

# Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan

**SEA Screening Document**  
November 2017



**LEPUS** CONSULTING  
LANDSCAPE, ECOLOGY, PLANNING & URBAN SUSTAINABILITY



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# Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan

## SEA Screening Document

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Photo: Ardencote Manor by Tony Hisgett

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## Acronyms

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
LCA	Landscape Character Area
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
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 This report

1.1.1 This screening report has been prepared to determine whether the Claverdon Neighbourhood 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 (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) and Paragraph 009 of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) 'Neighbourhood Planning' section.

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.

## 1.3 The Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan

1.3.1 The creation of neighbourhood development 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 Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan Area (see **Figure 1.1**) was designated by the Stratford-on-Avon Council on 16 June 2014. The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan (NDP) will be implemented within this area. The NDP has taken into consideration the results of the 2016 questionnaire of Parish residents.

1.3.3 Claverdon aspires to thrive and evolve whilst preserving its unique and distinct character. The NDP is guided by five strategic objectives, namely:

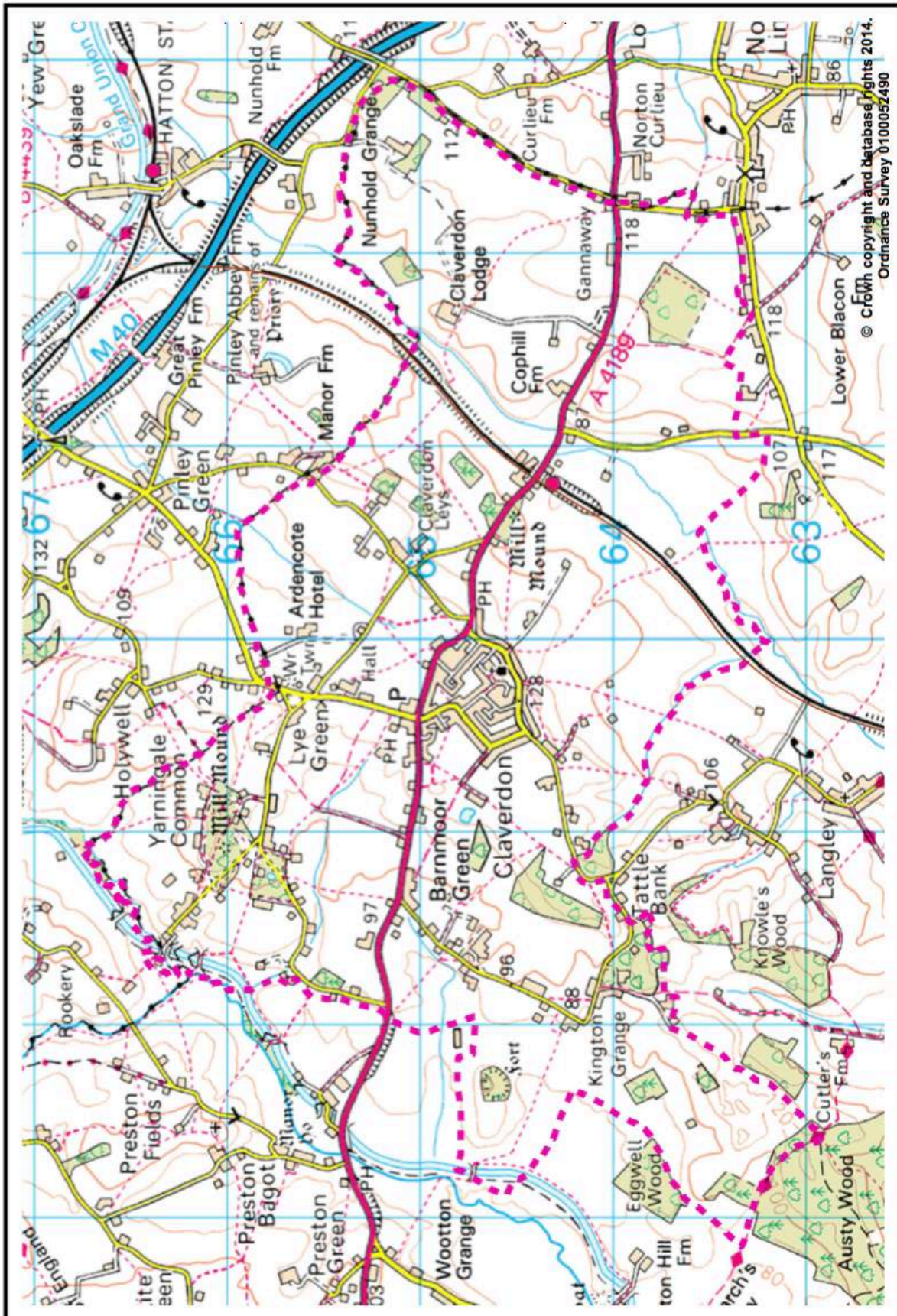
- Housing;
- Economy;
- Natural environment;
- Built environment; and
- Community, sports and leisure.

1.3.4 The NDP offers a picture of the Parish and a vision for the period between 2011 and 2031. It proposes a total of 18 policies (see **Appendix B**) which the Parish hopes will help encourage a thriving and prosperous community that delivers a high quality of life for all residents.

#### **Consultation**

1.3.5 The NDP is subject to public consultation, which provides an opportunity for the public and local organisations to comment on the NDP. After consultation, responses are taken into account and used to prepare a 'submission draft' of the NDP.

1.3.6 The submission version of the NDP is then subject to inspection by the Independent Examiner. If the Independent Examiner approves the NDP it will then be subject to a local referendum. If 50% or more of people voting in the referendum support the NDP, then the NDP will be adopted, will gain statutory status and will become integral to the Stratford-on-Avon District Council Local Plan.

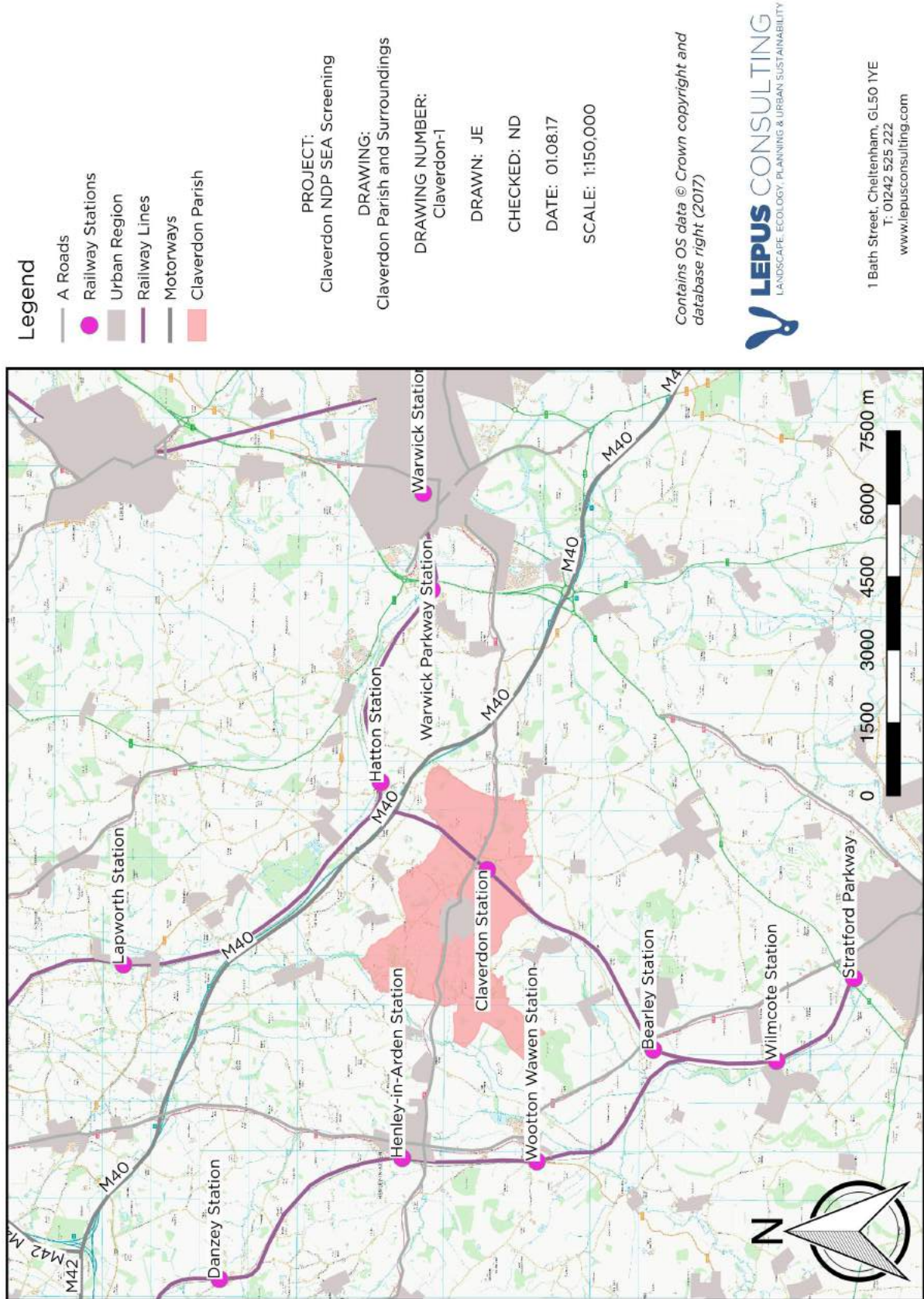


**Figure 1.1:** Neighbourhood Plan Boundary, which is contiguous with Claverdon Parish boundary, in pink (OS Data)



## 1.4 Local context

- 1.4.1 Claverdon Parish is located in a rural area of the Stratford-on-Avon District of Warwickshire, 8.5km north of Stratford-upon-Avon and 5.5km west of Warwick (see **Figure 1.2**). Junction 15 of the M40 lies 7.3km south east whilst the A4189 runs west to east through the centre of the Parish.
- 1.4.2 The Parish, which was recorded in the 2011 Census as having a population of 1,261, is documented in the Domesday Book and has a rich heritage history. This is evidenced by the array of Listed Buildings present to this day and the Scheduled Monument in the west of the Parish (see **Figure 2.3**). The main urban areas of the Parish are the villages Claverdon and Lye Green. In the village of Claverdon are two conservation areas (See **Figure 2.4**).
- 1.4.3 The Parish provides residents with access to some key facilities and services, including Claverdon Primary School, Claverdon Railway Station and Claverdon GP Surgery.
- 1.4.4 There are a limited number of local employers in the Parish with most employed residents commuting to larger settlements nearby, such as Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon. Businesses within the Parish include the Ardencote Manor Hotel Country Club & Spa, the Community Shop and the Claverdon Cartridges shooting supplies shop.



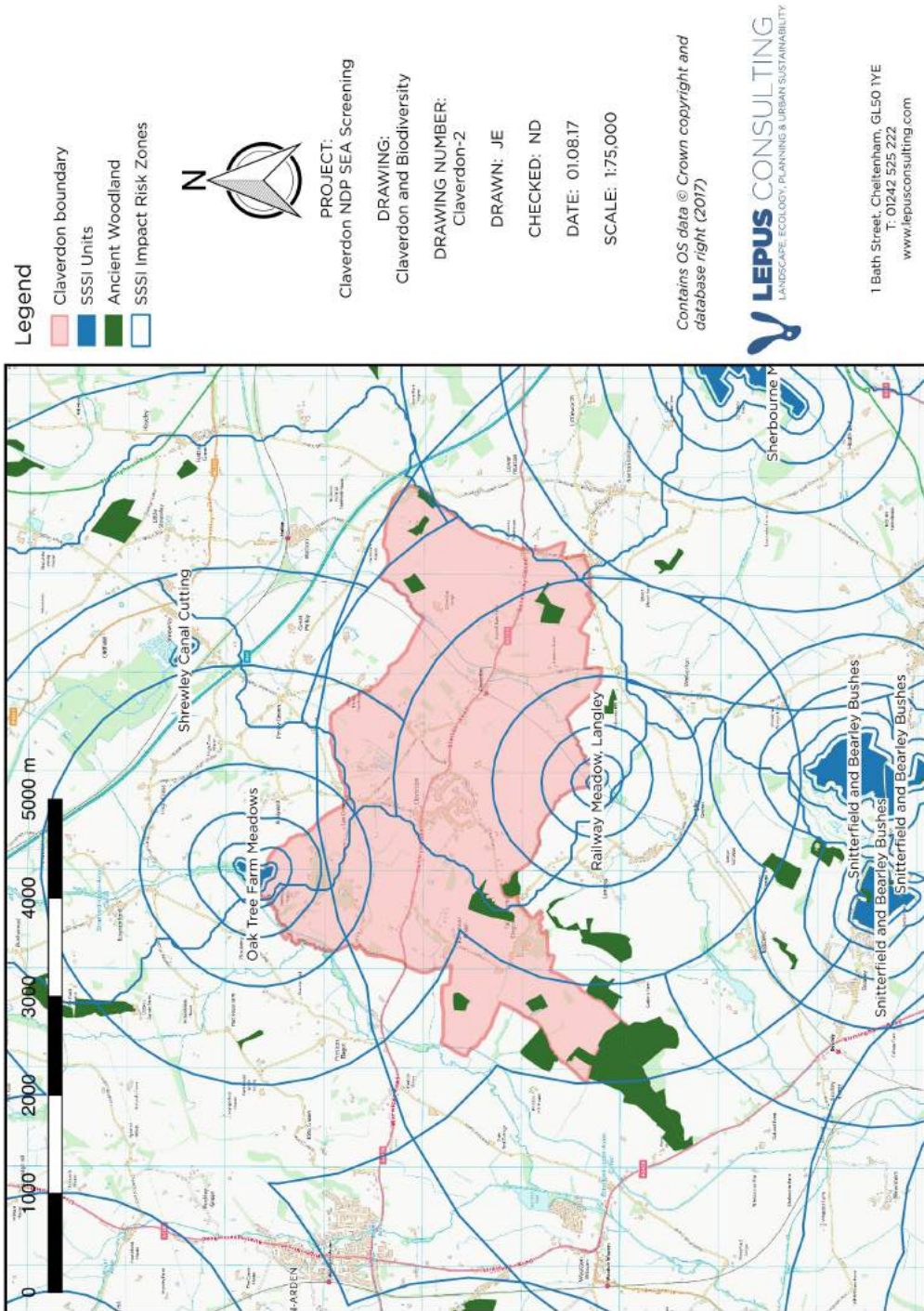
**Figure 1.2:** Claverdon Parish and its context, showing urban areas and nearby transport links

- 1.4.5 Throughout the UK are a range of habitats and species protected under varying international, national and local designations. As a relatively rural location, the Claverdon NDP potentially faces various environmental constraints (see **Figure 1.3** and **Figure 1.4**).
- 1.4.6 Within the parish are parcels of Ancient Woodland, which is woodland that has existed continuously since the year 1600 or before. Within and in close proximity to the parish are Oak Tree Farm Meadows SSSI, Railway Meadow, Langley SSSI, Shrewley Canal Cutting SSSI and Snitterfield and Bearley Bushes SSSI. The parish falls within the Impact Risk Zones for each of these SSSIs. No other statutory designations are within the parish or nearby.
- 1.4.7 The Parish is located outside the Green Belt, is not within or adjacent to an AONB and is considered to be within the Dunsmore and Feldon National Character Area (NCA). The Dunsmore and Feldon NCA is predominantly rural, agricultural and crossed by small rivers and tributaries<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.4.8 The Parish is predominantly located on Grade 3 agricultural land, with a relatively minor area in the north of the Parish being located on Grade 2 land (see **Figure 1.5**). Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3a land comprises some of the Parish's best and most versatile soils.
- 1.4.9 It is necessary to note that some areas of the Parish are considered to be prone to fluvial flooding. The Environment Agency zones land according to the level of risk it faces from flooding:
- Flood Zone 1: Land has less than a one in 1,000 annual probability of flooding;
  - Flood Zone 2: Land has between a one in 100 and one in 1,000 annual probability of flooding;
  - Flood Zone 3a: Land has a greater annual probability of flooding than one in 100; and
  - Flood Zone 3b: Land where water inevitably must go in times of flooding (and therefore the most likely land to flood).

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<sup>1</sup> Natural England (2013) NCA Profile: 96 Dunsmore and Feldon. Available online at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4878893332824064>

1.4.10 The south west of the Parish is delineated by the River Stour, the south-east is delineated by Wagtail Brook whilst a tributary of the River Dene enters the Parish from the north east corner. Each of these waterways is within Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3 (see **Figure 1.6**).



**Figure 1.3:** Claverdon Parish and relevant biodiversity constraints<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Defra (2017) MagicMap. Available at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>



**Figure 1.4:** Aerial photography of village of Claverdon with Local Wildlife Sites highlighted in Green and Orange<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Warwickshire County Council (2017) Local Wildlife Sites via Warwickshire Inspire map. Available online at: <http://maps.warwickshire.gov.uk/Inspire/>

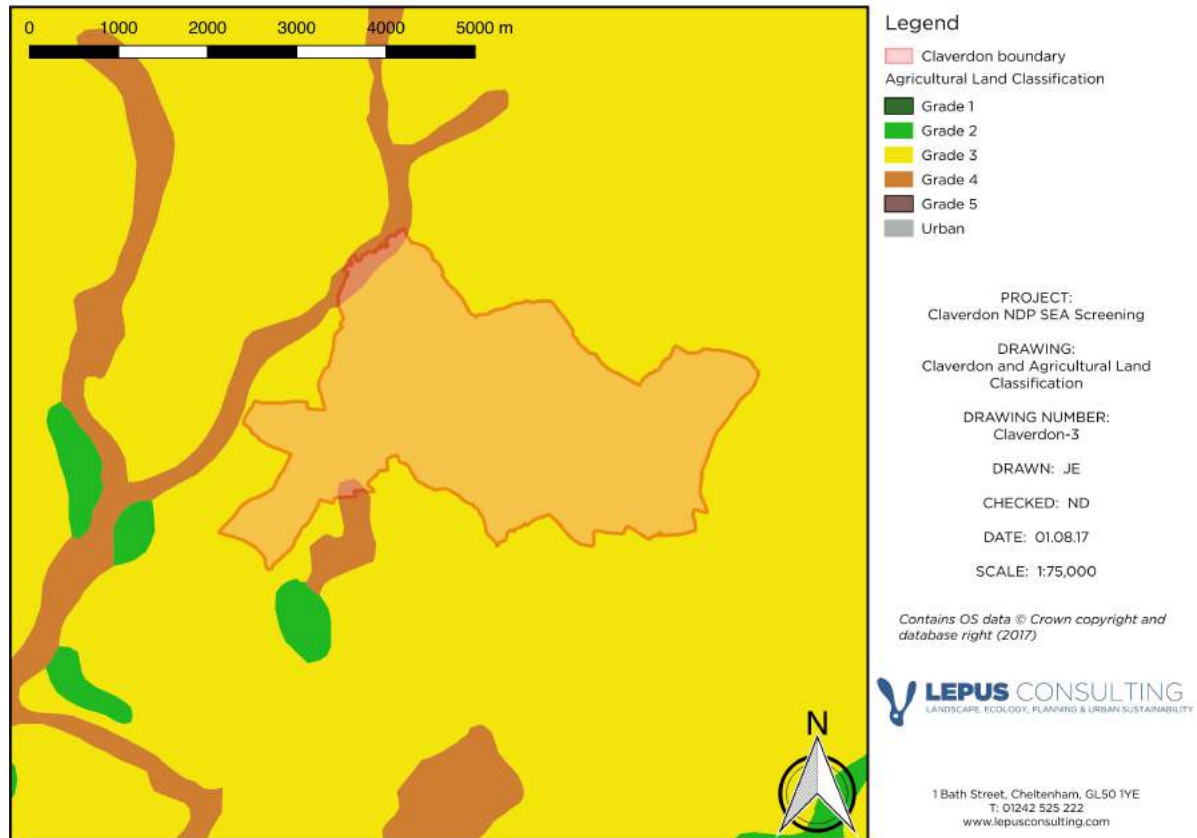


Figure 1.5: Claverdon Parish and Agricultural Land Classification (Natural England)

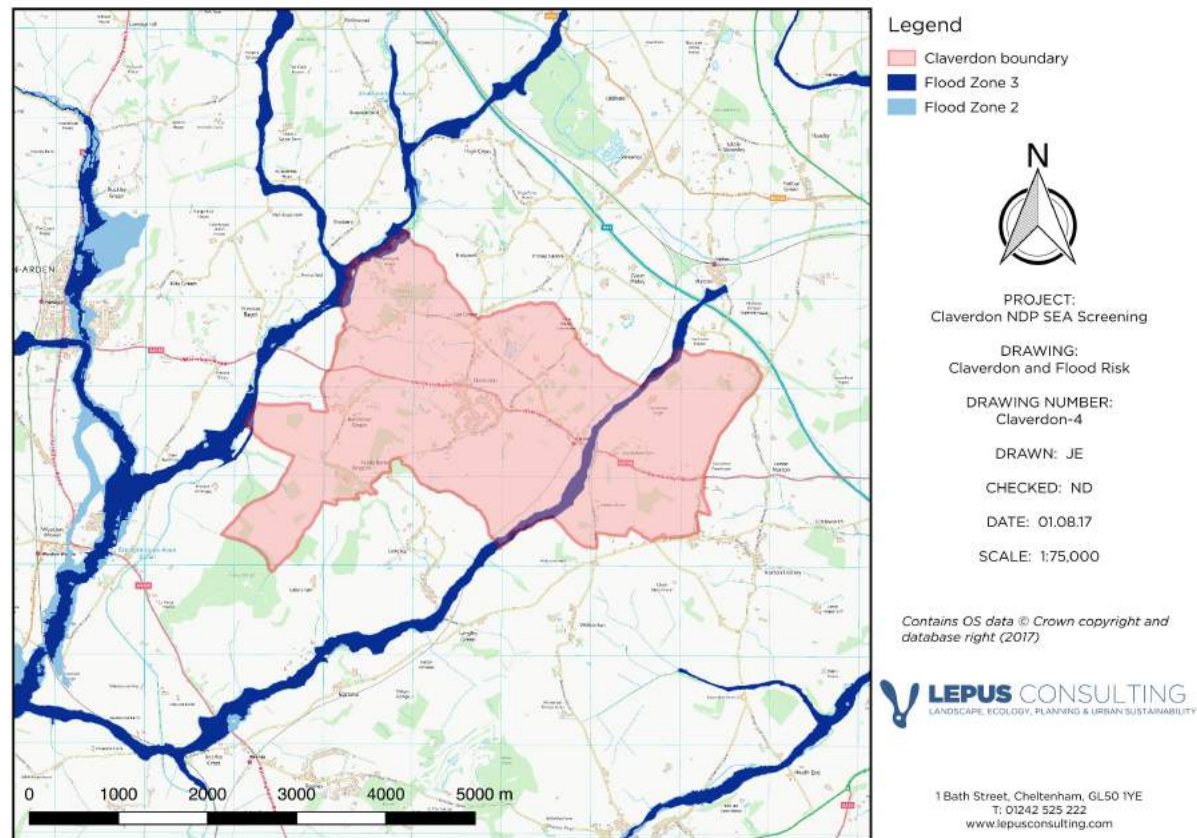


Figure 1.6: Claverdon Parish and Fluvial Flood Risk (Environment Agency)

## 1.5 Relationship with the Local Plan

- 1.5.1 The NDP is a land-use plan, prepared for town and country planning purposes. It sets out a framework for future development consents within the Claverdon Parish. The NDP has 18 policies, many of which are land-use related, across five strategic objectives which should be fulfilled by 2031.
- 1.5.2 Once adopted, the NDP will form part of the framework for planning in Stratford-on-Avon district, along with the Core Strategy and other development plan documents and supplementary planning documents.
- 1.5.3 The NDP will be used to guide development and to help to determine future planning applications. This important legal position means that it has to have regard to national planning policy and to be in “general conformity” with the strategic planning policies set out in the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy 2011-2031<sup>4</sup>.
- 1.5.4 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. The Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan and the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy will form part of the development plan for the area.

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<sup>4</sup> Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2016) Stratford-on-Avon District Core Strategy 2011-2031 available at: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/172105/SDC%20CORE%20STRATEGY%202011-2031%20-%20July%202016.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 Historic England.

2.1.2 Within 28 days of its determination the plan makers must publish a statement that sets out their 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 NDPs to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. In the case of Claverdon, the NDP must be in general conformity with the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy 2011 - 2031.

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*

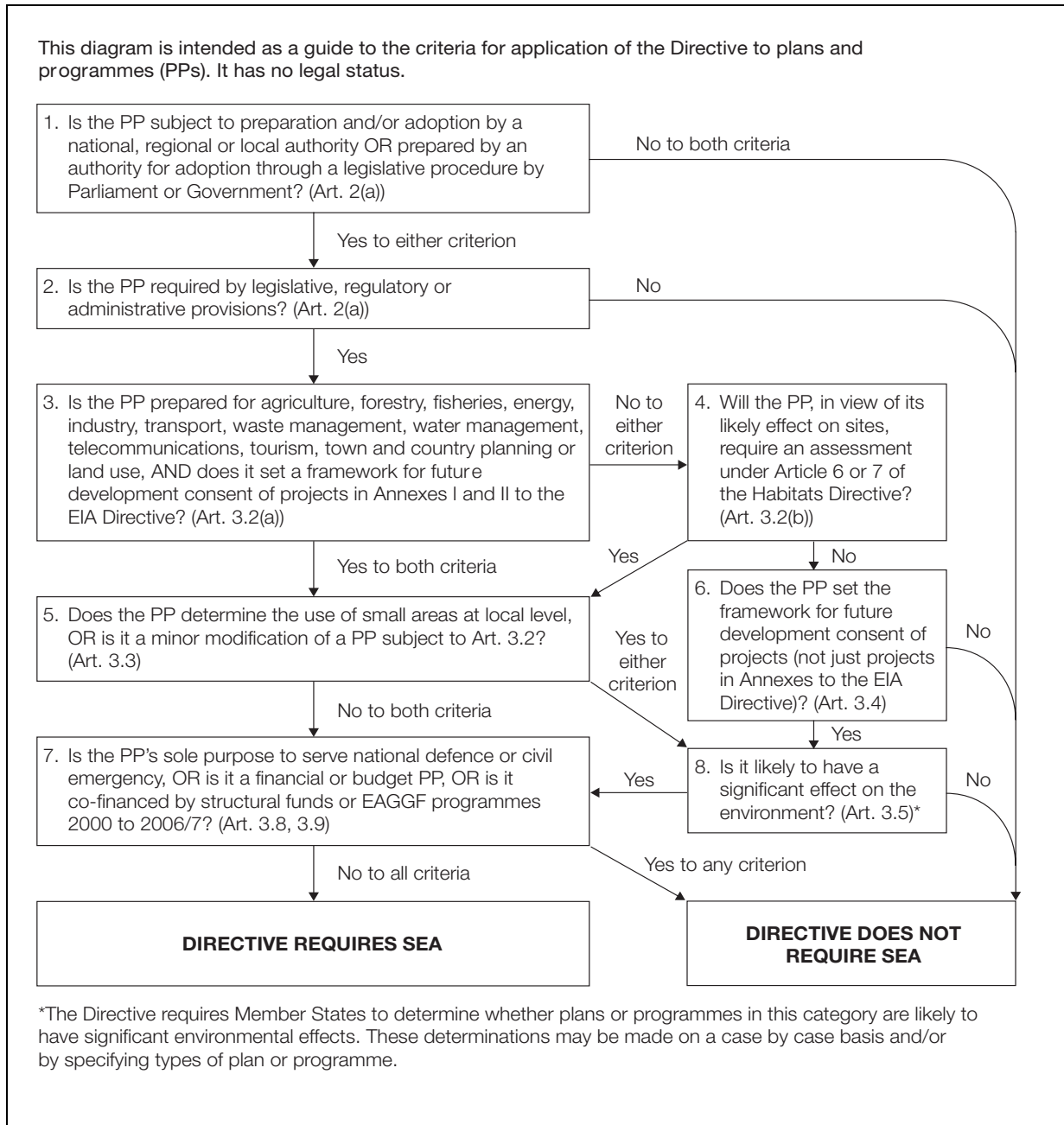
*with appropriate regard to national policy and guidance'.*

2.2.3 This suggests that the emerging NDP and Core Strategy should be complementary.



2.2.4 **Figure 2.1** presents a diagram prepared by the ODPM (2005). This shows the application of the SEA process to plans and programmes. The sequential approach in the flow diagram will be used to screen the Claverdon NDP.

2.2.5 **Table 2.1** uses the questions presented in **Figure 2.1** to establish whether an SEA of the Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan is necessary.



**Figure 2.1:** Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup>ODPM (2005) A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

**Table 2.1:** Establishing whether there is a need for SEA

Stage	YN	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 an 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 an NDP, however it is not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative bodies.  However, if the NDP is adopted it would become part of the statutory development plan (Local Plan) and should therefore 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))	N	The NDP is a land-use plan and sets the framework for future development consents within the Claverdon area.  However, the NDP does not set a framework for consent of projects in Annex 1 of the EIA Directive.
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 Claverdon NDP is not considered to have a likely significant effect on any European sites.
5. Does the PP set the framework for future consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	The NDP identifies a range of development guidelines for Claverdon parish.
6. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	See <b>Section 2.5 - 2.12.</b>

## 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 (SEA Regulations, 2004) can be used to consider the relevance of the plan to the SEA Directive (see **Table 2.2**). **Section 2.5 - Section 2.12** considers likely environmental effects of the plan.

**Table 2.2:** Claverdon NDP and the SEA Directive

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of Regulations)	Response
<b>The characteristics of plans and programmes</b>	
(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	The NDP is prepared for town and country planning and will form a part of the development management framework for Claverdon Parish.
(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 strategic planning policies set out in the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy (2011-2031), the National Planning Policy and European Directives.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	The NDP contains policies to protect the natural environment, such as NE3 'Renewable Energy' and NE5 'Conserving the Natural Environment'.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	Key issues include: 1. Potential impacts on the natural environment; and 2. Potential impacts on the setting of historic assets.
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)	The NDP is a land-use plan and sets the framework for future development consents within the Claverdon NDP area.  It also sets out policies which planning applications within the NDP area will need to adhere to.
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected</b>	
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	The NDP is thought unlikely to bear any significant environmental effects.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	The NDP is not anticipated to have any significant cumulative effects and is not thought to contribute to cumulative impacts in combination with the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects	The NDP is not expected to give rise to any significant transboundary 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 unlikely to result in any significant and adverse environmental effects.
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural	(iii) The NDP is not expected to adversely affect the special natural characteristics or cultural heritage. Nor would the NDP be expected to lead to the exceedance of environmental

heritage (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values (iii) intensive land-use	standards or promote intensive land use.
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	The NDP is unlikely to result in any adverse impacts on protected landscapes.

## 2.4 Determination of significant effects

2.4.1 The Claverdon NDP will influence where development should be located, as well as influence design across the NDP area. A summary of baseline conditions and an assessment of the potential effects of the NDP against each of the topics set out in Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive is presented below.

## 2.5 Biodiversity, flora and fauna

2.5.1 SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) allow for a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks posed by development proposals. They define zones around each SSSI site which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development which could potentially have adverse impacts.

2.5.2 The Parish falls within the IRZs of four SSSIs, namely Railway Meadow Langley SSSI, Oak Tree Farm Meadows SSSI, Shrewley Canal Cutting SSSI and Sherbourne Meadows SSSI (see **Figure 1.3**). The NDP does not propose any development, such as a site of 100 houses or more, that would likely result in an adverse impact on any of these SSSIs.

2.5.3 Within the Parish boundary are also various areas of Ancient Woodland and Local Wildlife Sites (see **Figure 1.3** and **Figure 1.4**). The NDP does not propose any development which is anticipated to impact on parcels of Ancient Woodland or Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).

2.5.4 In accordance with Policy H1 – ‘Village Boundary’, all new houses would only be supported if they are located within the Village Boundary (See **Figure 2.2**). This is anticipated to minimise impacts on local biodiversity, flora and fauna assets caused by development.

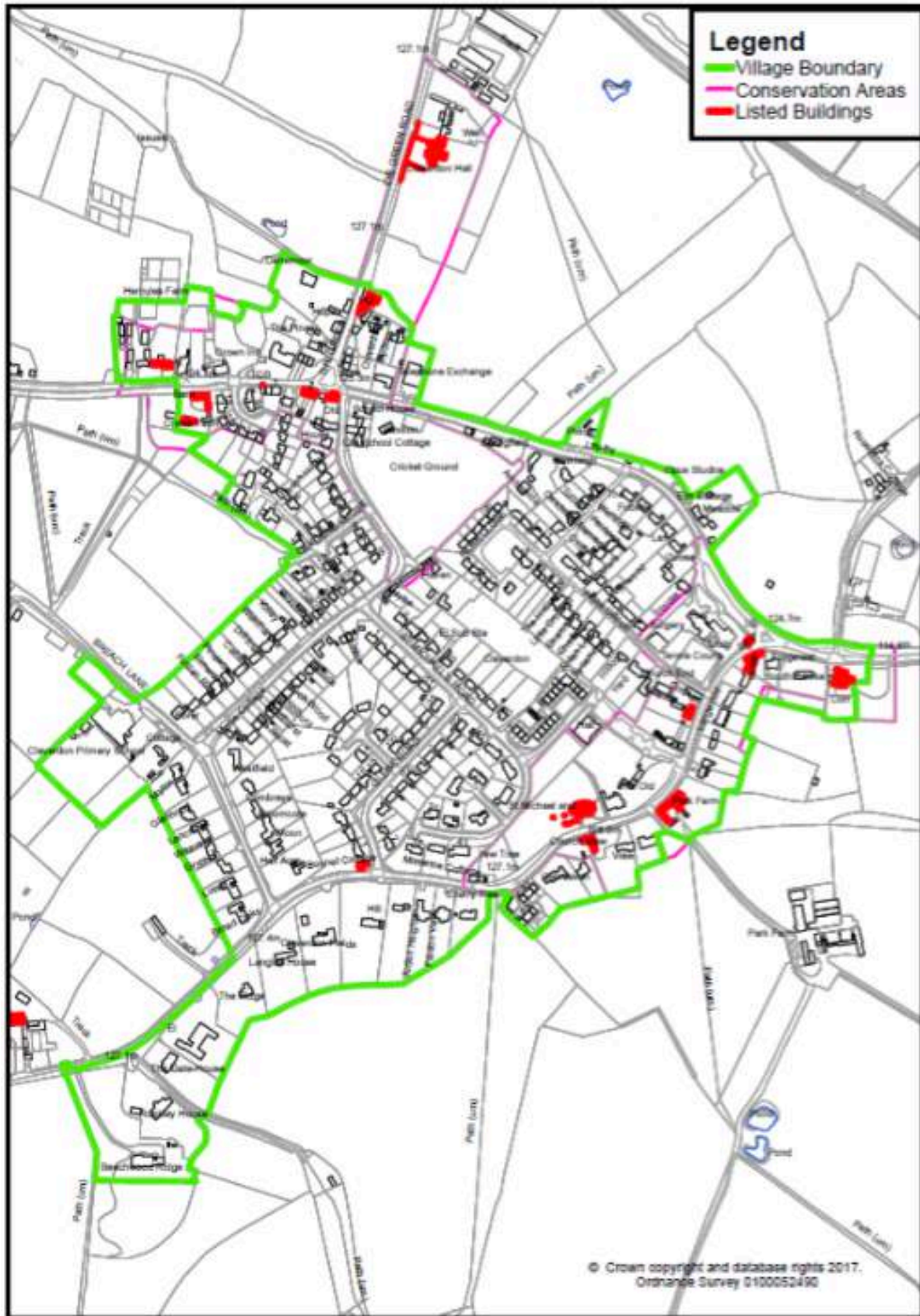


Figure 2.2: Claverdon village boundary<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan 2011 – 2031, Pre-submission Version May 2017

- 2.5.5 The Natural Environment Strategic Objective of the NDP aims to help ensure that biodiversity is improved, natural resources are used prudently and climate change is mitigated by the transition to a low carbon economy.
- 2.5.6 An array of policies within the NDP will be likely to help the NDP achieved the Natural Environment Strategic Objective, including:
- NE1 Valued Landscapes;
  - NE3 Renewable energy;
  - NE5 Conserving the Natural Environment; and
  - BE1 Principles of Good Design.
- 2.5.7 Overall, the NDP is anticipated to help protect and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna in the local area. An adverse and significant impact caused by the NDP is not anticipated.

## **2.6 Population and human health**

- 2.6.1 The NDP is anticipated to help ensure that the local community facilitates good health and well-being of residents as a result of the Strategic Objectives on Housing, Economy, Natural Environment and Community, Sports and Leisure. For example, housing will be made appropriate for people of different circumstances whilst all residents will have excellent access to natural green spaces and the countryside, as well as the GP surgery in the centre of the village.
- 2.6.2 The Community, Sports and Leisure strategic objective will ensure that access for residents to community, sports and leisure facilities will be protected and potentially enhanced.
- 2.6.3 The NDP is not anticipated to result in adverse impacts on the local population or the health and wellbeing of residents.

## 2.7 Soil, water and air

- 2.7.1 It is considered highly unlikely that the NDP will result in a significantly adverse impact on local soil, water and/or air resources. Policy H1 helps ensure that new housing will be located within the exiting village boundary (see **Figure 2.2**). This is anticipated to help minimise losses of soil as a result of development.
- 2.7.2 Running through the centre of Claverdon village is the A4189. This major road is considered to be likely to be a significant source of air, noise and light pollution. However, the NDP is not anticipated to increase the number of residents in close proximity to the A4189.
- 2.7.3 The Parish is almost entirely located on Grade 3 agricultural land (see **Figure 1.5**). It is therefore likely that any development would result in the loss of some of the Parish's most versatile and productive soils. However, the potential development in the Parish is likely to be of a very limited scope, rendering the impacts on local soils negligible.
- 2.7.4 Multiple waterways run through the Parish, each of which is associated with elevated levels of flood risk (see **Figure 1.6**). In accordance with NE2 'Flooding and drainage' of the NDP, new development should provide and incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems, whilst the reuse and recycling of water, permeable pavements and other water efficiency measures are encouraged. Any proposals which do not satisfactorily address fluvial and pluvial flooding will not be supported.
- 2.7.5 No policies or development proposals in the NDP are anticipated to increase the extent to which residents of the Parish are at risk of flooding. The NDP is also not anticipated to result in any adverse impacts on the waterways within the Parish.
- 2.7.6 It is considered to be likely that the soil, water and air of the Parish will benefit as a result of the NDP. This is because of the Strategic Objectives on Housing, Natural Environment and the Built Environment, as well as by the array of policies within them (see **Appendix B**).

## 2.8 Climatic Factors

2.8.1 The NDP is motivated by the need for a sustainable future and a low carbon economy, as well as the mitigation of the worst effects of climate change. Integral to the Natural Environment Strategic Objective is the mitigation and adaptation to climate change, including a move to a low carbon economy.

2.8.2 Overall it is considered likely that the NDP will help to mitigate climate change in the local area whilst helping the Parish transition to a low carbon economy. In part this is because of the Green Infrastructure (GI), which acts as a natural carbon sink and air filter, which will be preserved and potentially enhanced due to policies H4 'Use of Garden Land,' NE1 'Valued Landscapes', NE4 'Designated Local Green Space' and NE5 'Conserving the Natural Environment'.

2.8.3 The transition to a low carbon economy is supported in the NDP in policies NE3 'Renewable Energy', BE1 'Principles of Good Design' and E2 'Promoting New Employment Opportunities'.

2.8.4 A significant and adverse impact on climatic factors as a result of the NDP is not anticipated.

## 2.9 Material assets

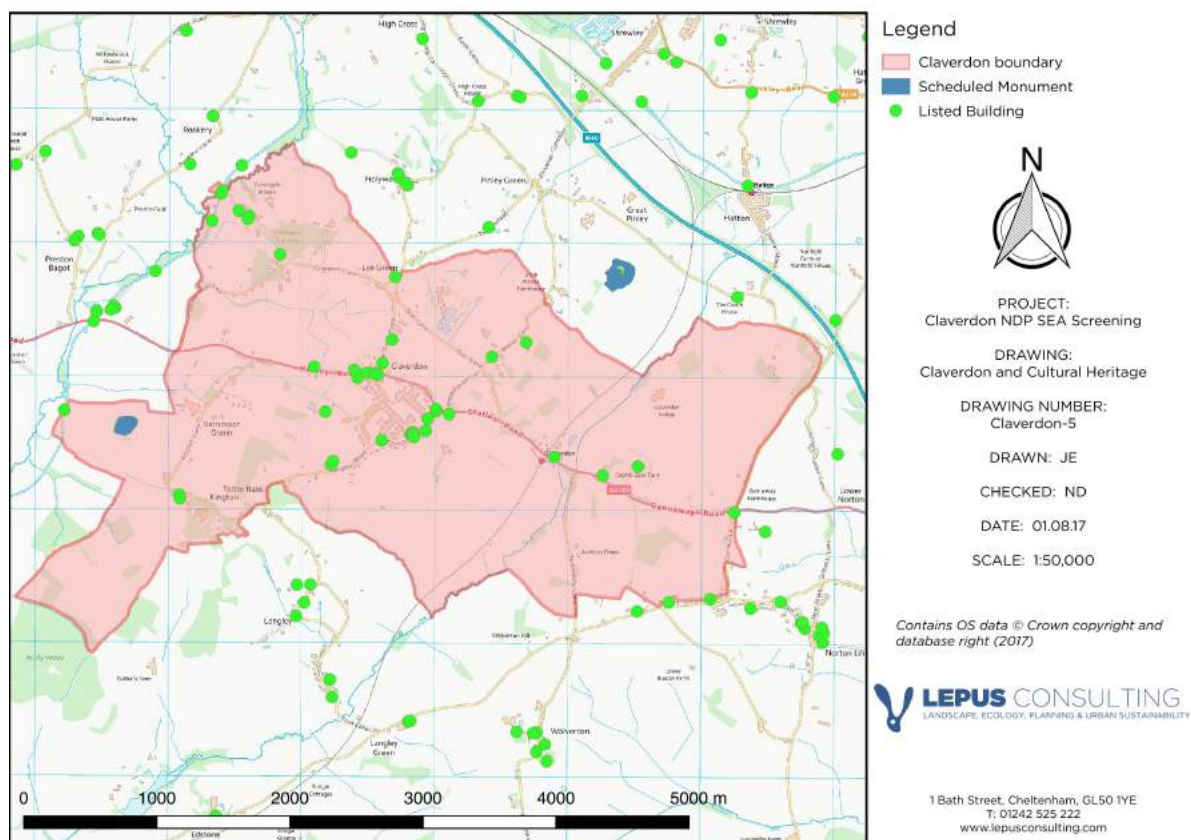
2.9.1 The material assets topic considers social, physical and environmental infrastructure. This sub-section should be read alongside 'Population and human health', which details some health and social infrastructure implications of the NDP; 'Climatic factors', which considers transport infrastructure in terms of sustainable transport; 'Soil, water and air', which considers water infrastructure and agricultural land classification; and the 'Biodiversity, flora and fauna' sub-section, which considers environmental infrastructure.



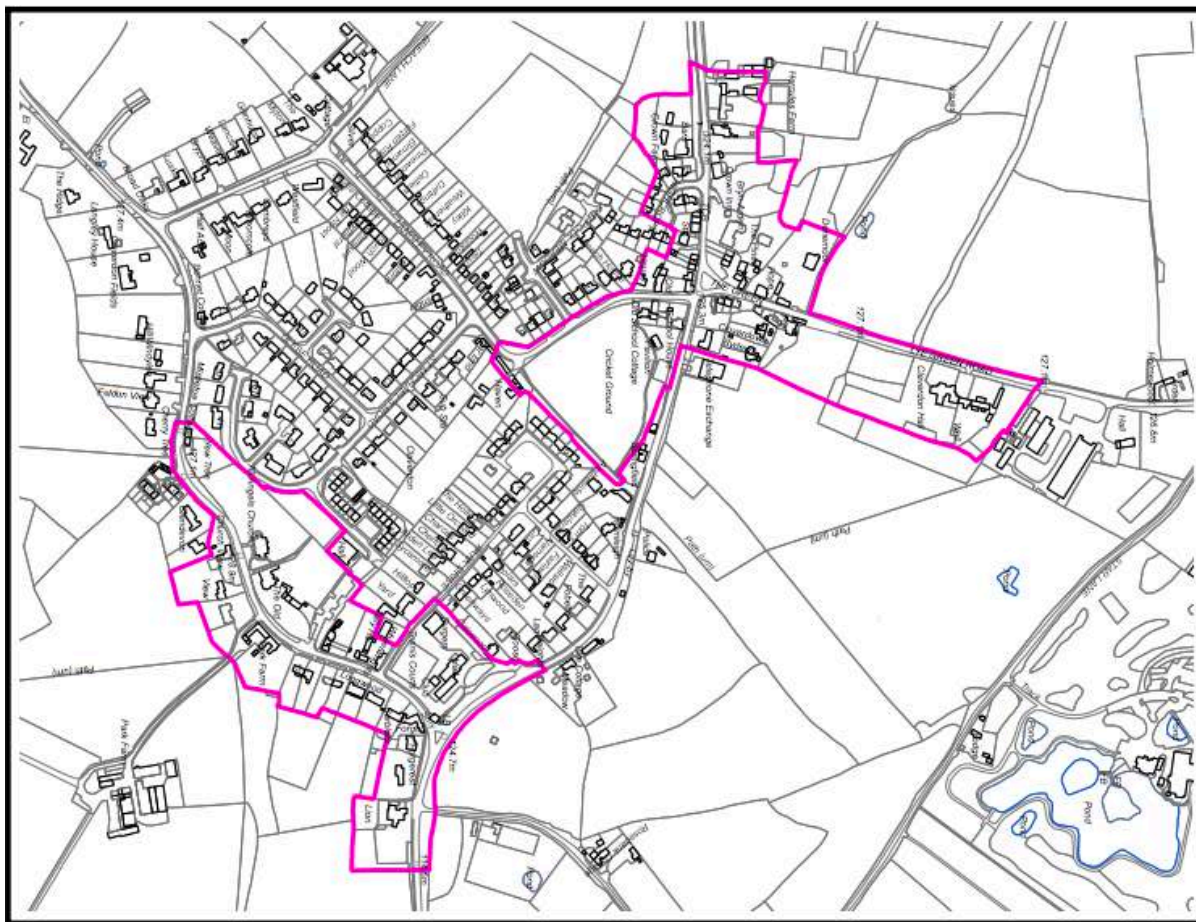
2.9.2 The Economy Strategic Objective is anticipated to help boost local employment opportunities whilst the transition to a low carbon economy is also encouraged. For example, Policy E3 ‘Home Working’ will ensure that new homes include adequate space for residents to work from home. This will be likely to reduce the need of residents to commute. Other policies anticipated to have a positive impact on the economy and infrastructure include E5 ‘Telecommunications’, E4 ‘High Speed Broadband and CSL1 ‘Community Facilities.

## 2.10 Cultural heritage (Inc. architectural and archaeological)

2.10.1 There is an abundance of Grade II and Grade II\* Listed Buildings within the Parish of Claverdon, as well as the Scheduled Monument ‘Barnmoor Wood camp’ (see **Figure 2.3**). Most Listed Buildings are located in and around the village of Claverdon. Within the village are also two Conservation Areas (see **Figure 2.4**).



**Figure 2.3:** Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments in Claverdon Parish



**Figure 2.4:** Claverdon Conservation Areas

2.10.2 New residential development has the potential to permanently and adversely impact on the setting and/or character of Listed Buildings. Such development can also undermine the character of conservation areas. However, the scale of any potential residential development in the village is anticipated to be limited.

2.10.3 Additionally, residential development would not be discordant with the existing built form setting. The NDP is anticipated to help ensure that any residential development which does go ahead in the local area will help to preserve and potentially enhance the character and/or setting of the local cultural heritage assets. For example, Policy BE2 'Designated Heritage Assets' will help ensure that any development which results in the harm or loss of cultural heritage assets will achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh the harm or loss.

2.10.4 An array of policies in the NDP are anticipated to help ensure local heritage assets and protected and enhanced, including:

- H1 'Village boundary';
- NE1 'Valued Landscapes';
- NE4 'Designated Local Greenspace';
- BE1 'Principles of Good Design'; and
- BE2 'Designated Heritage Assets'.

## 2.11 Landscape

- 2.11.1 The Parish is entirely located within the Green Belt. It is not within or adjacent to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It is considered to be within the Arden National Character Area.
- 2.11.2 The Ancient Arden landscape which the Parish is within is characterised by small scale farms, varied and undulating topography as well as irregular patterns of fields and narrow winding lanes<sup>7</sup>. Guidelines for this landscape include the conservation of ancient hedgerows, identify opportunities for permanent pasture and conserve rural character<sup>8</sup>.
- 2.11.3 The NDP is considered to be in accordance with these guidelines. New residential development is more likely to be supported should it be within the existing village boundary (see **Figure 2.2**) whilst development outside this location would likely require a rural exception.
- 2.11.4 The village of Claverdon has an extensive PRow network comprised of footpaths and bridleways (see **Figure 2.5**). Views from these footpaths are not anticipated to be adversely impacted by the development proposed in the NDP.
- 2.11.5 Overall the NDP is anticipated to help ensure that any new development in the Parish does not result in adverse impacts on the local landscape. Key to the Strategic Objective on the Natural Environment is ensuring that development is sensitive and protects and enriches the landscape.

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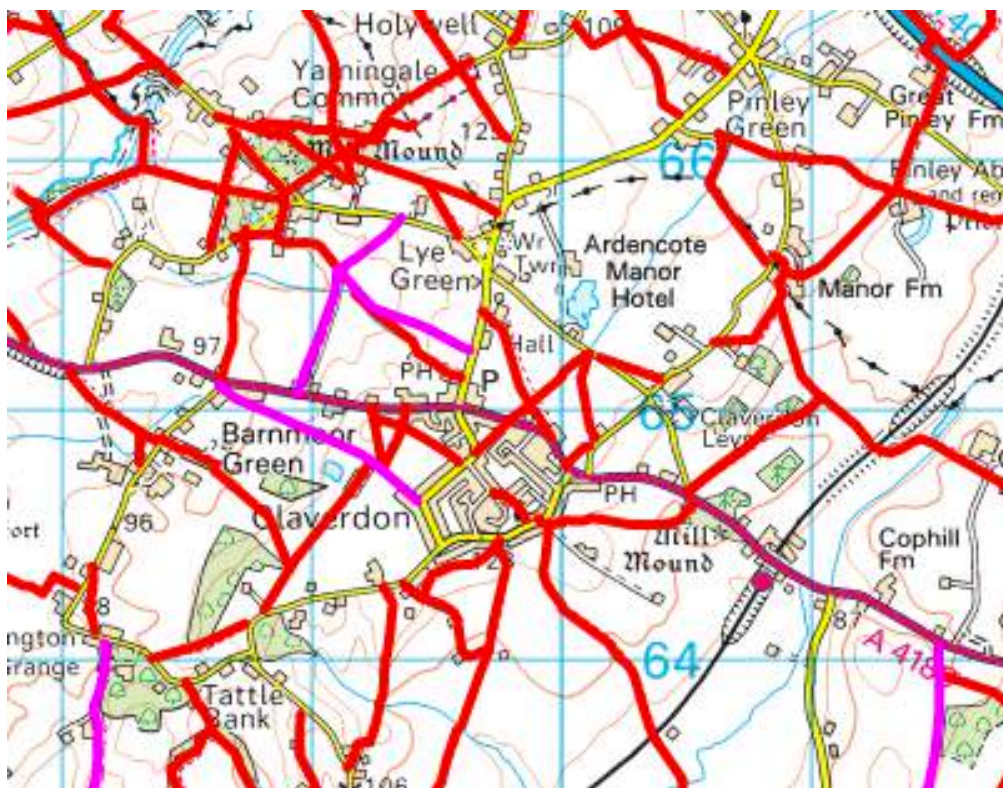
<sup>7</sup> Warwickshire County Council, Arden Landscape Map . Available online at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/landscapeguidelines>

<sup>8</sup> Warwickshire County Council, Arden Landscape Guidelines . Available online at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/landscapeguidelines>

2.11.6 Policy NE1 'Valued Landscapes' is anticipated to help ensure that the character and distinctiveness of the local landscape and historic landscape features is preserved and potentially enhanced due to new development. Other policies in the NDP that are considered to be likely to help ensure development does not result in adverse impacts on the landscape include:

- H1 'Village Boundary';
- H2 'Rural Exception Housing';
- NE1 'Valued Landscapes';
- NE4 'Designated Local Green Space';
- NE5 'Conserving the Natural Environment'; and
- BE1 'Principles of Good Design'.

2.11.7 Policy CS.9: Design and Distinctiveness in the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy requires proposals to enhance the network of footpaths, retaining existing rights of way. It is expected that impacts on the public footpaths may be able to be mitigated through appropriate screening of the new housing, should it prove necessary.



**Figure 2.5:** Local PRoW in Claverdon<sup>9</sup>. Red lines = footpaths, pink lines = bridleways.

<sup>9</sup> Rowmaps (2017) Public Rights of Way maps based on Ordnance Survey data (2017)

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## 2.12 SEA Screening outcome

- 2.12.1 This screening report has explored the potential effects of the proposed Claverdon NDP with a view to determining whether an environmental assessment is required under the SEA Directive.
- 2.12.2 In accordance with topics cited in Annex 1(f) of the SEA directive, significant effects on the environment are considered unlikely to occur as a result of the NDP.
- 2.12.3 It is recommended that the Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan should not be screened into the SEA process.

## 3 HRA Screening

### 3.1 Background and screening

3.1.1 This report has so far constituted an SEA Screening of the Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan. Because Stratford-on-Avon District Council is also the competent authority under the Habitat Regulations<sup>10</sup> it is necessary to also screen the NDP through the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) process.

3.1.2 HRA considers the potential adverse impacts of plans and projects on designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), classified Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and listed Ramsar sites. This is in accordance with the Habitats Directive<sup>11</sup> and the Birds Directive<sup>12</sup>. SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

3.1.3 Should a development plan or project be considered likely to have a significant impact on a Natura 2000 site, the HRA proceeds to an Appropriate Assessment. If Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) cannot be adequately avoided, mitigated or compensated, the HRA proceeds to Imperative Reasons of Overriding Interest (IROPI).

### 3.2 HRA Screening conclusion

3.2.1 The nearest Natura 2000 sites to the Parish are located over 45km away. A likely significant effect of the NDP on any Natura 2000 site can therefore be objectively ruled out at this stage.

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<sup>10</sup> The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

<sup>11</sup> EU Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

<sup>12</sup> EU Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of wild birds

## 4 Next steps

### 4.1 Consultation

- 4.1.1 This report was subject to consultation with the statutory consultees: Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The responses from the statutory consultees are presented in **Appendix A**. All consultees agreed that significant environmental effects, as a result of the Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan, are unlikely to occur.

### 4.2 Conclusion

- 4.2.1 Following consultation, it is concluded that the Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan does not need to be screened in for SEA.

# Appendix A: Consultation Responses



Lepus Consulting  
1 Bath Street  
Cheltenham  
GL50 1YE

**Our ref:** UT/2007/101490/SE-  
20/SC1-L01

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 14 November 2017

Dear Sir,

**Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan**

Thank you for consulting us on the above document.

We agree with the findings of the report that it is unlikely that significant effects will occur as a result of the Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours faithfully

**Mr Martin Ross**  
**Senior Planning Advisor**

Direct dial 020 3025 3055

Direct e-mail [swwmplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:swwmplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk)



Historic England

WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

Mr Joseph Evans  
Lepus Consulting Ltd  
1 Bath Street  
Cheltenham  
GL50 1YE

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6887

Our ref: PL00163814

30 August 2017

Dear Mr Evans

**CLAVERDON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- SEA AND HRA SCREENING**

Thank you for your consultation and the invitation to comment on the SEA Screening Document for the above Neighbourhood Plan.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage.

Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request. On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of the 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with your view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. Regarding HRA Historic England does not disagree with your conclusions but would defer to the opinions of the other statutory consultees.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that English Heritage has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/>

I trust the above comments will be of help in taking forward the Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Boland  
Historic Places Advisor  
peter.boland@HistoricEngland.org.uk

cc:



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*Historic England is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to an information request, unless one of the exemptions in the FOIA or EIR applies.*

Date: 07 September 2017  
Our ref: 224476  
Your ref: LC332 Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening Report



Joseph Evans BSc (Hons) MSc CIEEM  
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T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

[joseph.evans@lepusconsulting.com](mailto:joseph.evans@lepusconsulting.com)

Dear Mr Evans

**Planning consultation:** Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 23 August 2017 which was received by Natural England on 23 August 2017.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening**

We welcome the production of this SEA Screening report. Natural England's comments are set out below.

Natural England notes and concurs with the screening outcome i.e. that no SEA is required.

We note an error made in section 1.4.6. of the report to the reference of nearby/adjacent SSSI in relation to the Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan area. The Figure 1.4 is correctly showing nearby/adjacent SSSIs, which are Oak Tree Farm Meadows SSSI, Railway Meadow, Langley SSSI, Shrewley Canal Cutting SSSI and Snitterfield and Bearley Bushes SSSI. The following wording "Just west of the Parish is the Knavenhill Wood SSSI, just north is Loxley Church Meadow SSSI and just east are Oxhouse Farm SSSI and Lobington Hall Farm Meadow SSSI" would require appropriate amendment.

Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#).

**Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening**

Natural England notes the screening process applied to this Neighbourhood plan. We agree with the Council's conclusion of no likely significant effect upon the named European designated sites:

- [Ensor's Pool](#) Special Area of Conservation located approximately 29k away

- [Bredon Hill](#) Special Area of Conservation located approximately 32k away
- [Fens Pools](#) Special Area of Conservation located approximately 36k away

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Yana Burlachka on 02082256013. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Yana Burlachka  
Land use planning adviser  
Sustainable Development Team – West Midlands

# Appendix B: Policies Proposed in the NDP

Policy Code	Policy Name	Strategic Objective
H1	Village Boundary	Housing
H2	Rural Exception Housing	
H3	Use of Brownfield Land	
H4	Use of Garden Land	
E1	Protecting and Enhancing Existing Employment Sites	Economy
E2	Promoting New Employment Opportunities	
E3	Home Working	
E4	High Speed Broadband	
E5	Telecommunications	
NE1	Valued Landscapes	Natural Environment
NE2	Flooding and Drainage	
NE3	Renewable energy	
NE4	Designated Local Green Space	
NE5	Conserving the Natural Environment	
BE1	Principles of Good Design	Built Environment
BE2	Designated Heritage Assets	
CSL1	Community Facilities	Community, Sports and Leisure
CSL2	Sports and Leisure Facilities	

Habitat Regulations Assessments

Sustainability Appraisals

Strategic Environmental Assessments

Landscape Character Assessments

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments

Green Belt Reviews

Expert Witness

Ecological Impact Assessments

Habitat Ecology Surveys



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