

# SEA/HRA Screening Assessment

## Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan

30/04/2025

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## Introduction

- 1.1 This document contains the Screening Statements for the Draft Version of the Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan - with regard to whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and / or Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) are required to be undertaken.
- 1.2 Regulation 15 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations sets out the information that must accompany a Neighbourhood Plan when submitted to the local planning authority. In February 2015 amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations came into force; this is known as the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015. Regulation 2(4) of these amendments adds additions to the list of documents that a qualifying body must submit to a local planning authority with a Neighbourhood Plan. The additional document which must be submitted is either an environmental report prepared in accordance with the relevant regulations or, if the outcome concludes that an SEA or HRA is not necessary, a statement that sets out how environmental issues have been taken into account and considered during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance for HRA and for SEA advises that assessments should be proportionate. Where a HRA or SEA has been undertaken for a Local Plan and so long as these measures have been properly considered, and the development will not create additional risks of a significant effect the guidance and NPPF indicate that they may not need further assessment at the non-strategic level.'
- 1.4 The NWBC Local Plan was adopted in September 2021. The Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan seeks to provide more locally specific detail to the Borough wide policies where they apply to Fillongley Parish. In view of this, only a high-level screening assessment of the Plan has been undertaken. This screening assessment should be read in conjunction with the relevant reports produced for North Warwickshire Borough Council's Local Plan. As follows
  - 1) the updated HRA report 2021\_  
[https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/file/8600/main\\_modifications\\_habitat\\_regulations\\_assessment\\_february\\_2021](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/file/8600/main_modifications_habitat_regulations_assessment_february_2021)
  - 2) the addendum to the SA report 2021\_  
[https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/file/7849/cd12a\\_nw\\_local\\_plan\\_additional\\_sustainability\\_appraisal\\_update](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/file/7849/cd12a_nw_local_plan_additional_sustainability_appraisal_update)
  - 3) SEA Adoption Statement September 2021\_  
[https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8847/strategic\\_environment\\_assessment\\_adoption\\_statement.pdf](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8847/strategic_environment_assessment_adoption_statement.pdf)
- 1.5 This Screening Assessment for SEA and HRA of the Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan has been undertaken on behalf of Fillongley Parish Council.

## ***Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)***

- 1.6 The requirement for a SEA to be undertaken on development plans and programmes that may have a significant environmental effect is outlined in European Union Directive 200142/EC. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 2004

Regulations) state that this is determined by a screening process, utilising a specified set of criteria, outlined in Schedule 1 of the Regulations. The results of this process must be set-out in an SEA Screening Statement, which must be publicly available.

- 1.7 The objective of undertaking an SEA is ‘to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.’<sup>1</sup>

### ***Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)***

- 1.8 European protected sites (the ‘Natura 2000 Network’) are of exceptional importance for the conservation of important species and natural habitats within the European Union. The network of European protected sites comprises Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention 1975. Government guidance advises that potential SPAs (pSPA), candidate SACs (cSAC) and potential Ramsar (pRamsar) sites are also included in HRA’s.
- 1.9 As a land use plan, an assessment of the Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan may be required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012 (the Habitat Regulations) and Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive in order to determine whether the Plan may result in significant effects on identified sites.
- 1.10 As with the SEA, a screening process is employed to establish whether any elements of the Draft Plan could have a significant effect on these sites. Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) further reemphasises the importance of carrying out this assessment by stating that one of the basic conditions that must be met before the Plan may be ‘made’ is that “*the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects))*”.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan***

- 1.11 The plan is being prepared by Fillongley Parish Council who are the Qualifying Body.
- 1.12 The Plan does not allocate any sites and works within the context of the recently adopted NWBC Local Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> SEA directive Article 1

<sup>2</sup> Planning Guidance - Paragraph: 079: Reference ID: 41-079-20140306

## Plan Overview

- 1.13 The main priorities of the Plan are expressed throughout the document, most clearly in the Vision and Objectives; these will be delivered in turn by the Policies contained in the Plan. The Vision and Objectives of the Plan, as well as the Policies can be found below.

### Vision

To value, protect and promote the parish of Fillongley; a thriving rural community, preserving its historic setting and character, whilst working to ensure its long-term future by meeting the needs of those who live and work in this outstanding rural area. The built and natural heritage of the Parish will be maintained and protected. Future building should conform to the existing character by comprising small developments in keeping with their surroundings. Provision of a mix of housing for all sectors of the community must be made. Rural setting and character will be preserved and enhanced for residents and visitors alike.

### Objectives

Ensure the designs of new buildings do not cause a detrimental change to the overall character of the village by encouraging developments that use the scale, shapes and forms of traditional Arden valley buildings, especially in or close to the 'Conservation Area'.

To protect the Green Belt

To protect and enhance the natural environment.

To protect the visual appearance and important scenic aspects of the village centre (the setting) and other rural and natural features in the landscape.

Ensure new residential and commercial development meets the following criteria;

- Blends sympathetically with the landscape
- Does not spoil any scenic aspect of, or distract from, the visual appearance of the village centre or countryside
- Not unduly prominent
- Not create adverse impact on an area when added to existing buildings in that area
- Does not disturb the tranquillity of rural life.

To protect the existing health and well-being of the local community.

To maintain the existing and traditional availability of farmland for food production and contribution towards food security.

To reduce light pollution in order to reduce the possibility of complaints to the Council due to issues for both residents and wildlife.

To minimise flood risk within the village.

Any limited new development should encourage a broad mix of housing types including smaller starter home and retirement dwellings and some provision for "Affordable Housing" for local people.

Support development of new rural businesses/rural employment opportunities when they are

not to the detriment of existing residents.

Ensure that new employment developments provide/ensure sustainable transport provision.

Support digital infrastructure provision. Support local business/amenities such as shops/pubs.

Work towards further protection and enhancement of both the recorded assets of the parish, and other locally identified heritage features.

Work towards building on existing 'Design Guidelines for development in Ancient Arden' and for 'Fillongley Conservation Area' which describe local distinctiveness, character, and historic context.

Encourage maintenance of existing community spirit.

Further Evidence for FNP Updates.

New work by Keystone Heritage discovering further historic information about the Parish.

Response from FNP Update Survey 2023 suggested including sandstone boundary walls as protected heritage features.

To promote good vehicular access, parking/garaging and turning provisions for new developments without detriment to existing residents and the street scene.

To ensure that the number of car parking spaces be related to the size of the property.

To support accessibility and the use of public transport.

Whilst it is recognised that these are valued parts of Fillongley it is not practical to embody them in a Policy, however, Parishioners would wish the spirit of their sentiments to be acknowledged when shaping the future of the Parish.

Encourage maintenance of existing community spirit to protect the health and wellbeing of the local community.

Encourage developments that follow the existing dispersed settlement pattern throughout the Parish and that blend with the natural features of the landscape.

To support accessibility and the use of public transport.

Encouragement will be given to land owners and developers to reduce/minimise flood risk within the village whilst maintaining balance with other policies. This could be by a range of provisions such as additional ditches, ponds etc.

Work towards building on existing 'Design Guidelines for development in Ancient Arden' and for 'Fillongley Conservation Area' which describe local distinctiveness, character, and historic context .

<b>Neighbourhood Plan Policy</b>	<b>Intent of Policy</b>
<b>FNP01 Built Environment</b>	<p>To preserve the character of the Parish – both built character and rural character.</p> <p>To protect the setting of the Church.</p> <p>To protect the “hamlet” style of various parts of the Parish and prevent spread.</p> <p>To include the landscape, and consideration of landscape as part of any development.</p> <p>Not to exacerbate existing parking issues or create new ones.</p>
<b>FNP02 Natural Environment</b>	<p>To protect and enhance the natural environment.</p> <p>To protect specific green spaces</p> <p>To protect and improve the biodiversity</p> <p>To protect the footpaths</p> <p>To protect the local identifying features of the local landscape.</p> <p>To protect the existing health and well-being of the community.</p> <p>To maintain the availability of farmland for food production.</p> <p>To reduce light pollution for both residents and wildlife.</p>
<b>FNP03 Flooding</b>	<p>To prevent development detrimentally impacting the flood risk within the Parish, whether it is immediately adjacent or downstream</p> <p>Improve biodiversity through flood measures.</p>
<b>FNP 04 Housing</b>	<p>To reset the current imbalance of properties.</p> <p>To provide for the demographic population that call Fillongley their home.</p> <p>Provide suitable accommodation and amenity space to ensure that developments do not detrimentally impact existing properties/residents.</p> <p>Not to exacerbate existing parking issues or create new ones.</p>

<p><b>FNP05 Economy</b></p>	<p>Promote better local economy without detriment to existing residents or the local environment.</p> <p>Promote development on brownfield sites.</p>
<p><b>FNP06 Heritage</b></p>	<p>Protect existing designated and non-designated heritage assets and settings thereof.</p> <p>Protect the historic nature of the Parish.</p> <p>Protect and enhance built, historic and natural heritage assets.</p>
<p><b>FNP07 Traffic &amp; Transport</b></p>	<p>To provide safe access and egress for all residents in all streets, without parked cars impeding traffic flow.</p> <p>Provide sufficient parking for developments.</p>

## SEA Screening – Assessment

1.14 The table below includes the assessment of the Draft Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan, including its Objectives and Development Management Policies against the criteria included in Schedule 1 of the 2004 Regulations. The Neighbourhood Plan is being assessed as a whole against the criteria listed below to allow for the consideration of its effects on the environment.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Comment -	Significant effect likely? Yes or No
<p><b>1a</b> The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory Development Plan, The North Warwickshire Local Plan (NWLP). Applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. As a result, the Neighbourhood Plan will influence planning decisions in the area.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will provide further guidance for the plan area, and will therefore supplement existing policies rather than set the framework. The NWLP has been subject to a detailed Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regulation requirements</p>	No
<p><b>1b</b> The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>In order to be successful the Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and the NWLP. As such, it will be influenced by higher level plans. The Neighbourhood Plan will be taken into account in the determination of planning applications and in the preparation of further lower level plans in the area. However, the Neighbourhood Plan a hierarchy, but is at the lowest tier, sitting below the NWLP (Borough level) and National Planning Policy Framework (National level), and has thus been influenced by these higher-tier and pre-existing plans, rather than having an influence on them.</p> <p>The policies within a neighbourhood plan apply only within the designated neighbourhood area, and so the Plan will not have a direct impact on other plans in adjoining areas.</p>	No
<p><b>1c</b> The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>The Plan promotes sustainable development within the neighbourhood area through balancing environmental, social and economic objectives. The Vision &amp; Objectives, of the Plan and the policies, work to ensure that all development proposals brought forward in the area will take this balance into account.</p>	No

<b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Significant effect likely?</b>
	<p>Specifically, the residential and economic development supported in the Neighbourhood Plan is providing more detail in the context of the wider NWLP growth policies.</p> <p>As a result, it is considered that the Plan effectively integrates and balances all potential environmental considerations, and that potential impacts are, therefore, not significant.</p>	
<b>1d</b> Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	The majority of effects the Plan will have on the environment will be positive. This is due mainly to Policies that work to protect and enhance environmental assets and green infrastructure in the Plan area and encourage the use of renewable energy and low carbon technology.	No
<b>1e</b> The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The Plan will be in compliance with the NWBCs Local Development Framework which has taken into account the existing European and National legislative framework for environmental protection. The Plan will therefore have a positive effect on compliance with regards to relevant legislation and programmes. It is deemed that no proposals within the Plan will compromise this position.	No
<b>2a</b> The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	It is deemed highly unlikely that there will be any irreversible damaging environmental impacts associated with the Plan. The policies within the Plan seek to ensure new development is sustainably built and promotes the enhancement and protection of environmental assets.	No
<b>2b</b> The cumulative nature of the effects.	It is considered that the Policies contained in the Plan cumulatively will have minimal negative effects on the environment and will in fact have moderate to significant positive effects. It is considered that all effects will be at a local level.	No

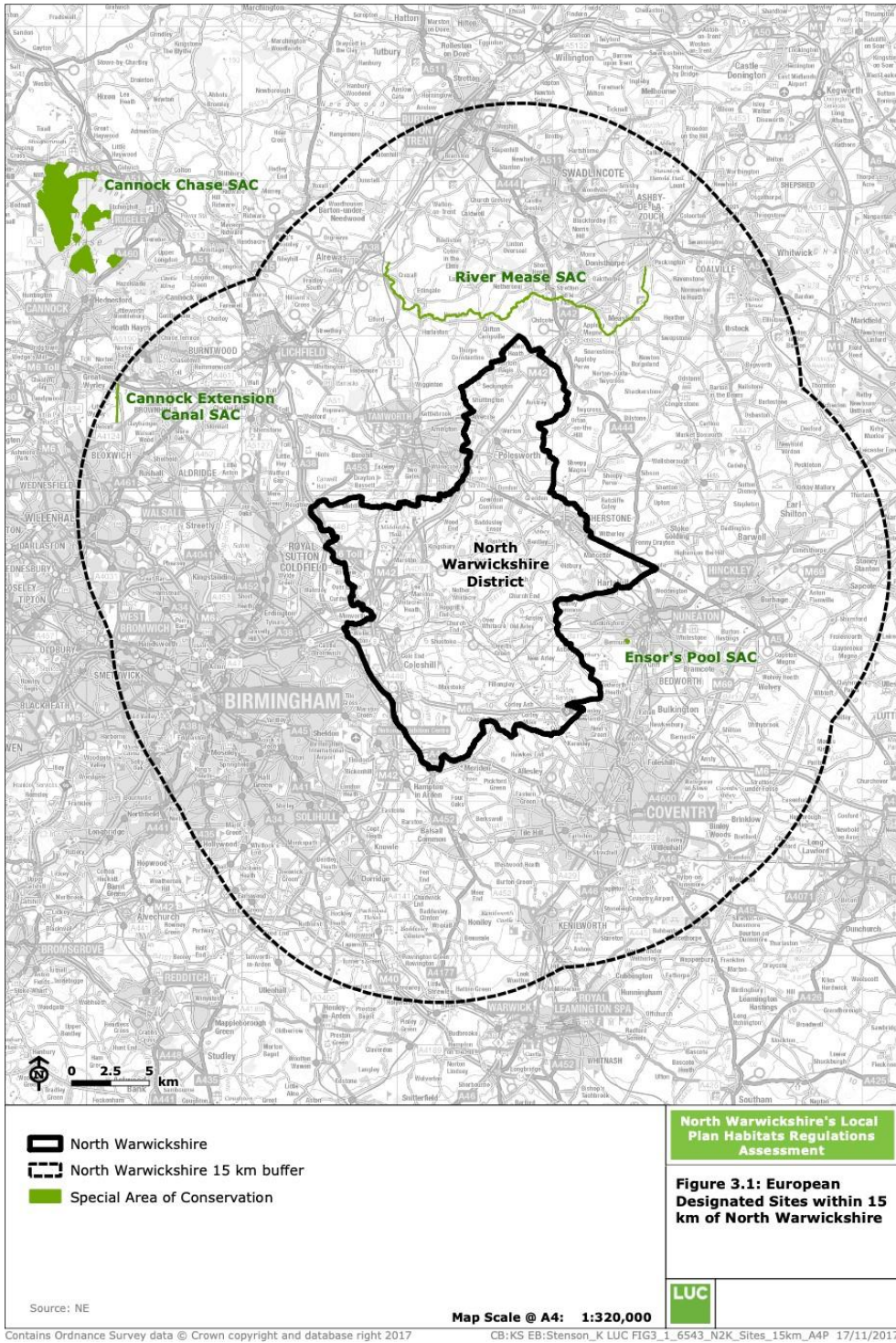
<b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Significant effect likely?</b>
2c The transboundary nature of the effects.	There is unlikely to be any impacts on neighbouring parishes.	No
<b>2d</b> The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents).	No obvious risks have been identified as the overall aim of the Plan is to ensure the careful management of development and the continued sustainability of the Plan area.	No
<b>2e</b> The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	The Plan relates to and will have an influence on a designated neighbourhood area It is deemed the Plan as a whole will have a positive impact upon local residents through the protection and enhancement of local environmental assets.	No
<b>2f</b> 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.	The Plan is deemed unlikely to have an adverse effect on the natural characteristics and cultural heritage of the neighbourhood area. it is considered that the Plan has been devised so as to avoid significant effects on these assets.  The Plan does not exceed environmental quality standards or limit values and does not provide specific policies in relation to intensive land uses.	No
<b>2g</b> The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	It is considered that the Plan will not adversely affect areas of landscape which have recognised community, national or international protection.	No

## **HRA Screening – Assessment**

1.15 For the HRA screening assessment, the designated neighbourhood area was assessed to identify if any Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation sites (SAC), or Ramsar sites were located within the boundary, as well as those considered as potential sites (pSPA, ppSPA, cSAC & pRamsar). The assessment also identified if any of these

internationally important sites were located within a 15km radius from the Neighbourhood Plan area.

- 1.16 North Warwickshire Borough Council has undertaken several stages of HRA during the preparation of the North Warwickshire Local Plan and has carried out a Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report. A copy of this can be viewed here: [https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/file/8847/strategic\\_environment\\_assessment\\_adoption\\_statement](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/file/8847/strategic_environment_assessment_adoption_statement)
- 1.17 This HRA Screening Statement follows the process used in the latest HRA Report for the Local Plan (the HRA Report for 2017 and an Addendum in 2021) and relies on the evidence gathered during that process.
- 1.18 The HRA process assesses the potential effects arising from a plan against the conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance. There are no European Sites within the Neighbourhood Area or, indeed, within NWBC.
- 1.19 The European Sites situated in close proximity to NWBC boundary are set out in the HRA Report of the NWBC Local Plan 2017.
- 1.20 NWBCs 2017 HRA Report and the Updated 2021 concluded that the Local Plan 'as proposed to be modified would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.'
- 1.21 The Local Plan was not likely to lead to adverse effects on any European sites alone or in combination with other plans therefore there was no requirement to prepare an appropriate assessment. Neighbourhood Plan regulations require neighbourhood plans to be in conformity with adopted strategic planning policies and in this case the Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan must be in conformity with policies in the adopted Local Plan.
- 1.22 The map below is taken from the HRA report.



1.23 Each policy within the Neighbourhood Plan has been screened to determine whether it has potential to cause a Likely Significant Effect on any European Site.

1.24 Any policy with no Likely Significant Effect will be screened out of the HRA process. Any policy where potential for a Likely Significant Effect is identified will be subject to further, more detailed, assessment (sometimes called an 'Appropriate Assessment') in line with the Habitats Regulations and relevant guidance documents.

1.25 The table below considers the potential impacts arising from each of the policies within the Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan Draft Version.

<b>Summary of Neighbourhood Plan Policy</b>	<b>Assessment of potential impacts</b>	<b>Potential for likely significant effect? Yes or No</b>
FNP01 Built Environment FNP02 Natural Environment FNP03 Flooding FNP04 Housing FNP05 Economy FNP06 Heritage FNP07 Traffic & Transport	The policy is not likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of any protected European site.	No

### ***In-combination effects***

- 1.26 Existing plans and proposals must be considered when assessing new plans or programmes for likely significant effects as they may create 'in-combination' effects. As the Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any sites therefore there are no in-combination effects as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan proposals.
- 1.27 The Neighbourhood Plan is also required to be in general conformity with existing strategic policies in NWBC, which has been assessed at a higher level to determine its effects on the identified SAC. It is concluded that no significant in-combination effects are likely as a result of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.28 With regards to the Plan as a whole, it is also determined that no significant effects are likely to occur as a consequence of the implementation of the Plan.

## **Conclusions**

### ***SEA Screening***

- 1.29 On the basis of the SEA Screening Assessment set out in this document, the conclusion is that the Fillongley 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.**

### ***HRA Screening***

- 1.30 The policies within the draft Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan have been screened under the Habitat Regulation Assessment process.
- 1.31 The conclusion of the HRA Screening Process is that **none of the proposed policies within the draft Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan have potential to lead to a Likely Significant Effect on a European Site.** The Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of internationally designated sites either on its own or in combination with other plans and therefore **does not require a Habitat Regulation Assessment to be undertaken.**
- 1.32 The draft Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan can be 'screened out' of the Habitat Regulation Assessment process and an 'Appropriate Assessment' is not required.

### ***Consultation***

- 1.33 This screening assessment will be consulted on by Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England and their response will inform the scope of any further work.