

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES REGULATIONS 2004 REGULATION 9 SCREENING DETERMINATION

Brandon and Bretford Neighbourhood Plan

Introduction

European Union Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans or programmes that would have a significant environmental effect. It is for the Parish Council to determine whether an SEA is required. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the regulations) require that this is determined by a screening process, which should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations). The results of this process must be set out in an SEA Screening Statement, which must be publicly available. Before the Council make a formal determination, there is a requirement to consult three statutory consultation bodies designated in the regulations (Historic England, Environment Agency & Natural England) on whether an environmental assessment is required.

This document is the Screening Determination of the need to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Brandon and Bretford Neighbourhood Plan and is made in accordance with the regulations. Within 28 days of making its determination, the Parish Council will publish a statement, setting out its decision. If it determines that an SEA is not required, the statement must include reasons for this

Determination

In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, the Parish Council, as the responsible authority, has determined that an environmental assessment of the emerging Brandon and Bretford Neighbourhood Plan is not required as it is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. In making this determination, the Parish Council has had regard to Schedule 1 of the Regulations and has carried out consultation with the consultation bodies. An assessment against Schedule 1 of Regulations for **Appendix 1** to this determination and comments made by the Consultation bodies form **Appendix 2**.

This determination has been made on **Wednesday 23rd May 2018**.

Further Information

A copy of this determination will be sent to the Consultation Bodies and made available on the Parish Council's website and the Rugby Borough Council website.

Appendix 1- SEA and HRA Screening Report

Brandon and Bretford Neighbourhood Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations
Assessment
Screening Report

07 February 2018

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INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This screening report has been prepared to determine whether the Brandon & Bretford Neighbourhood Development Plan (BBNDP) should be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.2. A SEA is required for all plans which may have a significant effect on the environment. This particularly relates to plans which designate sites for development
- 1.3. The purpose of a SEA is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to integrate considerations of the environment into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development.
- 1.4. The SEA process sets out criteria for assessing the significance of the impact of a plan on the environment. For example, if a plan proposes a housing development, it may have an impact on the wildlife of the area or have an impact on the landscape. If a significant effect is possible, the assessment requires the consideration of options and for the evaluation of the potential effects on the environment.
- 1.5. To ascertain if a SEA is required, a 'screening' exercise is undertaken which looks at the proposals in a Neighbourhood Plan to see if a significant effect is likely. The criteria for this screening are set out in the relevant legislation (Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule I of Regulations as set out in Table 2 of this report).
- 1.6. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a process which looks at the potential impact of proposals within a plan on internationally designated wildlife sites. For the purposes of HRA, internationally designated wildlife sites are Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar wetland sites.
- 1.7. The initial stage of the HRA process involves consideration of the reasons for designation and the conservation objectives of each internationally designated wildlife site within a reasonable distance of the Neighbourhood Plan Area and the potential impact of the proposals within the Plan on these sites.
- 1.8. This report details the assessment of the BBNDP against the need for an SEA or HRA to be produced to accompany the Plan.
- 1.9. This report has been sent to the three statutory consultees of the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England to elicit their views on its contents. The results of this consultation and a screening determination will be issued indicating the outcome of the screening stage.

EUROPEAN DIRECTIVES

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

BRANDON & BRETTFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 3.1. Neighbourhood planning was initiated following the enactment of the Government's Localism Act 2012. The Act sets out a series of measures to shift power away from central government towards local communities. A key component of the Localism Act is neighbourhood planning; as a new tier of planning policy which enables local people to have a greater say about future development in their communities.
- 3.2. The neighbourhood planning process for the Parish of Brandon and Bretford began in May 2016 when the Brandon and Bretford Parish Council application for the designation of the area defined by the Civil Parish of Brandon and Bretford as a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of neighbourhood planning was approved. A steering group was formed and the plan has subsequently been informed by numerous consultation events with the local community.
- 3.3. The consultation findings have been used to develop the vision, objectives and policies of the draft plan.
- 3.4. After the pre-submission consultation on the draft plan, any responses will be taken into account and used to develop the 'submission' draft of the Neighbourhood Plan. This version of the plan will be submitted to Rugby Borough Council for consultation prior to inspection by an independent examiner. If the examiner approves the BBNDP, it will be subject to a local referendum. If 50% or more of people voting in the referendum support the plan, the NDP will be adopted by Rugby Borough Council as part of its development plan.

Size

- 3.5. The Parish of Brandon and Bretford is located within the Borough of Rugby in Warwickshire. The majority of the parish is rural, with the main settlements being the villages of Brandon and the smaller village of Bretford. The estimated total population for the Parish is 650 (2011 census). There are approximately 272 dwellings situated in the plan area.
- 3.6. The villages of Brandon and Bretford have been designated as rural villages within the settlement hierarchy of the Borough Council's emerging Local Plan.
- 3.7. The neighbourhood plan area for Brandon & Bretford covers the administrative boundary of Brandon & Bretford Parish as indicated on the map in Appendix 1.
- 3.8. The village of Brandon is situated at the western edge of the Borough within proximity to the City of Coventry. The River Avon runs to the south of the village and separates Brandon from the neighbouring settlement of Wolston. Bisecting the northern part of the village, the A428 runs between Coventry to the west and Rugby to the east. Towards Coventry, the A428 rises as it approaches the neighbouring settlement of Binley Woods, before which is a small enclave of houses centred around the junction between the A428 and Speedway Lane and continuing along Speedway Lane. Speedway Lane forms the southern boundary to the now vacant stadium that was used for speedway and other sporting events until 2016. On the opposite side of the A428 is a former garden nursery site that has been vacant for several years.

- 3.9. The village of Bretford is smaller rural settlement some 2 miles to the east of Brandon centred upon the junction of the A428 / B4455 and the bridge crossing the River Avon.
- 3.10. Outside of the settlements of Brandon and Bretford the character of the Parish is a mixture of agricultural fields and woods, the largest of which is Brandon Wood which dates back to the time of the Domesday Book and extends to some 178 acres. Brandon Wood is one of 4 designated local wildlife sites (LWS) within the Parish with others being Brandon Little Wood, an area of grassland adjacent to Brandon Wood and Brandon Marsh Sheep Field. Brandon Marsh itself is an area of former gravel pits and settling pools alongside the River Avon that is now a nature reserve and is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The adjoining River Avon is also a designated LWS.
- 3.11. In addition to the afore-mentioned sites of natural heritage, the Parish has a Conservation Area (Brandon Village) and contains a total of 7 listed buildings as well as the site of Brandon Castle which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and which lies within the grounds of the Castle Hill Riding School.

Nature

- 3.12. The BBNDP is a land use plan, prepared for town and country planning and land use and sets out a framework for future development within the BBNDP area. The NDP is a lower tier of the planning hierarchy, and it must conform with the upper tier plans such as the Rugby Borough Local Plan and national policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 3.13. The BBNDP steering group produced a consultation draft Plan in 2017 setting out the overall aims and objectives to be addressed in the BBNDP. The overall aims were identified as:

Housing To promote and encourage new residential development in locations that meet the social needs of the Parish and surrounding village communities without compromising the character, nature and setting of the built and natural environment within which the new housing is to be located.

Economy To support new businesses to locate within the Parish in appropriate and sustainable locations, and the retention and acceptable expansion of existing businesses.

Conservation To protect and enhance the heritage assets within the Parish and to support initiatives which would make a positive contribution to improving the quality of the built and natural environment.

Environment To support the protection and improvement of the built and natural environment, together with the needs of local residents and businesses.

Infrastructure To encourage initiatives aimed at addressing the impact of traffic and parking within the Parish and support schemes that improve digital connectivity, utility infrastructure and reduce flooding.

Local Facilities To support the establishment of new community facilities, local services, open spaces and recreation within the Parish in locations that are sustainable and accessible to local residents. It should protect and maintain existing community facilities, open spaces and recreation and leisure facilities.

- 3.14. At this stage of the Plan making process, the BBNDP includes draft policies to meet the objectives identified by the local community.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING

- 4.1. The process for determining whether or not a SEA is required is described as screening. In order to screen, it is necessary to determine whether a plan would have significant environmental effects by using the criteria set out in Annex II of the Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations. A determination cannot be made until the three statutory consultation bodies have been consulted, comprising English Heritage, Natural England and The Environment Agency.
- 4.2. The plan makers must publish a statement with the decision within 28 days of the determination of the screening. If it is determined that a SEA is not required, the statement should include the reasons for this decision.

THE SCREENING PROCESS

- 5.1 The Localism Act requires Neighbourhood Plans to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. Rugby Borough Council's emerging Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on 14th July 2017 and the Local Plan Examination is scheduled to commence in January 2018. The current Development Plan is the Rugby Core Strategy adopted in June 2011 which will remain in force until its policies are superseded by the emerging Rugby Borough Local Plan. The BBNDP must be in general conformity with the adopted Core Strategy and the emerging local Plan.
- 5.2. Neither the adopted Core Strategy nor the emerging Local Plan contain housing or employment allocations affecting any part of the Parish. This reflects the fact that the majority of the Parish including the settlement of Bretford are within the defined Green Belt and the emerging Local Plan contains no proposals to alter the Green Belt boundary within the parish of Brandon and Bretford. As a consequence the BBNDP contains no proposals to allocate sites for development thus being in general conformity with the Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan.
- 5.5. The emerging Local Plan was subject to a Sustainability Appraisal. This integrated the SEA Directive's requirements to assess the plan for significant effects on the environment, and provided mitigation measures recommendations, where relevant.
- 5.6. Figure 1 shows a flow diagram prepared by ODPM (2005), setting out the sequential approach to the application of the SEA process to plans and programmes. This is used to screen the BBNDP.

Figure 1. Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes

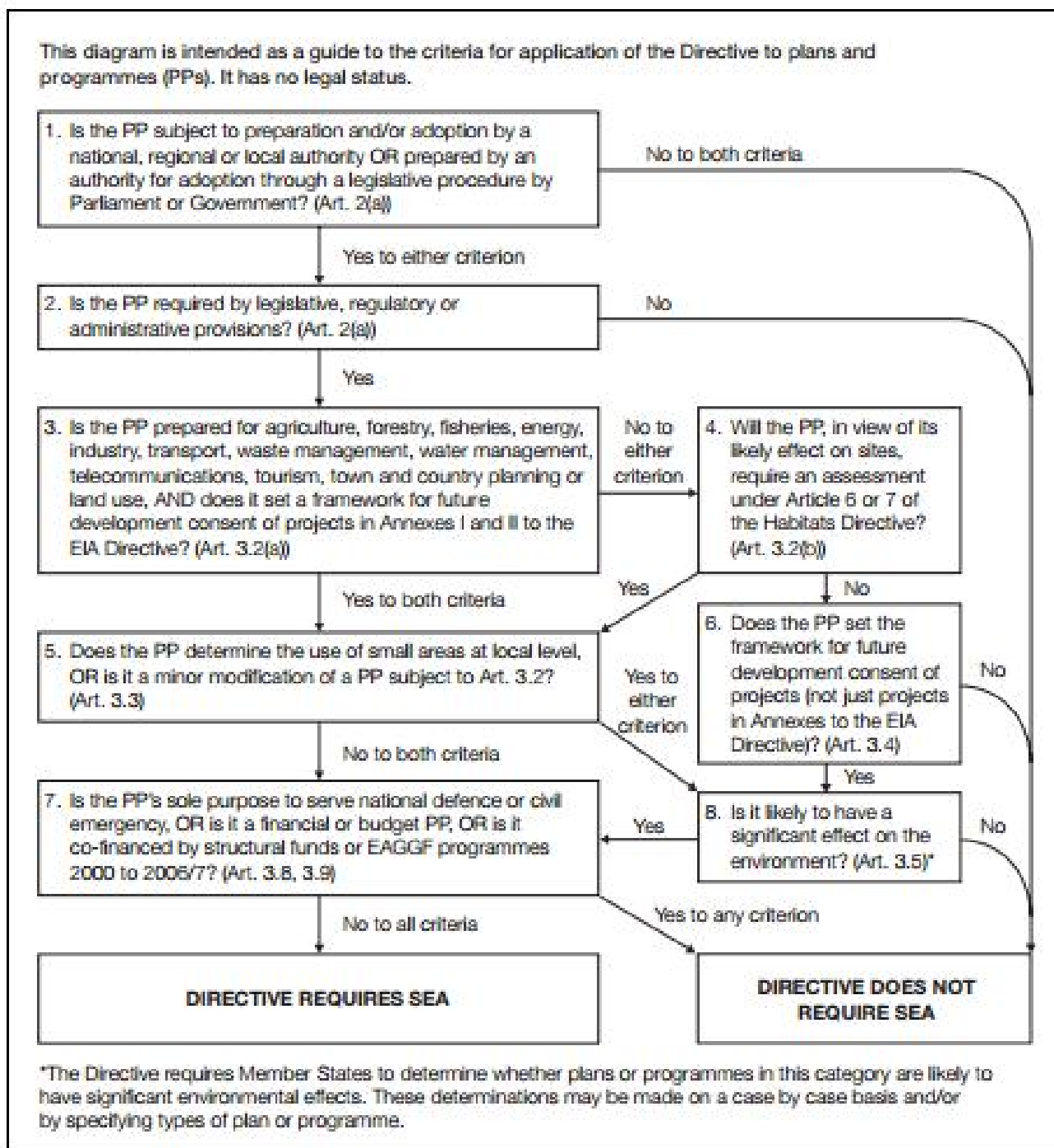


Table 1 shows the assessment of whether the BBNHP will require a full SEA. The questions in table 1 are drawn from the diagram above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

The process in Figure 1 has been undertaken and the findings can be viewed in Table 1.

Table 1 – Establishing the need for an SEA.

STAGE	Y/N	REASON
1. Is the pp (plan or programme) subject to preparation and /or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament of Government? (Art.2 (a))	Y	The plan constitutes a NDP, which is prepared by a qualifying body under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). If the final Neighbourhood Plan is successful at referendum and is subsequently Made by the Local Planning Authority it will become a Development Plan Document with equal status to the Local Plan.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? Art.2 (a)	N	The Localism Act 2012 enables communities to prepare a NDP. However, it is not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions. On successful adoption by Rugby Borough Council, it will form part of the development plan for the area, and as such, it should continue to be screened under the SEA Directive.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning and land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consents of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2 (a))	?	The BBNDP is a land use plan and sets the framework for future development consents within the plan area. It is unlikely that development projects contained in Annex I are to take place in the Parish. However, it may be possible that the NDP could contain infrastructure projects, listed in Annex II of the Directive 97/11/EC, such as urban development, which is subject to an EIA if it is considered to have significant effects on the environment.
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	HRA screening was undertaken for the Rugby Local Plan and has been screened out of further assessment. The BBNDP is not likely to have significant effects on any European site and therefore the NDP is unlikely to require a HRA.

5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art 3.3)	N	The NDP does not contain any development allocations.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consents of projects (not just projects in the annexes of the European Directive)? (Art. 3.4)	Y	A NDP forms part of the Development Plan and will be used in the decision making process on planning applications. Therefore, it sets the framework for future developments at a local level.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it co-financed by structural funds of EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	N	A NDP does not deal with these issues.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	A NDP could potentially have an effect on the environment. However, whether it is significant depends upon the proposals within the NDP. This requires individual assessment (see Section 6, below).

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 6.1. The criteria from Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) can be used to determine whether the plan would result in likely significant effects. Question 8 with the ODPM guidance (see Table.1) refers to whether the NDP would have a significant effect on the environment. Table 2 below discusses the likely effects of the BBNDP.

Table 2 – Likely Effect Of The BBNDP

Criteria (from Annex I of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations)	Response
<i>Characteristics of the plans and programmes</i>	<i>Characteristics of the plans and programmes</i>
(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 BBNDP will establish the development control framework for the parish of Brandon & Bretford. The NDP is prepared for town and country planning and land use and sets out a framework for future development for settlements in the BBNDP area. Policies within the BBNDP look to control additional housing, protect the wider environment (including heritage) and employment opportunities. However, it is unlikely that the projects would fall under 10 a) of Annex II of the EIA Directive.
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The NDP is the lowest tier of the planning hierarchy and as such must conform to plans in the upper tiers rather than influence them. In this case, the BBNDP must conform with the Rugby Core Strategy and the NPPF as well as having regard to the submission version of the Borough Council's Local Plan. It is not considered to have significant influence on other plans and programmes or their effects on the environment.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	The BBNDP contributes, as required, to the achievement of sustainable development at the neighbourhood area level. Policies set out in the BBNDP are planned to have a positive impact on the local environmental assets and places valued by local people in the NDP area. The likelihood of significant effects on the environment is therefore minimised.

<p>(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme</p>	<p>Key issues taken from the draft Rugby Local Plan relevant to the plan include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The risk of flooding from the Rivers Avon is a concern and climate change is likely to increase this risk, resulting from heavier and more intense periods of rain fall during future winters. 2. The protection and enhancement of biodiversity landscapes. 3. The effects of development on the historic environment from inappropriate and poor quality design and layout of housing given the Conservation Area and the number of listed buildings and a Schedule Ancient Monument. 4. Areas of landscape sensitivity surrounding the villages of Brandon & Bretford. 5. The protection of best and most versatile agricultural land. 6. Increased levels of housing in the village and surrounding area. <p>Any existing environmental problems could be tackled through the implementation of the plan.</p>
<p>(e) relevance of the plan or programme to the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)</p>	<p>The BBNDP is a land-use plan and sets the framework for future development consents in the Brandon & Bretford Neighbourhood Plan Area. The BBNDP sets out policies which planning applications within Brandon & Bretford NDP area must adhere to. The BBNDP has to be in conformity with the Local Plan. The Local Plan has had regard to European community legislation on the environment and therefore this legislation will not be relevant for the BBNDP.</p>
<p><i>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected</i></p>	<p><i>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected</i></p>
<p>(a) probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects</p>	<p>1. Any future development in the neighbourhood plan area is likely to lead to increased traffic generation albeit the BBNDP contains no development allocations. Any such effect is not likely to be reversible and would constitute a long-term effect.</p>

	<p>2. Any effects on biodiversity are likely to be long-term and irreversible.</p> <p>3. Areas of the Parish are of high and high/medium sensitivity to commercial and housing development and any development in these areas could detract from the setting of the village and have potential long-term, irreversible effects.</p> <p>4. Any increase in the number of dwellings within the parish may result in an increase in waste and carbon emissions. Any effects of an increase in housing may result in long term effects that could exacerbate climate change.</p> <p>5. The historic environment is an important receptor. There is one Conservation Areas within the NDP area and a number of listed buildings which could be adversely affected by inappropriate development. Any adverse effects are likely to be irreversible, meaning historic assets will require protecting through sensitive and appropriate design and sensitive location of new development.</p> <p>6. The areas of open space, the recreation area and other green areas in the NDP area are examples of Green Infrastructure (GI) and are vital to the health and wellbeing of residents as well as providing a stronghold for biodiversity in the area. These features provide an opportunity for improvement in the long term.</p> <p>7. Climate change predictions forecast that the frequency, probability and duration of flood events are likely to increase in the long term. Climate change is an important receptor to consider. Whilst the River Avon and runs close to the villages of Brandon and Bretford, the majority of the built-up-areas do not lie within the flood plain and as such, flood risk is unlikely.</p> <p>8. Apart from the existing built-up areas, almost the entire NDP area is classified as Grade 2 or 3 agricultural land. How this important natural resource is used is vital to sustainable development. This</p>
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	includes taking the right decisions about protecting it from inappropriate development.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	Given that there are no development allocations proposed in the BBNDP, the cumulative effects of the proposals are unlikely to be significant on the local environment.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects	Given the objective of the policies contained in the BBNDP, any effects would be localised in nature and are unlikely to have a significant impact on neighbouring areas.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	Given the objective of the policies contained in the BBNDP it is unlikely to cause a health risk to the local population, to the degree to which it would require a SEA or EIA to avoid and mitigate the effects.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The BBNDP is concerned with development within the neighbourhood area. Given the objective of the policies contained in the BBNDP, the potential for wide-reaching environmental impacts are likely to be limited and minimal.
(f) the value and vulnerability of the areas 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	(i) There is 1 Conservation Area and a number of listed buildings located within the NDP area. The area surrounding the village is generally farmland. Given the objective of the policies contained in the BBNDP any effects would be unlikely to have a significant impact on natural characteristics or cultural heritage. (ii) There is no AQMA in place in the parish. Given the objective of the policies contained in the BBNDP it is unlikely to exceed any environmental quality standard or limit values.

	(iii) Brandon & Bretford Parish has areas of potential best and most versatile agricultural land. Development outside of existing residential/built-up-areas could lead to the loss of agricultural land.
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	The NDP area is predominantly covered by a recognised national landscape protection status (Green Belt,). There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the NDP area. There are a number of areas of woodland of local importance within and on the periphery of the BBNDP area together with two SSSI's, but there are no policies to earmark development to be located close to these local assets or within areas of Green Belt. The NDP also seeks to protect open and green spaces. As such, given the objective of the policies contained in the BBNDP any effects would be unlikely to have a significant impact on areas of landscape with protected status.

HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

- 7.1. The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the assessment required for any plan or project to assess the potential implications for European wildlife sites. The HRA therefore looks at whether the implementation of the plan or project would harm the habitats or species for which European wildlife sites are designated. European wildlife sites are:
- Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
 - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)
- 7.2. In addition to SPAs and SACs sites, Ramsar sites are designated under the Ramsar Convention (Iran 1971 as amended by the Paris Protocol 1992). Although they are not covered by the Habitats regulations, as a matter of Government policy, Ramsar sites should be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites. European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as internationally designated wildlife sites.
- 7.3. The legislation sets out a process to assess the potential implications of a plan on internationally designated sites. The first stage of this process is a “screening” exercise where the details of nearby internationally designated sites are assessed to see if there is the potential for the implementation of the Plan to have an impact on the site.

- 7.4. There are no European wildlife or Ramsar sites within the NDP area or within 20km of the NDP area

SCREENING OUTCOME AND REASONS FOR DETERMINATION

- 8.1. The BBNDP will conform to the strategic influence of the Rugby Local Plan. The BBNDP will influence the location of any new housing and employment and its design in the plan area. These factors can have significant environmental determinants.
- 8.2. This screening report has explored the potential effects of the proposed BBNDP with a view to determining the likely requirement for an environmental assessment under the SEA directive. Results of the screening process indicate that due to the objective of the policies contained in the BBNDP, significant environmental impacts are not expected to occur since the BBNDP includes a number of policies to protect the environment or mitigate the effects of any new development such that there would be no residual adverse effects.

SEA Assessment

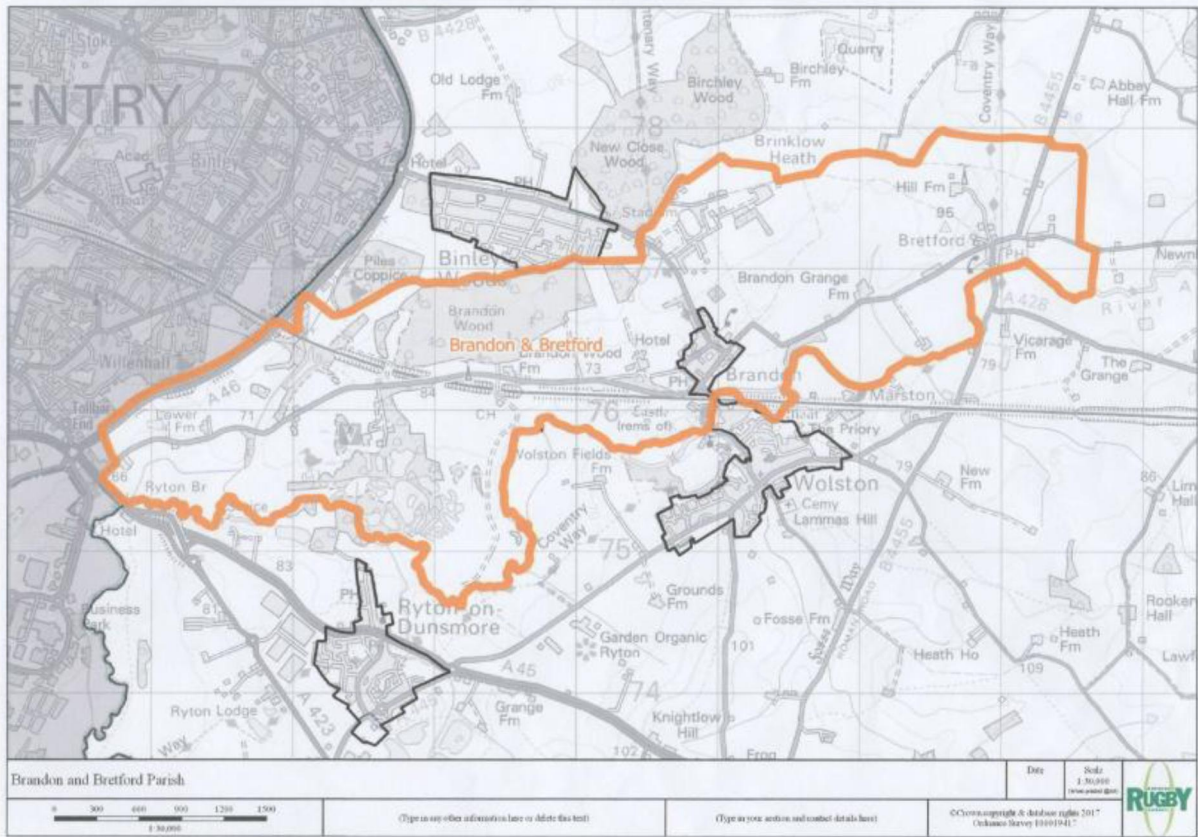
- 8.3. On the basis of the SEA Screening Assessment set out in Table 2 above, it is concluded that the BBNDP will not have significant effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, and therefore does not need to be subject to a SEA report.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 8.4. There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the Neighbourhood Area or within 20km of it. The BBNDP will not, therefore, have an adverse effect on the integrity of internationally designated sites either on its own or in combination with other plans and does not need to be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Appendix 1

Brandon and Bretford Parish Boundary defining the area covered by the plan.



Map and aerial view of the NDP area for Brandon and Bretford

Appendix 2- Responses from Statutory Consultees

02/05/18

Good Afternoon Sophie,

Apologies for the delay in responding.

We concur that the plan is unlikely to have any adverse effects in relation to the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations. We also agree that there will be no adverse effects on any internationally designated sites.

Send all future ones SEA Screenings to myself and I will endeavour to respond in a more timely manner.

Regards,

Martin

Martin Ross

Senior Planning Advisor– Sustainable Places | West Midlands Area

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

Date: 21 February 2018

Our ref: 239477

Your ref: Brandon and Bretford NDP

The logo for Natural England, featuring the words "NATURAL" and "ENGLAND" in a bold, sans-serif font. "NATURAL" is in a light green color and "ENGLAND" is in a dark green color. The text is set against a solid yellow rectangular background.

Sophie Leaning
Rugby Borough Council

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Ms Leaning,

Planning consultation: Brandon and Bretford Neighbourhood Plan – Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment.

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 15/02/2018 .

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 on 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 Tom Amos on 02080 260961. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service

Yours Choose salutation

Tom Amos
Planning for a Better Environment
West Midlands Team



WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

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Town Hall
Evreux Way
Rugby
CV21 2RR

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6887

Our ref: PL00316842

26 February 2018

Dear Ms Leaning

BRANDON AND BRETTFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- SEA 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.

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.