

SUBMISSION VERSION

**MALVERN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
2015- 2030**

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

on behalf of



OCTOBER 2018

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Contribution to the achievement of sustainable development	2
3	Sustainability Appraisal of the South Worcestershire Development Plan	3
4	Appraisal of the Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan	5
5	Conclusion	13

Appendices

1.1	Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Opinion, MHDC, September 2017	14
3.1	SWDP Sustainability Appraisal Framework	15

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This statement is produced to help demonstrate that the Malvern Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. This is one of the 'Basic Conditions'. At Examination the Examiner will assess whether they consider the MNP meets the Basic Conditions. This document has been provided to assist the Examiner, and other stakeholders, to understand how the MNP contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 1.2 A joint Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion request was submitted to Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) in July 2017. The Screening Opinion was provided in September 2017 following consultation with the statutory authorities. This concluded that the draft MNP did not require either a full SEA or HRA Appropriate Assessment (HRAAA) to be undertaken. Appendix 1.1 provides a copy of the Screening Opinion.
- 1.3 The reasoning given for this decision was that the draft MNP does not propose any policies or allocate land for development which departs from the strategy of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) and the potential environmental impacts of this strategy have been examined and addressed through means of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating a SEA. The conclusions of the SA are therefore applicable to the draft MNP.
- 1.4 In relation to the HRA the Screening Opinion concluded that there are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the Malvern Neighbourhood Plan Area (MNPA) and the two identified within a 20km radius have been addressed within the SWDP HRAAA. As the draft MNP is considered to be in general conformity with the SWDP it is concluded that a HRAAA is not required.
- 1.5 Notwithstanding the conclusions of the above process it was considered best practice that a statement should be produced to demonstrate how and why the draft MNP contributes to sustainable development. In this regard Malvern Town Council have utilised the same framework used to assess the SWDP. This is summarised in Section 3 of the statement.

2 Contribution to the achievement of sustainable development

2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework 2012¹ (NPPF) states at paragraph 14 that a presumption in favour of sustainable development is at the heart of the NPPF and *'should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking'*.

2.2 There are three dimensions to sustainable development within the NPPF: economic; social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

- **An economic role** – contributing to building a strong responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation, and by identifying and co-ordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure.
- **A social role** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of future and present generations, and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural wellbeing, and
- **An environmental role** – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment, and as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low-carbon economy.

2.3 The MNP includes an over-arching policy seeking to promote and achieve sustainable development throughout the NPA. Policy MSD1: 'Promoting and Achieving Sustainable Development' provides the context for each of the 27 policies within the MNP and reflects the Plan's 12 objectives.

2.4 It will be demonstrated through the following sections of this statement that the MNP contributes to the achievement of sustainable development by:

- Planning positively for housing growth to meet the needs of the present and future generations
- Strengthening and supporting the local economy, the visitor economy and retail provision
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment
- Promoting high quality and sustainable design
- Promoting healthy communities

¹ The Government published a new NPPF in July 2018 which replaces the 2012 version. Paragraph 214 of NPPF 2018 states that the policies in the previous Framework (i.e. the 2012 version) will apply for the purposes of examining plans, where those plans are submitted on or before 24 January 2019. For neighbourhood plans submission means where a qualifying body submit a plan proposal to the LPA in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

3 Sustainability Appraisal of the South Worcestershire Development Plan

- 3.1 In accordance with Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations (2004) [implementing the European SEA Directive] and Paragraph 165 of NPPF (2012), the SWDP was subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (Integrated Appraisal). The Integrated Appraisal incorporated a SEA, Equalities Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment.
- 3.2 The SA was prepared as part of the Submission version of the SWDP in November 2012 and was subject to public consultation. Following this a number of addendum reports have been produced as the SWDP went through its journey of adoption including:
- SWDP Submission Version: Sustainability Appraisal (Integrated Appraisal) Addendum Report (July 2013)
 - SWDP Submission Version: Sustainability Appraisal (Integrated Appraisal) Addendum Report (September 2014)
 - SWDP Main Modifications: Sustainability Appraisal (Integrated Appraisal) Further Addendum Report (September 2015)
- 3.3 Throughout the SA process the sustainability effects of the SWDP were assessed against a SA Framework. This Framework sets out a series of sustainability objectives which seek to address the issues and opportunities identified as part of the baseline review and local plan-making process for the SWDP. The issues and opportunities identified within the SWDP plan area are highlighted below. All of these would also apply to the MNPA.

Key Sustainability Issues, Problems and Opportunities for the South Worcestershire Development Plan area
The provision of quality affordable housing to meet housing needs in Worcester City, the key settlements and surrounding rural area.
High levels of commuting and reliance on the private car for transport.
Improving the transport infrastructure, in particular the availability of public transport in rural areas.
Opportunities to stimulate the local economy through development of technological skills and diversification, including for the rural economy.
Protecting and enhancing open/ green space and promoting Green Infrastructure in new developments to support community and wider biodiversity interests.
Flood risk is an ongoing issue for key settlements, sustainable management of water resources should be an integral part of all new development.
Opportunities to incorporate good practice sustainable design, including renewable energy into new development to reduce and minimise the carbon footprint of the plan area.

- 3.4 The SA Framework includes 14 topic areas that attempt to deal with the above issues. A copy of the SA Framework is provided at Appendix 3.1. In summary the topic areas are:
1. Economy and Employment – to develop a healthy, active and diverse economy;
 2. Strengthening Communities – to maintain and improve communities to meet the needs of the population and promote social inclusion;

3. Infrastructure – to provide for timely delivery of infrastructure;
4. Housing – to provide good quality housing for all;
5. Quality Design and Sustainable Construction – to promote quality design and sustainable construction for buildings and places;
6. Health – to contribute towards improving the health and wellbeing of all;
7. Climate Change – to reduce the causes of climate change and adapt to its impacts;
8. Waste – to minimise waste and promote recycling, reuse and recovery;
9. Travel and transport – to reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable travel options;
10. Biodiversity and Geodiversity – to improve, restore and recreate biodiversity and geodiversity;
11. Landscape and Townscape – to protect and enhance landscape and townscape character and quality;
12. Historic Environment – to protect and enhance the historic environment, historic character and quality of landscapes and townscapes;
13. Pollution – to minimise pollution, and
14. Water – to manage water in a sustainable manner.

3.5 In undertaking the appraisal of the SWDP a matrix was prepared. Within the matrix a symbol and accompanying 'traffic light' colour was assigned for each sustainability topic area. A copy of the matrix is provided below:

Categories of sustainability effects	
++	Development actively encouraged as it would resolve an existing sustainability problem
+	No Sustainability constraints and development acceptable
0	Neutral
?	Unknown/uncertain effect
-	Potential sustainability issues; mitigation and /or negotiation possible
--	Problematical and improbable because of known sustainability issues ; mitigation or negotiation difficult and /or expensive
x	Absolute sustainability constraints to development

4 Appraisal of the Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan

4.1 The MNP includes an over-arching policy seeking to promote and achieve sustainable development (policy MSD1). This policy provides the context for each of the 27 policies within the MNP and reflects the Plan's 12 objectives. The tables below provide an appraisal of the MNP against the SA topic areas utilising the matrix and SA Objectives for the SWDP as summarised in the preceding section.

Housing Land, Employment Land and Retail Land Policies

SA topic		MNP policies								
		MH1	MH2	MH3	ME1	ME2	ME3	ME4	MR1	MR2
1	Economy and Employment	0	0	0	++	++	++	++	++	++
2	Strengthening Communities	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
3	Infrastructure	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0
4	Housing	++	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Quality Design and Sustainable Construction	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
6	Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
7	Climate Change	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Travel and Transport	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+
10	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
11	Landscape and Townscape	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0
12	Historic Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Pollution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Housing Land Policies

MH1: Housing Mix

4.2 Overall, this policy is seen as having a beneficial effect on sustainable development particularly in relation to providing good quality housing for all and strengthening communities. The policy is considered to have a neutral impact on the majority of SA topic areas.

MH2: New Residential Development within the Development Boundary

4.3 Overall, this policy is considered to have a beneficial effect on sustainable development. Due to the criteria listed within the policy it is considered to be beneficial to SA topic areas relating to travel and transport, climate change, biodiversity and geodiversity, landscape and townscape, quality design and sustainable construction, infrastructure and strengthening communities. Its major benefit is providing good quality housing for all.

MH3: New Residential Development beyond the Development Boundary

- 4.4 Overall, this policy is considered to have a beneficial effect on sustainable development and particular in relation to providing new housing in certain circumstances. Due to the criteria listed within the policy it is considered to be beneficial to SA topic areas relating to strengthening communities and landscape and townscape.

Employment Land Policies

ME1: Protecting Employment Allocations

- 4.5 Overall, this criteria policy is considered to have sustainability benefits in relation to SA topics; strengthening communities and transport. The major benefit is developing a healthy, active and diverse economy.

ME2: Provision of Micro and Small Business Development

- 4.6 This policy is considered to have sustainability benefits, due to criteria listed within it, for strengthening communities, travel and transport, biodiversity and geodiversity and landscape and townscape. Its major benefit is developing a healthy, active and diverse economy.

ME3: Employment Development within Existing Industrial Estates and Business Parks

- 4.7 Overall, this criteria based policy is considered to have sustainability benefits on strengthening communities, infrastructure, quality design and sustainable construction and travel and transport. Its major benefit is developing a healthy, active and diverse economy. The policy provides criteria to ensure that any potential negative effects can be mitigated for.

ME4: Employment Development within Existing Industrial Estates and Business Parks

- 4.8 Overall, this criteria based policy is considered to have sustainability benefits on strengthening communities, infrastructure, quality design and sustainable construction and travel and transport. Its major benefit is developing a healthy, active and diverse economy. The policy provides criteria to ensure that any potential negative effects can be mitigated for.

Retail Land Policies

MR1: Town and District Centres

- 4.9 This policy is considered to have sustainability benefits in relation to SA topic areas developing a healthy, active and diverse economy, strengthening communities, infrastructure and health. The latter two areas are related to the policy allowing for community facilities within the Centres.

MR2: Neighbourhood Parades

- 4.10 This policy which seeks to protect small scale retail areas within the MNPA for continued retail use has sustainability benefits relating to developing a healthy, active and diverse economy, strengthening communities and travel and transport. Retail centres within the various neighbourhoods in the MNPA provide opportunities for local residents to walk or cycle to access these services.

Infrastructure and Transport Policies

SA topic		MNP policies					
		MI1	MI2	MT1	MT2	MT3	MT4
1	Economy and Employment	+	+	+	+	+	0
2	Strengthening Communities	+	+	0	0	+	0
3	Infrastructure	++	++	+	0	+	+
4	Housing	+	0	+	0	0	0
5	Quality Design and Sustainable Construction	0	0	0	0	+	+
6	Health	+	+	+	0	0	+
7	Climate Change	0	0	+	0	0	+
8	Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Travel and Transport	0	0	++	++	++	++
10	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Landscape and Townscape	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Historic Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Pollution	0	0	0	0	0	+
14	Water	0	0	0	0	0	0

Infrastructure Policies

MI1: Development and Infrastructure

- 4.11 The major sustainability benefit arising from this policy relates to providing for timely delivery of infrastructure. There are other more minor sustainability benefits including health, housing, strengthening communities and developing a healthy, active and diverse economy which the provision of the appropriately phased infrastructure will assist.

MI2: High Quality Communications Infrastructure

- 4.12 The sustainability benefits of this policy relate to providing for timely delivery of infrastructure, employment and the economy, strengthening communities and health. In relation to the latter two the policy seeks to protect health through ensuring that equipment meets Internal Commission guidelines for exposure and it seeks to improve the local community's access to broadband and mobiles Services.

Transport Policies

MT1: Transport and Development

- 4.13 The major sustainability benefit arising from this policy relates to SA topic area travel and transport seeking to reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable travel options. There are other more minor sustainability

benefits such as economy and employment, infrastructure, health and climate change due to the range of criteria included in the policy.

MT2: Town Centre and District Centres Car Parking

- 4.14 This policy which is narrowly focussed to protect and enhance car parking within the centres of the MNPA is considered to have sustainability benefits relating to travel and transport and economy and employment.

MT3: Malvern Link Railway Station Opportunity Area

- 4.15 The major sustainability benefit of this policy relates to promoting sustainable travel options as the policy seeks to encourage greater use of rail services at the station. There are subsidiary sustainability benefits including economy and employment, strengthening communities, infrastructure and quality design and sustainable construction due to the criteria included within the policy.

MT4: Electric Vehicle Charging Points

- 4.16 This policy seeks to provide EVCP associated with new development. This will have sustainability benefits in relation to improving air pollution and therefore health, providing sustainable infrastructure, promoting a carbon neutral town and promoting sustainable travel options.

Green Infrastructure, Visual Amenity and Heritage Policies

SA topic		MNP Policies					
		MG1	MG2	MG3	MHE1	MHE2	MV1
1	Economy and Employment	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Strengthening Communities	+	+	0	0	0	0
3	Infrastructure	++	++	+	0	0	0
4	Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Quality Design and Sustainable Construction	0	0	0	+	+	+
6	Health	++	++	+	0	0	0
7	Climate Change	++	++	+	0	0	0
8	Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Travel and Transport	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	++	++	+	0	0	0
11	Landscape and Townscape	+	+	+	++	++	++
12	Historic Environment	0	0	+	++	++	+
13	Pollution	+	+	+	0	0	0
14	Water	0	0	0	0	0	0

Green Infrastructure Policies

MG1: Local Green Space

4.17 The principal sustainability benefits emanating from this policy, which seeks to designate and protect key green spaces within the MNPA, are health, climate change, biodiversity and geodiversity and infrastructure. The latter area refers to LGS contributing to the area's Green Infrastructure. Other benefits include pollution, landscape and townscape and strengthening communities.

MG2: Neighbourhood Open Space

4.18 The sustainability benefits accruing from this policy are the same as those identified for LGS.

MG3: Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows

4.19 There are a number of sustainability benefits arising from this policy, which seeks to protect the MNPA's woodland, trees and hedgerows, including; health, climate change, biodiversity and geodiversity, landscape and townscape, historic environment and pollution.

Heritage Policies

MHE1: Non-Designated Heritage Assets

4.20 This policy seeks to protect locally listed buildings and structures and other non-designated heritage assets. As such its benefits are narrowly focussed around the historic environment and landscape and townscape. There are also additional benefits relating to quality design and sustainable construction (although the latter may sometimes be difficult within historic buildings).

MHE2: Neighbourhood Heritage Areas

4.21 This policy is again narrowly focussed around designated areas of the MNPA for their local historic importance and seeking to protect and enhance those characteristics and features that contribute to it local heritage value. As such the sustainability benefits relate to the historic environment, landscape and townscape and to a lesser extent quality design and sustainable construction.

MV1: Key Views and Vistas

4.22 The main sustainability benefit of this policy relates to landscape and townscape. There are also additional benefits to the historic environment and promoting high quality design.

Community Facilities and Design Policies

SA topic		MNP policies					
		MC1	MC2	MD1	MD2	MD3	MD4
1	Economy and Employment	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Strengthening Communities	++	++	0	0	0	0
3	Infrastructure	++	+	0	0	0	0
4	Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Quality Design and Sustainable Construction	0	0	++	++	++	++
6	Health	+	++	0	+	+	+
7	Climate Change	0	0	0	+	+	+
8	Waste	0	0	+	0	0	0
9	Travel and Transport	0	0	+	0	0	0
10	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	0	0	+	+	+	0
11	Landscape and Townscape	0	0	+	++	+	0
12	Historic Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Pollution	0	0	0	+	+	+
14	Water	0	0	+	+	++	0

Community Policies

MC1: Community Infrastructure

4.23 The principal sustainability benefit resulting from this policy relates to strengthening communities and infrastructure as the policy seeks to protect existing community facilities and where appropriate seek the provision of new facilities in association with new development. An associated sustainability benefit is health again due to policy seeking to protect and provide community facilities.

MC2: Healthy Communities

4.24 This policy seeks to ensure that there is appropriate local GP and dental practice capacity to meet the need resulting from occupiers within new residential development. It also looks for opportunities for new development to improve health and well-being. As a result the main sustainability benefits arising from this policy are health and strengthening communities. An additional benefit is infrastructure.

Design Policies

MD1: Building Design and Accessibility

4.25 The main sustainability benefit relating to this policy is quality design and sustainable construction. Due to the various criteria within the policy there are a number of associated sustainability benefits including; travel and transport, biodiversity and geodiversity, landscape and townscape, waste and water.

MD2: Landscaping and Public Realm

- 4.26 The main sustainability benefits relating to this policy are quality design and sustainable construction and landscape and townscape. There are a number of associated sustainability benefits including; biodiversity and geodiversity, health, climate change, pollution and water.

MD3: Sustainable Design

- 4.27 The main sustainability benefits relating to this policy are quality design and sustainable construction and water. There are a number of associated sustainability benefits including; biodiversity and geodiversity, health, climate change, pollution and landscape and townscape.

MD4: Microgeneration

- 4.28 This key sustainability benefits resulting from this policy relate to quality design and sustainable construction, climate change, pollution and health through the provision of non-fossil fuel energy generation.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 A SEA and HRA Screening Opinion on the MNP concluded that neither a SEA nor HRAAA was required. In line with best practice an appraisal has been undertaken of the MNP to demonstrate its contribution to achieving sustainable development.
- 5.2 This has been done by utilising the framework used for undertaking the SWDP SA. This is considered appropriate as the MNP will be judged on whether it is in general conformity with the SWDP.
- 5.3 From the appraisal of the policies within the MNP using the SWDP SA Framework and Matrix it can be concluded that they will contribute towards achieving sustainable development as they provide sustainability benefits to a number of sustainability objectives. In many cases it is considered that the policies will have a neutral impact on a sustainability objective. The appraisal did not highlight any negative impacts on sustainability objectives.

Appendices

1.1 Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Opinion

Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental
Assessment (SEA) and Habitats
Regulations Assessment (HRA)
Screening Opinion



September 2017

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 BACKGROUND
- 1.2 DRAFT MALVERN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SUMMARY
- 1.3 MALVERN DESIGNATED NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA MAP
- 1.4 DRAFT MALVERN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICY SUMMARIES
- 1.5 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) PROCESS
- 1.6 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (HRA) PROCESS

2. SEA SCREENING

- 2.1 SEA SCREENING ASSESSMENT
- 2.2 SEA SCREENING OPINION

3. HRA SCREENING

- 3.1 HRA SCREENING ASSESSMENT
- 3.2 HRA SCREENING OPINION

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM CONSULTATION BODIES

5. CONCLUSIONS

APPENDIX 1 – SCREENING OPINION CONSULTATION REPRESENTATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the draft Malvern 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.

Whether a Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA, 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 SEA may be required, for example, where:

- the 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 SEA of the Local Plan in the area.

The screening report also examines the potential impact of the Malvern Neighbourhood Plan on internationally designated wildlife sites and determines if the plan requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

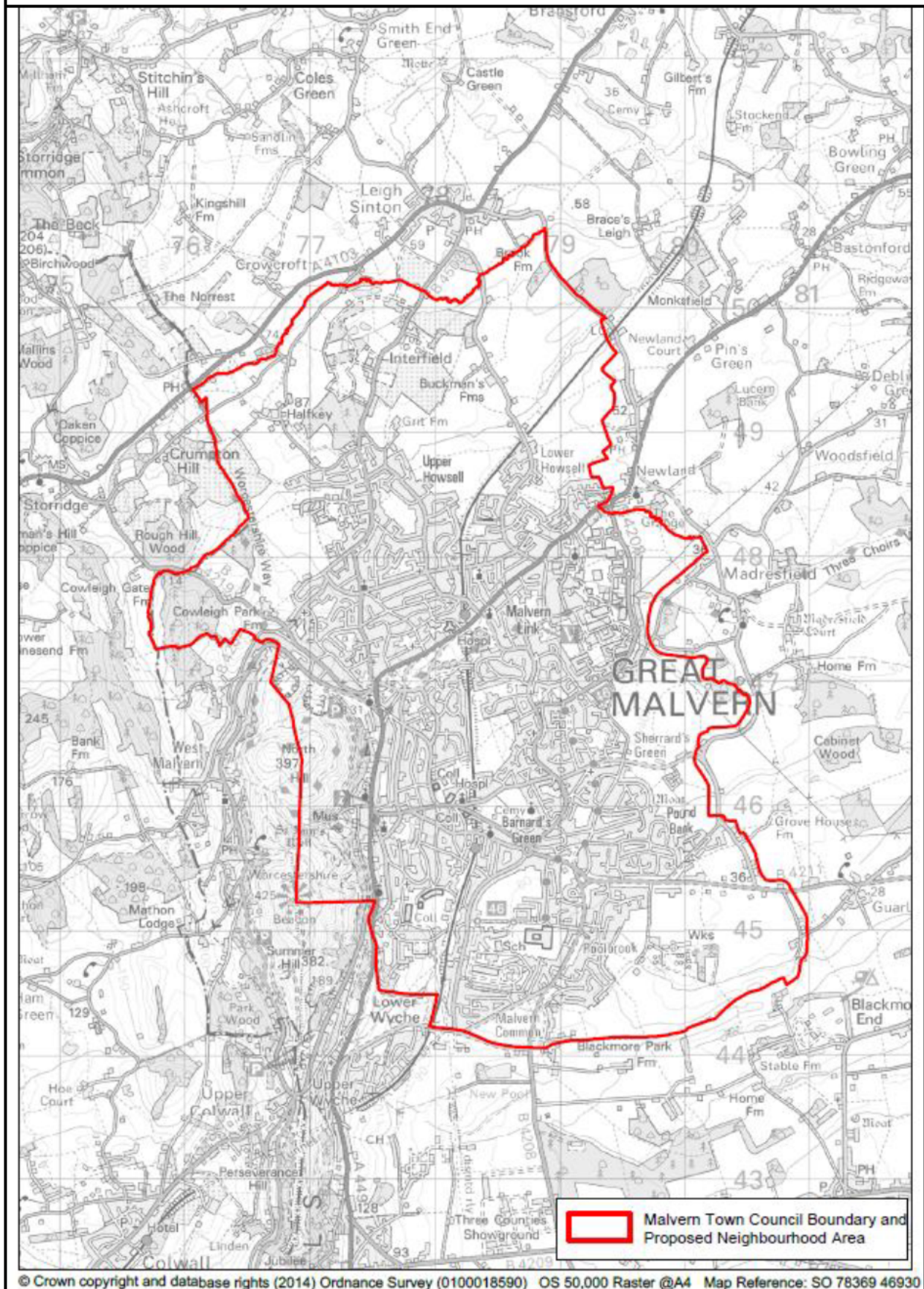
When deciding on whether the proposals are likely to have significant effects, the local authority is required to consult Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Where the local planning authority determines that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment) it should prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination.

1.2 DRAFT MALVERN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SUMMARY

The Malvern Neighbourhood Plan is essentially a community-led framework for guiding future development and growth of the Town to the year 2030. A total of 31 draft policies have been proposed, focusing on topics including housing, employment, retail, infrastructure, transport, Green Infrastructure, heritage, community facilities and design.

1.3 MALVERN DESIGNATED NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

Figure 1 – Designated Malvern Neighbourhood Area



1.4 DRAFT MALVERN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICY SUMMARIES

31 policies are proposed in the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan; they are summarised below.

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
<p>MH1 Housing Mix</p>	<p>Requires new residential development proposals of 5 or more units to demonstrate that they take account of local housing need, and requires an assessment of how the proposal meets the identified local housing need by way of a Local Housing Provision Statement to be provided in support of any relevant planning applications.</p>
<p>MH2 New Residential Development</p>	<p>Supports new residential development within the defined Development Boundary for Malvern providing it accords with other relevant MNP and SWDP policies and is in a sustainable location and had good access to public transport and other amenities; has a mix of tenures and sizes; is appropriate in scale and design; can be adequately serviced by existing infrastructure; provides adequate vehicular and non-vehicular access; and makes provision for sustainable design features.</p> <p>Resists new residential development beyond the defined Development Boundary for Malvern unless it can be demonstrated that the proposal meets the requirements of local and national planning policy in relation to housing in the countryside.</p>
<p>MH3 Infill Development Restraint</p>	<p>Designates Infill Development Restraint Zones within which planning permission should be refused for the development of residential gardens or land within the curtilage of previously developed land that has through time blended into the landscape. An exception to this may be where the proposed development is necessary to secure the long term future of a heritage asset with limited impact on the character of the area.</p>
<p>ME1 Protecting Employment Allocations</p>	<p>Protects the SWDP employment land allocations at QinetiQ (SWDP53) and North-East Malvern (SWDP56) for future employment development. Requires development for employment uses to be brought forward in a phased manner along with residential development on the allocated sites. Resists proposals that seek to reduce employment land allocated on the sites.</p>
<p>ME2 Provision of Small Scale Employment Development</p>	<p>Supports proposals for new build, conversions and extensions for employment uses providing it is appropriate in terms of scale and design; is acceptable in terms of highway safety and capacity; and will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring residents or occupiers.</p>
<p>ME3</p>	<p>Supports proposals for employment (B1, B2 and B8) development</p>

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
Existing Industrial Estates	<p>and redevelopment on the existing Industrial Estates in the Neighbourhood Area providing it is of a high quality sustainable design of a compatible scale; is appropriate in terms of its impact on the capacity and road safety including the provision of sufficient car parking; provides travel opportunities by non-car modes for staff and visitors; and does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring residents and occupiers.</p> <p>Resists development of non-B1, B2 and B8 uses on existing Industrial Estates unless it can be demonstrated that the continued use of the of the existing premises or site for employment use is no longer commercial viable; the proposal would be compatible with existing retained employment uses; the proposal would be considered ancillary to the principle B1, B2 and B8 use of the premises or site; the proposal would not limit the range, choice or quality of employment land available to meet future needs; and if the proposal is for A1-A5 uses it will not impact on the viability of the Town and District Centres in the Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>Supports proposals for like for like replacements of existing non-B1, B2 and B8 uses on Industrial Estates providing it is for the same use class as the established use; is of a scale and design compatible with the character of its surroundings; has sufficient parking, service and delivery provision and vehicular access arrangements; and creates opportunities to provide improvements to non-car modes of travel to and from the site.</p>
<p>ME4 Spring Lane Industrial Estate</p>	<p>Any proposals to upgrade and/or redevelop the Spring Lane Industrial Estate should include provision of landscape and environmental improvements; enhancement of access to and within the Estate by public transport, cycling and walking; and enhancement to safety and security for occupiers and users.</p> <p>There should be no loss of employment provision as a result of the proposals and there must not be an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring occupiers.</p>
<p>MR1 Town and District Centres</p>	<p>Requires proposals for new town centre uses (A1-A5) and social, cultural and leisure uses (D1 and D2) within the Neighbourhood Area's Town and District Centres to be of an appropriate scale to that Centre. In addition proposals must not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenities of residents living within or adjacent to the Town or District Centre.</p>
<p>MR2 Neighbourhood</p>	<p>Identifies Neighbourhood Parades within which proposals for the change of use of units from A1 (shops) will only be supported where it</p>

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
Parades	is demonstrated that the existing shop is no longer commercial viable; the proposal will not have a detrimental impact on vitality or viability of the Neighbourhood Parade; and the proposal will not have an adverse impact on the amenities of residents living within or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Parade.
MI1 Infrastructure and Development	Requires proposals for new development to demonstrate that they provide the appropriate infrastructure, utilities and services necessary to serve the development without causing an unacceptable adverse impact on existing provision. Requires the provision of appropriate mitigation, where necessary, to reduce any impact. Requires planning applications for major developments to provide an Infrastructure Delivery Statement which details the appropriate phasing of infrastructure provision to coincide with the phased development.
MI2 Infrastructure Provision	Requires new development to contribute towards the Community Infrastructure Levy and/or make a Section 106 contribution where necessary, and identifies projects and initiatives identified by the local community for which a proportion of this funding will go towards.
MI3 High Quality Communications Infrastructure	<p>Supports the development of high speed broadband infrastructure to serve the Neighbourhood Area. Requires any new development to be served by superfast broadband unless it can be demonstrated in consultation with the NGA Network that this would not be possible, practical or commercial viable. Requires the area in which work should be carried out to be, as far as practicable, to be reinstated to its condition before the infrastructure was laid.</p> <p>Supports new infrastructure to support telecommunications installations providing the siting and appearance of equipment does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the character and appearance of the surrounding area and/or amenity of local residents; equipment sited on existing buildings and structures is sympathetically designed; where new masts are proposed, it is demonstrated that there are no viable options for siting the equipment on or in existing buildings or structures; and the equipment meets International Commission Guidelines for public exposure.</p>
MT1 Transport and Development	Requires proposals for major development to have adequate vehicular access arrangements on to the highway; be appropriate in terms of its impact on the local highway network with regard to capacity and road safety; provide adequate vehicle and cycle parking in accordance with standards adopted by Worcestershire County Council; be or can be appropriately accessed by public transport; and include a safe and efficient layout of roads, pavements and cycle routes appropriate for all users. Requires relevant planning

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
	<p>applications to be supported by a Design and Access Statement or Transport Statement which details how the proposal meets the requirements of the policy.</p>
<p>MT2 Car Parking</p>	<p>Seeks to retain land used for car parking within and adjacent to Great Malvern Town Centre, Malvern Link District Centre and Barnard's Green District Centre in order to support the vitality and viability of the Centres and the tourism function of the Neighbourhood Area. Resists proposals for development on car parking land unless proposals include provision for replacement car parking on an equivalent basis.</p> <p>Supports proposals to increase the amount of car parking within the Centres providing it will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on highway safety and the amenity of neighbouring properties; includes provision for sustainable transport measures; provides high quality, appropriate planting and landscaping; provides a safe layout for all car park users; and provides an appropriate proportion of car parking spaces to accommodate larger model of cars and disabled bays to meet the adopted parking standards.</p>
<p>MT3 Sustainable Transport Routes</p>	<p>Identifies Sustainable Transport Routes and supports proposals to improve or extend them, and proposals which provide new Sustainable Transport Routes providing it provides a safe and efficient route for all users; it is appropriate in terms of landscaping and provides mitigation where necessary; and will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity of adjacent residents.</p> <p>Requires new major development, where appropriate, to make provision for safe and efficient Sustainable Transport Routes. Requires new major development within close proximity of a Sustainable Transport Route that has potential to result in a significant increase in its usage to provide appropriate mitigation measures to ensure the long term viability of the Route.</p>
<p>MT4 Great Malvern Railway Station Opportunity Area</p>	<p>Identifies an Opportunity Area where proposals for a new car park will be supported providing it has adequate vehicular access arrangements onto the highway; is appropriate in terms of its impact on the local highway network; is of a high quality and sustainable design appropriate to the Grade II listed heritage asset and its setting, and it provides improvements to the public realm and townscape in this part of the Conservation Area; it provides a safe and efficient layout for all car park users including a dedicated route to the railway station; and it does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity of adjacent residents.</p>
<p>MT5</p>	<p>Identifies an Opportunity Area where proposals for a park and ride</p>

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
Malvern Link Railway Station Opportunity Area	car park will be supported providing it has adequate access arrangements onto the highway; is appropriate in terms its impact on the local highway network; is of a high quality and sustainable design; provides a safe and efficient layout for all car park users with a dedicated route to the railway station; and will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity of adjacent residents.
MG1 Local Green Space	Proposes the designation of 6 Local Green Spaces on which development will not be permitted unless it is considered appropriate to its function as a special area of green space or there are very special circumstances that demonstrate that the harm is clearly outweighed by other considerations. Development considered appropriate on a Local Green Space would include the provision of appropriate facilities for outdoor sport, recreation and for cemeteries; the proportionate extension or alteration of an existing building; and the replacement of an existing building providing it is not materially larger than the one it replaces.
MG2 Neighbourhood Green Space	Identifies 99 Neighbourhood Green Spaces on which development will only be supported where it can be demonstrated by the applicant there is a surplus of green space provision in that area; the recreational function of the site is retained on site or provided off site at an equivalent or better standard; improvements are made to the visual appearance and/or landscape value of any retained Neighbourhood Green Space or at a nearby Neighbourhood Green Space that provides an overall benefit to the character of the local area; and it retains physical links with other Neighbourhood Green Space, Local Green Space and wider countryside sites.
MG3 Key Views and Vistas	Identifies Key Views, Vistas and Gateways (locations to be confirmed) which should be protected and/or enhanced. Development should use appropriate planting and buildings to help frame the views. Proposed development which would result in the loss of a Key View, Vista or Gateway will not be permitted.
MG4 Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows	Seeks to prevent developments which would involve the loss of woodlands, trees of local significance or significant lengths of hedgerows unless adequate compensatory measures can be put in place which will result in a net gain to the overall quality of the environment. Requires adequate tree survey information to be provided to assess the value of existing trees and hedgerows, and the impact proposals will have on them. Where trees are not to be retained they are to be replaced on a two-for-one basis, and hedgerows on a like-for-like basis, ideally on the site as part of the wider planting scheme or alternatively trees may be planted at a suitable location outside of the site including on LGS, NGS and other

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
	publically owned land.
<p>MG5 Landscape Character</p>	<p>Requires all development proposals on sites outside of the Development Boundary to be accompanied by a Landscape Assessment in order to consider the impact the proposed development would have on the local landscape character and how any adverse impacts could be adequately mitigated. Resists development proposals that are unable to demonstrate that harmful impacts cannot be adequately mitigated.</p>
<p>MG6 Neighbourhood Nature Conservation Assets</p>	<p>Resists development proposals that would have a harmful on 11 proposed Neighbourhood Nature Conservation Asset sites unless it can be demonstrated that the need for development clearly outweighs the importance of the Neighbourhood Nature Conservation Asset and measures can be provided that fully mitigate for the impact. Requires all new development to be designed to enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interest either on the site or on a designated site including Neighbourhood Nature Conservation Asset sites.</p>
<p>MHE1 Non-Designated Heritage Assets</p>	<p>Seeks to conserve non-designated heritage assets (82 are proposed in Appendix 6.4), requiring applicants to describe the significance of the non-designated heritage asset and requiring proposals to protect the significance of the asset and its setting. Compensatory measures are required where necessary to avoid, minimise or mitigate any impact.</p>
<p>MHE2 Neighbourhood Heritage Areas</p>	<p>Identifies Neighbourhood Heritage Areas beyond the Conservation Areas within which development proposals are required to demonstrate how they recognise the special local architectural and historic interest and make a positive contribution to its local character and distinctiveness.</p>
<p>MC1 Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Requires new development, where applicable and possible, to provide appropriate and proportionate new facilities and infrastructure on site or make appropriate and proportionate contributions to related off site facilities and infrastructure.</p> <p>Seeks to protect existing important and valued local community facilities, including those registered as an Asset of Community Value, unless it can be demonstrated that the continued use of the premises for the community use is no longer commercially viable and an alternative community use is not suitable.</p>
<p>MC2 Healthy</p>	<p>Requires residential development proposals of 10 or more dwellings to demonstrate that there is sufficient capacity within General Practice and Dental Services within the catchment area of the</p>

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
Communities	Neighbourhood Area, and how the proposal provides opportunities to improve health and wellbeing for the future occupiers.
MD1 Development and Design Principles	Requires proposals to demonstrate through a Design and Access Statement that they achieve high quality and inclusive design, and integrate into the existing area in terms of landscape, character, design and density. Lists design criteria and themes that should be addressed in a Design and Access Statement.
MD2 Development and Accessibility Principles	Requires appropriate proposals to demonstrate through a Design and Access Statement that they provide an inclusive and accessible environment, including through the provision of pavements with an appropriate width and surface treatment; the provision of sufficient off street parking; and the design and layout of new roads which prioritise the safe and effective movement of pedestrians and cyclists.
MD3 Detailed Design Elements	Details design elements which should be considered early in the design process and be integrated into the overall scheme. These include bin stores, cycle storage, street lighting, satellite dishes, CCTV and permeable paving.
MD4 Microgeneration	Supports proposals for microgeneration energy schemes, including those on dwellings and other small scale buildings, providing it does not have an unacceptable or adverse impact on the character of the local area or on the amenity of neighbouring residents and occupiers.

1.5 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) PROCESS

The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC which was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed guidance on these regulations can be found in the Government publication “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive” (OPDM 2005).

The SEA process aims to ensure that likely significant environmental effects arising from a Plan are identified, assessed, mitigated, communicated and monitored, and that opportunities for public involvement are provided. It enables environmental considerations to be accounted for in decision-making throughout the production of a Plan in an integrated manner.

Figure 2 sets out the screening procedure and how a plan should be assessed against the SEA Directive criteria. This outline procedure has then been applied to the emerging draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan in Table 1.

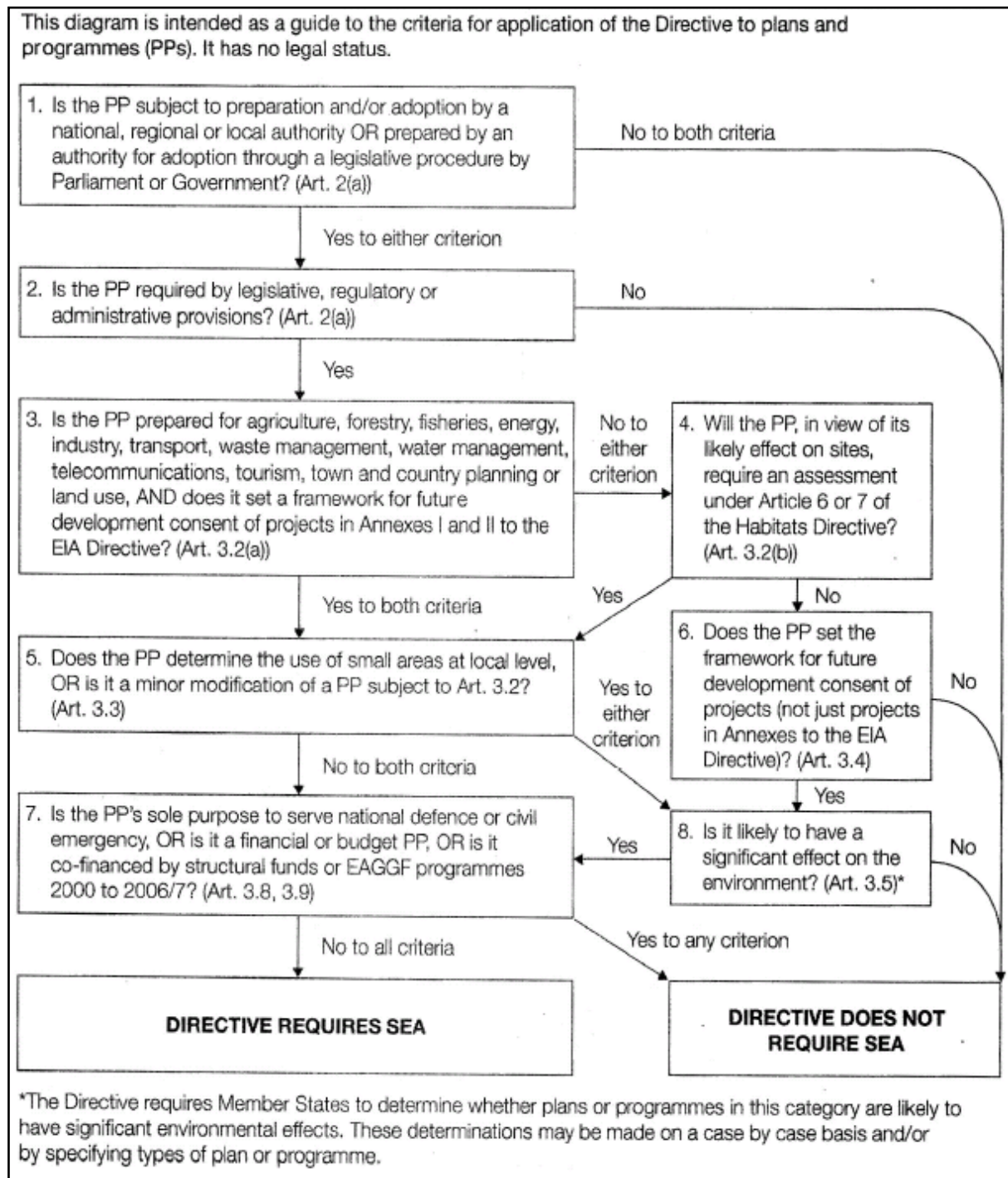


Figure 2 – Application of the SEA Directive to Plans and Programmes

Table 1: Assessment of the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan using SEA Directive Criteria

Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the Malvern 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 (Malvern Town Council) under the Localism Act 2011. If the Plan is passed by means of an Examination and Referendum, it will be formally adopted by the local Planning Authority. It will then form part of the local development framework and be afforded significant weight in planning decisions.
2. Is the Malvern Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	N	Neighbourhood Plans are not mandatory requirements, and the Malvern 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 answer the following questions to determine if an SEA is required.
3. Is the Malvern 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 and sets out a framework for future development consent of projects. The Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any specific areas of land for development.
4. Will the Malvern 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	See Screening Opinion for HRA in Section 3 of this report.

5. Does the Malvern 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 Malvern Neighbourhood Plan is made up of a number of policies which, when adopted, will form part of the Local Development Framework and so will have significant weight in planning decisions.
6. Does the Malvern 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 Malvern 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 Malvern 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)	Y	The Malvern Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment. To investigate the likelihood of potential impacts further a case-by-case assessment has been conducted, the full results of which can be found in Table 2.

Based upon the initial screening carried out against the criteria in Table 1 above, the emerging draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment. To explore these potential effects further, a case-by-case assessment has been conducted. The criteria used in the undertaking of such an assessment are drawn from Article 3.5 (Annex II) of the SEA directive, and the results are shown in Table 2.

1.5 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (HRA) PROCESS

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 site designations are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), which together form part of the Natura 2000 network.

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.

The legislation sets out a process to assess the potential implications of a plan on internationally designated wildlife 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.

2. SEA SCREENING

2.1 SEA SCREENING ASSESSMENT

European Directive 2001/42/EC requires a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans and programmes that would have a significant environmental effect.

Table 2 below provides the screening determination of the need to carry out a full Strategic Environmental Assessment for the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan. This has been made in accordance with the Regulations and will be subject to consultation with the strategic environmental bodies before Malvern Hills District Council makes its determination on the necessity for a full Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Table 2 – The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004: Schedule 1 - Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Summary of significant events
1(a) the degree to which the draft Malvern 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;	NO	The Malvern Neighbourhood Plan would, if adopted, form part of the statutory Development Plan and as such would contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects.
1(b) the degree to which the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	NO	The policies contained within the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan are considered to be in general conformity with the SWDP, and will be used alongside this document in the determination of planning applications when formally 'made' (adopted).
1(c) the relevance of the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	NO	The policies of the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan are not considered to have a significant impact on the integration of environmental considerations.
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the draft Malvern	NO	The draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan is more likely to promote

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Summary of significant events
Neighbourhood Plan;		environmental sustainability than create any environmental problems.
1(e) the relevance of the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management and water protection);	NO	The policies of the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan are not considered to be relevant to the implementation of EC legislation.
2(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan;	NO	It is considered unlikely that there will be any irreversible damaging environmental impacts associated with the draft Malvern 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.
2(b) the cumulative nature of the effects of the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan;	NO	The policies of the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan are unlikely to have any significant cumulative negative environmental impacts.
2(c) the transboundary nature of effects of the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan;	NO	The draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any significant negative environmental impacts on adjoining Parishes.
2(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents) due to the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan;	NO	It is considered that there will be no risk to human health or the environment as a result of the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan.
2(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	NO	The draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan applies to an area of 1,988 hectares and has a resident population of 29,626 (2011 census). The policies of the Neighbourhood

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Summary of significant events
		Plan apply to the entirety of this area, and are unlikely to significantly affect areas beyond the Neighbourhood Area boundary.
2(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and 	NO	The draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan will not have any substantial impact on these factors.
2(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	NO	The policies of the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan are unlikely to have a negative impact on any environmental designations in the Neighbourhood Area.

2.2 SEA SCREENING OPINION

Table 2 assesses the likelihood of significant environmental effects arising from the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan in its current form.

In general, the policies contained within the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan are in-line with the strategy of the adopted SWDP, which has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The policies of the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan seek to avoid or minimise environmental effects through the provision of guidance on issues which are specific to the neighbourhood area. It is therefore likely that the draft Malvern 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.

Based on the preceding screening assessment, it is considered that the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment.

3. HRA SCREENING

3.1 HRA SCREENING ASSESSMENT

There are no internationally designated wildlife sites located within the Malvern Neighbourhood Area. For the purposes of this screening assessment however, sites that fall within a 20km radius are considered. There are two sites identified within this range – Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC and Bredon Hill SAC which are approximately 11km north-east and 15km south-east of the Malvern Neighbourhood Area respectively.

Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC is located on the eastern outskirts of Worcester, situated amongst a recent housing development on former pastoral farmland. The site comprises two ponds in an area of grassland and scrub (public open space). The site provides habitat for Great Crested Newts *Triturus Cristatus*, which are dependant on both the existing terrestrial habitat (to provide foraging areas and refuge) and on the aquatic habitat (for breeding).

Bredon Hill SAC is an area of pasture woodland and ancient parkland situated approximately 4.5km south-west of Evesham. The site provides habitat for the Violet Click Beetle *Limoniscus Violaceus*, which develops in the decaying wood either of very large, old hollow beech trees (Windsor Forest) or ash trees (Worcestershire and Gloucestershire border sites). Currently the key site attributes which Natural England understands the species to require is related to the abundance and condition of the ancient trees on the designated site within which it develops.

The potential impact of development on these two sites was examined by a HRA Appropriate Assessment (AA) as part of the production of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). The HRA Screening of the SWDP concluded that there was uncertainty with regard to the potential for significant effects on the two sites as a result of increased disturbance, in particular due to the increased recreational activity. Concerns were raised specifically relating to Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC and the potential impact of proposed development on water levels and quality.

As a result of concerns raised, a HRA AA was conducted (which can be viewed on the SWDP website). The HRA AA concluded that the policies and land allocations of the SWDP were not likely to have adverse effects on the integrity of Bredon Hill SAC or Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC. In addressing concerns relating to possible increased disturbance at the SACs, it was concluded that the location of the sites in relation to the proposed developments and also the availability of more suitable areas of open space for recreation in close proximity would keep potential impacts to a minimum. It was also considered that the policies of the SWDP would sufficiently mitigate the potential impact of proposed developments on the water environment, leading to minimal effect on the SAC sites.

3.2 HRA SCREENING OPINION

As a result of the above assessment, it is considered that the policies of the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with those contained in the SWDP. With this in mind, alongside the SWDP AA and the fact that the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan does not deviate from the land allocations contained within the SWDP, it is concluded that the draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a negative impact on any internationally designated wildlife sites and as such, the recommendation is made that a full AA is not required.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM CONSUTLATION BODIES

The three statutory consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) were consulted between 11 August and 15 September 2017 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 Appendix 1).

The Environment Agency considered that the Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan was unlikely to have any significant effects on any aspects of the environment within their remit, and therefore a full SEA would not be required. They also considered that the Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant effects on European designated sites and that a HRA AA would not be required.

Natural England considered that the Draft Malvern 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. They also agreed with the conclusion of this screening opinion that the Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant effects on European designated sites and that a HRA AA would not be required.

Historic England agreed with the conclusion of this screening opinion that the Draft Malvern 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. CONCLUSIONS

The preceding assessment exercises have examined whether the Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan is likely to require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment or a Habitats Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment. The conclusions of these exercises are presented here.

The SEA screening exercise featured in Section 2 concludes that the Draft Malvern 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 Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan.

In line with the views of the statutory consultation bodies (Appendix 1), it is the conclusion of the screening opinion that the Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken.

The HRA screening exercise featured in Section 3 concludes that the Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full Habitats Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken. There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the Malvern Neighbourhood Area, with the two identified within a 20km radius having been assessed in the SWDP HRA AA. As the Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan is considered to be in general conformity with the SWDP, it is concluded that a HRA AA is not required.

APPENDIX 1 – SCREENING OPINION CONSULTATION REPRESENTATIONS

Malvern Hills District Council
Forward Planning
The Council House
Avenue Road
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 3AF

Our ref: SV/2010/104077/OT-
12/IS1-L01

Your ref:

Date: 15 August 2017

F.A.O: Reiss Sadler

Dear Sir

Draft Malvern Neighbourhood Plan – Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinions

Thank you for referring the above consultations, which we received on 10 August 2017. We would offer the following comments to assist your consideration at this time.

Strategic Environmental Assessment:

The European Union directive 200142/EC requires a SEA to be undertaken for certain types of plans and programmes that would have ‘significant’ environmental effect(s). Furthermore paragraph: 046 in the Flood Risk and Coastal Change section of the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) (Reference ID: 11-046-20150209) states “*a strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where:*

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

To assist your Council’s determination of the SEA Screening opinion, we advise that based on the Screening Report (dated July 2017) submitted, and in consideration of the matters within our remit, the Neighbourhood Plan is considered unlikely to have significant environmental impacts.

Habitats Regulation Assessment:

Article 6(3) of the European Habitats Directive (1992) requires that any plan (or project), which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site (also known as a “Natura 2000” site), but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be

Environment Agency
Newtown Industrial Estate (Riversmeet House) Northway Lane, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 8JG.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Cont/d..

subject to an 'appropriate assessment' of its implications for the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Based on records, we concur with the Screening Report; there are no internationally designated wildlife sites located within the Malvern Neighbourhood Plan Area and there are two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within 20km.

We note the comments made with respect to the Appropriate Assessment (AA) carried out as part of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP).

To assist your Council's determination of the HRA Screening opinion, we advise that based on the Screening Report submitted, and in consideration of the matters within our remit, the Neighbourhood Plan is considered unlikely to have significant effects on the European designated sites.

Going Forwards:

We sent your Council a copy of our Neighbourhood Plan pro-forma guidance for distribution to Parish Councils. The purpose of the guidance is to assist the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans, including an appropriate evidence base. This includes consideration of some of the relevant environmental issues that should be considered, including flood risk (from rivers and sea), water quality, water resources and includes latest Climate Change recommendations for flood risk. Since we produced this guidance we have updated our climate change allowances for planners. See Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances for more information. I have also enclosed a copy of area climate change guide to further assist.

For each proposed site allocation, we recommend completing the pro-forma to check the environmental constraints. This will help collect evidence, identify challenges, inform policy and assist delivery of sustainable solutions.

We note there do not appear to be any additional housing allocations proposed within the draft Plan. We would only make substantive further comments if the Plan was seeking to allocate sites for development in Flood Zones 3 and/or 2 (the latter being used as the 1% climate change extent). Furthermore, we do not offer detailed bespoke advice on policy but advise you ensure conformity with your Local Plan and refer to our guidance. This might assist with your consideration of a local environmental enhancements or improvement policies that may be necessary.

I trust that the above is of use to you at this time.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Tessa Jones
Senior Planning Advisor

Direct dial [REDACTED]

Direct e-mail [REDACTED]

Date: 17 August 2017
Our ref: 223078
Your ref: Malvern Neighbourhood Plan



Malvern Town Council

C/O Reiss Sadler
Planning Officer
Wychavon District Council

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

BY EMAIL ONLY

T [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Sadler,

Planning consultation: Malvern Neighbourhood Plan, SEA/HRA Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 10/08/2017 .

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

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

We welcome the production of this SEA Screening report. Natural England notes and concurs with the screening outcome i.e. that no SEA is required.

Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#).

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Natural England notes the screening process applied to this Neighbourhood plan. We agree with the Council's conclusion of no likely significant effect upon the named European designated sites:

- Breedon Hill SAC
- Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC

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 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. 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

Tom Amos
Sustainable Development
West Midlands Team



Historic England

WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

Mr Reiss Sadler
Wychavon District Council
Civic Centre
Queen Elizabeth House
Persnore
Worcestershire
WR10 1PT

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: PL00152322

6 September 2017

Dear Mr Sadler

MALVERN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- SEA AND HRA 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. Regarding HRA Historic England does not disagree with your conclusions but would defer to the opinions of the other statutory consultees.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that 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,

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Appendices

3.1 SWDP Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Table 3.1: Key Sustainability Issues, Problems and Opportunities for the South Worcestershire Development Plan area.

and wider biodiversity interests.
Flood risk is an ongoing issue for key settlements, sustainable management of water resources should be integral part of all new development.
Opportunities to incorporate good practice sustainable design, including renewable energy into new development to reduce and minimise the carbon footprint of the plan area.

3.15 The SA Framework presented in the next Section sets out objectives to address the issues identified by the relevant plans review, the baseline context and the characterisation.

The SA Framework

3.16 The proposed SA Framework provides the basis by which the sustainability effects of the emerging South Worcester Development Plan options will be described, analysed and compared. It includes a number of sustainability objectives, elaborated by 'decision-aiding questions'. These have been distilled from the information collated during the review of relevant Plans and Programmes and the review of Baseline Information the key sustainability issues identified (as detailed in this Section 3), as well as through consultation with statutory bodies and key stakeholders.

3.17 The sustainability objectives seek to address and progress the main sustainability issues and opportunities identified as important for South Worcestershire. The decision-aiding questions assist by clarifying the detail of the issues, improving objectivity, ensuring that the appraisal is relevant to land use planning, and making the SA Framework more locally specific.

3.18 The SEA Directive requires that the effects of the SWDP on biodiversity; landscape; cultural heritage; water; air; climatic factors; soil; flora; fauna; human health; population and material assets are considered. To demonstrate compliance with the SEA Directive, we have also indicated within the SA Framework which sustainability objectives address the SEA list of topics.

Table 3.2: The SA Framework

SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Does the policy/ plan ...?
1. Economy and Employment <i>SEA Topic: population, human health</i>	
To develop a healthy, active and diverse economy	Does the policy/option: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maintain high and promote diverse levels of employment to meet the needs of local people ■ Promote the improvement of skills levels ■ Support local business and industries in adapting to change ■ Reduce unemployment in disadvantaged urban and rural areas ■ Encourage diversification of the rural economy

Table 3.2: The SA Framework	
SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Does the policy/ plan ...?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure that jobs are located in sustainable locations (i.e. accessible by sustainable transport options – walkability, cycle lanes, public transport) ■ Help maintain Worcester as a focus of learning and education ■ Recognise the role of tourism in the local economy ■ Help enhance local markets for local goods and services ■ Promote the hierarchy of retail provision serving local needs whilst recognising the wider sub-regional role of Worcester city
2. Strengthening Communities <i>SEA Topic: population</i>	
To maintain and improve communities to meet the needs of the population and promote social inclusion	<p>Does the policy/ option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote mixed use development ■ Regenerate existing settlements and promote urban and rural renewal ■ Promote the benefits of existing assets (built and natural) to maintain and improve the sense of place for community identities ■ Ensure equality of access to services ■ Integrate new and existing communities ■ Reduce social exclusion of disadvantaged groups ■ Meet the needs of an ageing population
3. Infrastructure <i>SEA Topic: population, human health</i>	
To provide for timely delivery of infrastructure	<p>Does the policy/ option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure the delivery of infrastructure that meets the needs of new and existing development ■ Ensure appropriate timing and phasing of infrastructure delivery ■ Require the enhancement of green and blue infrastructures (strategic network of protected sites, green spaces, linkage, waterways) ■ Ensure provision of community facilities (cultural, health, social, learning, recreation) to meet citizens' needs ■ Encourage multi-functional use of facilities (e.g. shared community/ education spaces) ■ Help reduce rural community isolation
4. Housing <i>SEA Topic: population, human health</i>	
To provide good quality housing for all	<p>Does the policy/ option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Deliver affordable and sustainable housing in urban and rural areas and consistent with local character ■ Provide for an appropriate mix of dwelling size, type, density and phasing to meet local needs ■ Provide for a range of adaptable housing that meets the needs of specific groups (e.g. elderly, young, disabled)
5. Quality Design and Sustainable Construction <i>SEA Topic: material assets, human health, population</i>	

Table 3.2: The SA Framework	
SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Does the policy/ plan ...?
To promote quality design and sustainable construction for buildings and places	<p>Does the policy/ option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote high quality design ■ Require the use of sustainable building standards (e.g. BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes) ■ Ensure incorporation of energy efficiency measures and use of renewable in development ■ Promote high density development in appropriate locations ■ Promote the use of locally and sustainably sourced materials ■ Encourage the reuse of empty/underused buildings
6. Health <i>SEA Topic: human health</i>	
To contribute towards improving the health and wellbeing of all	<p>Does the policy/ option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protect and improve accessibility to community facilities (cultural, health, social, learning, recreation) ■ Help encourage healthy lifestyle choices (e.g. accessibility to good quality local food sources) ■ Ensure accessibility to primary health care facilities ■ Secure safe, attractive places through design (e.g. by encouraging social interaction and cohesion)
7. Climate Change <i>SEA Topic: climatic factors, air</i>	
To reduce the causes of climate change and adapt to its impacts	<p>Does the policy/ plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Help reduce greenhouse gas emissions ■ Ensure new and existing developments are not at risk, from the effects of climate change ■ Ensure that there is flexibility to adapt to rapid change ■ Require the optimum use of renewable energy ■ Maximise energy efficiency in new and existing developments ■ Promote carbon neutral economy/ development and lifestyles
8. Waste <i>SEA Topic: material assets, human health</i>	
To minimise waste and promote recycling, reuse and recovery	<p>Does the policy/ plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Help reduce waste and facilitate recycling in construction and operation ■ Promote facilities that support the composting of waste ■ Promote opportunities for the recovery of energy from waste
9. Travel and transport <i>SEA Topic: climatic factors, air, human health</i>	
To reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable travel options	<p>Does the policy/ plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enhancing accessibility and choice to minimise use of cars (travel plans, car share, 2+ car lanes) ■ Promote walking and cycling through the delivery of strategic networks ■ Help create an integrated sustainable transport system (e.g. safe cycle storage, green lane linkage, improved public transport)

Table 3.2: The SA Framework	
SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Does the policy/ plan ...?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Minimise the need to travel (e.g. live/work units)
10. Biodiversity and Geodiversity <i>SEA Topic: biodiversity, flora, fauna</i>	
To improve, restore and recreate biodiversity and geodiversity	<p>Does the policy/ plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enhance ecosystem functioning and reduce fragmentation ■ Require green infrastructure to enhance biodiversity ■ Respect and promote the value of geodiversity ■ Protect and enhance designated and locally valued habitats and species
11. Landscape and Townscape <i>SEA Topic: landscape, cultural heritage</i>	
To protect and enhance landscape and townscape character and quality	<p>Does the policy/ plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enhance the natural landscape and respect existing landforms ■ Ensure protection and enhancement of the AONB and local landscape characters/ features ■ Ensure local distinctiveness and a sense of place in size, material and scale ■ Support innovation and creativity in design whilst reflecting local distinctiveness and character ■ Maintain and enhance public spaces for all
12. Historic Environment <i>SEA Topic: cultural heritage</i>	
To protect and enhance the historic environment, historic character and quality of landscapes and townscapes	<p>Does the policy/plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings and areas of archaeological interest, historic parks and gardens and their settings ■ Protect, enhance and manage historic buildings and sites, the historic character of landscapes and townscapes, and other features, sites and areas of historic and cultural value
13. Pollution <i>SEA Topic: air, water, soil</i>	
To minimise pollution	<p>Does the policy/ plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improve air quality e.g. through transport management and reduction of employment related emissions. ■ Ensure no pollution of water (lakes, rivers, waterways, groundwater, wetlands) ■ Ensure no pollution of soil and require the remediation of contaminated land
14. Water <i>SEA Topic: water, climatic factors</i>	
To manage water in a sustainable manner	<p>Does the policy/ plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Help meet with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive ■ Require the use and adoption of sustainable drainage systems ■ Reduce and manage flood risk through a whole catchment approach ■ Ensure access to water for leisure and recreation ■ Protect water bodies quality and quantity