

**Harberton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HNP)**  
**Meeting of the Steering Group**  
7.00pm Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 Harberton Parish Hall

**Item 8 Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Action:**

- i) To update AECOM of the decision not to allocate Winsland House, and that under the circumstances, the HNPSG is coming to the understanding that a SEA will no longer be required.
- ii) To raise a query with AECOM to make sure that the HNPSG has not misunderstood the situation and whether any SEA work needs to be done.

**Response from AECOM:**

With regards to the additional reasonable alternatives work, we might not need to appraise any additional options if the intention is to no longer allocate sites within the Neighbourhood Plan (recognising that this is to be confirmed with respect to Ford Farm). We can explain the context within the Environmental Report, which will provide a useful narrative contributing to the evidence base.

If the Neighbourhood Plan is not intending to allocate, you are correct in that there could be merit in re-screening the Plan in due course to determine whether an SEA is still required. **Please note that without a re-screen for SEA (with confirmation from the consultees that an SEA is no longer required), the Neighbourhood Plan would fail to meet its Basic Conditions, as the legal requirement for SEA would not have been met.** This is due to the fact that you have already received a positive screening determination for SEA from the Local Authority. A re-screening exercise could also take a considerable amount of time to complete (and would need to be undertaken by the Local Authority).

In light of the above, and given that we've made significant progress with the SEA to date, the most straightforward option would be for us to finalise our assessment and provide you with a completed SEA Environmental Report in good time for Regulation 14 consultation. We have taken this approach for other Neighbourhood Plans in the past where a decision on whether to allocate sites has either changed or has become more complex due to wider factors.

As a reminder, the Environmental Report will contain three key sections:

1. Summary of SEA scoping – including the responses received from the consultees and how these have been addressed through the SEA.
2. Consideration of reasonable alternatives – including the spatial options which we've considered to date alongside a narrative explaining the position with respect to allocating sites.
3. Appraisal of the Neighbourhood Plan policies, once received.

We will need a relatively final version of the draft Neighbourhood Plan (particularly the policy wording) to complete Section 3. On this basis, are you working towards a date for Regulation 14 consultation?

Look forward to your thoughts on the above, and happy to have a quick call if preferable.