

PARISH COUNCIL of DENMEAD



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Clerk to the Council: Mr Tony Daniells



Date: 24 January 2014

Your ref:

Our ref:

SEA SCOPING LETTER TO STATUTORY BODIES

Denmead Neighbourhood Plan: Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Letter

I set out below for your attention the proposed scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to accompany the forthcoming Denmead Neighbourhood Plan.

The Plan is being prepared by Denmead Parish Council as a qualifying body under the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations. The local planning authority, Winchester City Council, is currently finalising its formal screening opinion on the requirement for an SEA but has indicated that this opinion will conclude that one is required.

In reaching this opinion, the City Council will cite specific evidence that has been assembled for the preparation of the Plan. A summary of this evidence is provided in Appendix A to this letter. Essentially, the combination of local water resources, biodiversity and landscape issues are such that the City Council is of the opinion that there may be significant environment affects that the Plan should take account of in its policies and proposals.

In the light of this data, the Parish Council proposes to establish the following framework of environmental objectives and measures in order to identify any likely significant environmental effects. In doing so, it will use the baseline data of Appendix A to inform the evaluation of any policy alternatives, or at the very least a comparison of 'policy-on' and 'policy-off' options. It is mindful that it is difficult in some cases to measure absolute impact at this local scale as the data will not be available but the relative impacts of alternatives will be possible.

Objective 1: Water Resources

To protect, enhance and manage water resources in a sustainable way:

- 1A - will the policy require development in either Flood Zone 2 or 3 or on land where there are known problems with flooding?
- 1B – will the policy require development within 200m of streams, rivers, lakes or other watercourses/ aquatic habitat?

Objective 2: Biodiversity

To conserve and enhance biodiversity:

2A - could the policy have any adverse impact on any designated sites or protected species (International, European, National or Local)

- and/ or on any locally valued habitats and species (non-recorded biodiversity interests)?
- 2B - could the policy have the potential to enhance designated and locally valued habitats and species and/or provide opportunities for provision and enhancement of a network of greenspaces using an ecosystems approach?
- 2C - will the policy require development that may affect any structure or features that could be habitats for protected species or that are locally valued habitats and or species (non-recorded biodiversity interests)?

Objective 3: Landscape

To protect and enhance the character and quality of the local landscape:

- 3A - will the policy require development that could adversely impact on the landscape setting of the village?
- 3B – does the policy encourage the use of previously developed land that is not of high environmental value?
- 3C - could the policy contribute towards conserving and enhancing local distinctiveness, especially in terms of characteristic materials, trees, built form and layout, tranquillity, sense of place and setting?
- 3D - will the policy require development of land that would result in the loss of high grade (1 – 3a) agricultural land or that lies within the designated Denmead-Waterlooville Strategic Gap?

These objectives have been selected from the Sustainability Appraisal of the Winchester Local Plan Part 1 (LPP1), adopted in March 2013. The Parish Council is required to bring forward a Plan that is in general conformity with the policies of LPP1, especially in respect of the scale of housing development proposed over the plan period 2011 – 2031. LPP1 Policy MTRA2 requires the provision of about 250 net dwellings in Denmead. To date, approximately half that number has been consented, so the Neighbourhood Plan will seek to allocate land for the remaining number of new homes. At this stage, from the evidence work already undertaken, the Parish Council is confident the Plan will be able to meet this objective within the environmental constraints.

It will also contain policies on its village centre, business park and green infrastructure, all of which will be in general conformity with LPP1 and accord with the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework.

We understand that the City Council will be using a similar approach in its broader sustainability appraisal of the forthcoming Local Plan Part 2 (comprising site allocations and development management policies).

We are therefore consulting you on this proposed SEA scope in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and invite your response by **28 February 2014**, i.e. the required five week period.

If you have any queries then please contact our planning consultant, Neil Homer, of RCOH Ltd at neil.homer@rcoh.co.uk or call him on 07833 462991.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Daniells". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Tony Daniells
Clerk to the Council

APPENDIX A

Denmead Neighbourhood Plan: Environmental Data

Historic Landscape, Natural Landscape & Townscape

Title	Source	Data				Trends and consequences
		Type of open space	LPP1 standard (2011 pop.)	Existing provision	Surplus/shortfall	
Public Open Space	WCC Open Space Standards (LPP1 Policy CP7) 2013	Allotments	1.26 ha	0	-1.26 ha	When assessed against revised open space standards in the adopted local plan part 1 (2013), Denmead has a shortfall in most categories. When this data is rolled forward to include the growth in population due to 250 new homes to be provided, the shortfalls will increase and these will need to be explored through preparation of the neighbourhood plan and the allocation of land for open space and recreation purposes.
		Equipped children's & young people's play space	3.16 ha	1.12 ha	-2.04 ha	
		Informal green space	5.06 ha	2.84 ha	-2.22 ha	
		Natural green space	6.33 ha	5.19 ha	-1.14 ha	
		Parks, sports & recreation grounds	4.75 ha (sports)	4.06ha	-0.69 ha	
			4.75 ha (parks/recs)	1.82 ha	-2.93 ha	
National Park	Oikos Place Analysis 2013	The South Downs National Park lies to the north of Denmead, and includes part of the Parish.				Although the settlement of Denmead does not physically abut the National Park, there is the potential for Denmead to act as a gateway to the park, which may enhance its tourist potential with opportunities for economic diversification.
Parish Land types 2005 (% of total area of parish) Some land types omitted	ONS, Neighbourhood statistics	Units: Metres squared	Denmead	Winchester District	Denmead Parish has a diverse range of land types with a large amount of green space, reflecting the rural character of the area.	
		Total area of Land	16,352.83 (100%)	661,622.20 (100%)		
		Domestic	243.55 (1.5%)	4,206.22 (0.6%)		
		Non-Domestic	59.34 (0.4%)	2,537.68 (0.4%)		
		Road	329.40 (2.0%)	10,483.49 (1.6%)		
		Path	15.48 (0.1%)	401.00 (0.1%)		
		Rail	0.00 (0%)	366.34 (0.1%)		
		Domestic Garden	1,381.30 (8.4%)	25,773.41 (3.9%)		
		Greenspace	14,084.07 (86.1%)	608,279.37 (91.9%)		
Water	71.24 (0.4%)	3,313.97 (0.5%)				

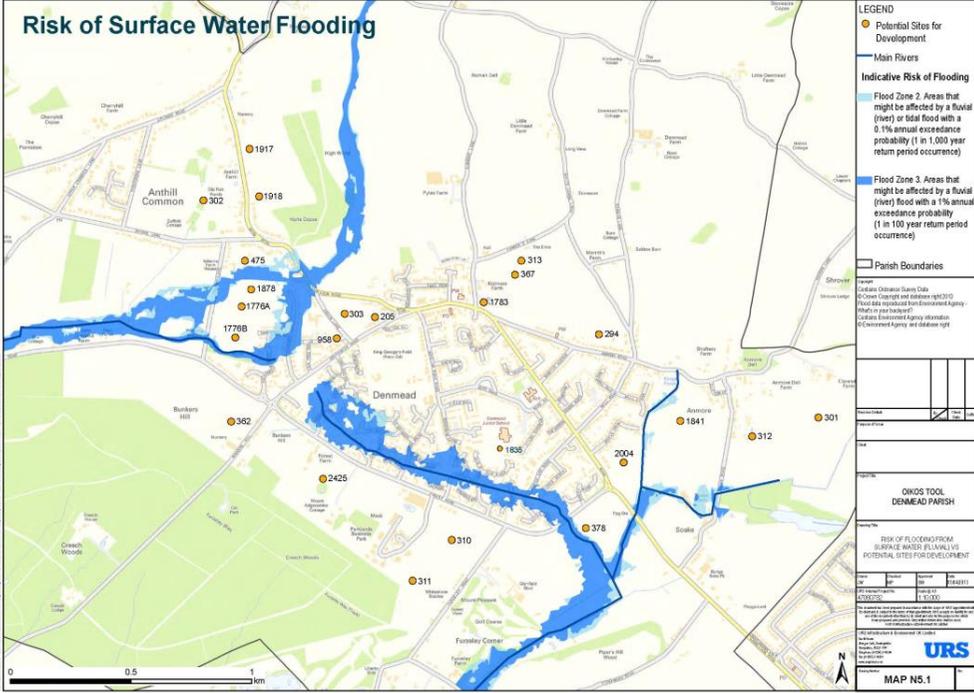
Title	Source	Data		Trends and consequences
Key sites of importance	Winchester District Local Plan Part 1	Creech Wood is a large site (189 ha) owned by the Forestry Commission and has informal play areas, managed woodland and numerous routes. It also designated for its biodiversity interest (see section 8).		Denmead is fortunate to be close to this asset which attracts people from a wide area. Levels of access to and impact on the woods will need to be assessed as new development occurs locally and further afield. .
Separation of settlements	Winchester District Local Plan Part 1	The village is separated from the larger urban area of Waterlooville to the east by an area of countryside which has been designated as a Local Gap originally in the 2006 Local Plan Review and continued through CP18 of recently adopted Local Plan Part 1. The gap extends eastwards from the edge of the West of Waterlooville Major Development Area.		The gap is an important part of Denmead's setting and is valued locally to protect its identity from neighbouring urban areas. The exact extent of the Gap will need to be tested to ensure it still meets its purposes.
Listed Buildings	www.heritagegateway.org.uk	Denmead Parish	Winchester district	Denmead has few historic buildings, therefore those in existence will need to be maintained so that they continue to contribute to the character of the village.
		19 no. (all grade II)	2,780 no.	
Historical features	Village Design Statement – Denmead Parish Council 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronze age burial mounds • Traditional thatched cottages • Roman remains • Late 19th century Church and school • 19th century Mill 		
Historic building types	Village Design Statement – Denmead Parish Council 2007	A mix of buildings ranging from Medieval to very recent, with significant numbers of dwellings from between the 70s and 90s.		New development will need to reflect this mix of building styles and key aspects of the village character as specified in the design statement.

Biodiversity & Environmental Conservation

Title	Source	Data	Trends and consequences
Sites of biological interest	HBIC Village Design Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Hedgerows • Creech wood (SINC) • Ancient Ponds • Anmore Dell Meadow (SINC) • Large gardens • Unimproved Grasslands (some of which are SINC) 	The area in general is described as one of the most bio-diverse in the area. The area appears to be a habitat for several species that are relatively rare and/or protected. This means any developments near such habitats will need to be initially assessed to determine any impacts and then monitored.
Habitats identified around Denmead	Oikos Place Analysis 2013	Traditional orchards, Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture, Floodplain Grazing, Marsh, Lowland meadows, Ancient woodlands (semi-natural or replanted), Woodland registered in National Inventory of Woodland and Trees (including coniferous, broadleaved and mixed).	
Noted Animal Species in Denmead	Village design statement – Denmead	<p>Denmead has many different species, some considered important to the county and nationally. Below are listed those of particular note and possibly most vulnerable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warblers (bird) • Turtle Doves (bird) • Butterflies (Purple emperor, White admiral, Silver Washed Fritillary, Grizzled Skipper) • Bats (mammal) • Crossbills (bird) • Eels • Nightjars (bird) 	
Tree Protection orders	WCC map layers data online	There are a high number of Tree Preservation Orders and area TPOs in Denmead, normally consisting of mature and ancient Oak trees which once were part of the Forest of Bere before development of the village.	TPOs are required to be protected and if their destruction is unavoidable should be replaced, at least like for like. Impact on TPO also needs to be considered when new development is built adjacent to them.

<p>Details of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) See Appendix II for site criteria</p>	<p>HBIC</p> <p>Village design statement – Denmead</p>	<p>MILL COPSE 1A MILL PLAIN 1B MITCHELLAND & LOVELOCKS – CREECH DROVE 1B CREECH WALK WEST 1D/3B(I) HILL BARN MEADOWS AREA 2A CREECH COPSE 1B HILL BARN MEADOWS AREA 2A ANTHILL COMMON AREA 2A ANTHILL COMMON AREA 2A ANTHILL COMMON AREA 2A CREECH WALK EAST 1D/3B(I) ANTHILL COMMON AREA 2A ANTHILL FARM MEADOW 2A INHAMS LANE MEADOW 2A HIGHWOOD MEADOW 2A HARTS COPSE/HIGHWOOD 1B MOUNT PLEASANT MEADOW 2A STEANE COPSE 1A PIPER'S HILL WOOD 1A KINGS POND MEADOW 2A ANMORE DELL MEADOW 2A/6A</p>	<p>Denmead has a diverse range of habitats of different levels of importance to nature conservation. There importance as SINCs means the impact of any new development will have to be initially assessed and then monitored to understand how it may affect the future viability of nature conservation in the area.</p>
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Water, Air & Climate Change

Title	Source	Data	Trends and consequences
Water Courses and flood risk	Oikos Place Analysis 2013	River Mead runs through the village with a 'Flood zone 3' designated on either side of the course of the river. This denotes a 1 in 100 year chance of a river flood.	The main watercourse through Denmead is the River Mead, which has the potential to cause some overflow flooding, particularly in areas designated in flood plan level 3 (areas with a 1% annual chance of been impacted by a river overflow).
Flood Risk Map Showing flood planes and water course	Oikos Place Analysis 2013		Development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan should avoid flood areas 2 or 3 in accordance with Environment Agency requirements.
Ground Water flooding	Oikos Place Analysis 2013	Most of the parish of Denmead has a low risk of ground water flooding, however low areas have been designated by the British Geological survey as medium to high risk. These areas generally lie to the south of the Parish, which includes part of the settlement.	New development in areas particularly susceptible to ground water flooding in the south west of the village will need to effectively demonstrate they can mitigate the risk of flooding without having adverse affects on surrounding areas.

website: www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk
 email: clerk@denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk

*The Parish Council of Denmead supports Equal Opportunities
 which will be dealt with in accordance with the Government's Guidelines*

Domestic Energy consumption (% of total consumption)	ONS, Neighbourhood statistics 2009	Unit: Megawatt Hours	Denmead	Winchester District	Denmead is fortunate to have mains gas provision, as many smaller rural settlements in the Winchester district do not. Consumption levels are comparable with the District. The Neighbourhood plan will be to explore the potential for renewable energy schemes.
		Total Consumption of Domestic Electricity and Gas	49,767 (100%)	817,508 (100%)	
		Consumption of Ordinary Domestic Electricity	11,312 (22.7%)	190,816 (23.3%)	
		Consumption of Economy 7 Domestic Electricity	1,226 (2.5%)	45,008 (5.5%)	
		Consumption of Domestic Gas	37,230 (74.8%)	581,684 (71.2%)	
Noise levels	Oikos Place Analysis 2013	Noise levels in Denmead predominantly come from traffic noise and occasional farming noise. However, no exact information is available regarding specific noise levels in Denmead.		Noise levels are not overbearing in Denmead and mainly come from local roads. However, as new development is built out, the impact of more cars may need to be monitored.	