

Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Bidford-on-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan

SEA Screening Document

April 2016





LEPUS CONSULTING
LANDSCAPE, ECOLOGY, PLANNING & URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Bidford-on-Avon Parish Neighbourhood Plan

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Photo: Bidford on Avon by Paul Englefield

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SEA is a tool for predicting potential significant effects. The actual effects may be different from those identified. Prediction of effects is made using an evidence-based approach and incorporates a judgement.

The assessments below are based on the best available information, including that provided to Lepus by the Parish Council and information that is publicly available. No attempt to verify these secondary data sources has been made and they have assumed to be accurate as published.

Every attempt has been made to predict effects as accurately as possible using the available information. Many effects will depend on the size and location of development, building design and construction, proximity to sensitive receptors such as wildlife

sites, conservation areas, flood risk areas and watercourses, and the range of uses taking place. This report was prepared in February and March 2016 and is subject to and limited by the information available during this time.

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Acronyms

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PP	Policy or Programme
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

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1 Introduction

1.1 This report

- 1.1.1 This screening report has been prepared to determine whether the Bidford-on-Avon Parish Neighbourhood Plan (Neighbourhood Development Plan, NDP) should be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive) and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations).

1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC. This was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM, 2005).
- 1.2.2 Under the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), certain types of plans that set the framework for the consent of future development projects, must be subject to an environmental assessment.
- 1.2.3 The 2008 Planning Act requires plan making bodies to comply with the SEA Directive by screening the plan's potential effects on the environment.

1.3 The Bidford-on-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 1.3.1 The creation of neighbourhood plans started with the Government's Localism Act 2011. The Act set out a series of measures to shift power away from central government and towards local people. One of the Localism Act's key components is the Neighbourhood Development Plan; a new tier in planning policy which enables local people to shape the development of the community in which they live.
- 1.3.2 The neighbourhood planning process started on 7th April 2014, when Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council set up a meeting to recruit volunteers and skilled workers to be part of a Steering Group. These consisted of volunteers who were representative of the community and willing to help prepare a NDP for the area.

- 1.3.3 The launch of the Steering Group resulted in the creation of four Sub Groups, each focusing on a specific area in the NDP. The four Sub Groups were; amenities/communities/recreation, economic and employment welfare, environmental issues and planning and infrastructure.

Consultation

- 1.3.4 The NDP will be published for consultation. This provides an opportunity for the public and local organisations to comment on the plan.

- 1.3.5 After consultation, any responses will be taken into account and used to prepare a 'submission draft' of the NDP. This version of the plan will be subject to inspection by an independent examiner. If the examiner approves the NDP it will be subject to a local referendum. If 50% or more of people voting in the referendum support the plan, the NDP will be adopted.

Size

- 1.3.6 Bidford-on-Avon is a large village located on the River Avon, approximately 8 kilometres southwest from the historic town of Stratford-on-Avon and approximately the same distance northeast of Evesham. The estimated total population for the parish of Bidford-on-Avon is 4,419¹.

- 1.3.7 The proposed Bidford-on-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan covers the administrative boundaries of the Bidford-on-Avon Parish, including Bidford-on-Avon village and all other smaller settlements within the boundary. **Figure 1.1** shows the current NDP boundary.

- 1.3.8 The plan area is approximately 4.5 kilometres north-to-south and 4.1 kilometres east-to-west at its widest points. The Parish of Bidford-on-Avon is approximately 13.4 square kilometres in area.

¹ ONS, (2012), Mid-2010 Civil Parish SYOA estimates Bidford-on-Avon, [online] Available at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/search/index.html?newquery=bidford-on-avon>



Figure 1.1: Neighbourhood Plan Boundary²

Location

- 1.3.9 Bidford-on-Avon is a village and Parish in Warwickshire. The Parish consists of Bidford-on-Avon village as well as a number of smaller villages. The Parish lies 6.5 kilometres southwest of the Stratford-upon-Avon Parish with the B439 running through the centre. The B439 runs through the centre of Bidford-on-Avon and connects the A46 with Stratford-upon-Avon. As a result, this road is one of the busiest in the Parish.
- 1.3.10 The Parish is in close proximity to the River Avon. As a result, the south of the village of Bidford-on-Avon is more susceptible to flooding than the north (Flood Risk is shown on **Figure 1.2**). Both Flood Zone 2 and 3 are considered generally unsuitable for development. Flood defences are currently in place on the north of Barton, a village in the southeast of the Parish, as almost the entire village lies within Flood Zone 3.
- 1.3.11 Bidford-on-Avon village is a large settlement with many amenities. The village benefits from a primary school, shops, banks, garages, supermarkets and convenience stores, a medical centre and a dentist, a church, allotments, pubs, restaurants, takeaways and other facilities. The area centred around the High Street, including the bridge, is a designated conservation area (**Figure 1.3**). Bidford-on-Avon village benefits from 26 Listed Buildings. The bridge crossing the River Avon is also a Grade I Listed Building and Scheduled Monument.

² Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council (2015) Bidford-on-Avon Parish Neighbourhood Plan



Figure 1.2: Risk of flooding from rivers and sea³

³ Environment Agency (2016) What's in your backyard, Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea)

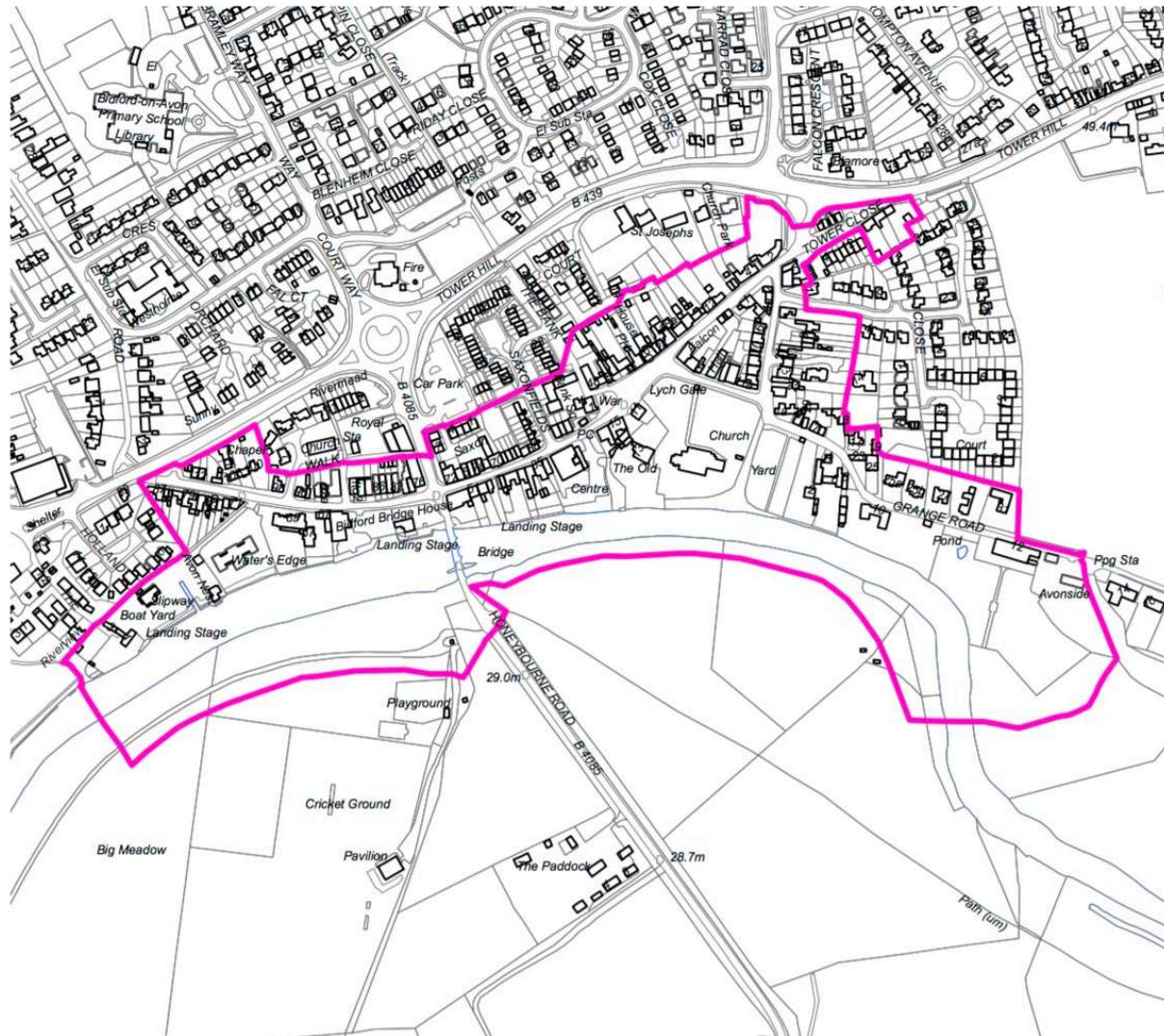


Figure 1.3: Bidford-on-Avon conservation area⁴

- 1.3.12 The rest of the Parish consists of rural countryside interspersed with three smaller villages. These are Barton, Marlcliff and Broom. Amenities throughout the rest of the Parish are not as abundant as in Bidford-on-Avon village and mostly consist of pubs and B&B's. Barton and Broom contain designated conservation areas. These designated areas are around Welford Road in Barton and Mill Lane in Broom (**Figures 1.4 and 1.5**). A number of Listed Buildings are present within the Parish outside of Bidford-on-Avon village.
- 1.3.13 Bidford-on-Avon Parish benefits from a number of open spaces. Big Meadow, a 26 acre riverside meadow, lies near Bidford-on-Avon village to the south of the River Avon. Other open spaces in the Parish include Marleigh Road, Jubilee Close, The Leys and Kings Lane and Dugdale Avenue.

⁴ Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2016) Conservation Areas A-G, Bidford-on-Avon Conservation Area Boundary Map. Available at: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/148046/Bidford%2Don%2DAvon%20A4P.pdf>, accessed: 05/02/2016



Figure 1.4: Barton conservation area⁵

⁵ Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2016) Conservation Areas A-G, Barton Conservation Area Boundary Map. Available at: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/sealsodocs/148044/Barton%20A4P.pdf>, accessed: 05/02/2016

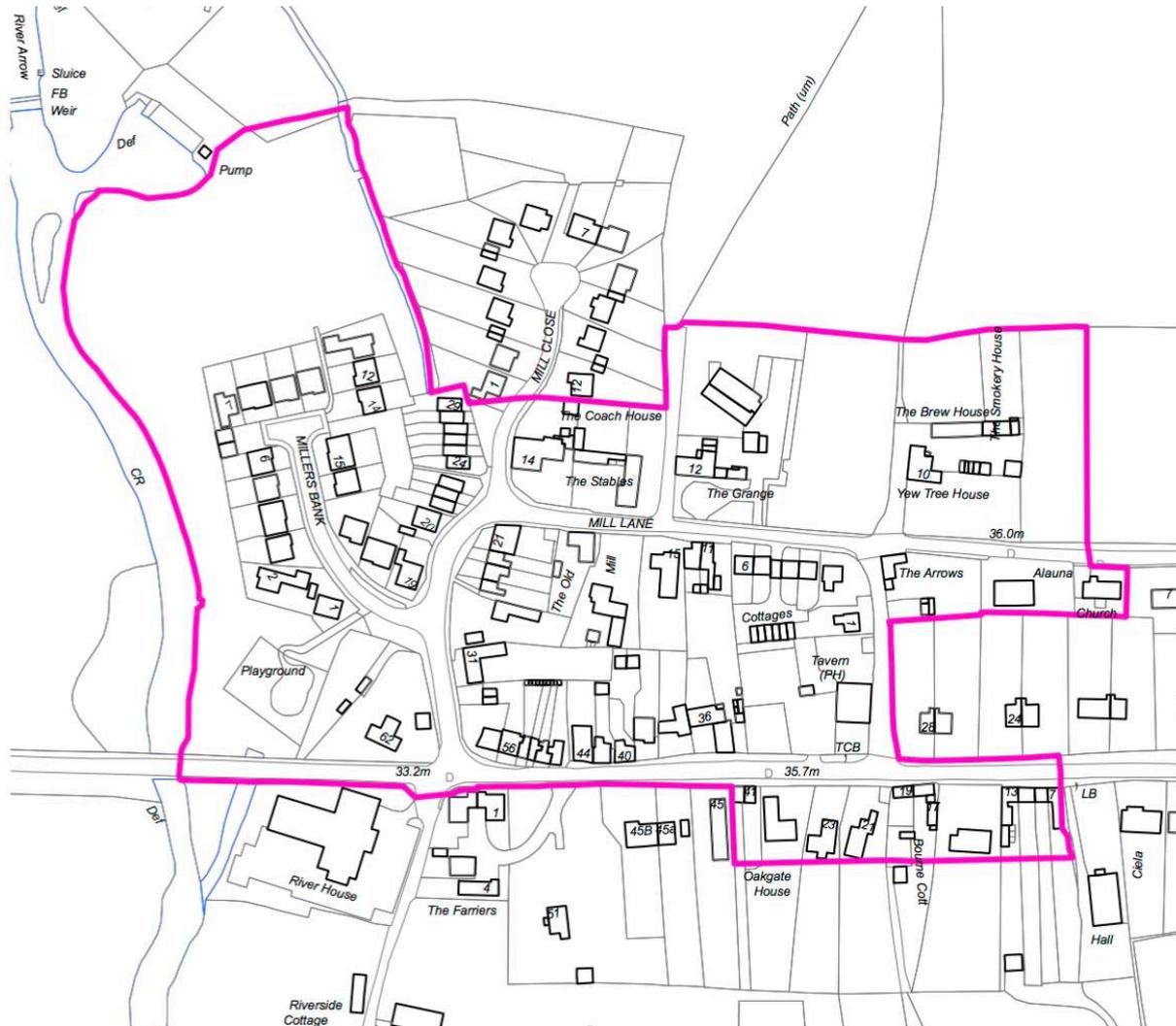


Figure 1.5: Broom conservation area⁶

1.3.14

No internationally designated sites lie within the Parish. Broom Railway Cutting SSSI lies in the northwest of the Parish on the outskirts of Broom. Cleeve Prior Bank Local Nature Reserve (LNR) lies to the southwest of Bidford-on-Avon Parish in Cleeve Prior Parish. The location of the statutory designations can be seen in **Figure 1.8**.

⁶ Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2016) Conservation Areas A-G, Broom Conservation Area Boundary Map. Available at: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/sealsdocs/148049/Broom%20A4P.pdf>, accessed: 05/02/2016

1.3.15

The land surrounding Bidford-on-Avon contains areas of agricultural land, which is classified as a combination of grade 2 and 3 agricultural land. Grade 1 agricultural land is the most productive; therefore it is often considered most important. The majority of land within Bidford-on-Avon village is classified as Grade 2 agricultural land. **Figure 1.6** shows agricultural land classification (ALC) data, taken from Magic⁷. Magic provides the most up-to date information regarding ALC, but the dataset is incomplete. **Figure 1.7** shows a more generic ALC classification, as published via Natural England's regional ALC datasets. The regional datasets give complete coverage of the country, but are less detailed than Magic, hence both are presented below.

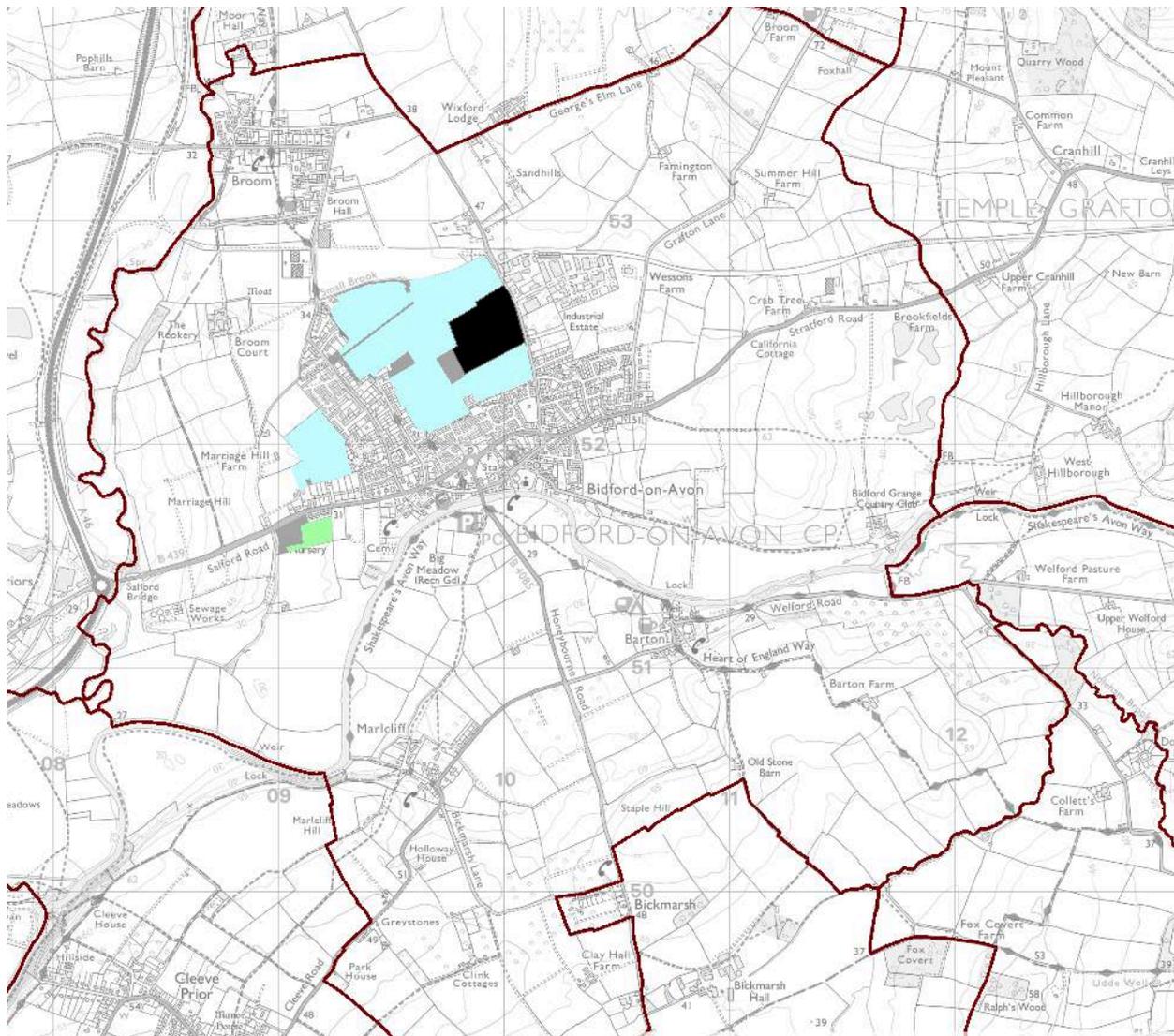


Figure 1.6: Agricultural land classification (from Magic)⁸

⁷ Natural England (2016) Magic Map. Available at: <http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>, accessed: 05/02/2016

⁸ *ibid*

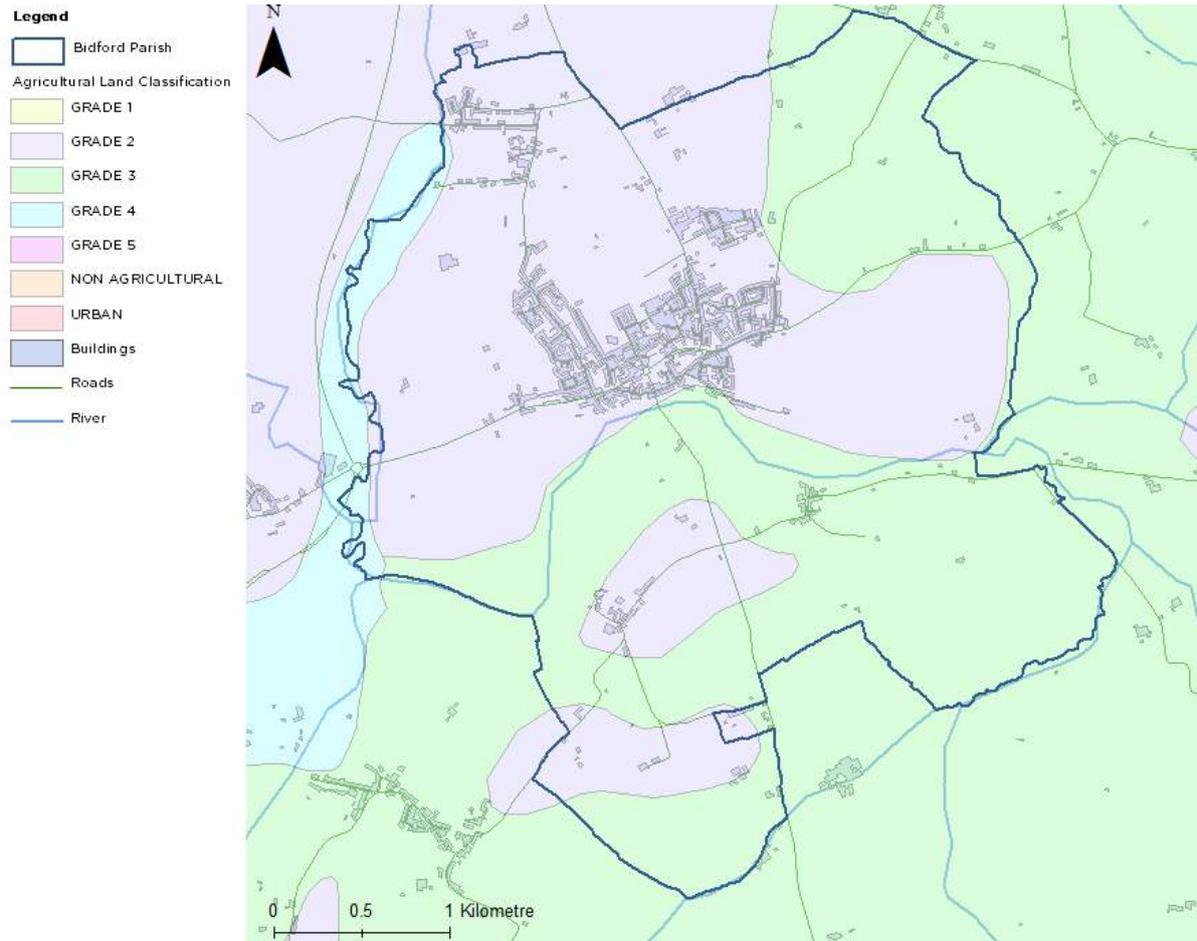


Figure 1.7: Agricultural land classification

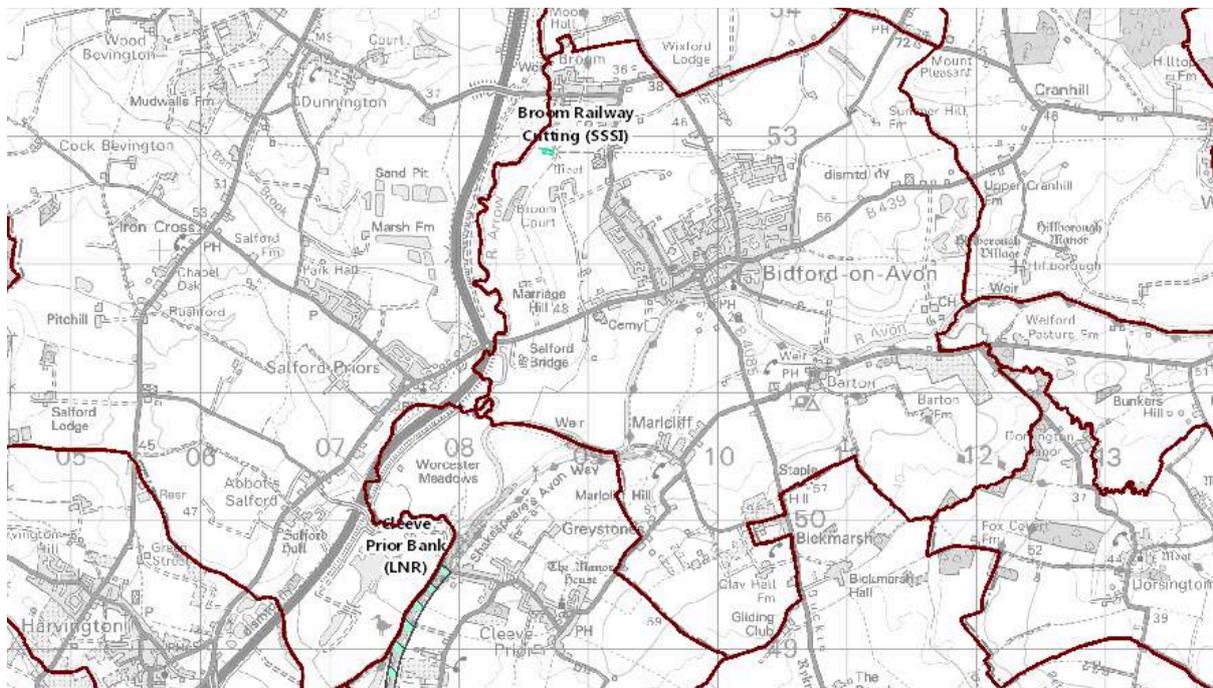


Figure 1.8: Statutory land-based designations⁹

⁹ Natural England (2016) Magic Map. Available at: <http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>, accessed: 05/02/2016

1.4 Relationship with the Local Plan

- 1.4.1 The NDP is a land-use plan, prepared for town and country planning purposes. It sets out a framework for future development consents within Bidford-on-Avon Parish. Once adopted, the NDP will form part of the framework for planning in Stratford-on-Avon district, along with the Local Plan and other development plan documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).
- 1.4.2 Once made (brought into legal force), the NDP will form part of the statutory development plan, which is the blueprint for spatial planning in a local authority area. The statutory development plan can include a Core Strategy and/or Local Plan, if a current plan is in place, along with any Neighbourhood Plans and SPDs. The statutory development plan may also include saved policies from a previous Core Strategy or Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are smaller in geographic scale than Core Strategies and Local Plans, and serve to add further detailed policies and proposals to these documents. Development must also be in line with national policy, including the NPPF.
- 1.4.3 Once made, the Neighbourhood Plan will attain the same legal status as an adopted Core Strategy or Local Plan. Planning applications will be considered in line with the statutory development plan, unless there is a very good reason not to do so.
- 1.4.4 The Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy¹⁰ underwent examination hearings from 12th to 21st January 2016. The Council intends to progress to adoption in summer 2016. The Core Strategy sets out a vision to maintain and enhance the outstanding built and natural character and heritage of Stratford-on-Avon, as well as meeting future development needs. It identifies the type, amount and location of future development, which will be used to guide future planning decisions in the district. Once the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy is adopted, planning decisions will be made in line with both this and the NDP, once made.
- 1.4.5 In June 2015 the Council adopted a number of the Core Strategy policies to help inform decisions about planning applications on an interim basis, known as the Interim Adopted Core Strategy. This forms the current basis for planning decisions in the district, along with the saved policies of the District Local Plan (2006). Saved policies can be found in the Saved Policies Schedule¹¹. Until the time that the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy is adopted, development must be in line with the Interim Adopted Core Strategy and the saved policies of the District Local Plan (2006) (and the NDP, when made). The Interim Adopted Core Strategy policies will not carry full weight until the Strategy is formally adopted.

¹⁰ Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2015) Core Strategy

¹¹

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/9904/Saved%20Policies%20Schedule%20%2D%20July%202009.pdf>

2 The Screening Process

2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment screening

2.1.1 The process for determining whether or not an SEA is required is called screening. In order to screen, it is necessary to determine if a plan will have significant environmental effects using the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule I of the SEA Regulations. A determination cannot be made until the three statutory consultation bodies have been consulted: The Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage.

2.1.2 Within 28 days of its determination, the plan makers must publish a statement, setting out its decision. If they determine that an SEA is not required, the statement must include the reasons for this.

2.2 The screening process

2.2.1 The Localism Act requires Neighbourhood Plans to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. In the case of Bidford-on-Avon, the plan must be in general conformity with the District Local Plan (2006) saved policies, until the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy is adopted.

2.2.2 Paragraph 009 of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) 'Neighbourhood Planning' section states:

'Where a neighbourhood plan is brought forward before an up-to-date Local Plan is in place the qualifying body and the local planning authority should discuss and aim to agree the relationship between policies in:

- the emerging neighbourhood plan
 - the emerging Local Plan
 - the adopted development plan
- with appropriate regard to national policy and guidance'*

2.2.3 This suggests that the emerging NDP, emerging Core Strategy and the District Local Plan (2006) saved policies should be complementary.

2.2.4 The emerging Core Strategy was subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which assessed the plan for significant effects on sustainability and fulfilled the requirements of the SEA Directive. Mitigation measures were suggested where negative or uncertain impacts were identified.

2.2.5 **Figure 2.1** presents a diagram prepared by ODPM (2005). This shows the application of the SEA process to plans and programmes. The sequential approach in the flow diagram can be used to screen the Bidford-on-Avon Parish NDP.

2.2.6

Table 2.1 uses the questions presented in **Figure 2.1** to establish whether there is a need for SEA for the Bidford-on-Avon Parish NDP.

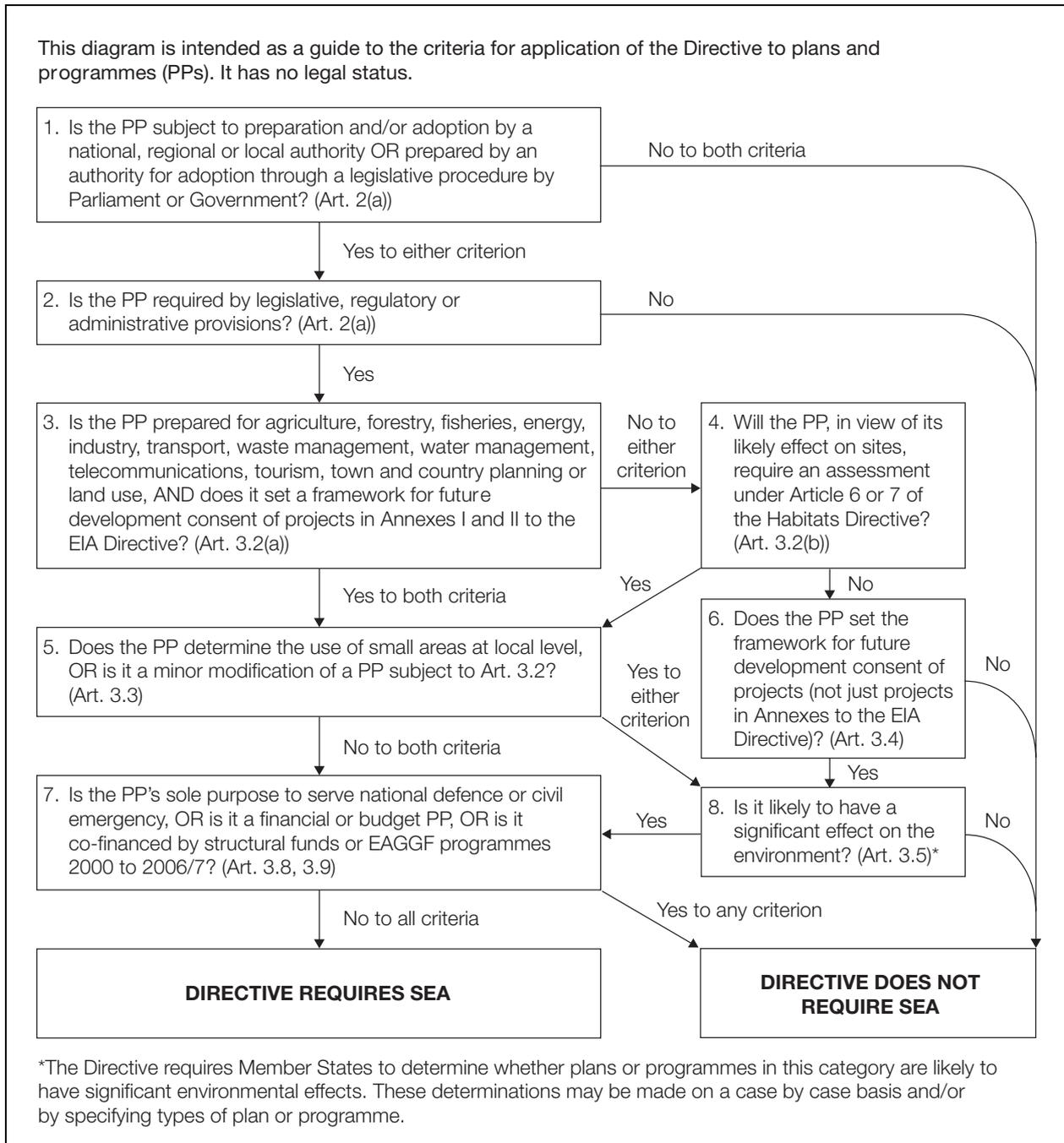


Figure 2.1: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes¹²

¹²ODPM (2005) A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

Table 2.1: Establishing whether there is a need for SEA

Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The plan constitutes a NDP, which will be subject to independent examination and brought into legal force if it receives 50% or more affirmative votes at referendum. The NDP would form part of the statutory development plan for Stratford-on-Avon.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	N	Communities and neighbourhoods have a right to produce a NDP, however it is not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative bodies. If the NDP is adopted it would become part of the statutory development plan, meaning it should continue to be screened under the SEA Directive.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Y	The NDP is a land-use plan and sets the framework for future development consents within the Bidford-on-Avon area. Due to the neighbourhood quality of the plan area, development projects contained in Annex I are unlikely to take place in Bidford-on-Avon. The NDP supports infrastructure projects, which are listed in Annex II of Directive 97/11/EC. This includes Policy ENV1 – Renewable Energy, which could lead to installation of wind turbines, and urban development projects, including housing infrastructure.
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N	The Bidford-on-Avon NDP is not anticipated to have a likely significant effect on any European sites.
5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Y	The NDP identifies a potential site for housing. The plan only applies to the Bidford-on-Avon parish.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	Depending on size and nature of submitted applications in context of NPPF.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	N	
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	See Section 2.3.

2.3 Relevance to the SEA Directive

2.3.1 Question 8 within the ODPM guidance (see **Figure 2.1**) refers to whether the NDP would have a significant effect on the environment. The criteria from Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) can be used to consider the relevance of the plan to the SEA Directive. **Section 2.4** considers likely environmental effects of the plan.

Table 2.2: Bidford-on-Avon NDP and the SEA Directive

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of Regulations)	Response
The characteristics of plans and programmes	
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	As demonstrated in Table 2.1 the Bidford-on-Avon NDP will establish the development control framework for the village of Bidford-on-Avon. The NDP is prepared for town and country planning and land use planning purposes and sets out a framework for future development in Bidford. The nature of the NDP includes a strategic reserve site for future housing for up to 100 dwellings. No locally or internationally designated wildlife sites lie within the NDP area (see Figure 1.4).
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The NDP must be in general conformity with the District Local Plan (2006) Saved Policies, the National Planning Policy and European Directives. As per Section 2.2 , the PPG encourages the NDP and the emerging Core Strategy to be complementary.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	There are opportunities for integrating environmental considerations within Bidford-on-Avon. The Bidford-on-Avon NDP contains policies to protect Green and Blue Infrastructure (ENV2 and ENV3), preservation of heritage assets (ENV8) and nature conservation (ENV10) among other environmental policies.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	Key issues taken from the Proposed Submission version of the emerging Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A rapidly increasing population in the village is putting pressure on the infrastructure and resources in the Parish; 2. Concern that the drainage system has little spare capacity; 3. The primary school has little capacity to deal with further intake; and 4. All land to the south of the village along the Avon Valley is affected by flood risk (Suspected Flood Zone 3a).
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes)	The NDP is a land-use plan and sets the framework for future development consents within the Bidford-on-Avon NDP area.

linked to waste management or water protection)	The NDP sets policies which planning applications within the Bidford-on-Avon NDP area must adhere to.
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected	
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	The NDP is not expected to give rise to any significant environmental effects.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	The plan is not thought to contribute to cumulative impacts in combination with the emerging Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects	The NDP is not expected to give rise to any significant environmental effects.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	There are no anticipated effects of the NDP on human health.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The NDP is not expected to give rise to any significant environmental effects.
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values (iii) intensive land-use	(iii) The majority of the Parish is Grade 2 with areas of Grade 3 agricultural land (Figures 1.6 and 1.7). Best and most versatile agricultural land is not likely to be affected by the NDP.
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	The NDP is expected to maintain, and may enhance, designations, including the conservation areas and SSSI.

2.4 Determination of significant effects

2.4.1 The Bidford-on-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan will influence where development should be located, as well as influence design across the plan area. Responding to local character and history as well as using good quality materials are both aspects of good design. Both of these factors can be significant determinants of environmental effects.

2.4.2 A summary of baseline and likely significant effects of the NDP against each of the topics set out in Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive is presented below.

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

2.4.3 The NDP is not expected to lead to development in or near to Broom Railway Cutting SSSI or Cleeve Prior Bank LNR, as development will be focused in Bidford-on-Avon village.

- 2.4.4 Policies ENV2 (Green Infrastructure), ENV3 (Blue Infrastructure) and ENV10 (Nature Conservation) are expected to lead to a high level of protection for biodiversity and wildlife in the plan area. Whilst the NDP is not expected to lead to significant effects on biodiversity, it is recommended that Policy ENV10 puts a stronger emphasis on the mitigation hierarchy, i.e. habitat loss should be avoided and reduced wherever possible and habitat recreation is to be used only as a last resort.

Population and human health

- 2.4.5 The NDP is expected to maintain, and possibly improve, access to health and recreation facilities through Policies AM1 (Protecting and Enhancing Health Opportunities), AM3 (Protecting and Enhancing Sports and Recreational Spaces (Formal)), AM4 (Protecting and Enhancing Informal Open Spaces) and AM5 (Allotments and Growing Space).

- 2.4.6 By promoting an appropriate level and mix of housing development (Policies H1 and H2), the NDP is likely to ensure suitable levels of housing provision in the NDP area. Policy ENV9 (Promoting High Quality Design) would lead to development that is designed to reduce crime and the fear of crime, as well as ensuring attractive development, which may contribute to satisfaction of residents with their neighbourhood.

Soil, water and air

- 2.4.7 Policy H3 (Use of Brownfield Land) states that any contaminated land will be 'satisfactorily' remediated. Policies ENV3 (Blue Infrastructure) and ENV5 (Foul Drainage) are expected to ensure the quality of local watercourses and reduce risks of pollution to these. Policy ENV5 also ensures that adequate water supply and wastewater infrastructure will be in place.

- 2.4.8 There are no existing air quality issues in the NDP area and it is not anticipated that any air quality issues will arise from the NDP.

- 2.4.9 Policy ENV6 (Protection of the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land) includes strong protection of best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a). Policy H3 prioritises development on brownfield land, which is likely to protect best and most versatile agricultural land.

Climatic factors

- 2.4.10 Policy ENV4 (Reducing Flood Risk) is likely to ensure that development does not increase risk of flooding and is not at risk of flooding. Whilst the NDP is not expected to have a significant impact on flooding, it is recommended that Policy ENV4 is strengthened by specifying that development in Flood Zone 3 should be avoided, unless it is compatible development e.g. for river-based recreation. The supporting text for Section 3.0, Neighbourhood Housing, acknowledges that '*the south of the village is heavily constrained by the River Avon flood plain*'.

- 2.4.11 Policy ENV2 (Green Infrastructure) is expected to contribute to helping Bidford-on-Avon adapt to climate change. Green Infrastructure has many benefits that can help climate change adaptation, such as local cooling and carbon dioxide uptake and storage¹³.
- 2.4.12 Policies ENV1 (Renewable Energy) and AM6 (Promoting Walking and Cycling) are expected to prevent an increase in per capita carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in Bidford-on-Avon, thus reducing the contribution of the plan area to climate change. Policy ENV1 does this by promoting low-carbon renewable energy generation. Policy AM6 is likely to reduce car use and associated CO₂, by promoting sustainable modes of transport.

Material assets

- 2.4.13 The material assets topic considers social, physical and environmental infrastructure, the use of previously developed land and minerals and aggregates. This sub-section should be read alongside 'Population and human health', which details some health and social infrastructure implications of the NDP; 'Climatic factors', which considers energy infrastructure in terms of renewable energy and transport infrastructure in terms of sustainable transport; 'Soil, water and air', which considers water infrastructure and previously developed land; and the 'Biodiversity, flora and fauna' sub-section, which considers environmental infrastructure.
- 2.4.14 The NDP makes provision for social infrastructure, in terms of health and recreation facilities, community facilities and education facilities in Policies AM1 (Protecting and Enhancing Health Opportunities), AM2 (Protecting and Enhancing Education and Library Facilities), AM3 (Protecting and Enhancing Sports and Recreational Spaces (Formal)) and AM4 (Protecting and Enhancing Informal Open Spaces).
- 2.4.15 The NDP may reduce the need for sterilisation of mineral deposits¹⁴ by promoting development on brownfield land (Policy H3), where any deposits will have already been sterilised.
- 2.4.16 Waste infrastructure will be managed through the Warwickshire Waste Core Strategy¹⁵. There are no anticipated significant effects of the NDP on waste.
- 2.4.17 Policy ECON3 (Promoting High Speed Broadband) is expected to contribute to telecommunications infrastructure in Bidford-on-Avon. Policy ECON5 (Promoting Riverside Activities) is likely to contribute to tourism and recreation infrastructure in the plan area.

¹³ Forest Research (2010) Benefits of Green Infrastructure

¹⁴ NERC (2008) Warwickshire MSAs [Map]. Available at:

<http://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/api/documents/WCCC-680-126>, accessed: 08/02/2016

¹⁵ Warwickshire County Council (2013) Warwickshire Waste Core Strategy, Adopted Local Plan 2013 - 2028

Cultural heritage (inc. architectural and archaeological)

- 2.4.18 Policy ENV8 (Preservation of Heritage Assets) is expected to conserve the historic environment of Bidford-on-Avon, through preventing development that will adversely affect listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments both in themselves and in terms of their settings. Policy ENV8 will also ensure the preservation of the conservation areas.

Landscape

- 2.4.19 Many of the policies in the NDP require that development should not adversely affect the character and appearance of the area. Policies ENV7 (Protection of Landscape, Skylines and Important Views) and ENV9 (Promoting High Quality Design) specifically promote development that is in keeping with existing landscape and historic character and retains landmarks, skylines and views.

2.5 Screening outcome

- 2.5.1 This screening report has explored the potential effects of the proposed Bidford-on-Avon NDP with a view to determining the likely requirement for an environmental assessment under the SEA Directive.
- 2.5.2 In accordance with topics cited in Annex 1(f) of the SEA directive, likely significant effects on the environment are not expected to occur as a result of the NDP.
- 2.5.3 It is recommended that the Bidford-on-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan should be screened out of the SEA process.

2.6 Consultation

- 2.6.1 This SEA Screening report was subject to consultation with the statutory consultees; Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England, from 24th March 2016 to 22nd April 2016. Both Historic England and Natural England agreed that significant environmental effects are not likely to arise as a result of the Bidford-on-Avon NDP. No response was received from the Environment Agency.

References

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