

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden Neighbourhood Development Plan

SEA and HRA Screening Document

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LEPUS CONSULTING
LANDSCAPE, ECOLOGY, PLANNING & URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden Neighbourhood Development Plan

SEA and HRA Screening Document

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ALC	Agricultural Land Class
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BMV	Best and most versatile
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GP	General Practice
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PP	Plan or programme
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PRoW	Public Right of Way
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SoADC	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

1 Introduction

1.1 This report

- 1.1.1 This screening report has been prepared to determine whether the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Neighbourhood Development Plan 2011 – 2031 (NDP) should be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC¹ (SEA Directive) and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004² (SEA Regulations). This report also informs the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the NDP in accordance with European Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive)³ and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations)⁴.
- 1.1.2 This report screens the June 2023 version of the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Neighbourhood Development Plan 2011 – 2031.
- 1.1.3 This report supersedes an earlier SEA/HRA Screening Report prepared by Lepus Consulting in 2019 for the October 2018 Pre-Submission Consultation version of the NDP.

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'⁵ and Paragraph 009 of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) 'Neighbourhood Planning' section⁶.

¹ Official Journal of the European Communities (2001) DIRECTIVE 2001/42/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042&from=en> [Date accessed: 12/06/23]

² The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations). Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/contents/made> [Date accessed: 12/06/23]

³ Official Journal of the European Communities (1992). Council Directive 92 /43 /EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

⁴ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitats Regulations). Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents/made> [Date accessed: 12/06/23]

⁵ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005) A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf [Date accessed: 12/06/23]

⁶ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) & Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) (2020) Neighbourhood planning. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2> [Date accessed: 12/06/23]

1.2.2 Under the requirements of the European 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 Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.3.1 The HRA process assesses the potential effects of a plan or project on the conservation objectives of sites designated under the Habitats⁷ and Birds⁸ Directives are assessed. These sites form a system of internationally important sites throughout Europe known collectively as the 'Natura 2000 Network'. In line with the Habitats Regulations, UK sites which were part of the Natura 2000 Network before leaving the EU have become part of the National Site Network.

1.3.2 The application of HRA to land use plans is a requirement of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)⁹, the UK's transposition of European Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive).

1.3.3 The Habitats Regulations provide a definition of a European site at Regulation 8. These sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Sites of Community Importance, Special Protection Areas (SPA) and sites proposed to the European Commission in accordance with Article 4(1) of the Habitats Directive.

1.3.4 In addition, paragraph 181 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) notes that the following sites should also be given the same level of protection as a European site¹⁰. European sites together with sites set out in national policy (listed below) are referred to in England and Wales as a Habitats site¹¹:

- A potential SPA (pSPA);
- A possible / proposed SAC (pSAC);

⁷ Official Journal of the European Communities (1992). Council Directive 92 /43 /EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

⁸ Official Journal of the European Communities (2009). Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

⁹ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 SI No. 2017/1012, TSO (The Stationery Office), London. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents> [Date accessed: 19/06/23] as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176573> [Date accessed: 19/06/23]

¹⁰ MHCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> [Date accessed: 12/06/23]

¹¹ Habitats site: Any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites. Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2021). National Planning Policy Framework. Para 181. Available in Annex 2 (Glossary) at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf [Date accessed: 19/06/23]

- Listed and proposed Ramsar Sites (wetland of international importance); and
- In England, sites identified or required as compensation measures for adverse effects on statutory Habitats sites, pSPA, pSAC and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

1.3.5 A neighbourhood development plan provides a framework for deciding applications for project consents and influences decision makers on the outcome of applications for project consents. HRA applies to plans and projects, including all neighbourhood development plans in England and Wales. The Habitats Regulations (paragraph 106) require that “*a qualifying body which submits a proposal for a neighbourhood development plan must provide such information as the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment under regulation 105 or to enable it to determine whether that assessment is required*”.

1.4 The Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Neighbourhood Development Plan

1.4.1 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.

1.4.2 On 08 September 2014 Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SoADC) approved the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Joint Parish Council as an appropriate ‘qualifying body’ to submit an NDP. SoADC also approved the NDP boundary, which is in accordance with the boundary of the Joint Parishes of Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden (see **Figure 1.1**).

1.4.3 Settlement boundaries, or ‘Built-up Area Boundaries’ have also been identified through the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy and the Site Allocations Plan (SAP)¹². The defined Settlement Boundary for Henley-in-Arden is also shown in **Figure 1.1**.

1.4.4 The NDP offers a picture of the parishes and a vision for the 20-year period between 2011 and 2031. The NDP’s core aim is to ensure that all development is sustainable and accords with the preferences of the local community.

1.4.5 The Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP has been developed on behalf of the Joint Parish Council by residential volunteers within the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Evidence gathering, consultation and analysis between 2014 and 2023, including a series of meetings and a detailed questionnaire sent to residents, have led to the creation of policies and the existing documentation.

1.4.6 The NDP must also have appropriate regard to existing policy, including:

¹² Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2022) Site Allocations Plan for Stratford-on-Avon District to accompany the Core Strategy 2011-2031: Regulation 18 Revised Preferred Options Consultation, June 2022. Available at: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/site-allocations-plan.cfm> [Date accessed: 15/06/23]

- The NPPF¹³ and related PPG advice¹⁴; and
- Policies within the adopted Stratford-on-Avon District Core Strategy¹⁵.

1.4.7 The NDP's policies are listed in **Appendix A**. These are associated with the NDP's strategic objectives which can be summarised as follows:

- **Housing** – supporting small-scale opportunities for high quality residential development where this would not compromise other objectives of the NDP;
- **Economy** – promoting small-scale opportunities for economic activity and diversification and supporting local businesses;
- **Community** – seeking to create an attractive and usable public realm with improved and accessible local services to meet the needs of the community;
- **Natural Environment** – aiming to preserve and enhance biodiversity within the parishes and supporting the retention, creation and improvement of green infrastructure networks; and
- **Built Environment** – aiming to preserve and enhance the local landscape and cultural heritage features, manage traffic and improve public transport and active travel.

Consultation

1.4.8 The NDP will be subject to public consultation, which provides an opportunity for the public and local organisations to comment on the NDP. After consultation, responses are considered and used to prepare a 'submission draft' of the NDP.

1.4.9 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 become part of the Development Plan for Stratford-on-Avon District, alongside the Core Strategy.

¹³ MHCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> [Date accessed: 12/06/23]

¹⁴ DLUHC & MHCLG (2021) Planning practice guidance. Available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance> [Date accessed: 20/12/18]

¹⁵ Stratford District Council (2016) Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy 2011 to 2031. Available at:
<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-regeneration/core-strategy.cfm> [Date accessed: 12/06/23]

1.5 The Joint Parish of Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden

- 1.5.1 The Joint Parishes of Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden are situated in the Stratford-on-Avon District of Warwickshire and comprise 793ha. The parishes are located approximately 12km north of Stratford-upon-Avon and 10km east of Redditch.
- 1.5.2 The settlements are situated adjacent to the River Alne. This river forms the boundary between the two neighbouring parishes, with Beaudesert village located on the east bank and Henley-in-Arden Town located mainly on the west bank.
- 1.5.3 The total population of Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Parishes is 3,196 according to the latest available population estimates (mid-2020)¹⁶. The parishes are located within the Arden Special Landscape Area and the West Midlands Green Belt.
- 1.5.4 Notable cultural heritage features of Henley-in-Arden Town include the Conservation Area encompassing the High Street with its large number of Listed Buildings, and the nearby site of Beaudesert Castle. The historical, leisure and tourism assets of the town, including the Church of St Nicholas and the site of Beaudesert Castle, are important local landmarks.
- 1.5.5 The parishes support a diverse range of activities and there are abundant local services available in the centre of Henley-in-Arden, including a wide range of shops, businesses, public houses, restaurants and schools. The town also benefits from a railway station.

1.6 Relationship with the Core Strategy

- 1.6.1 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 Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Parishes. As noted above, once adopted, the NDP will form part of the Development Plan for Stratford-on-Avon District, alongside the Core Strategy and other development plan documents and supplementary planning documents.
- 1.6.2 The NDP sets out a series of policies that, once made, will be used to guide development and 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 District Core Strategy 2011-2031.
- 1.6.3 NDPs are smaller in geographic scale than Core Strategies and Local Plans and serve to add further detailed policies and proposals to these documents. The Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP and the Stratford-on-Avon District Core Strategy will form part of the development plan for the area once the NDP is 'made'.

¹⁶ ONS (2021) Parish Population estimates for mid-2011 to mid-2020 based on best-fitting of output areas to parishes. Available at:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/adhocs/13843parishpopulationestimatesformid2011tomid2020basedonbestfittingofoutputareastoparishes> [Date accessed: 14/06/23]

- 1.6.4 The NPPF (2021)¹⁷ states that “*Neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans or spatial development strategies; and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies*”.

1.7 Assumptions

- 1.7.1 For the purposes of this screening assessment the following assumption has been made.
- 1.7.2 The NDP does not allocate any land for residential development. However, it states in Policy H1 that “*new housing development within the Settlement Boundary will be supported in principle*” and in Policy H2 that a rural exception site will be supported to meet affordable housing needs where a set of criteria are met including that the development adjoins the Settlement Boundary.
- 1.7.3 Should the NDP be further developed in the future, a re-screening of any amendments will need to be undertaken for the purposes of the SEA and HRA screening processes.

¹⁷ MHCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> [Date accessed: 12/06/23]

2 The Screening Process

2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment screening

2.1.1 SEA seeks to ensure that environmental considerations are part of the process of preparing certain plans and programmes. The objective of the SEA Regulations is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, with a view to promoting sustainable development. It helps to ensure that, in accordance with the SEA Regulations, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

2.1.2 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 1 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.

2.1.3 Within 28 days of its determination, the local planning authority, by virtue of its legal responsibility for NDPs, 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 NDPs to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. In this instance, the NDP must be in general conformity with the Stratford-on-Avon District 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 **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 can be used to screen the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP.

2.2.4 **Table 2.1** uses the questions presented in **Figure 2.1** to establish whether there is a need for SEA for the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP.

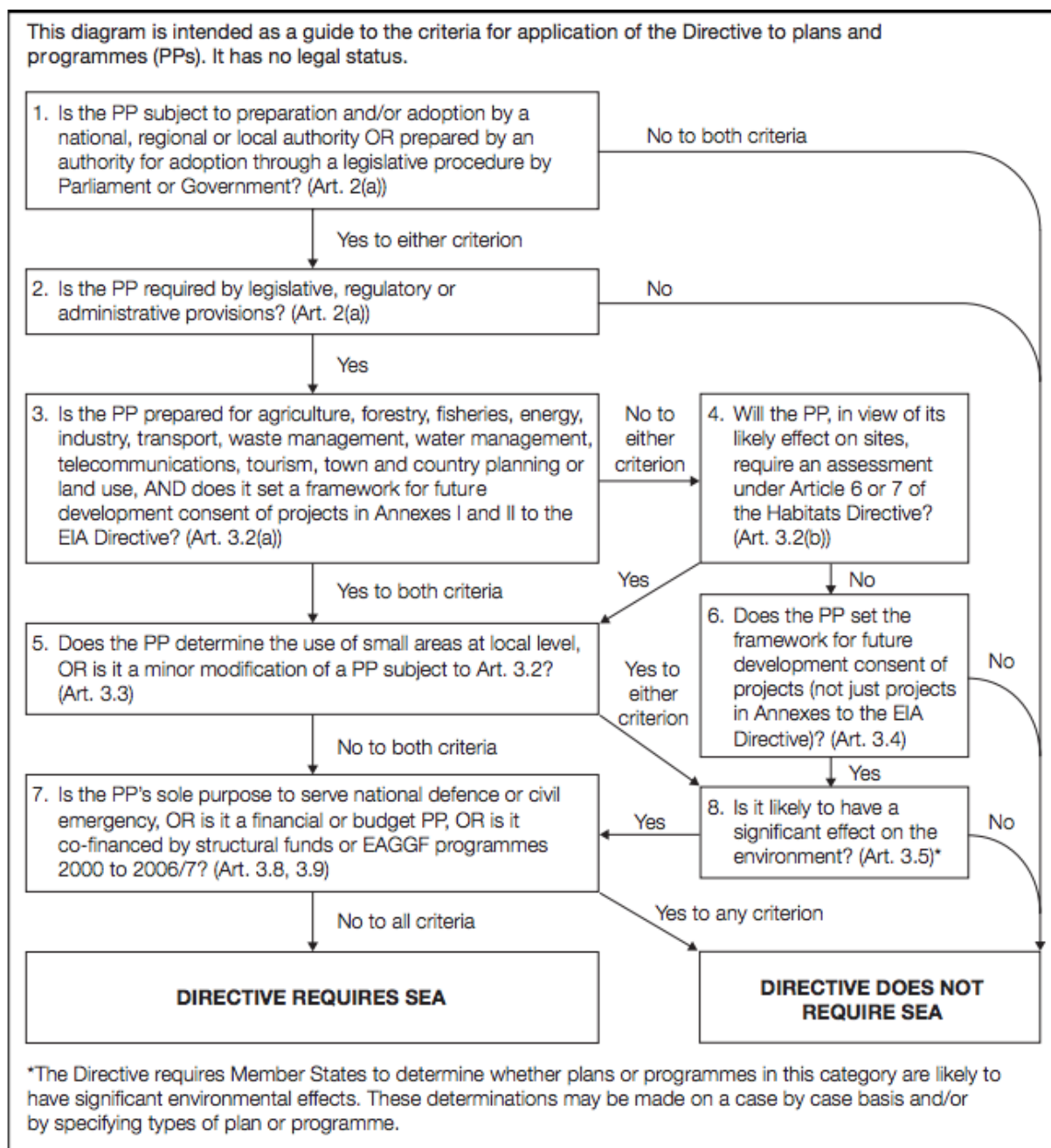


Figure 2.1: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes¹⁸

¹⁸ODPM (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
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))	Yes	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 District.
Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	No	Communities and neighbourhoods have a right to produce an 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 for Stratford-on-Avon District, meaning it should continue to be screened under the SEA Directive.
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))	No	The NDP is a land-use plan and sets the framework for future development consents within the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Neighbourhood Area. However, the NDP is unlikely to set a framework for consent of projects in Annex 1 of the EIA Directive.
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))	No	See Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 .
Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Yes	The NDP does set the framework for future development consent of projects.
Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	No	See Section 2.5 – 2.12 and Chapter 4 .
Is the PP's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGD programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	No	Not applicable.

2.3 Relevance to the SEA Regulations

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 Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations 2004 (Annex II of the SEA Directive) can be used to consider the relevance of the NDP to the SEA Regulations. **Sections 2.5 – 2.12** consider the likely environmental effects of the NDP.

Table 2.2: *Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP and the SEA Regulations*

Criteria (from Schedule I of SEA Regulations): (1) The characteristics of plans and programmes and (2) Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected	Response
1. (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 purposes and will form a part of the development management framework for Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Parishes once made.
1. (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 District Core Strategy 2011 – 2031 and the National Planning Policy Framework. The NDP forms part of the statutory development plan for Stratford-on-Avon District.
1. (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 to integrate environmental considerations within the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP. The NDP contains policies that aim to conserve environmental and architectural features, including the historical heritage and landscape character (See Appendix A).
1. (d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	No environmental issues were identified relevant to the plan.
1. (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 Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP area. It also sets out policies which planning applications within the NDP area will need to adhere to.
2. (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	The NDP is not expected to result in any significant environmental effects.
2. (b) the cumulative nature of the effects	The NDP is not considered to have any cumulative effects and is not thought to contribute to cumulative impacts in combination with the Stratford-on-Avon District Core Strategy.

Criteria (from Schedule I of SEA Regulations): (1) The characteristics of plans and programmes and (2) Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected	Response
2. (c) the transboundary nature of the effects	The NDP is not expected to give rise to any significant transboundary environmental effects.
2. (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	There are no anticipated risks of the NDP on human health.
2. (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects outlined in (a) are not thought to extend further than the NDP area.
2. (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	It is considered unlikely that the NDP would adversely impact the special natural characteristics or cultural heritage features within the NDP area. The NDP would not be expected to cause exceedances of environmental standards or lead to intensive land use.
2. (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 likely significant effects

2.4.1 A summary of baseline conditions and an assessment of the potential effects of the NDP against each of the topics set out in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations (Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive) is presented in the following sections. The NDP policies are listed in **Appendix A**.

2.5 Biodiversity, flora and fauna

- 2.5.1 There are no designated biodiversity sites located within Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Parishes. However, there are several Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) within the parishes including two sites managed by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust; 'Deans Green' and 'Henley Sidings', which are noted for their diverse plant and animal life. The 'River Alne' LWS passes through the town within the Settlement Boundary and several LWSs are adjacent to the Settlement Boundary including 'Beaudesert Mount' and 'Henley Meadows' LWSs. There are some sections of priority habitat located within the parishes, including a small area of deciduous woodland within the Settlement Boundary. Small extents of good quality semi-improved grassland and traditional orchard are found elsewhere in the parishes. LWS and priority habitats within the parishes are shown on **Figure 2.2**.
- 2.5.2 The NDP does not allocate specific sites for development, however, Policy H1 states that new housing sites must be located within the defined Settlement Boundary (**Figure 1.1**). Policy H2 however states that a rural exception site will be supported for the delivery of affordable homes, where it accords with a set of criteria, including that it adjoins the Settlement Boundary. Any future development within or adjacent to the Settlement Boundary should carefully consider the proximity to and identify any potential for adverse effects on local biodiversity assets including LWSs.
- 2.5.3 NDP Policy C2 designates six areas of Local Green Space, some of which have been specified due to their richness of wildlife. Policy N2 states the importance of protecting trees and hedgerows, and supports the provision of these important habitats where appropriate. Policy B2 states that developments proposing reuse of rural buildings "*will be expected to enhance biodiversity*". Policy B3 promotes the use of multi-functional water management techniques which enhance ecology. These policies will help to ensure that development does not result in loss or damage of wildlife habitats.
- 2.5.4 Overall, since the NDP does not propose any development at this stage it is anticipated the NDP will not result in harm to biodiversity, flora and fauna in the Neighbourhood Area. The NDP does set out support for new development within the Settlement Boundary and for a rural exception site outside the Settlement Boundary; however, this would not trigger the need for SEA. A significant adverse impact is not considered to be likely.

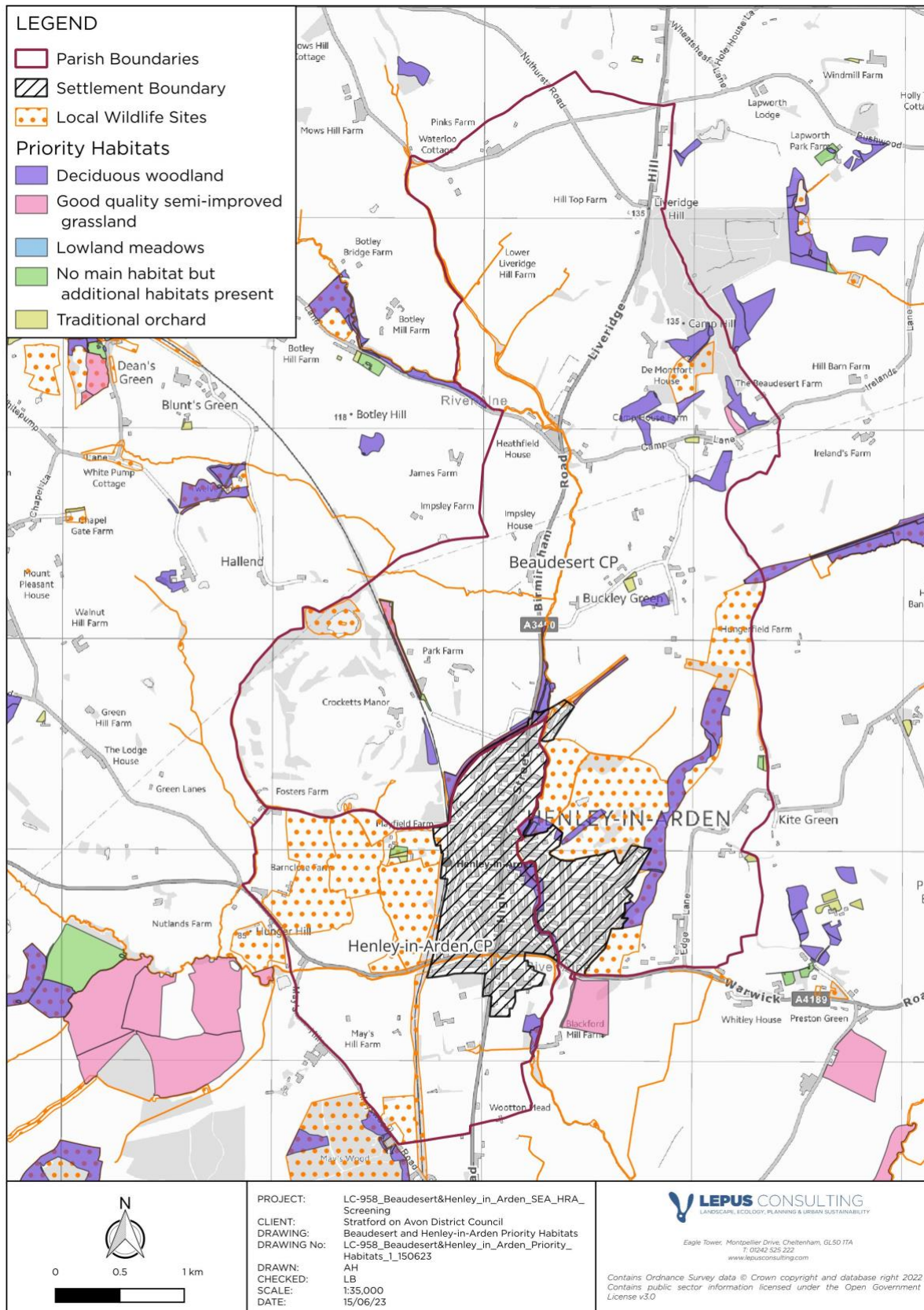


Figure 2.2: Local Wildlife Sites and priority habitats within Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Parishes (source: SoADC and Natural England)

2.6 Population and human health

- 2.6.1 The nearest NHS hospital with an A&E is Alexandra Hospital in Redditch, located approximately 9km west of the parishes. There is a GP surgery, Henley-in-Arden Medical Centre, located in the centre of Henley-in-Arden.
- 2.6.2 The parishes also contain a number of local services including shops, a post office, public houses, churches and schools. In addition, the parishes support a range of sport and recreational facilities at the Memorial Sports Ground.
- 2.6.3 NDP Policy C1 states that the loss of existing community facility would not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that the facility is no longer viable, no longer needed, or an alternative can be provided. Policy C3 states that the existing sports and leisure facilities will be protected and improved where possible. These policies will help to ensure that important local services and community assets located within the Neighbourhood Area are maintained and protected.
- 2.6.4 Due to the rural location of Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden, residents would be expected to have good access to a diverse range of natural habitats and open space. There are also six areas of designated Local Green Space within the parishes, including allotments and playing fields. NDP Policy C2 helps to ensure any future development which could potentially harm the special qualities of a Local Green Space would not be supported.
- 2.6.5 There is a high reliance on private car usage in the parishes, and the local services and tourism assets generate additional traffic in the centre of the NDP area. The NDP specifies that easing traffic congestion is a particular objective that is hoped to be addressed including through proposed 'Community Aspirations – Project 1' by improving car parking areas and promoting the addition of further public transport services. This should help to improve traffic flows, and therefore reduce negative impacts to human health associated with vehicle emissions.
- 2.6.6 NDP Policy E1 seeks to resist the loss of existing employment sites through setting out criteria for proposals which coincide with areas in current employment use, and Policy E2 states that proposals for new employment sites will be encouraged. These policies may therefore help to increase provision of local employment opportunities for residents. NDP Policy E5 aims to encourage any new dwellings to include offices to allow home based working. These policies may help to further reduce traffic in the parishes, if more residents are employed locally.
- 2.6.7 It is anticipated that policies within the NDP will help to ensure that community assets within the parishes are protected, and that sustainable future improvements to these services are supported. The NDP does not allocate any new development sites, although it does set out support for development within the Settlement Boundary and for a rural exception site outside the Settlement Boundary. Overall, this would not trigger the need for SEA and a significant impact on local population and health can be objectively ruled out at this stage.

2.7 Transport and accessibility

- 2.7.1 Whilst not a Schedule 2 topic in itself, transport and accessibility interacts with a number of the topics such as population and human health, material assets and climatic factors.

- 2.7.2 As noted in **section 2.6**, there are a range of services available within the parishes, primarily located in Henley-in-Arden Town. Numerous pavements, public footpaths and highways provide access to these local facilities.
- 2.7.3 There are three primary schools and two secondary schools located within the parishes. The majority of dwellings located within the Settlement Boundary are within walking distance of at least one of these schools.
- 2.7.4 There are several bus stops located within the parishes, providing regular services. Henley-in-Arden Station provides rail services on the North Warwickshire Line between Birmingham and Stratford-upon-Avon.
- 2.7.5 'Project 2' in the NDP 'Community Aspirations' section addresses road safety. It is hoped that reducing the speed of traffic and placing double yellow lines will improve pedestrian access, particularly adjacent to schools and shops. Furthermore, the NDP 'Vision Statement' notes that sustainable access within the parishes, including public transport, cycle and pedestrian access, should be improved in both quality and quantity. 'Project 3' would help to ensure that public transport services are "*fully maintained in the future*". NDP Policy C1 states that new community facilities will be supported where they are "*easily accessible by sustainable modes of transport including walking and cycling*".
- 2.7.6 As mentioned in **section 2.6**, the NDP aims to improve traffic flows within and through the parishes. In combination with the policies addressing car usage and parking, this should help to ensure that transport and accessibility for vehicles and pedestrians is regarded with high importance in light of any future development proposals.
- 2.7.7 Since the current NDP does not propose any development, a significant impact on local transport is not expected at this stage. The NDP does set out support for development within the Settlement Boundary and for a rural exception site outside the Settlement Boundary; however, this would not trigger the need for SEA.

2.8 Soil, water and air

- 2.8.1 The parishes cover areas of Agricultural Land Class (ALC) Grade 3 and Grade 4. A significant area within the Settlement Boundary, located to the west of the High Street, is situated on Grade 3 agricultural land. In line with the precautionary principle¹⁹, this has been assumed to be Grade 3a, and as such may comprise some of the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land. Although, since this area contains existing development, it is unlikely that future proposals within the Settlement Boundary would result in loss of agriculturally important land.
- 2.8.2 The NDP 'Vision Statement' specifies that developing infill and brownfield sites will be prioritised. This will help to achieve sustainable residential growth to meet future needs, whilst also reducing the amount of ecologically and agriculturally important soil lost to new development.

¹⁹ Judgment of 7 September 2004 in case C-127/02 (Waddenzee, paragraph 45).

- 2.8.3 However, NDP Policy H2 states that a rural exception site will be supported for the delivery of affordable homes, where it accords with a set of criteria, including that it adjoins the Settlement Boundary. As such, any future development beyond the Settlement Boundary should consider the presence of BMV agricultural land and seek to resist loss of this important natural resource.
- 2.8.4 The A3400 passes directly through Henley-in-Arden Town, meeting the A4189 at a crossroads located in the south of the Settlement Boundary. There are no existing air quality issues identified in the NDP, however local congestion is noted as a concern. Several of the NDP 'Community Aspirations' projects focus on traffic issues including car parking, road safety and public transport which may help to reduce congestion and associated air quality and health impacts.
- 2.8.5 Areas within the Settlement Boundary adjacent to the River Alne and parallel to the A4189 are located within fluvial Flood Zones 2 and 3 (see **Figure 2.3**). There are also areas at risk of surface water flooding (see **Figure 2.4**). NDP Policy B3 would help to ensure that new development incorporates Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to help control surface water run-off in line with pre-development greenfield runoff rates. The policy further encourages new developments to incorporate water efficiency measures including reuse and recycling of water, and would ensure that water quality is protected. Policy CS.4 in the Stratford-on-Avon District Core Strategy states that the "*flood plain will be maintained*". In conformity with this, areas of the Settlement Boundary in Flood Zone 2 or 3 should generally be considered inappropriate for development and any proposals in these areas would need to be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment. These policies should help to ensure any future developments address the risk of fluvial and surface water flooding by helping to control surface water run-off, and not supporting developments that exacerbate flood risk.
- 2.8.6 At present, given the content of the NDP as well as district- and national-level policies regarding flood risk and the conservation of natural resources, it is considered unlikely that any future development would result in significant adverse impacts on soil, air or water resources of the Neighbourhood Area as a result of the NDP. The support within the NDP for new development within the Settlement Boundary and for a rural exception site outside the Settlement Boundary would not trigger the need for SEA.

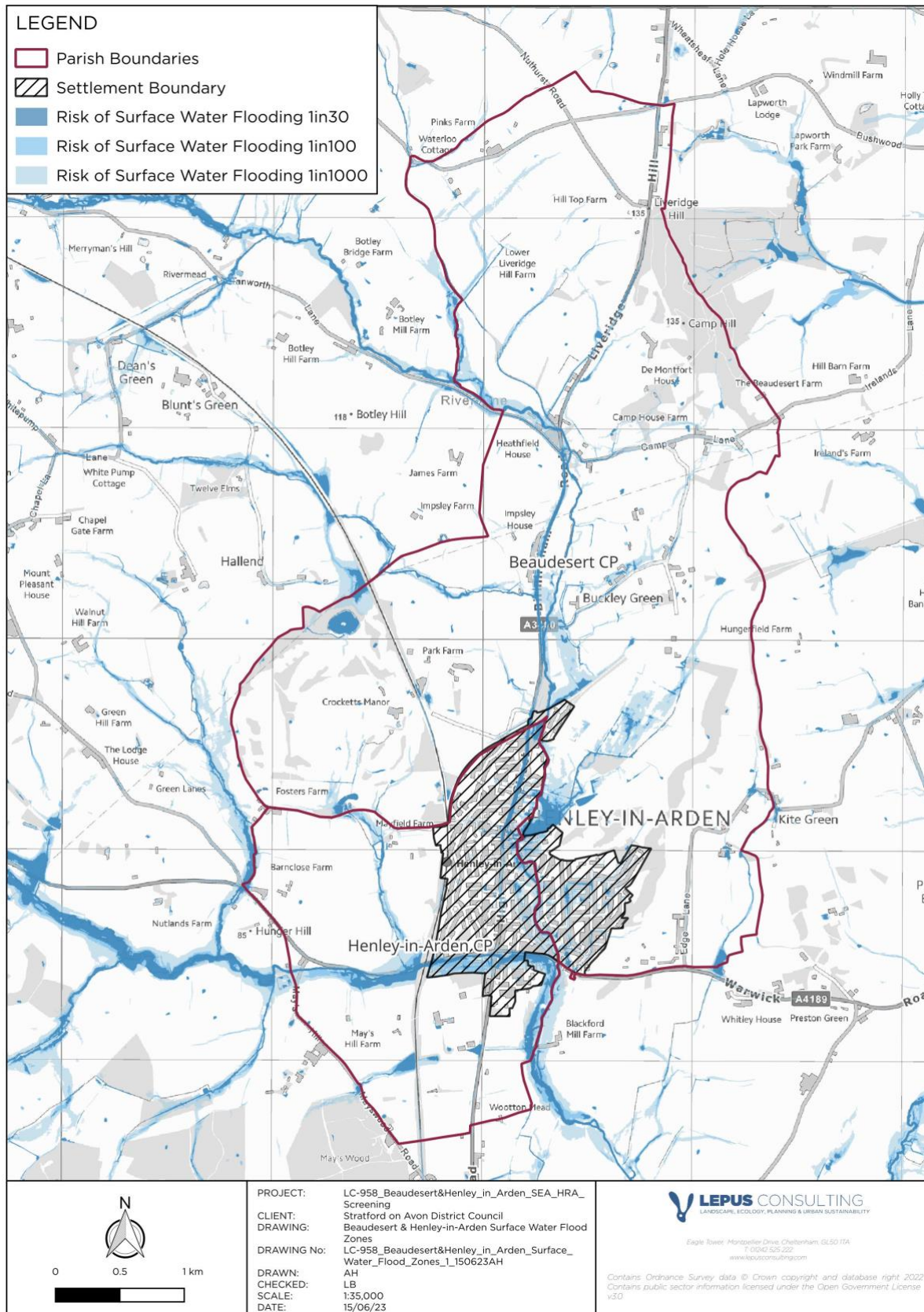


Figure 2.4: The risk of surface water flooding extent within Beadesert and Henley-in-Arden Parishes (source: Environment Agency)

2.9 Climatic factors

- 2.9.1 Anthropogenic climate change is predominantly the result of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. GHGs are emitted from a wide variety of sources, including transport, construction, agriculture and waste.
- 2.9.2 NDP Policy N1 aims to provide support for the use of renewable energy in Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden, which in turn would reduce GHG emissions and the parishes' contributions to the causes of climate change. This is in conformity with the Core Strategy Policy CS.2, which states that development proposals must demonstrate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, including designs that reduce carbon emissions and promote renewable energy schemes. The NDP sets out the "*desire to become a carbon neutral parish for electricity, providing our community with environmental, economic and social resilience*".
- 2.9.3 The NDP area supports good public transport services including buses and trains and would help to support reduced reliance on private cars for travel as detailed in **section 2.7**. Furthermore, the NDP 'Vision Statement' mentions that sustainable transport modes should be recommended. NDP Policy C1 encourages access to community facilities by sustainable transport modes including active travel.
- 2.9.4 The NDP also recognises the importance of conserving green infrastructure, with Policy E2 aiming to ensure new employment opportunities "*do not lead to the loss of green infrastructure*" and Policy N2 promoting habitat creation and the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. A well-managed and robust green infrastructure network can provide many benefits including for climate change mitigation and adaptation through improved carbon storage, urban cooling, natural flood resilience/flood water storage, and providing a more attractive public realm to encourage active travel.
- 2.9.5 Overall, a negligible impact on climatic factors is expected.

2.10 Material assets

- 2.10.1 The material assets topic considers social, physical and environmental infrastructure. This sub-section should be read alongside 'Population and human health', which details 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.
- 2.10.2 NDP Policy E4 states that new developments must facilitate fibre optic high speed broadband access. Alongside Policy E5 noted in **section 2.6**, these policies may provide benefits for residents choosing to work from home, as well as local businesses.
- 2.10.3 Policy E4 also encourages new developments to make use of existing built infrastructure and utilities. The policies and objectives within the 'Community' objective in the NDP aim to protect and enhance the existing local facilities and services (see **Appendix A**). As such, it is expected that any future developments will be able to make use of this community infrastructure.

2.10.4 The NDP 'Vision Statement' further addresses the need for increased recycling and reducing waste production in the parishes.

2.10.5 It is considered unlikely that the NDP would have significant adverse impacts on material assets within the NDP area.

2.11 Cultural heritage

2.11.1 There are 122 Listed Buildings within the parishes, most of which are located within the Henley-in-Arden Conservation Area along the High Street (**Figure 2.5**). There are two Grade I Listed Buildings in the parishes, the 'Church of St John the Baptist including wall to Guildhall' and 'Church of St Nicholas', and four Grade II* Listed Buildings. The remaining 116 are Grade II Listed Buildings. There is also a Scheduled Monument, 'Beaudesert Castle', adjacent to the Settlement Boundary.

2.11.2 NDP Policy B1 states that any new development must "*conserve and enhance heritage assets and their settings including listed buildings and the designated conservation area*" and would avoid conversion of businesses into residential use within the conservation area. NDP Policy B4 would help to ensure the conservation of all designated and non-designated heritage assets within the parishes and their settings "*in a manner appropriate to their significance*", including the Scheduled Monument. Furthermore, NDP Policy E3 aims to ensure that tourist attractions are maintained and improved where they respect local character, which includes these designated heritage assets. Proposed 'Project 5 – Community Events' in the NDP also refers to a potential Heritage Festival to be held in the future, which would aim to showcase these assets. These policies would all be expected to help ensure that the Conservation Area, Scheduled Monument, and Listed Buildings are conserved in light of any development in future and that opportunities are sought to enhance the appearance, sustainability and character of heritage assets.

2.11.3 Policy CS.8 in the Core Strategy states that the district's historic environment will be protected and enhanced. In light of this requirement, alongside the NDP policies outlined above, it is considered unlikely that the NDP would result in a significant adverse impact on any cultural heritage assets within Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Parishes.

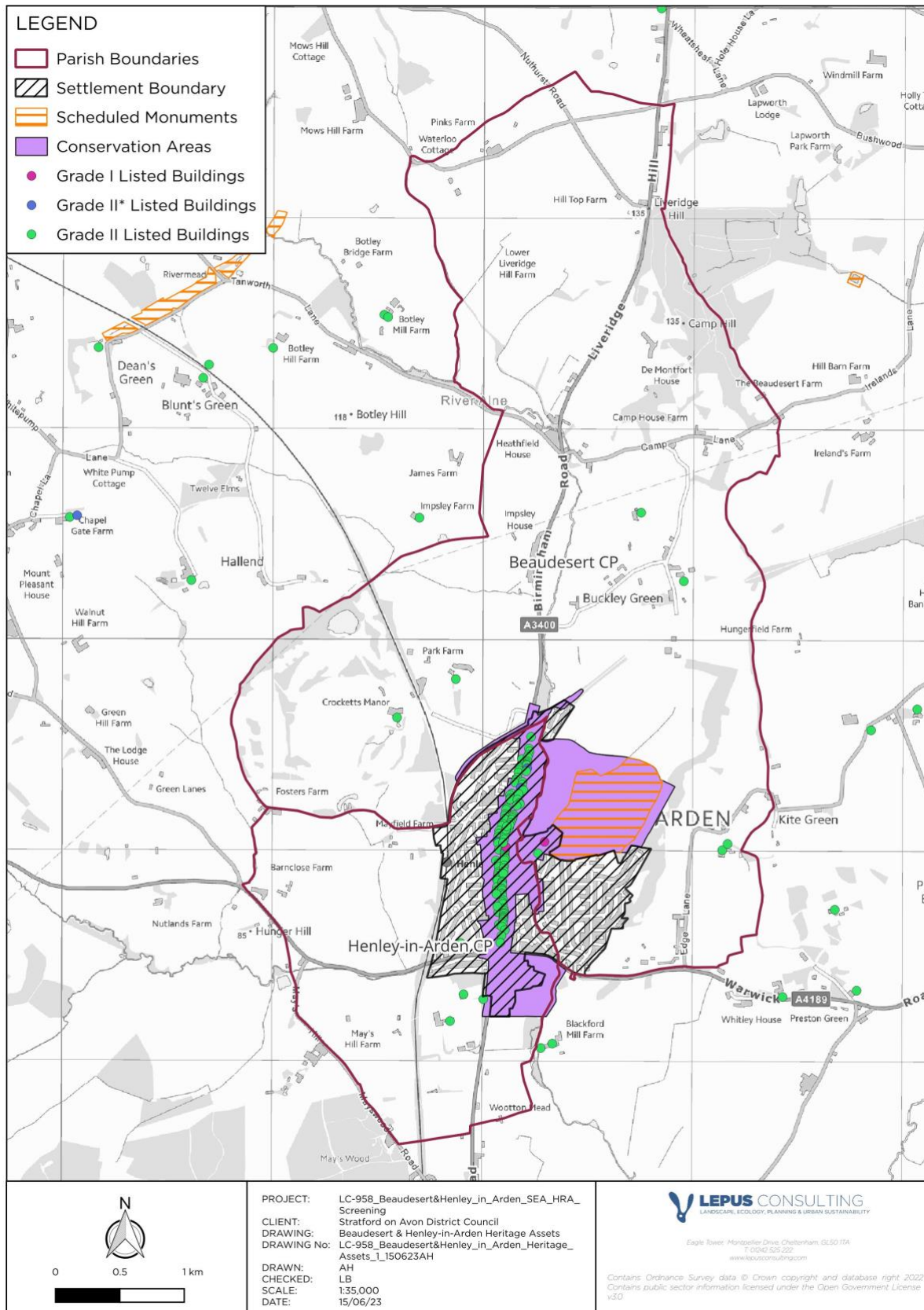


Figure 2.5: Location of heritage assets within Henley-in-Arden Parishes (source: SoADC and Historic England)

2.12 Landscape

- 2.12.1 According to a Special Landscape Areas Study²⁰ for the Stratford-on-Avon District in 2012, the Parishes of Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden are located within the 'Arden' Special Landscape Area. Furthermore, a Landscape Sensitivity Assessment²¹ has determined the sensitivity of land to housing development around Henley-in-Arden Town (see **Figure 2.6**). There are small areas of the defined Settlement Boundary that fall in areas determined to be at 'high' or 'high/medium' sensitivity to housing development. The most easterly point of the Settlement Boundary is within 'H03' in **Figure 2.6**, which is deemed "*unsuitable for housing development*". A small section adjacent to Henley-in-Arden Station is determined to be unsuitable for housing, as it would "*impinge on the rural character*" (H11 and H12 in **Figure 2.6**).
- 2.12.2 The NDP Vision Statement and associated key objectives note the importance of recognising the "*unique landscape*", seeking to protect the Green Belt (which surrounds the Settlement Boundary) and support "*high quality and contextually responsive design*" for the benefit of the local community as well as tourism. NDP Policy N3 seeks to protect locally valued views from harm associated with new development, in accordance with the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment. NDP Policy B1 also states that development should "*protect and enhance landscape and biodiversity by incorporating native landscaping consistent with the local character of the Special Landscape Area*". These policies should help to ensure that any future developments will be in-keeping with the current character and openness of the parishes, and not alter valued views.
- 2.12.3 As expected for a rural parish, residents of Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden have good access to the surrounding open countryside. There is an extensive Public Right of Way (PRoW) network, which includes part of the 'Heart of England Way' and the 'Arden Way' long-distance footpaths. Policy CS.9 in the Core Strategy requires proposals to enhance the network of footpaths, retaining existing rights of way.
- 2.12.4 As there are no site allocations in the NDP, and taking into consideration those policies noted above, a significant impact on the local landscape can be ruled out at this stage. However, the findings of the Landscape Sensitivity study should be carefully considered when locations are determined for any future development in the parishes, especially in light of NDP Policy H2 which sets out support for a potential rural exception site for the delivery of affordable homes adjoining the Settlement Boundary.

²⁰ White Consultants (2012) Stratford-on-Avon District Special Landscape Area Study. Available at: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/doc/205823/name/ED4112%20Special%20Landscape%20Areas%20Study%20June%202012.pdf> [Date accessed: 12/06/23]

²¹ White Consultants (2012) Stratford-on-Avon District: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Villages. Available at: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/doc/205828/name/B4%20Henley%20in%20Arden%20Landscape%20Sensitivity%20Study.pdf> [Date accessed: 12/06/23]

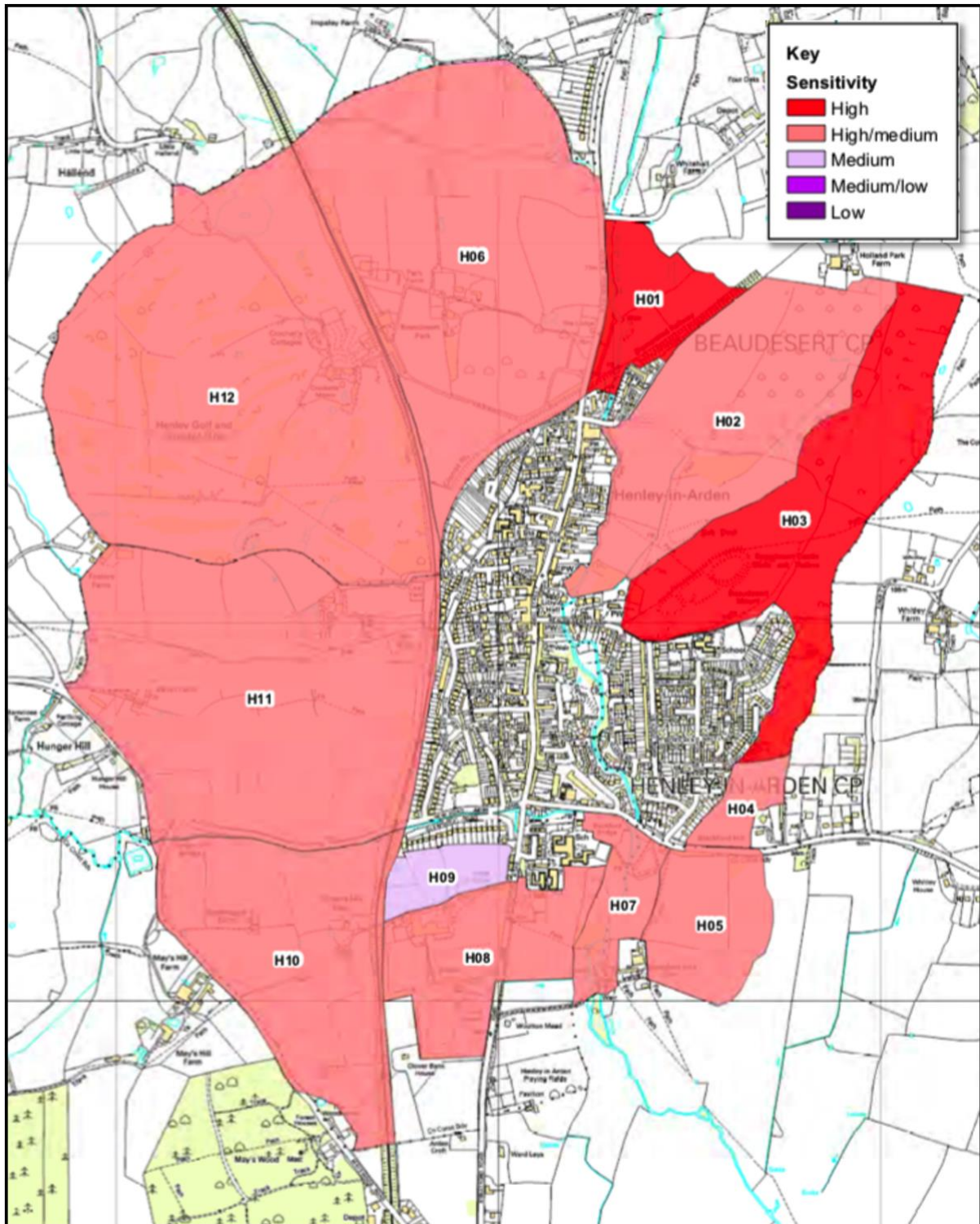


Figure 2.6: Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden landscape sensitivity to housing development (source: White Consultants)

3 HRA Screening Process

3.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment screening

3.1.1 HRA screening is a requirement of Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)²².

3.1.2 As set out in **section 1.3**, 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 Directive²³ and the Birds Directive²⁴. SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are known as Habitats sites.

3.1.3 Should a development, plan or project be considered likely to have a significant impact on a Habitats site, the HRA proceeds to an Appropriate Assessment. If likely significant effects cannot be avoided, mitigated or compensated to the extent that the conservation status of the EU site will not be undermined, the HRA proceeds to Imperative Reasons of Overriding Interest (IROPI).

3.2 Determination of likely significant effects

3.2.1 The nearest Habitats sites to Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Parishes are 'Lyppard Grange Ponds' SAC and 'Bredon Hill' SAC, which are located approximately 45km and 47km to the south west, respectively. Due to this distance and lack of any identified impact pathways between the NDP area and these SACs, as well as the nature of the policies contained within the NDP, there is unlikely to be any impact on the SACs. Based on the available information, a significant impact of the NDP on any Habitats site can therefore objectively be ruled out at this stage.

²² Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Available at:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/regulation/105/made> [Date accessed: 12/06/23]

²³ EU Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

²⁴ EU Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of wild birds

4 Conclusions

4.1 SEA Screening outcome

- 4.1.1 This screening report has explored the potential effects of the proposed Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP with a view to determining whether an environmental assessment is required under the SEA Regulations.
- 4.1.2 The NDP does not allocate any new development sites, although it does set out support for development within the Settlement Boundary and for a rural exception site outside the Settlement Boundary.
- 4.1.3 In accordance with topics cited in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, significant effects on the environment are considered to be unlikely to occur as a result of the NDP.
- 4.1.4 It is recommended that the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP should not be screened into the SEA process.

4.2 HRA Screening outcome

- 4.2.1 This screening report has explored the potential effects of the proposed Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP with a view to determining whether a habitats regulations assessment is required under the Habitats Regulations.
- 4.2.2 The closest Habitats sites to the parishes, 'Lyppard Grange Ponds' SAC and 'Bredon Hill' SAC, are over 45km away and no impact pathways between the NDP and these SACs or any other Habitats sites have been identified.
- 4.2.3 It is recommended that the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP should not be screened into the HRA process.


4.3 Consultation

- 4.3.1 This report has been subject to consultation with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England in July 2023. Their comments are presented in **Appendix B**.

Appendix A: Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP Policies

Policy Number	Policy Name
Housing Policy H1	Housing growth
Housing Policy H2	Rural Exception Site
Economy Policy E1	Protecting and Supporting Existing Employment Sites
Economy Policy E2	New Employment Opportunities
Economy Policy E3	Leisure and Tourism
Economy Policy E4	High Speed Internet Access and Telecommunications
Economy Policy E5	Home Based Working
Community Policy C1	Protecting and Enhancing Existing Community Assets/Facilities
Community Policy C2	Designated Local Green Space
Community Policy C3	Sports and Leisure Facilities
Natural Environment Policy N1	Renewable Energy
Natural Environment Policy N2	Trees and Hedgerows
Natural Environment Policy N3	Valued Views
Built Environment Policy B1	Design Quality
Built Environment Policy B2	Reuse of Rural Buildings
Built Environment Policy B3	Water Management
Built Environment Policy B4	Designated Heritage Assets

Appendix B: Consultation Responses

From: [REDACTED] 
Subject: RE: Consultation: SEA & HRA Screening for the Beaudesert and Henley-on-Arden NDP
Date: 4 July 2023 at 10:55 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]



Good morning,

Thank you for consulting us on the above strategic planning document.

A strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development.
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan.
- the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the [Local Plan](#).

We would only make substantive further comments on the plan if you were seeking to allocate sites in flood zone 3 and 2 (the latter being used as the 1% climate change extent).

Therefore, we have no comments.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Planning Officer – Sustainable Places | West Midlands Area
[REDACTED]

Environment Agency | Sentinel House, 9 Wellington Crescent, Fradley Park, Lichfield,
Staffordshire, WS13 8RR

www.gov.uk/environment-agency





Historic England

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Lepus Consulting Ltd
Eagle Tower
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Cheltenham
GL50 1TA

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: PL00793483

6 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

BEAUDESERT AND HENLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- SEA AND HRA SCREENING

Thank you for your consultation and the invitation to comment on the SEA and HRA 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 Historic England 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://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/)

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

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]



THE FOUNDRY 82 GRANVILLE STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 2LH

Telephone 0121 625 6888
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Date: 21 July 2023
Our ref: 440712
Your ref: Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden Neighbourhood Plan



[REDACTED]
Lepus Consulting Ltd

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Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear [REDACTED]

Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Neighbourhood Plan - SEA & HRA Screening Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 04 July 2023.

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.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that:

- **significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely; and,**
- **significant effects on Habitats sites¹, either alone or in combination, are unlikely.**

The proposed neighbourhood plan is unlikely to significantly affect any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection areas (SPA), Ramsar wetland or sites in the process of becoming SACs or SPAs ('candidate SACs', 'possible SACs', 'potential SPAs') or a Ramsar wetland. The plan area is unlikely to have a significant effect on a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coast, and is unlikely to impact upon the purposes for which these areas are designated or defined.

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 is contained within the [Planning Practice Guidance](#). This identifies three triggers that may require the production of an SEA:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected

¹ Habitats sites are those referred to in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (Annex 2 - glossary) as "any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites".

species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require an SEA. Further information is included in Natural England's [standing advice](#) on protected species.

Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant an SEA. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission [standing advice](#).

We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a SEA is necessary.

Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If a SEA is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.

Please send any new consultations, or further information on this consultation to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

Yours sincerely


Consultations Team

Habitats Regulations Assessments

Sustainability Appraisals

Strategic Environmental Assessments

Landscape Character Assessments

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments

Green Belt Reviews

Expert Witness

Ecological Impact Assessments

Habitat and Ecology Surveys



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