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**Our ref:** SV/2025/113024/OT-  
01/SB1-L01  
**Your ref:** Hampton in Arden NDP  
SEA/HRA  
**Date:** 13 June 2025

Dear Claire

**Hampton in Arden Draft Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental  
Assessment (SEA) & Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening  
Opinion consultation**

I refer to your email of the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 with regard to the **Hampton in Arden** 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 :** We note that there are two main rivers (River Blythe and Shadow Brook), and a number of ordinary watercourses that run through the plan area. Based on our indicative Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea), the two main rivers have some associated Flood Zones 3 and 2 (the high and medium risk zones respectively). However, the majority of the NDP area is located within Flood Zone 1 (low probability of flooding).

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 your 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 Hampton in Arden parish falls within the wider Tame Anker and Mease Management Catchment area and then into one sub catchment area. This consists of the 'Blythe from Patrick Bridge to R Tame' water body which is considered as having a 'poor ecological status'. The aim is to achieve 'moderate' status by 2027.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment:**

The European Union directive 2001/42/EC requires a SEA to be undertaken for certain types of plans and programmes that would have 'significant' environmental effect(s).

Paragraph: 046 in the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal Guidance (Reference ID: 11-046-20150209) states "a strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where:

- *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 or other strategic policies for the area".*

Having reviewed the Screening Report submitted, and in consideration of the matters within our remit, we concur with the conclusion that, given the lack of specific site allocations within the NDP, the Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental impacts and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not therefore required.

**Habitats Regulation Assessment:**

Article 6(3) of the European Habitats Directive (1992) requires that any plan (or project), which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site (also known as a "Natura 2000" site), but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an 'appropriate assessment' of its implications for the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

The plan area includes the River Blythe SSSI. We note that the draft Plan and screening report refer to Policy E2 which seeks to protect biodiversity and protect significant habitats including SSSI. Having reviewed the submitted Screening report, and in consideration of the matters within our remit, we concur the Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan is considered unlikely to have significant effects on the European designated sites.

We would only make substantive further comments on the plan if you were seeking to allocate sites in flood zone 3 and 2 (the latter being used as the 1% climate change extent).

I trust that the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**Miss. Fiona Flower**  
**Planning Officer**

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