

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLANS AND
PROGRAMMES REGULATIONS 2004
REGULATION 9 SCREENING DETERMINATION:
Quarndon Neighbourhood Plan**

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Regulation 9 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires that the responsible authority determines whether or not a plan is 'likely to have significant environmental effects' and if a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required (SEA).

Amber Valley Borough Council being the responsible authority has determined, after consideration of the draft Quarndon Neighbourhood Plan and following consultation with the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England (responses appended), that the Plan does not require a SEA.

Reasons for the Decision

Annex I of the SEA Directive identifies a number of potential aspects of the environment which may require consideration in relation to significant effects. These issues may include (but are not limited to): "biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors". The following discussion considers any relevant issues in relation to each of these aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan environment and how they might be affected as a result of the proposed policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

(a) biodiversity, flora and fauna

The nearest European protected site is the Peak District Dales, situated approximately 14km to the northwest of the Parish. There are no designated ecological sites within Quarndon Parish, but the Parish is situated adjacent to Kedleston Park Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI) to the west and Allestree Park Local Nature Reserve (LNR) to the east.

The Parish falls within the Impact Risk Zone for Kedleston Park SSSI. However, the NDP does not propose development of a scale or type which would be likely to impact the SSSI.

Allestree Park LNR is adjacent to the south-east of Quarndon village. Future development is not anticipated to be situated in immediate proximity to the LNR, and any adverse impact caused by the construction or occupation of new development is expected to be negligible. A similar degree of impact on Burley Wood, the Ancient Woodland situated just north of the village, is also expected on this basis.

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) policy will help to ensure that new development will conserve and enhance, and not degrade, ecological and environmental features in the area.

(b) population and human health

NDP policy aims to ensure new development creates no adverse impacts on existing village facilities and new facilities will be encouraged so long as they do not adversely impact the local environment, road capacity and safety, or the amenities of nearby properties. The proposed development in the NDP will not be expected to significantly increase pressure on the capacity of facilities.

Policies under the 'Spatial Strategy' objective will help to ensure development meets local needs through sustainable growth.

Access to public greenspaces is significantly positive for the long term mental and physical well-being of local residents. The NDP advocates maintaining and avoiding harm to such spaces.

(c) soil, water and air

The village is predominantly Grade 3 agricultural land. Soil loss is likely to be negligible owing to the intended focus for development being within the existing village boundary, although, as the NDP does not allocate specific sites for new housing, it is not possible to quantify the likely extent of loss.

Major roads are not found within the Parish boundary and therefore there is limited air, noise or light pollution associated with roads and road transport. The NDP will not alter this.

There are no areas within the village prone to fluvial flooding, with only the banks of Markeaton Brook in the southwest of the Parish having an increased likelihood to flood. Similarly, there is minimal risk of surface water flooding within Quarndon Parish.

(d) climatic factors

NDP policy aims to support the use of renewable and low-carbon energy development, such as domestic roof-mounted solar or water-heating panels, as long as the installations do not adversely impact the rural character of the Parish. Retention of green spaces may result in benefits that can help climate change adaptation, such as carbon dioxide uptake and storage.

Whilst Quarndon is limited in terms of sustainable transport options which leaves residents highly dependent on their cars, the number of proposed dwellings is such that the NDP will be likely to have a negligible impact on climatic factors.

(e) material assets

Employment within the Parish is limited to the local school or catering and hospitality within the hotel, pub and tearoom. A high proportion of Quarndon residents commute to nearby Derby for work. Policy within the Plan aims to encourage the redevelopment of existing buildings for small local business use. However, there is little focus on the encouraging of business and employment growth within the Parish due to the potential for alteration of its rural character. Given this, an adverse impact on material assets is considered to be unlikely.

(f) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

There are several nationally important heritage assets near the Parish of Quarndon. This includes the eastern border of the Parish being adjacent to the buffer zone of Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and its western perimeter sits adjacent to Kedleston Hall Registered Park and Garden (RPG), with a limited portion of the RPG extending into the Parish. However, it is considered that development proposed in the NDP is of a type, scale and location which, when allied to the avoiding and mitigating impact of the proposed development management policies, means adverse impacts on sensitive heritage assets (including on the character & setting of the ten listed buildings in the Parish) can be avoided.

(g) landscape

The Parish is split between two National Character Areas (NCAs); the Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent NCA and the Needwood and South Derbyshire. As the new homes are intended to be of a scale, type and design which is in accordance with the existing village character, a significant effect on landscape can be ruled out at this stage.

Transport and accessibility

Whilst not an Annex 1(f) SEA Directive topic in itself, transport and accessibility interacts with a number of the topics such as population and human health, material assets and climatic factors.

There is a maximum 30 minute walk from one side of the village to the other, so it is likely that any development proposed within the current village boundary would be within walking distance to the majority of the village services. Policies to promote the enhancement of pedestrian and cycling routes in the Parish, as well as consideration of issues such as parking, electric car charging and capacity & safety of roads, demonstrate that the NDP would be likely to have no adverse impacts on transport and accessibility.

HRA Screening Exercise

HRA screening is a requirement of Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

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 – collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

The nearest Natura 2000 site to Quarndon Parish is the Peak District Dales SAC, located approximately 14km northwest. The development and policies proposed within the NDP are unlikely to impact on the SAC in any way. Based on the available information, a significant impact of the NDP on any Natura 2000 site can therefore be ruled out at this stage.

Conclusion

After having given consideration to the anticipated scope of the Quarndon Neighbourhood Plan, and the relevant environmental issues locally, it is concluded that the potential for significant effects to arise as a result of the Plan is likely to be limited, and / or mostly positive in nature. Consequently, it is considered that a formal SEA is not required.

It is also concluded that the plan will have no likely significant effects on European sites and therefore a Habitat Regulation Assessment is not required.

Please note this determination is based upon the draft Quarndon NDP. The Council reserves the right pending future iterations of the NDP to undertake further screening determinations.

Further Information

A copy of this determination has been sent to the Consultation Bodies and made available on the Council's website at www.ambervalley.gov.uk

It will also be available on request during normal office hours at:

Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Market Place
Ripley
Derbyshire
DE5 3BT

If you require any further information, then please contact the Local Plans Team by e-mail: ldf@ambervalley.gov.uk or by calling 01773 841583.

Date: 31 July 2018



Historic England

EAST MIDLANDS OFFICE

Mr Joseph Evans
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GL50 1YE

Direct Dial: 01604 735460

Our ref: PL00404162

25 May 2018

Dear Mr Evans

RE: QUARNDON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - SCREENING OPINION REQUEST

Thank you for your consultation and the request for a Screening Opinion in respect of the Quarndon 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 'SEA' Directive], Historic England is of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not likely to be required.

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://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

Should it be concluded that, overall, a SEA will be required for the Plan, Historic England would be pleased to discuss the scope of the assessment in relation to the historic environment in due course.

Notwithstanding the conclusions above it is noted that the NP sets out provisions for designated heritage assets only, and all heritage assets including archaeology and non-designated assets should be considered in order to meet the requirements of the NPPF.



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I hope that this information is of use to you at this time. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Rosamund Worrall
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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.

Dear Joseph,

Thank you for sending this through. We are comfortable with the conclusions of your report, i.e. that no significant effects are likely.

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Millbank
Planning Specialist
Sustainable Places Team

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Date: 05 June 2018
Our ref: 246557



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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Joseph

Planning consultation: Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report of the Quarndon Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 11/05/2018

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

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 European designated sites

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 Felicity Bingham on 02082 256387. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

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East Midlands Team
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