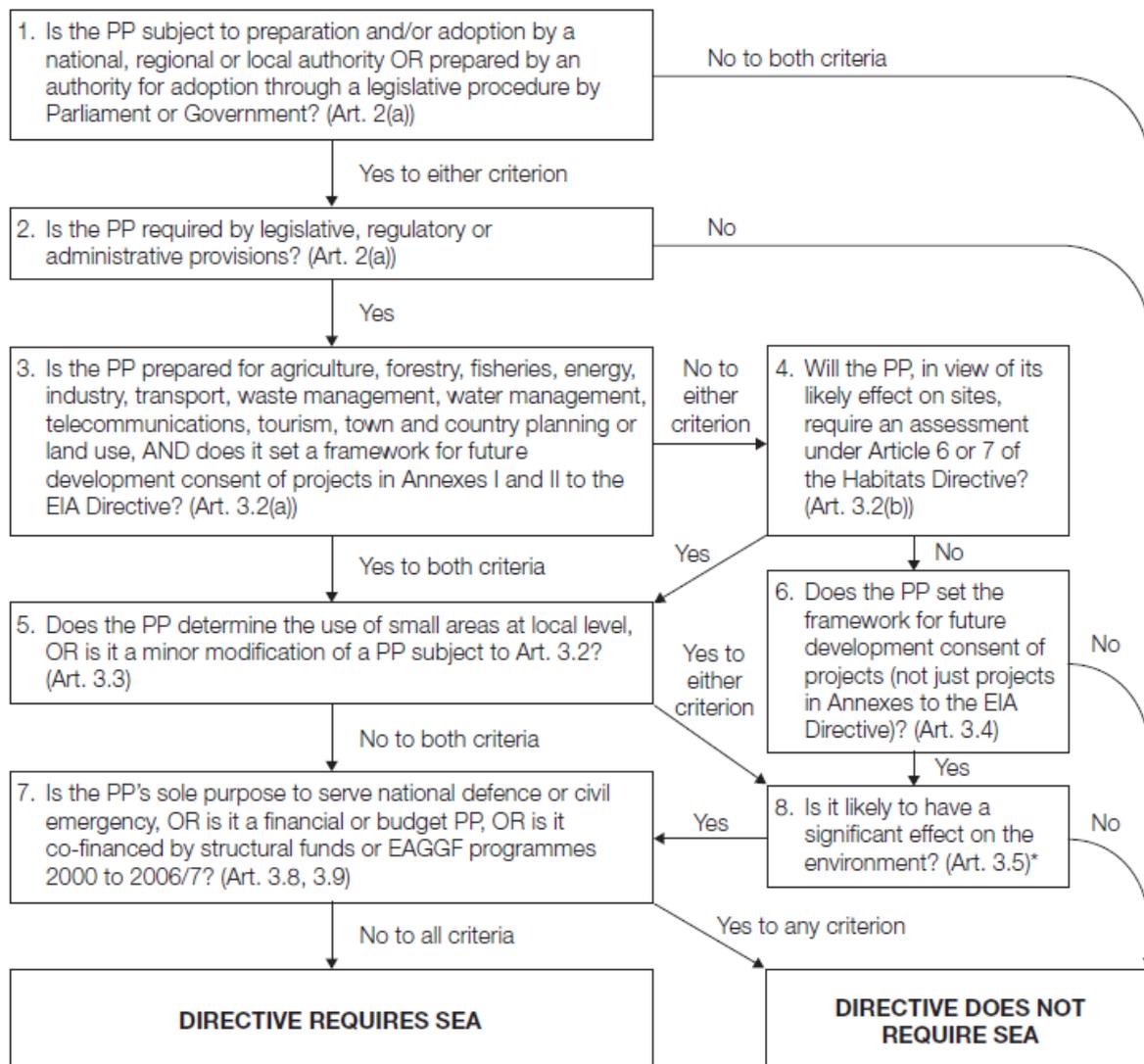
The views of Natural England will be sought in March 2018.

4. SEA Screening

4.1. Establishing the need for SEA

Practical guidance on the application of the SEA Directive published in 2005 by the predecessor of the Ministry of Housing, Communities, & Local Government sets out a flow chart to establish the need for SEA. This flow chart is duplicated below, after which the need for SEA for the Queen's Park Neighbourhood Plan is established.

Figure 1 SEA flowchart



*The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.

Table 1 Establishing the need for SEA

Assessment criteria	Assessment	
Is the Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by parliament or government? (Art 2(a))	The Plan is being prepared by Queen's Park Community Council under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and will be "made" by Westminster City Council under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.	Yes
Is the Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art 2(a))	There is no requirement to produce a neighbourhood plan, however, they are subject to formal procedures and regulations laid down by Government.	Yes
Is the Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a))	The QPNP is prepared for town and country planning purposes but does not explicitly set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive.	No
Will the Plan in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats directive?	The QPNP could potentially have an impact on any European protected sites protected by the Habitats Directive.	Yes
Does the Plan determine the use of small areas at local level OR is it a minor modification of a Plan subject to Art3.2? (Art 3.3)	The QPNP seeks to direct and shape future uses, building upon the City Plan and will provide a framework for future development consent of projects in the area.	Yes
Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art 3.5)	See the results of table 2 'Determining the likely significant effects'	No

4.2. Determining the likely significant effects

The likely significant environmental; effects of a neighbourhood plan depend on the contents of the plan. The criteria for assessing any likely significant effects on the environment are specified in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations.

The table below sets out these criteria, along with a consideration of the likely impact of the neighbourhood plan against each of the criteria.

Table 2 Determining the likely significant effects

SEA Regulations Criteria	Comments	Likely Significant Effects?
1. The characteristics of the neighbourhood plan, having regard, in particular, to:		
1a) The degree to which the neighbourhood plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	Once 'made', QPNP will set out a framework which to manage development and change in the area including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to the Harrow Road Retail area; • The renovation of Queen's Park Hall; • Improvements to Canal Terrace with an agreed design guide to this conservation area and implementation of design and conservation principles; 	No

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversion of the storage hut in Queen's Park Gardens for community use; • The development of Harrow Road Open Space into a community garden; and • The development of residential narrow boats on the canal. <p>However, QPNP does not allocate any development sites in the plan. All the projects outlined above are small in size.</p>	
1b) The degree to which the neighbourhood plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The QPNP will form part of the development plan for the City of Westminster, and will together with the City Plan and London Plan be used to determine planning applications. The QPNP is required to be in general conformity with the City Plan and does not influence any other plans.	No
1c) The relevance of the neighbourhood plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	Achieving sustainable development is at the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework, and is one of the basic conditions that Neighbourhood Plans must meet. The likelihood of significant effects on the environment is therefore minimised. QPNP will work to protect and enhance the natural environment and where possible to increase it. It protects the flora and encourages bio-diversity.	No
1d) Environmental problems relevant to the neighbourhood plan	There are no flood risk zones within the area. QPNP will work within the City of Westminster and the GLA to improve air quality. The environmental impacts of the policies and projects in the QPNP are likely to be minimal as they deal with issues at a local level.	No
1e) The relevance of the neighbourhood plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The QPNP has to be in general conformity with the Westminster City Plan. This legislation does therefore not directly apply to QPNP.	No
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:		
2a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	The improvements to two buildings in the plan will not significantly affect the area and the works should be completed in less than a year. QPNP seeks to secure additional housing, community facilities, play space and improved open space leading to having a positive social and economic impact	No
2b) The cumulative nature of the effects	The QPNP will together with the City Plan and London Plan form part of the development plan. Any cumulative effects of these policies have been examined and tested and the proposals in the QPNP are therefore unlikely to have a significant effect on the local environment.	No
2c) The transboundary nature of the effects	The effects of the QPNP will be limited to the neighbourhood planning area.	No
2d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	QPNP is likely to have a positive effect on human health by extending and improving facilities. However, direct effects will be minimal as this is dependent on development projects coming forward.	No

2e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	There are 14,100 people living in QP (2018 local ward statistics). The QPNP is not considered to affect any areas beyond the neighbourhood planning area.	No
2f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use	There are no sites of special scientific interest in QP. There is a conservation area and a number of Grade 2 listed buildings in QP. The QPNP will seek to help improve the quality and setting of these areas.	No
2g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	There are no Areas of Outstanding National Beauty or Areas of Great Landscape Value or locally protected views located in or adjacent to QP. There is a conservation area in QP, but it is unlikely that the QPNP would have any significant effects on this area.	No

4.3. Screening outcome

Having reviewed the Queen's Park Neighbourhood Plan against the requirements in the SEA Directive, it is concluded that the Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and accordingly should not be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.

4.4. Next steps

The screening determination is subject to consultation with the statutory consultation bodies. The consultation bodies are specified in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and are as follows:

- Historic England;
- Environment Agency; and
- Natural England.

Consultation responses from the consultation bodies will be included in Annex 2.

5. Conclusion

5.1. Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

The HRA screening assessment concludes that there are no likely significant effects in respect of European sites. Further stages of Appropriate Assessment are therefore not required.

5.2. Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

The SEA screening assessment concludes that the Queen's Park Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. The Queen's Park Neighbourhood Plan therefore does not need to be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The outcomes of these screening exercises are subject to the views of Westminster City Council, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency.

Annex 1 Site characteristics and conservation objectives

This information has been derived from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and has been provided by Westminster City Council.

Wimbledon Common

Location of Wimbledon Common Special Areas of Conservation	
Country	England
Unitary Authority	Merton; Wandsworth
Grid Ref*	TQ227719
Latitude	51 25 56 N
Longitude	00 14 04 W
SAC EU code	UK0030301
Status	Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	348.31
* This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.	
General site character	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (1%)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (0.5%)	
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue <i>Phygrana</i> (5%)	
Dry grassland. Steppes (45%)	
Improved grassland (3.5%)	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (45%)	
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
Not applicable	
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	
4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	
4030 European dry heaths	
Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
1083 Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>	
Wimbledon Common has a large number of old trees and much fallen decaying timber. It is at the heart of the south London centre of distribution for stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i> , and a relatively large number of records were received from this site during a recent nationwide survey for the species (Percy <i>et al.</i> 2000). The site supports a number of other scarce invertebrate species associated with decaying timber.	
Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection	
Not applicable.	

Richmond Park

Location of Richmond Park Special Areas of Conservation	
Country	England
Unitary Authority	Richmond upon Thames

Grid Ref*	TQ199728
Latitude	51 26 27 N
Longitude	00 16 28 W
SAC EU code	UK0030246
Status	Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	846.68
* This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.	
General site character	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (1.5%)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (0.5%)	
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (25%)	
Dry grassland. Steppes (18%)	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (5%)	
Improved grassland (20%)	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (25%)	
Mixed woodland (5%)	
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
Not applicable	
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	
Not applicable.	
Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
1083 Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>	
Richmond Park has a large number of ancient trees with decaying timber. It is at the heart of the south London centre of distribution for stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i> , and is a site of national importance for the conservation of the fauna of invertebrates associated with the decaying timber of ancient trees.	
Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection	
Not applicable.	

Epping Forest

Location of Epping Forest Special Areas of Conservation	
Country	England
Unitary Authority	Essex
Grid Ref*	TQ399959
Latitude	51 38 39 N
Longitude	00 01 21 E
SAC EU code	UK0012720
Status	Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	1604.95
* This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.	
General site character	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (6%)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (0.2%)	
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (3.8%)	
Dry grassland. Steppes (20%)	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (70%)	
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>)	
Epping Forest represents Atlantic acidophilous beech forests in the north-eastern part of the habitat's UK range. Although the epiphytes at this site have declined, largely as a result of air pollution, it remains important for a range of rare species, including the moss <i>Zygodon forsteri</i> . The long history of pollarding, and resultant large number of veteran trees, ensures that the site is also rich in fungi and dead-wood invertebrates.	
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	
4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	
4030 European dry heaths	
Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
1083 Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>	
Epping Forest is a large woodland area in which records of stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i> are widespread and frequent; the site straddles the Essex and east London population centres. Epping Forest is a very important site for fauna associated with decaying timber, and supports many Red Data Book and Nationally Scarce invertebrate species.	
Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection	
Not applicable.	

Essex Estuaries

Location of Essex Estuaries Special Areas of Conservation	
Country	England
Unitary Authority	Essex
Grid Ref*	TM103048
Latitude	51 42 06 N 51.70166667
Longitude	01 02 37 E 1.043611111
SAC EU code	UK0013690
Status	Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	46140.82
* This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.	
General site character	
Marine areas. Sea inlets (30%) Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (56.5%) Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes (11%) Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets (0.5%) Improved grassland (2%)	
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
1130 Estuaries	
This is a large estuarine site in south-east England, and is a typical, undeveloped, coastal plain estuarine system with associated open coast mudflats and sandbanks. The site comprises the major estuaries of the Colne, Blackwater, Crouch and Roach rivers and is important as an extensive area of contiguous estuarine habitat. Essex Estuaries contains a very wide range of characteristic marine and estuarine sediment communities and some diverse and unusual marine communities in the lower reaches, including rich sponge communities on mixed, tide-swept substrates. Sublittoral areas have a very rich invertebrate fauna, including the reef-building worm <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> , the brittlestar <i>Ophiothrix fragilis</i> , crustaceans and ascidians. The site also has large areas of saltmarsh and other important coastal habitats.	
1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	
Essex Estuaries represents the range of variation of this habitat type found in south-east England and includes the extensive intertidal mudflats and sandflats of the Colne, Blackwater, Roach and Crouch estuaries, Dengie Flats and Maplin Sands. The area includes a wide range of sediment flat communities, from estuarine muds, sands and muddy sands to fully saline, sandy mudflats with extensive growths of eelgrass <i>Zostera</i> spp. on the open coast. The open coast areas of Maplin Sands and Dengie Flats have very extensive mudflats and an unusually undisturbed nature. Maplin Sands is particularly important for its large, nationally-important beds of dwarf eelgrass <i>Zostera noltei</i> and associated animal communities.	
1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	

Glasswort *Salicornia* spp. saltmarsh in the Essex estuaries on the east coast of England forms an integral part of the transition from the extensive and varied intertidal mud and sandflats through to upper saltmeadows. Although the saltmarshes in this area are generally eroding, secondary pioneer communities appear as a precursor to erosion on the seaward edge of degraded mid-marsh communities. The area of pioneer marsh includes gradation into extensive cord-grass *Spartina* spp. swards.

1320 *Spartina* swards (Spartinion maritimae)

The most extensive remaining stand of the native small cord-grass *Spartina maritima* in the UK and possibly in Europe is found in the Essex Estuaries. The stand is located at Foulness Point and covers approximately 0.17 ha. Other smaller stands are found elsewhere in the estuary complex, notably in the Colne estuary, where it forms a major component of the upper marsh areas.

1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)

Although the saltmarshes in this area are generally eroding, extensive salt meadows remain and Essex Estuaries represents **Atlantic salt meadows** in south-east England, with floristic features typical of this part of the UK. Golden samphire *Inula crithmoides* is a characteristic species of these marshes, occurring both on the lower marsh and on the drift-line. It represents a community of south-east England also found to the south in mainland Europe.

1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)

In this complex of estuarine marshes on the east coast of England the occurrence of **Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs** is currently artificially restricted by sea-walls. It now occurs principally as a strandline community or at the foot of sea-walls. Recent managed retreat schemes offer the prospect of future expansion of the habitat type. The local variant of this vegetation, which features sea-lavenders *Limonium* spp. and sea-heath *Frankenia laevis*, occurs at one location, Colne Point.

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable.

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

Not applicable.

Thames Estuary and Marshes

Location Thames Estuary and Marshes Special Protection Area and Ramsar	
Country	England
Unitary Authority	Essex (10%) Kent (90%)
Latitude	51 29 08 N
Longitude	00 35 47 E
Special Protection Area EU code	UK9012021

Ramsar EU code	UK11069
Status	Special Protection Area Wetland of international importance (Ramsar)
Area (ha)	4838.94
General site character	
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (57.3%) Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes (1.5%) Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets (0.9%) Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (5.6%) Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (3.7%) Dry grassland. Steppes (1.9%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (29.1%)	
Article 4.1 qualification under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)	
Over winter the area regularly supports <i>Circus cyaneus</i> 1% of the population in Great Britain, Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98, <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Western Europe/Western Mediterranean -breeding) 28.3% of the population in Great Britain Five year peak mean for 1993/93 to 1997/98	
Article 4.2 qualification under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)	
Over winter the area regularly supports <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> , (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa) 2.1% of the population Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98 <i>Calidris canutus</i> , (North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe) 1.4% of the population Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98 <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland - breeding) 2.4% of the population Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98 <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> , (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) 1.7% of the population Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98 <i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) 2.2% of the population Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98 On passage the area regularly supports waterfowl including <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> , (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering) 2.6% of the population Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98, <i>Circus cyaneus</i> , <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> ,	
Conservation Objectives	
With regard to the Special Protection Area and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;	

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Lee Valley

Location Lee Valley Special Protection Area	
Country	England
Unitary Authority	Hertfordshire (51%), Greater London (44%), Essex (5%)
Latitude	51 34 51 N
Longitude	00 02 58 W
Special Protection Area EU code	UK9012111
UK Ramsar Code	UK11034
Status	Special Protection Area Wetland of international importance (Ramsar)
Area (ha)	447.87
General site character	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (97%)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (4%)	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (8%)	
Improved grassland (10%)	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (10%)	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites) (1%)	
Article 4.1 qualification under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)	
This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:	
Over winter;	
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> , 6 individuals representing at least 6.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1995/6)	
Article 4.2 qualification under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)	
This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:	
Over winter;	
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> , 515 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 748 individuals representing at least 1.9% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Conservation Objectives

With regard to the Special Protection Area and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Annex 2 Consultation responses

229214_Natural England response_QPCC Neighbourhood Plan_HRA and
SEAscreening_07-03-2018

From: [Baines, Chris \(NE\)](#)

Sent: Wed, 7 Mar, 2018 at 17:11

To: gfitzhugh@queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Dear Gill

I'm getting in touch from Natural England regarding the above consultation. We concur with the screening outcomes of both the SEA and HRA, as we the plan will not have negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites, or biodiversity more broadly.

Kind regards,

Chris Baines

Sustainable Development Adviser

Thames Team

Natural England

Northgate House

6th
21-23
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 1AF

Valpy

Floor
Street

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england

Natural England offers two chargeable services – The Discretionary Advice Service ([DAS](#)) provides pre-application, pre-determination and post-consent advice on proposals to developers and consultants as well as pre-licensing species advice and pre-assent and consent advice. The Pre-submission Screening Service ([PSS](#)) provides advice for protected species mitigation licence applications.

Gill FitzHugh
Queen's Park Community Council
gfitzhugh@queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Our ref: NE/2006/000259
/SE- 07/DS1-L01

Date: 28 March 2018

Dear Gill

Queen's Park Community Council's HRA and SEA

Thank you for consulting us on the above screening opinion. This consultation was received on 28th February 2018.

Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, there are no areas of fluvial flood risk, Source Protection Zones for groundwater or main watercourses affected by the neighbourhood plan area. Therefore we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints.

Your Surface Water Management Plan will indicate if there are any critical drainage areas from local sources of flood risk (e.g. surface water, groundwater and sewerage) which coincide with the neighbourhood plan area.

For your information we have published joint advice with Natural England, English Heritage and the Forestry Commission on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans.

This is available at:
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/lit_6524_7da381.pdf.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Demetry Lyons
Sustainable Places Planning Advisor

Direct dial: 02077140578 Direct e-mail: HNLsustainablePlaces@environment-agency.gov.uk



Historic England

Queen's Park Community Council

Our ref: PL00336622 By email:

gfitzhugh@queensparkcommunitycouncil.gov.uk

3rd April 2018

Dear Ms FitzHugh,

Queen's Park Community Council Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Screening Report (March 2018)

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the Strategic Environment Assessment Screening Report for the Queen's Park Community Council Neighbourhood Plan. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment, and a statutory consultee on SEA, Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the planning process. Accordingly Historic England welcomes the opportunity to comment on this document.

We note that the draft Neighbourhood Plan relates to a relatively localised geographic area, and that the contents of the Plan are not likely to have significant environmental effects that will not have been subject to environmental assessment elsewhere. Therefore, taking into account the scale, nature and location of the development promoted by the Plan and the environmental sensitivity of the plan area in terms of built/landscape heritage, we agree with your assessment that a SEA would not be required.

Conclusion

We hope that these comments are helpful. Please note that this advice is based on the information that has been provided to us and does not affect our obligation to advise on, and potentially object to any specific development proposal which may subsequently arise from this Neighbourhood Plan, and which may have adverse effects on the environment. We trust this advice is of assistance in the preparation of your Plan and encourage you to share it with the local planning authority.

Yours sincerely,

David English
Historic Places Principal London

E-mail: david.english@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Direct Dial: 020 7973 3747



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Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.

Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.

