Dear Ms Harvey,

Hailey Neighbourhood Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion

Thank you for your e-mail of 23rd March to my colleague, Rob Lloyd-Sweet, seeking the opinion of Historic England on whether or not the policies and proposals of the Hailey Neighbourhood Plan are likely to have significant environmental effects and whether or not it should therefore be subject to strategic environmental assessment.

At the time of your e-mail Rob Lloyd-Sweet was seconded to another team within Historic England and so he passed your e-mail to me. Although he is now back with my team, we have agreed that I would respond to your consultation, although it is likely that Mr Lloyd-Sweet will be leading on any future consultations on the Plan.

According to the National Heritage List for England (another reference source that could have been noted in paragraph 2.9 of the Screening Report) Hailey parish has 27 listed buildings and part of a scheduled monument. We are also aware that it has a conservation area and believe that it potentially has a number of locally important heritage assets and/or archaeological remains. Together, these give the historic environment of the parish a significant degree of sensitivity.

We note that the Plan proposes two housing site allocations. According to our records neither would be likely to affect the significance or special interest of a designated heritage asset but they may have an impact on locally important buildings or archaeology. We note that these have not previously been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.

We therefore agree with the conclusion of the Screening Opinion prepared by Enfusion for West Oxfordshire District Council that there is some uncertainty regarding the likelihood of significant environmental effects arising from these site allocations in the Neighbourhood Plan that have not been explicitly tested through the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan.
We also therefore agree with the conclusion that the Hailey Neighbourhood Plan does require a proportionate Strategic Environmental Assessment for the reasons set out in paragraph 5.3 of the Screening Opinion.

We hope you find these comments helpful. However, should you wish to discuss any points within this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you again for consulting Historic England.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Martin Small
Principal Adviser, Historic Environment Planning
(Bucks, Oxon, Berks, Hampshire, IoW, South Downs National Park and Chichester)

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