

Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental
Assessment Screening Opinion



May 2016

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the content of Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan 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.
- 1.2. The purpose of the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan is to provide locally derived and agreed guidance which will help inform planning decisions and shape the future of the parish and other land and property interests within the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 1.3. The legislative background set out in Section 2 outlines the regulations that stipulate the need for this screening exercise. Section 3 then provides an overview of the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan, including the geographic area it applies to and a summary of the policies it contains. Section 4 examines the potential impact of the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan on internationally designated wildlife sites and determines if the plan requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Section 5 provides an environmental screening assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan, which determines if it is likely to result in any significant environmental effects and consequently if it requires a full SEA. Section 6 invites representations from the statutory consultation bodies. Finally, Section 7 presents the conclusions of the screening report and determines if a full SEA and/or HRA is required for the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan.

2. Legislative Background

- 2.1 The basis for SEA and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) 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.
- 2.2 SA's of the type that is required for development plan documents are not required for neighbourhood development plans. This is because they are not 'Local Plans', or development plan documents as defined by the 2004 Planning Act. Neighbourhood development plans have their own designation; they are neighbourhood development plans produced by qualifying bodies under the Localism Act. Even when a neighbourhood development plan is made by a local authority following a successful referendum and it becomes part of the development plan, it does not change its designation into a development plan document (although this does not mean it has any less status in terms of decision making).
- 2.3 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. The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states that a strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where:
- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
 - the neighbourhood plan 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 the SA of the Local Plan for the area.
- 2.2. When deciding on whether the proposals are likely to have significant effects, the local authority is required to consult Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Where the local planning authority determines that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment) it should prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination.

3. Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan Overview

3.1. In April 2013 Clifton Upon Teme Parish Council submitted an application to Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) for the designation of Clifton Upon Teme Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area. This designation was approved on the 24th September 2013, and applies to the entirety of the Clifton Upon Teme Parish (Figure 1). The Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the parish council, and is essentially a framework for guiding future development and growth in the area to the year 2030.

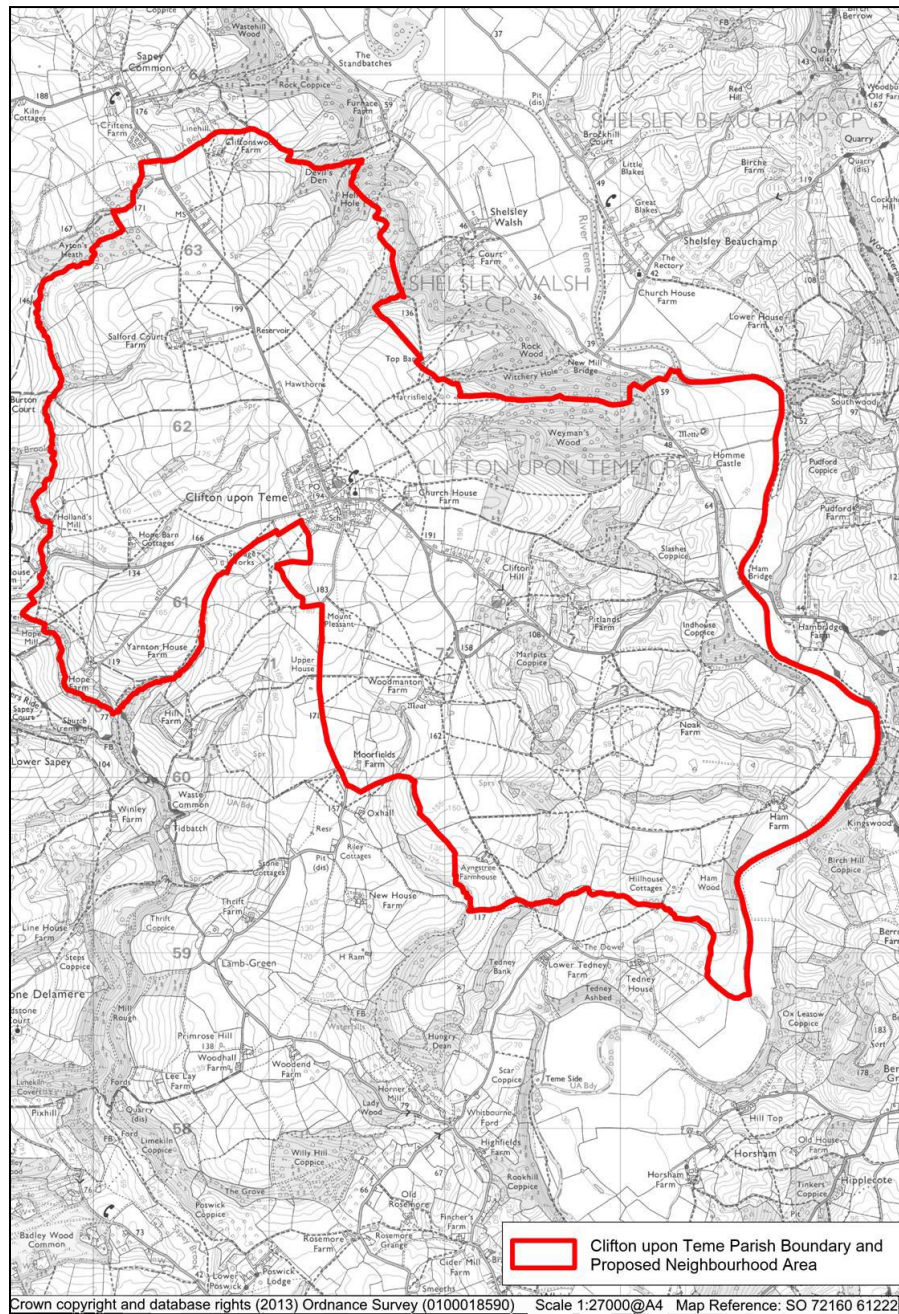


Figure 1: Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan Area

3.2. The Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan applies to an area of approximately 1203 hectares, most of which is agricultural land. The 2011 census recorded that 695 people live in the plan area in a total of 321 dwellings, most of which are located within the village of Clifton Upon Teme.

3.3. The vision of the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan is as follows:

“Clifton upon Teme is a beautiful rural place with a strong and vibrant community. We aim to maintain and improve the vibrancy of our community, heritage, environmental characteristic, ecological diversity and employment opportunities by supporting appropriate enhancements for local needs.”

Further to this vision, the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan also has the following objectives:

Objective 1: *To maintain and enhance the built, historic and natural environment for present and future generations.*

Objective 2: *To support the retention and development of local businesses and services that contribute to the quality of life for residents and visitors of all ages, including support for suitable diversification and use of new technology. This includes support for improved broadband and mobile phone services and appropriate discreet renewable energy technologies.*

Objective 3: *To support some small-scale (schemes of 1-5 units) affordable/market housing and business developments, over and above those already approved, that meet local needs and are in keeping with the scale, demands and population profile of a small rural parish. Given the level of (already planned) increase we think it unwise to support further medium/large scale (over 5 units) development.*

Objective 4: *To encourage opportunities for parishioners across all the generations to find enjoyment and fulfilment through a range of educational, sporting and leisure activities*

Objective 5: *To ensure that the Parish is a welcoming setting for visitors by improving facilities such as footpaths, bridleways, parking, village information board within the context of a safe and secure rural environment, which are accessible via a range of means of transport including walking, cycling and by bus.*

Objective 6: *To foster partnership working between Parish organisations and institutions for the mutual benefit of all.*

A total of 16 policies have been published as part of the draft plan, which address a variety of issues specific to the local area such as landscape, heritage, housing, design, employment, tourism and recreation. A brief overview of these policies is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of emerging policies in the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan

Policy	Policy Summary
Policy CL1 – Protecting and Enhancing Local Landscape Character	Landscaping proposals in new developments are required to protect and enhance local landscape character by incorporating a series of landscape design principles when in areas of the following Landscape Character: Principal Timbered Farmlands, Principal Wooded Hills and Riverside Meadows.
Policy CL2 – Green Infrastructure	New development proposals are required to include ecological enhancements as part of landscaping and building design. They should also include enhancements such as SuDS, re-naturalising of water courses and incorporation of ponds, woodland planting, roosting opportunities, nest boxes and use of native species.
Policy CB1 – Design Guidance for New Buildings and Extensions in the Clifton Upon Teme Conservation Area	Development proposals for new buildings and extensions in the Conservation Area are required to respond positively to a number of building design guidelines designed to preserve the current character of the area, relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plot and Density - Heights - Scale - Materials - Local Building details
Policy CB2 – Building Design Principles for Development outside the Conservation Area and within the Settlement Boundary	Development proposals for new buildings and extensions in the wider village, outside of the Conservation Area and within the settlement boundary, are required to respond positively to a number of building design principles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New development should enhance the local distinctiveness of Clifton Upon Teme, and have regard to the area in relation to scale, mass, built form and character. Designs should demonstrate how they take into account the locally distinctive character, and should not be of a “generic design”. - New buildings should follow a consistent design approach in the use of materials, fenestration and rooflines. Materials should be chosen to complement the design of a development and add to the quality or character of the surrounding environment. New development proposals need not imitate earlier architectural periods or styles and could be the stimulus for the use of imaginative modern design using high quality materials such as local stone in innovative ways. - The use of natural and environmentally responsible materials is encouraged. Schemes should incorporate energy saving and high quality materials which have been reclaimed, salvaged or recycled.

Policy	Policy Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposals should minimise the impact on general amenity and pay careful consideration to noise, odour and light.
<p>Policy CB3 – Protecting Historic Farmsteads</p>	<p>Development proposals for Historic Farmsteads in the plan area should be sensitively designed in order to ensure a continued contribution to landscape character and local distinctiveness. Schemes will be required to demonstrate a positive consideration of 12 design principles taken from the Worcestershire Historic Farmstead Assessment Framework.</p>
<p>Policy CB4 – Archaeology</p>	<p>New development must take account of known surface and subsurface archaeology, and ensure unknown and potentially significant deposits are identified and considered during development. Lack of evidence of subsurface archaeology must not be taken as proof of absence. In areas of archaeological interest, development proposals must protect and enhance historic field boundaries and hedgerows, buffer historic landscape features and buffer/protect historic water features.</p>
<p>Policy CB5 – Protecting Local Heritage Assets</p>	<p>All developments should seek to protect, and where possible enhance, designated and non-designated local heritage assets and historic landscape character. Measures should be put in place to avoid, minimise or mitigate damage from developments to such assets. A number of Local Heritage Assets are identified.</p>
<p>Policy CH1 – New Housing Development in Clifton Upon Teme Village</p>	<p>New housing development within the Clifton upon Teme village settlement boundary will be considered favourably if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is infill development on previously developed land, or is the conversion, re-use or extension of an existing building; - It does not lead to the loss of community or recreation facilities or local employment opportunities; - It accords with other relevant policies of the Clifton upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan and South Worcestershire Development Plan
<p>Policy CH2 – New Housing Development in the Parish’s Countryside Area</p>	<p>New housing development in the open countryside, outside the Clifton upon Teme village settlement boundary will be considered favourably if it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A dwelling clearly necessary for use by rural workers including persons employed in agriculture, horticulture, forestry or a rural enterprise; - Affordable housing on an exception site to meet identified local need; - A replacement of an existing dwelling with established use rights and where the replacement dwelling does not exceed the original footprint by 30%; - An extension to an existing dwelling that is subordinate to, and does not dominate the character and appearance of the original dwelling;

Policy	Policy Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conversion or re-use of existing buildings where there is no need for substantial reconstruction or need for large extensions
<p>Policy ET1 – Supporting the Growth and Protecting Existing Employment</p>	<p>Development of existing business (B1), general industrial (B2) and warehousing (B8) sites and premises will be supported when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They do not have an adverse impact on residential amenity and the local road network; and - They are of good design and do not have a negative impact on the local landscape. <p>The re-development of existing business (B1), general industrial (B2) and warehousing (B8) sites and premises will only be permitted when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It would remove an existing source of nuisance from a predominantly residential area; or - The buildings on site are beyond economic repair. <p>The development of new small scale businesses which are appropriate to the rural area and which do not have an adverse impact on local residential amenity is encouraged.</p>
<p>Policy ET2 – Supporting the Growth of Tourism</p>	<p>Development for tourism activities will be supported when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is for appropriate expansion of an existing tourism or food and drink uses; or - It supports the diversification of an existing rural business; or - It involves the re-use or conversion of an existing building where there would be no adverse impact on residential amenity or the local road network; or - It is for outdoor tourism uses that do not require large buildings. <p>Development should not generate significant noise nor visual intrusion into the local landscape.</p> <p>Proposals for large caravan parks will only be acceptable in exceptional circumstances, where visual impacts can be mitigated through suitable screening and siting to ensure careful integration within this sensitive landscape setting</p>
<p>Policy ET3 – Supporting Homeworking</p>	<p>Development for homeworking will be supported when it would re-use an existing building, or re-uses an existing building without significant alteration, and would not have an adverse impact on residential amenity, heritage or town or landscape character.</p>
<p>Policy CR1 – Provision and Protection of Community Facilities</p>	<p>Development proposals for new expanded or improved retail, commercial and community facilities will be permitted when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They do not have an adverse impact on residential

Policy	Policy Summary
and Services	<p>amenities; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They enhance the character of the immediate surrounding area and wider village; and - They do not have an unacceptable impact in terms of traffic management. <p>The change of use of shop, public house, post office, school, village hall, nursery or other community facilities to residential uses will not be permitted unless the premises have been empty for two years, and during that time actively marketed through a commercial land and premises agent using advertisements and promotional activity on the internet and in regional property journals, without securing a viable alternative community use. In addition, equivalent or better provision for the facility to be lost should be made elsewhere within the settlement boundary.</p>
Policy CR2 – Local Green Spaces	<p>Local Green Spaces will be protected from development except in very special circumstances. New development which impacts adversely on the openness of these sites will not be acceptable. These identified local green spaces are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Village green; horse chestnut tree/telephone box; - playing fields; - two green areas at the top of Manor Road; Kenelm Road; Saxon Close; - two in Forge Meadows; - Well Meadow; - Village Hall grass area.
Policy CI1 – Communication Technologies	<p>Improvement and development of new mobile telecommunication infrastructure will be supported provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Its design and placement seeks to minimise impact on the visual amenity, character or appearance of the surrounding area; - Its design and siting does not have an unacceptable effect on the village Conservation Area, historical features and buildings, visually sensitive landscape or views.
Policy CI2 – Supporting Improvements in Traffic Management, Signage and Street Furniture	<p>Traffic management measures which reduce speed and impact of road traffic management through the village will be supported. Surviving street kerbs should be retained or repaired where possible and any future replacement of existing or provision of new street furniture and signage should be of a design and quality that enhances the character of the conservation area.</p>

4. Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion

- 4.1. Every Neighbourhood Plan requires screening to determine whether a SEA and/or HRA is required. If it is determined that an HRA is required for the Neighbourhood Plan, then an SEA will also automatically become a requirement. It is therefore logical that the first step in the screening exercise for the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan is to establish if a HRA is required.
- 4.2. 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. The relevant European Wildlife sites designations are Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), which together form part of the Natura 2000 network.
- 4.3. In addition to SPAs and SACs, Ramsar sites are also designated areas which, as a matter of government policy, are to be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites (although they are not covered by the Habitats regulations). European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as “internationally designated wildlife sites”.
- 4.4. 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.
- 4.5. No internationally designated wildlife sites are located within the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan area. However, owing to the potential for trans-boundary effects as a result of the plan a wider examination of internationally designated wildlife sites was conducted. For the purposes of this screening assessment, sites within a 15km radius of the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan area were examined. One site is identified within this range; Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC (~14km to the South-East).
- 4.6. The potential for impact upon both of this internationally designated site was examined as part of the full HRA including Appropriate Assessment (AA) conducted for the South Worcestershire Development Plan¹. The initial HRA screening exercise of the SWDP raised concerns with regards to the potential for negative impact on Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC as a result of increased disturbance through recreation and changes in water levels/quality. This (along with concerns in relation to other protected sites in the plan area) prompted a full AA to be conducted.

¹ SWDP Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) Report available at: http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/PreSubmissionHR_AA_Report.pdf

- 4.7. The AA concluded that the policies of the SWDP (including land allocations) were not likely to have any adverse effects on the integrity of Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC. It was considered that the location of the site in relation to proposed developments and the mitigation measures outlined in the plan were sufficient to ensure potential impacts are minimised.
- 4.8. It is acknowledged that the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan is largely in accordance with the SWDP, and that it does not propose any policies or allocations which depart from the strategy set out in the plan for South Worcestershire. As such, the conclusions of the HRA conducted for the SWDP are considered relevant and applicable to the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan. In line with these findings, it is concluded that the implementation of the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan would not result in likely significant or in combination effects on Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC.

HRA Screening Opinion

- 4.9. As a result of the assessment above, it is considered unlikely that the implementation of the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan will have any impacts on European Wildlife Sites which were not examined and dealt with by the HRA carried out for the SWDP. This judgement applies to both the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan alone and also when considered in combination with other plans. As such, the recommendation is made that a full HRA is not required for the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan.

5. Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion

- 5.1. This screening report seeks to determine whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan, in accordance with European and National legislation.
- 5.2. To establish if a plan needs to be accompanied by a full SEA, a “screening” assessment is required against a series of criteria which are set out in SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. Figure 2 sets out the screening procedure and how a plan should be assessed against the SEA Directive criteria. This outline procedure has been applied to the emerging Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan in Table 2.

Figure 2: Application of the SEA Directive to Plans and Programmes

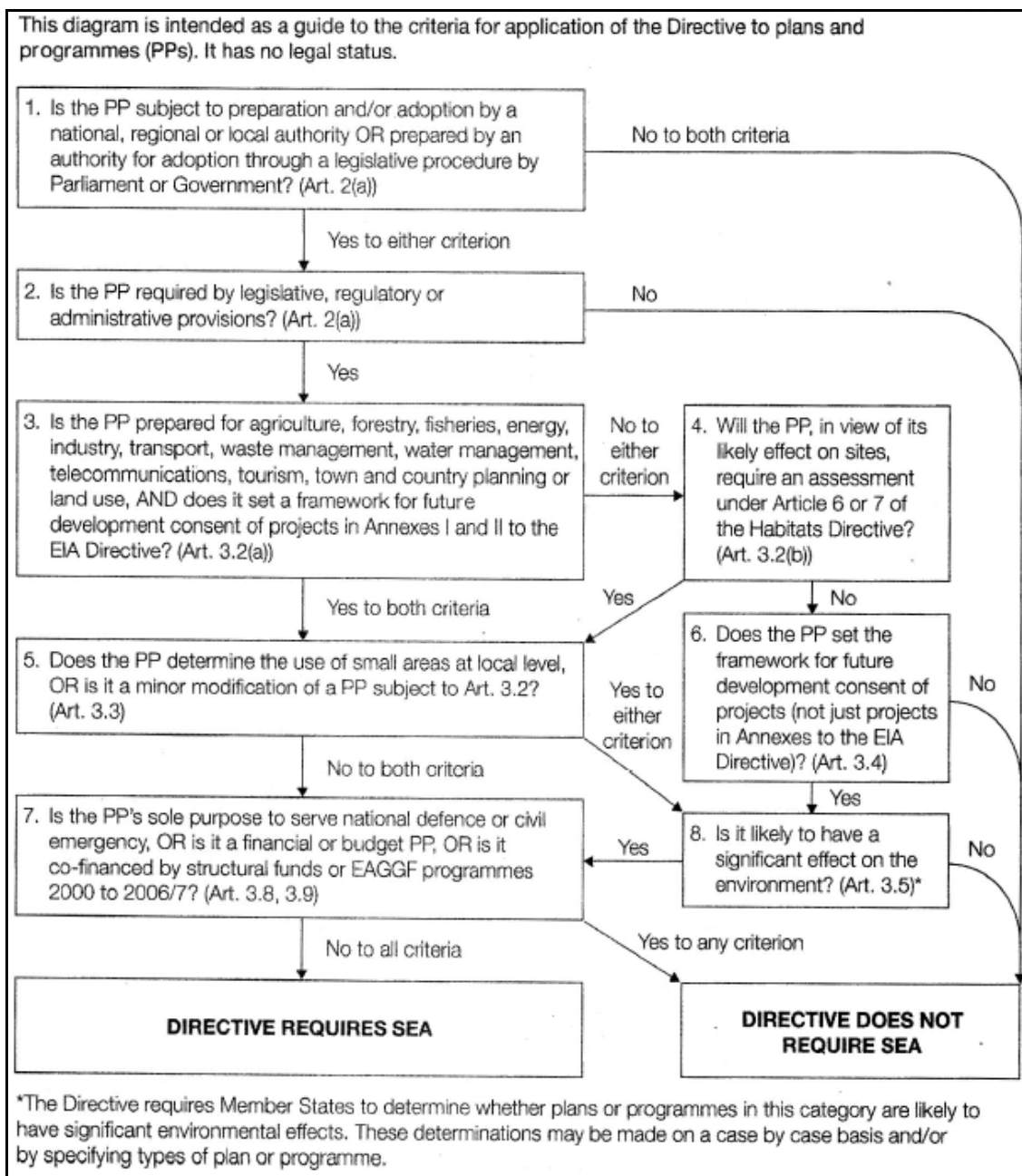


Table 2: Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan using SEA Directive Criteria

Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan 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	This is a Neighbourhood Plan that is being prepared by a qualifying body (Clifton Upon Teme Parish Council) under the Localism Act 2011. If the plan is passed by means of a referendum, it will be formally adopted by the local Planning Authority and will hence become a statutory planning document. It will form part of the local development framework and so will have significant weight in planning decisions.
2. Is the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	N	Neighbourhood Plans are not mandatory requirements, and the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared voluntarily by the local qualifying body in line with the provisions of the Localism Act. If the plan is adopted however it will form part of the statutory development plan, and it is therefore considered necessary to continue to answer the following questions to determine if an SEA is required.
3. Is the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Y	The plan is prepared for town and country planning uses, and sets out a framework for future development consent of projects. The Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any specific areas of land for development.
4. Will the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan, 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	In view of the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan's minimal environmental effects and general conformity with the SWDP, the HRA Appropriate Assessment which was prepared for the SWDP is considered relevant and applicable. Therefore the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan does not require a HRA under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive. (See Screening Opinion for HRA in Section 4 of this report).
5. Does the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan 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)	Y	The draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan is expected to determine the use of small sites at a local level as it will be considered when assessing planning applications. The draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan does

		not allocate any sites for development.
6. Does the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	When adopted, the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan will be a statutory planning document. It will form part of the Local Development Framework and so will have significant weight in planning decisions. The responsibility for issuing development consent will remain with the Local Authority.
7. Is the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan'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)	N	Not Applicable.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	The Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in general conformity with the Development Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy in the South Worcestershire Development Plan. The SWDP has been subject to a detailed Sustainability Appraisal ² which is considered compliant with European Directive 2001/42/EC - The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. Similarly, the SWDP has been subject to a Habitats Regulation Assessment, which is also considered a relevant assessment of the environmental effects of the Neighbourhood Plan. In line with the findings of these two reports, it is considered unlikely that the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan will have any negative environmental impacts.

5.3. The assessment in Table 2 suggests that it is unlikely that the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan will have any significant environmental effects. To examine for potential impact in greater detail however, a case-by-case assessment was conducted. The criteria used to undertake this assessment are drawn from Article 3.5 (Annex II) of the SEA Directive, and the results are shown in Table 3.

²SWDP Sustainability Appraisal Report available at: http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SA_Report_Integrated_Appraisal_Nov2012.pdf

Table 3: Assessment of likelihood of significant effects on the environment (Adapted from Article 3.5 [Annex II] of the SEA Directive)

Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likely to have significant Environmental Effects?	Summary of Significant Effects
<p>1a. The degree to which the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan would, if adopted, form part of the statutory Development Plan and as such does contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects.</p>
<p>1b. The degree to which the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Policies within the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan are generally in-line with those in the submitted SWDP. All environmental policies accord with, or propose higher standards than, submitted SWDP environmental policies and will work alongside this document (and the NPPF) in determining applications.</p>
<p>1c. The relevance of the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The policies of the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan are not considered likely to have a significant impact on the integration of environmental considerations.</p>
<p>1d. Environmental problems relevant to the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The potential for negative environmental effects as a result of the policies and proposals in the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan is deemed to be minimal. The plan does not propose any additional developments to those identified within the SWDP, and as such the SA/SEA carried out for the South Worcestershire Plan is considered sufficient.</p>

Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likely to have significant Environmental Effects?	Summary of Significant Effects
1e. The relevance of the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	No	The policies of the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan are not considered to be relevant to the implementation of European Community Legislation.
2a. The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	No	It is considered unlikely that there will be any irreversible damaging environmental impacts associated with the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan. The plan features a number of policies which seek to protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment, and the plan is therefore likely to result in beneficial rather than damaging effects.
2b. The cumulative nature of the effects	No	It is considered that the policies of the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan are unlikely to have a significant cumulative environmental effect.
2c. The transboundary nature of the effects,	No	There are no policies in the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan which are likely to have an environmental impact on areas outside of the plan area.
2d. The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),	No	It is considered that there will be no significant risks to human health or the environment as a result of policies in the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan.
2e. The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	The Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan applies to an area of 1203 hectares, which has a resident population of 695 people in 321 dwellings (2011 census). The policies of the plan apply to the entirety of this area, and are unlikely to effect areas beyond the neighbourhood boundary.
2f. The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to; - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	No	The presence of a statutory natural or built environmental designation in or adjacent to a Neighbourhood Plan area could potentially result in a significant effect. The designations found within the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan area, and the policies relating to them, are considered below.

Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likely to have significant Environmental Effects?	Summary of Significant Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values - Intensive land-use 		<p>The parish has a number of heritage assets. This includes 48 Listed Buildings, with the highest concentration being found in the village Clifton Upon Teme. The village has an existing conservation area at its core, which is recognised by the draft Neighbourhood Plan in Policy CB1. This policy provides design guidance for development in the Conservation Area, and should therefore have a positive rather than negative impact on this aspect of the historic environment. There are also two scheduled monuments in the east of the plan area (Motte and Bailey Castle at Ham Farm and Ham Bridge on the River Teme), and the draft neighbourhood plan identifies a number of built heritage assets of local importance. The draft neighbourhood plan seeks to sustain and enhance these heritage assets through policies such as CB3: Protecting Historic Farmsteads, CB4: Archaeology and CB5: Protecting Local Heritage Assets.</p> <p>The plan does not allocate any land for development and is therefore not likely to result in exceeded environmental quality standards or intensive land use.</p>
<p>2g. The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan area, and the plan is not likely to impact such sites located beyond its boundaries (See HRA Screening, Section 4).</p> <p>The draft neighbourhood plan seeks to protect areas of landscape value through policies such as CL1: Protecting and Enhancing Local Landscape Character, CL2: Green Infrastructure and CR2: Local Green Space, and is therefore likely to have a positive rather than negative effect.</p> <p>The course of the River Teme, which runs along the eastern boundary of the plan area, is designated as an SSSI. As the draft Clifton upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any additional land for development, the potential impact on</p>

Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likely to have significant Environmental Effects?	Summary of Significant Effects
		<p>this protected site has already been examined by the SA conducted for the SWDP. It is therefore considered that the plan is not likely to have any negative impact on this protected site.</p> <p>There are no significant national or international landscape designations (such as World Heritage Sites, AONB's or National Parks) within the plan area.</p>

- 5.4. Based upon the case-by-case screening assessment set out in Table 3 above, it is concluded that the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant effects in relation to any of the criteria set out as part of the SEA Regulations.
- 5.5. The main justification for this conclusion is that the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan reinforces the policies featured in the emerging South Worcestershire Development Plan, which have already been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and assessed as having no significant environmental effects. The draft neighbourhood plan does not propose any allocations which depart from the strategy set out in the SWDP, and hence it is considered that the potential impacts of the plan do not require any further investigation.
- 5.6. The policies of the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan also seek to avoid or minimise environmental effects through the provision of guidance on issues which are specific to the neighbourhood area, such as development within the Clifton Upon Teme Conservation Area or in areas of varying Landscape Character. It is therefore likely that the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan will have, both directly and indirectly, a positive environmental impact rather than negative, by setting out guidance addressing how developers can minimise impacts on a number of environmental receptors.

SEA Screening Opinion

- 5.7. Based upon the preceding screening assessment, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects which will occur as a result of the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan that were not examined or addressed in the Sustainability Appraisal of the SWDP. As such, it is concluded that a full SEA is not required for the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Representations from Consultation Bodies

- 5.1. The three statutory consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) were consulted in April 2016 under Regulation 9 (2)(b) to determine whether they agree with the conclusion of this screening opinion. A summary of their responses are presented below (Full responses can be found in the Appendices).
- 5.2. The Environment Agency considered that the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan would not have any significant effects on any aspects of the environment within their remit, and therefore a full SEA would not be required.
- 5.3. Historic England agreed with the conclusion of this screening opinion that the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan would not have any significant effects on any aspect of the environment with their remit, and as such a full SEA would not be required.
- 5.4. Natural England considered that the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan would not have any significant effects on any aspects of the environment within their remit. It was therefore considered that a full SEA would not be required.

7. Screening Opinion Conclusions

- 7.1. The preceding assessment exercises have examined whether the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan is likely to require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment or a full Habitats Regulation Assessment. The conclusions of these exercises are presented here.
- 7.2. The HRA screening exercise featured in Section 4 concludes that the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full Habitats Regulation Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) to be undertaken. It is considered unlikely that the neighbourhood plan will result in any significant negative impacts on internationally designated wildlife sites which have not already been examined and addressed as part of the Appropriate Assessment conducted for the South Worcestershire Development Plan.
- 7.3. The SEA screening exercise featured in Section 5 concludes that the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken. This is because the neighbourhood plan does not propose any policies or allocate land for development which departs from the strategy of the South Worcestershire Development Plan, and the potential environmental impacts of this strategy have already been examined and addressed through means of a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment. The conclusions of the Sustainability Appraisal for the SWDP are therefore applicable to the Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan.

7.4. In line with the views of the statutory consultation bodies, it is the conclusion of this screening opinion that the Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan **does not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment** to be undertaken.

8. Appendices: Responses from Statutory Consultation Bodies.

Appendix 1 - Response from Environment Agency

From: Cording, Carl [mailto:carl.cording@environment-agency.gov.uk]

Sent: 07 April 2016 15:32

To: Adam Lewis

Subject: RE: SEA Screening Opinion Consultation - Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan

Dear Adam,

Thank you for the below. We take a risk based approach to the way we interact with NPs. We would only make bespoke comments to NPs that proposed development in Flood Zones 2 and 3.

To assist we would refer to the attached guidance documents that we trust help you shape the NP moving forwards.

Having regard to those matters within our remit we have no reason to consider the NP would give rise to 'significant environmental effects'.

Best regards,

Carl Cording

Planning Specialist

Sustainable Places

Environment Agency - Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire



722 4382 (Jabber - 51484) / 02030251484



carl.cording@environment-agency.gov.uk / Team email: shwgplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk



Riversmeet House, Newtown Industrial Estate, Northway Lane, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 8JG

Appendix 2 - Response from Historic England



Historic England

WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

Mr Adam Lewis
Malvern Hills District Council
Council House
Avenue Road
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 3AF

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6887

Our ref: PL00016868

25 April 2016

Dear Mr Lewis

SEA SCREENING OPINION CONSULTATION- DRAFT CLIFTON ON TEME NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

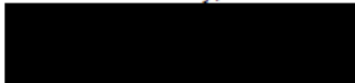
Thank you for your consultation in respect of the above.

For the purposes of consultation 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, including that set out in the draft neighbourhood plan, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule I of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with the 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 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://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/SA_SEA_final.pdf/

Yours sincerely,



Peter Boland



THE AXIS 10 HOLLIDAY STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 1TG

Telephone 0121 625 6870
HistoricEngland.org.uk



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.

Appendix 3 - Response from Natural England

Date: 27 April 2016
Our ref: 181442



Adam Lewis
Malvern Hills District Council
Council House
Avenue Road
Malvern
WR14 3AF

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

BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr Lewis

Draft Clifton Upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan: Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations)

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 16 March 2016.

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

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment

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.

Neighbourhood Plan

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 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.

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 sincerely
Dawn Kinrade
Consultations Team



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