

Braunston Neighbourhood Development Plan

Screening Report for:

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment

October 2015

Prepared on behalf of Braunston Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group by Daventry District Council- Local Strategy team



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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 To meet the 'basic conditions' which are specified by law a Neighbourhood Development Plan must be compatible with EU obligations. Furthermore as at 9th February 2015 Regulation 15 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations was amended¹ to require that when a plan is submitted to the Local Planning Authority it should include either an environmental report prepared in accordance with the applicable regulations or where it has been determined as unlikely to have significant environmental effects, a statement of reasons for the determination.
- 1.2 This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the draft Braunston Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix B) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). The draft screening report which formed the basis of this document, was subsequently sent to the relevant statutory bodies; Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency to clarify whether they agreed with the findings as to whether the plan requires full SEA and/or HRA assessment. The findings from the consultation are discussed in section 5.0 and the responses are set out in Appendix E.
- 1.3 Regarding Regulation 15 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (as amended) referred to above, the final outcome of this assessment will subsequently inform what is submitted under Regulation 15 (1)(e). If it is concluded that no further assessment is required is it considered that this report will fulfil the requirement at 15 (1)(e)(ii).
- 1.4 The report is broken down into the following four sections;
- Section 2 outlines the legislative background to SEA and HRA
 - Section 3 provides some background to the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan and the wider Development Plan context
 - Section 4 provides a screening assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan for SEA and HRA and also considers 'In combination effects' for HRA.
 - Section 5 considers the findings from section 4 and provides a conclusion on the need, or not for a full SEA and/or HRA.

¹ Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/20/pdfs/ukxi_20150020_en.pdf

2.0 Requirement for SEA/ Legislative Background

- 2.1 A Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet the basic conditions². This includes demonstrating that the plan does not breach and is compatible with EU obligations.
- 2.2 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed Guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005).
- 2.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required Local Authorities to produce Sustainability Appraisals (SA) for all local development documents to meet the requirement of the EU Directive on SEA. It is considered best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into an SA. This is also discussed in paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework in paragraph 165.
- 2.4 However, the 2008 Planning Act amended the requirement to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal so that they are only required for Development Plan Documents (DPD's). However the Act did not remove the requirement to produce a Strategic Environmental Assessment. A Neighbourhood Plan is not a development plan document (also known as a Local Plan) and therefore it does not legally require a Sustainability Appraisal. Where appropriate, however, an SEA assessment may need to be undertaken, specifically where a neighbourhood plan could have significant environmental effects.
- 2.5 Whether a neighbourhood plan requires a strategic environmental assessment, and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft neighbourhood plan. 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 may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.
- 2.6 Consequently to establish whether the plan might give rise to significant environmental affects it is necessary to screen the plan against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. This process is carried out in Section 4 of this report.

² Basic Conditions as set out in Para 065 of the National Planning Practice Guidance available at <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/the-basic-conditions-that-a-draft-neighbourhood-plan-or-order-must-meet-if-it-is-to-proceed-to-referendum/>

2.7 Requirement for HRA / legislative Background

- 2.8 Article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires that an appropriate assessment of plans and programmes is carried out with regard to the conservation objectives of European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) and that other plans and projects identify any significant effect that is likely for any European Site. In the context of neighbourhood planning, a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required where a Neighbourhood Plan is deemed likely to result in significant negative effects occurring on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the plan's implementation.
- 2.9 As illustrated on the map in appendix C, Braunston Neighbourhood Area is 23km from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/RAMSAR and 50km from Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR. Consequently the impact on these sites will need to be considered. Further commentary on this is set out in section 4.

3.0 Braunston Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1 Braunston Neighbourhood Area was designated on 5th December 2013. The village is situated towards the West of Daventry District, on the border with Rugby Borough. A map showing the designated area is set out in appendix D. Following designation the Steering group carried out various forms of consultation with the community, including a village questionnaire to all households, discussions with schools and young people's groups and gathering views at the annual parish meeting.
- 3.2 This has led to the formulation of a draft plan which is set out in full in appendix B. However to assist with this screening report a summary of the plan is provided below.
- 3.3 The Vision for Braunston is set out on page 24, it is as follows;
"To maintain and develop a thriving, working village by encouraging development that meets the needs of local people, and protects and enhances the distinctive quality or the rural, canal-side landscape"
- 3.4 To deliver the vision the plan has the following objectives;
- a) To provide for the social, environmental and economic sustainability of the parish
 - b) To maintain and develop housing opportunities for people from a range of ages, abilities and economic circumstances
 - c) To safeguard and enhance the built environment including the promotion of high quality design of buildings and streetscape
 - d) To promote transport choices
 - e) To protect the local landscape character
 - f) To promote healthy activity in the parish including through the protection and expansion of open spaces and rights of way
 - g) To promote and enhance local business opportunities
- 3.5 The delivery of the vision and objectives is governed by a number of policies which are summarised as follows;

Housing

Policy A- Residential development within Braunston

Supports residential development within the confines of the village and seeks to ensure that it responds to local character

Policy B- Affordable Housing within Braunston

Allocates a site for 12 affordable homes at Maple Close.

Policy C- Local Connection for Affordable Housing

Supports proposals for affordable housing providing that they prioritise those with a local connection

Transport and Traffic

Policy D- Link to Daventry

Policy supports the provision of an improved combined cycleway and footpath to Daventry- designed to have the least possible impact on areas of ecological importance

Policy E- Traffic Management

Supports appropriate traffic management measures that will improve highway safety providing that they are in keeping with local character

Character and amenities

Policy F- Local Green Space

Designates 4 areas as Local Green Space

Policy G- Play Areas

Seeks to protect existing play areas and sets criteria for not building on them, which includes compensatory provision for any loss

Policy H- Preventing Coalescence

Proposes to designate 4 areas of separation. 3 of which are between the village confine and other parts of the Neighbourhood area and 1 is between the canal wharf and Daventry town.

Policy I- Important views

Supports development providing that it doesn't harm important views as set out in the Character Area Assessment in Appendix 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy J- Open Countryside

Seeks to protect the open countryside and only permits development subject to certain criteria, these include where it contributes to the local economy, for the reuse or extensions to existing building, for sport and recreation or it's a new isolated dwellings and special circumstances are demonstrated. In all cases developments will only be permitted where it does not cause demonstrable harm to landscape quality, sites of ecological value, scheduled monuments or sites of archaeological value and the intrinsic character, beauty and tranquillity of the countryside

Policy K- the Canal and its setting

Sets a number of criteria for assessing planning applications adjacent to the canal, which include respecting its character, protecting its function as a wildlife corridor and promoting understanding of canal heritage.

Policy L – Services and Facilities

Supports the improvement of existing services and facilities and the provision of new services and facilities. It also seeks to protect them from loss.

Business

Policy M- Business Development

Supports proposals to meet the development needs of business subject to a number of criteria which include that they are small scale and comprise infill development.

Policy N- Sustainable Development

Supports proposals that incorporate features that address the challenges of climate change providing that they are in-keeping with their respective character area.

Policy O- Communications Infrastructure

Supports proposals for improved electronic communications providing that the impact can be adequately mitigated.

- 3.6 To fulfil one of the basic conditions these policies are required to be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area. This comprises the saved policies of the Daventry District Local Plan and The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which was adopted on 15th December 2014.
- 3.7 Whilst this condition will be examined more thoroughly when the plan reaches the submission stage it has implications for the screening assessment because the WNJCS was subject to full SEA/SA and Appropriate Assessment where, subject to some modifications (which have been implemented) it was concluded that there would be no significant impact on the environment or on a protected site. Therefore it is considered that the conformity of the policies set out above with the policies in the WNJCS is a useful starting point for this screening assessment. This has been carried out in detail in the table in appendix A which has informed the assessment in table 1 on page 10. For the purposes of informing this screening assessment it is not considered necessary to assess conformity with the Daventry District Local Plan as this has not been subject to full SEA/SA however this will need to be carried out when the basic conditions are assessed in more detail when the plan is submitted.

4.0 SEA & HRA Screening: Assessment

4.1 The criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3 (5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out in figure 1 below;

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
 - 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 degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
 - the cumulative nature of the effects,
 - the transboundary nature of the effects,
 - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
 - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
 - intensive land-use,
 - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Figure 1: Criteria for Assessing the Effects of BNDP (Source Annex II of SEA directive)

4.2 Figure 2 (below) illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required:

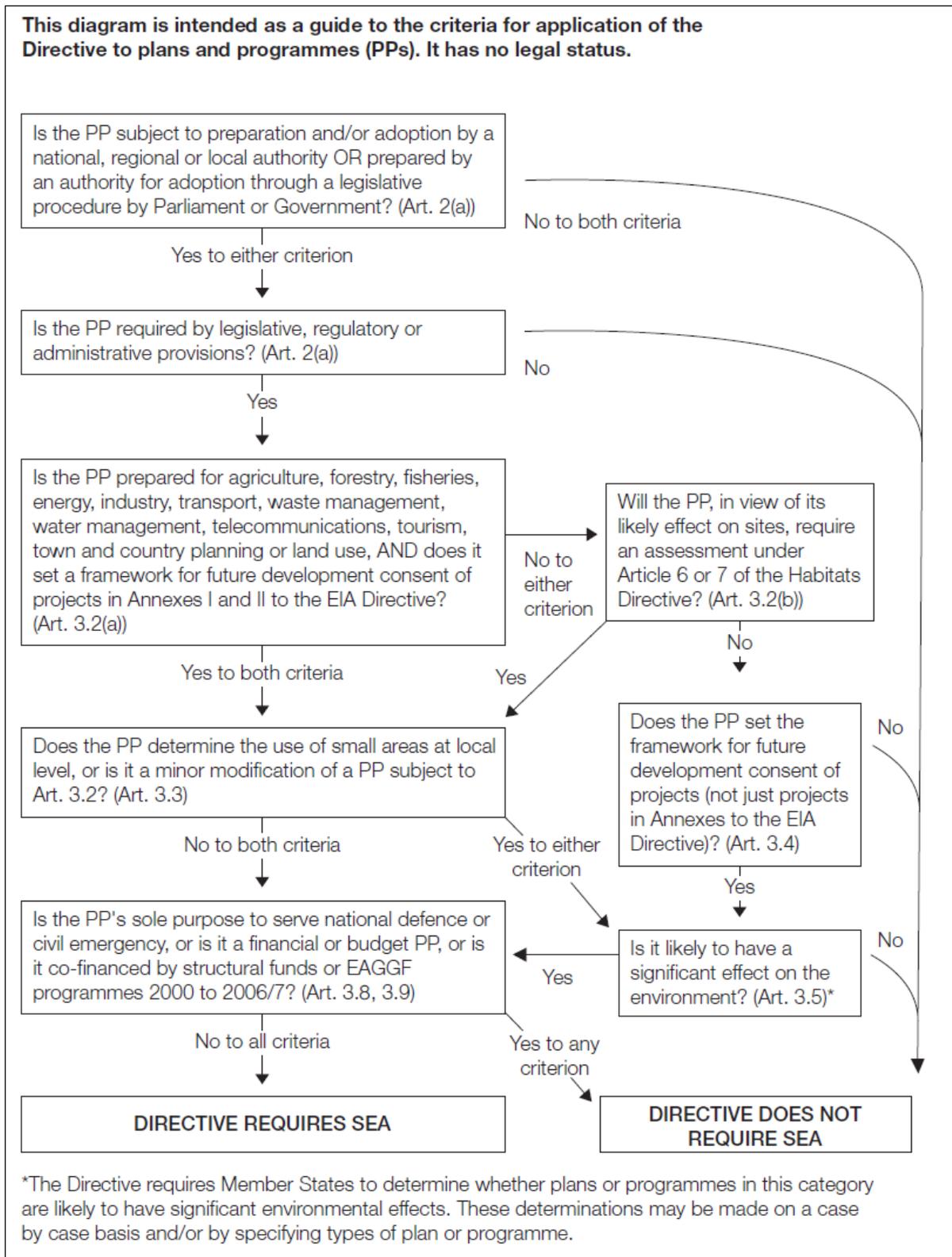


Figure 2. Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes

4.3 In the context of the above guidance and considering the findings of the assessment in the table in appendix A, table 1 below shows the assessment of whether or not the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA. Furthermore stage 4 of the assessment also considers the impact on European sites in the context of HRA:

Stage	Y/ N	Reason
1. Is the NP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The Braunston Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by a steering group with the involvement of Braunston Parish Council and not by a national, regional or local authority. However if the plan receives support from the majority of the votes cast through a referendum it will be 'made' by Daventry District Council.
2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	As a qualifying body, Braunston Parish Council (BPC) has the right to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of the local community but this is not required by the relevant legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions (The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011) However, if 'made', the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan would form part of the statutory development plan for Daventry District. It is therefore considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine if an SEA is required.
3. Is the NP 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 (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	N	The Braunston Neighbourhood Plan is prepared for town and country planning and land use however as illustrated by the summary of policies set out above, whilst it seeks to allocate a site for 12 affordable homes it does not set the framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II of the EIA directive .
4. Will the NP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N	The appropriate assessment for the Joint Core Strategy identified that the nearest designated sites (Natura 2000 sites) which could be affected were Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA and pRAMSAR site. As illustrated on the map at appendix C, Braunston Neighbourhood Area is 23 km from the Upper Nene Valley and 50 km from Rutland Water. Through the appropriate assessment for the West Northants Joint Core Strategy ³ it was concluded that there would be no adverse effect on site

³ Appropriate Assessment for the West Northants Joint Core Strategy available from <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=6373413>

		<p>integrity for both of these sites as any affect was mitigated through modifications to the plan. Consequently the conformity of the policies in the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan has implications for the impact on these protected sites alongside any site specific impacts that may arise.</p> <p>A detailed assessment of the policies was carried out as part of this assessment (appendix A) and has demonstrated that there will be not be a significant effect on either the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site or the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA and pRAMSAR sites.</p>
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)		Not Applicable because of answer to 4.
6. Does the NP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	The Braunston Neighbourhood Plan, once adopted, will be used as part of the Development Plan for determining planning applications.
7. Is the NP"s sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8,3.9)		Not Applicable because of answer to 6.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5 set out in figure 1 above)	N	<p>The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy was subject to full Sustainability Appraisal which included SEA assessment. This ensured that no significant effects are expected to arise from the implementation of the JCS.</p> <p>As set out in para 3.7 above, the conformity of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy has important implications for its likely significant effect on the environment.</p> <p>Consequently as, demonstrated in the table in Appendix A, as the policies of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan are considered to be in general conformity at this stage with the strategic policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy it is not considered that the plan will have a significant effect on the environment.</p> <p>However as a consequence of the plan seeking to allocate a rural exception site it will be necessary to ensure that a comparative assessment has been made of other sites.</p>

Table 1: Establishing the need for SEA and HRA

4.4 Screening Outcome

4.5 As a result of the assessment in table 1 which has been informed by the assessment in appendix A, it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will occur from the implementation of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan that were not considered and dealt with by the Sustainability Appraisal of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. As such the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

4.6 With regards Habitat Regulations Assessment, as set out in the table above, in particular the response to question 4, it is not considered that the implementation of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan, by virtue of its scale and distance, will result in any likely significant effects upon the Upper Nene Gravel Pits site or the Rutland Water site. This is demonstrated in the table in appendix A.

4.7 Habitats Regulations Assessment: In combination effects

4.8 Existing plans and proposals must be considered when assessing new plans or programmes for likely significant effects as they may create 'in combination' effects.

4.9 For reference the relevant plans or programmes which should be considered when reviewing in combination effects are listed below:

- West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy DPD;
- Daventry District Local Plan (saved policies)
- South Northamptonshire Local Plan (saved policies)
- Northampton Local Plan (saved policies);
- Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan;
- Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy;
- Locations for Waste and Minerals Development DPD;
- North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy DPD;
- North Northamptonshire Submission Joint Core Strategy (JCS)
- Rugby Core Strategy DPD.
- Harborough District Council Core Strategy
- Harborough Local Plan Saved Policies
- Stratford on Avon District Local Plan
- Stratford on Avon Proposed Submission Core Strategy

- National Planning Policy Framework

4.10 As the plan is required to be in general conformity and will contribute to delivering the growth identified in the WNJCS rather than exceeding it, it is not considered that it will lead to any significant 'in combination effects'.

5.0 Conclusions and recommendations of the Screening Assessments

5.1 SEA

5.2 A screening assessment to determine the need for a SEA in line with regulations and guidance was undertaken and can be found in section 4 of this report. The assessment finds that no significant effects will occur as a result of the implementation of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan. The assessment also finds many of the policies are in conformity with the policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which have been subject to a full SA/SEA where no significant effects were identified.

5.3 Consequently from the findings of the screening assessment it is recommended that a full SEA does not need to be undertaken for the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan. Through consultation with the statutory bodies responses were received from The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England (set out in Appendix E). Both the Environment Agency and Natural England did not raise concerns regarding SEA. Historic England, in assessing the impact on cultural heritage did not consider that there would be significant effects on cultural heritage. They did however raise an issue that further assessment is required in relation to the impact of the proposed allocation on listed buildings at Bragborough Hall. At present there is an application for the proposed housing allocation (DA/2015/0700) and it is understood that consideration is being given to the impact on Bragborough Hall through that process. However subject to the progress of the planning application, as the Neighbourhood Plan develops due consideration to the impact on Bragborough Hall should be given through consultation with Historic England to enable them to provide further input into the content of the plan. Notwithstanding this, it is not considered that a full SEA is required as a consequence of the plan not giving rise to significant environmental effects.

5.4 HRA

5.5 A screening assessment to determine the need for HRA in line with regulations and guidance was undertaken and is set out in appendix A of this report and summarised in response to question 4 in table 1. It has found that many of the policies are in conformity with the policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which was subject to full HRA which found no significant or in combination effects. It is considered that due to the plan demonstrating conformity with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy that it will not result in any significant effects, alone or in combination, upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRAMSAR or the Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR sites. This has been confirmed through the responses from Historic England, Natural England and The Environment Agency set out in Appendix E.

Appendix A: Assessment table of general conformity of policies against the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, the potential for significant effects on the environment and the likely significant effects upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRAMSAR and Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR sites.

Braunston Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Policy in WNJCS	Conformity/conflict between Braunston NP policies & WNJCS policies	Conclusions re SEA	Potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (Upper Nene Valley Gravel pits pSPA and pRAMSAR and Rutland Water Spa and Ramsar)	Conclusions re HRA
Policy A- Residential development within Braunston	S1: Distribution of Development S10: Sustainable Development Principles R1: Spatial Strategy for the Rural Areas	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS in particular restricting development to being within the settlement boundary.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to restrict development to being within the village confines.
Policy B- Affordable Housing within Braunston	H3: Rural Exception Sites R1: Spatial Strategy for the Rural Areas	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS by virtue of its location adjacent to the village.	No significant effects are identified	Whilst the site is on greenfield land by virtue of its small scale and distance it is unlikely to have a significant effect on natura 2000 sites.	No significant negative effect is considered to result as a consequence of the proposed rural exception site
Policy C- Local Connection for Affordable Housing	H3: Rural Exception Sites R1: Spatial Strategy for the Rural Areas	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS by virtue of it requiring prioritisation to those with a local connection	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to ensure local connection to affordable properties.
Policy D- Link to	S10: Sustainable Development	This policy is considered to be	No significant effects are	None	No negative effect,

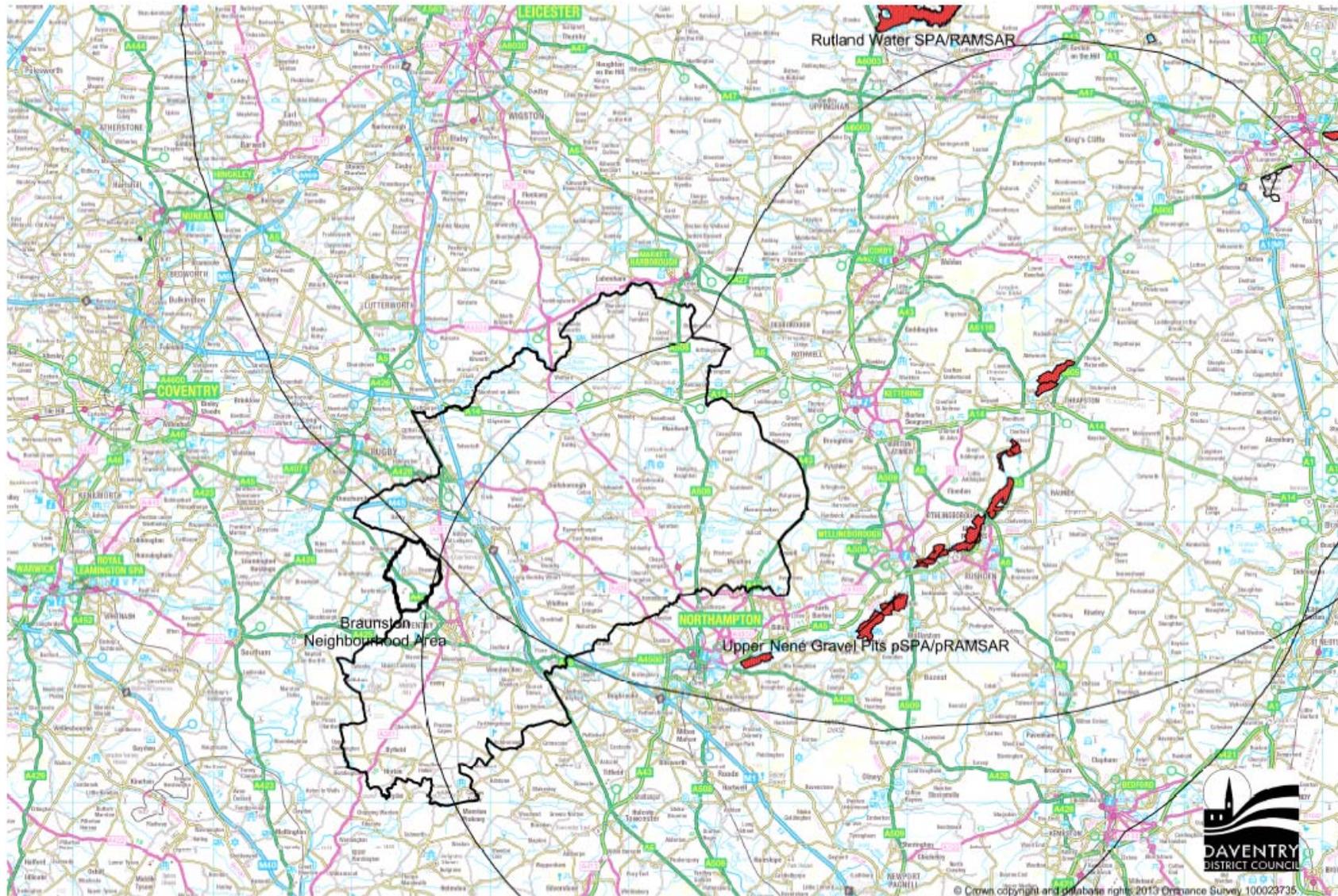
Daventry	Principles C1: Changing Behaviour and Achieving Modal Shift BN1: Green Infrastructure Connections BN2: Bioversity R3: A Transport Strategy for the Rural Areas	in general conformity with the JCS particularly promoting modal shift and improving the connectivity of the village	identified		seeks to introduce measures to improve connectivity.
Policy E- Traffic Management	S10: Sustainable Development Principles R3: A Transport Strategy for the Rural Areas	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS particularly improving pedestrian safety.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, seeks to introduce measures to improve pedestrian safety.
Policy F- Local Green Spaces	S10: Sustainable Development Principles RC2: Community Needs	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to protect existing open spaces.
Policy G- Play Areas	S10: Sustainable Development Principles RC2: Community Needs	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to protect and enhance existing open spaces.
Policy H- Preventing Coalescence	S10: Sustainable Development Principles BN5: The Historic Environment and Landscape	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS regarding protecting the character of Braunston village.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to protect the character of the village and areas around it.

Policy I- Important Views	S10: Sustainable Development Principles BN5: The Historic Environment and Landscape	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS regarding protecting the setting of Braunston village.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to protect the setting of the village
Policy J- Open Countryside	S1: Distribution of Development S10: Sustainable Development Principles BN5: The Historic Environment and Landscape R1: Spatial Strategy for the Rural Areas	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS regarding limiting development at villages and protecting open countryside.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to protect open countryside.
Policy K- the Canal and its setting	S10: Sustainable Development Principles BN5: The Historic Environment and Landscape	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS regarding protecting the character of the canal conservation area.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to protect the canal conservation area.
Policy L- Services and Facilities	S10: Sustainable Development Principles R2: Rural Economy	This policy is considered to be in conformity with the JCS, particularly policy R2 which seeks to sustain and enhance the rural economy.	No significant effects are identified	None	Policy seeks to protect existing community assets from loss and therefore is not considered to lead to a negative effect on protected sites.
Policy M- Business	S10: Sustainable Development	This policy is considered to be in conformity with the JCS,	No significant effects are	None	Policy seeks to support existing

Development	Principles R2: Rural Economy	particularly policy R2 which seeks to sustain and enhance the rural economy.	identified		businesses and is not considered to lead to a negative effect on protected sites.
Policy N- Sustainable Development	S10: Sustainable Development Principles S11: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy	This policy is considered to be in accordance with the JCS through supporting the move to a low carbon economy.	No significant effects are identified	None	Policy seeks to support the use of sustainable building design which is not considered to have a negative effect on protected sites.
Policy O- Communications Infrastructure	INF2: Contributions to Infrastructure Requirements	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with JCS policy INF2.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect

Appendix B: Draft Braunston Neighbourhood Plan (separate document)

Appendix C: Map showing distances from Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR and Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/RAMSAR sites



Braunston Neighbourhood Area and 23km Buffer from Upper Nene Gravel Pits pSPA/pRAMSAR site and 50km buffer from Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR site

Appendix D: Map of Braunston Neighbourhood Area



Braunston Neighbourhood Area

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Appendix E: Responses from Statutory Bodies



Historic England

BY EMAIL:
tjames@daventrydc.gov.uk

Our ref: 1071
Your ref:

Telephone: 07769 242872

14 September 2015

Dear Mr James

Request for screening for SEA - Braunston Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above 13 August 2015.

For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine 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. We note the SEA screening statement prepared on behalf of Braunston Parish Council, considers that an SEA is not required. We have identified no significant effects to cultural heritage. However, we consider that assessment (although not a full SEA at this stage) is needed as part of the overall neighbourhood plan process in relation to Bragborough Hall, as the proposed site allocation could impact upon the setting of the Listed buildings at the site.

Please note that Historic England have recently published advice notes. They may be of relevance in this instance. Specifically, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets is of particular relevance to you and provides additional information. These can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/planning-system/>

Historic England has recently published a document for consultation relating to site allocations in Local Plans – this covers all types of allocation and sets out a site selection methodology in relation to heritage assets. We consider this may be of use to you, and the draft document can be downloaded from:

<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/guidance/site-allocations-local-plans-consultation-draft.pdf>



Historic England, 2nd Floor, Windsor House, Cliftonville, Northampton NN1 5BE
Telephone 01604 73 5460 HistoricEngland.org.uk

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.



We would like to stress that this is based on the current information provided in the screening request and the current draft Neighbourhood Plan. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on the SEA process, and subsequent draft Plan's.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any of these comments.

Yours sincerely

Emilie Carr (Mrs)
Historic Environment Planning Adviser
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Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.



Tom James
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NN11 4FP

Our ref:AN/2012/115155/OR-09/PO1-L01

Your ref:

Date: 07 September 2015

Dear Tom

Braunston Draft SEA/HRA screening report

Thank you for referring the SEA and HRA screening Report for the draft Braunston Neighbourhood Plan, which was received on 13 August 2015.

We have reviewed the information submitted and consider the draft Braunston Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental impacts.

As the plan is required to be in general conformity with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, we do not consider that we are able to provide you with further advice at this stage until we are consulted on individual planning applications by your Authority. However, we can offer the following comments which may be of use.

Plan Area Constraints

The Plan area falls mostly within Flood Zone 1, defined by the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) as having a low probability of flooding. Drainage from new development must not increase flood risk either on-site or elsewhere. Government policy strongly encourages a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) approach to achieve these objectives. Guidance on how to address specific local surface water flood risk issues may also be available through the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment or Surface Water Management Plans produced by your Authority.

A small area falls within Flood Zone 3, defined by the PPG as having a high probability of flooding. Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere.

All development proposals in this zone should be accompanied by a flood risk assessment.

Prior to investing resources in completing a FRA, applicants are advised to contact the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and discuss how the flood risk Sequential Test as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will affect the proposed

development. It is possible that the development will be inappropriate and be refused planning permission irrespective of any FRA.

Preliminary Opinion

We are able to provide a free preliminary opinion to a developer/applicant per site. This will outline our position and highlights any key environmental risks that we are concerned about as a statutory consultee and provide developers with an idea of what we would expect to receive within a planning application.

Charged Service for Planning Advice

If further bespoke advice is required outside of a formal planning application then this will form part of our charged for planning advice service.

Please note that this response is based on the information provided at this time and if this changes in the future we would need to consider our position again. We trust that the above information is of assistance.

If you would like to discuss our response further, or would like more information about our charged for planning advice service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Kerrie Ginns

Sustainable Places - Planning Adviser

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The Government Standard

Awarded to the Environment, Planning and Engagement
Department, Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire

Date: 27th August 2015

Our ref: 162740



Tom James

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Daventry District Council - Business Team

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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Tom

Screening consultation: SEA/HRA Screening reports for Braunston Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 13th August 2015.

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.

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance¹. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance 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 may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals/allocations contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Natural England is in agreement with the conclusion of the screening report in relation to HRA as the location and scale of development included within the plan would not represent a likely significant effect to any European Site.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Ross Holdgate on 0300 060 4657. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Ross Holdgate

Essex, Herts, Beds, Cambs and Northants Area Team
