Dear [Name],

Consultation on draft SEA Screening opinion for Maresfield Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the draft screening opinion on the requirement for SEA of the Wealden Neighbourhood Plan. I have focused on the areas of interest to Historic England, that is the potential for significant environmental effects to the historic environment and heritage assets. I am happy to confirm that we agree with the Council's opinion that SEA should be required for the plan.

- The plan will allocate land for housing for approximately 50 units on one or more sites;
- The plan may also allocate land for employment uses;
- The plan will include policies to influence the design (and appearance) of new development;
- The plan has the potential to have effects on designated heritage assets including the conservation area, listed buildings and 2 scheduled monuments;
- The plan has the potential to have effects on non-designated heritage assets. The East Sussex Historic Environment Record contains a total of 412 records relating to the Parish of Maresfield, which is an unusually high number, partly reflecting the intensive survey undertaken of the archaeology of the Ashdown Forest in 2008.
- Significant environmental effects can be positive as well as negative;
- Strategic Environmental Assessment of the options to be considered within the plan has not previously been undertaken for a higher level, or equivalent planning document;
The effects of the plan on heritage assets, which are recognised by the NPPF as being a fragile and irreplaceable resource, are likely to be irreversible, permanent or long-lived and have the potential to be cumulative, either collectively or through affecting existing issues.

Taking these factors into consideration we considered that a requirement to undertake SEA of the plan is clearly justified and agree that it would add robustness to the development of policies within the plan, including helping to ensure that it promotes sustainable development as defined within the policies of the NPPF.

We hope these comments are of assistance to the Council but would be pleased to answer any queries they may raise or provide further information where this can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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Historic England
Guildford
Tel.

E-mail: