

Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan Overview

3.1. In July 2013 Martley Parish Council and Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Council submitted an application to Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) for the designation of their combined parishes as a single Neighbourhood Area. This designation was approved on the 24th September 2013, and applies to the entirety of the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Parishes (Figure 1). The Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by a steering group composed of representatives from each parish council, and is essentially a framework for guiding future development and growth in the area.

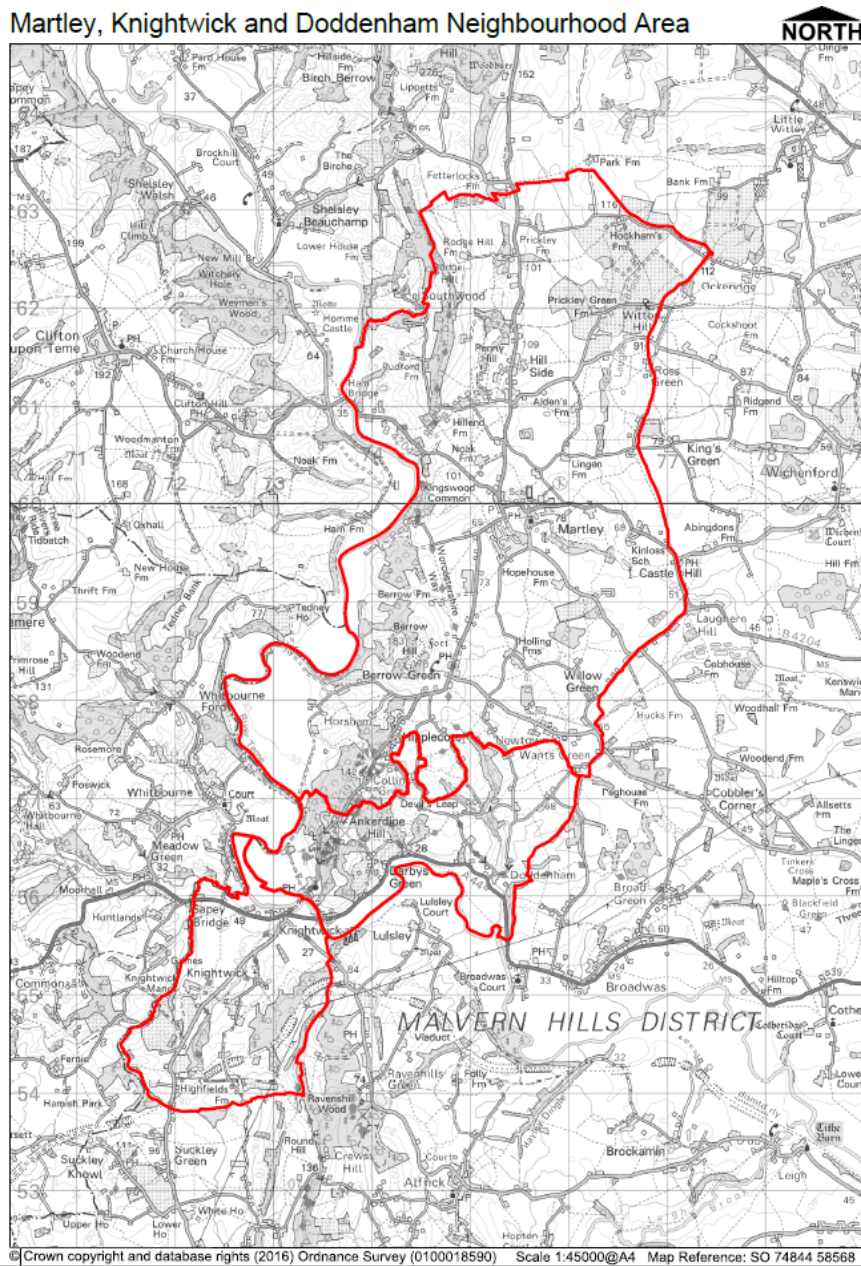


Figure 1: Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan Area

- 3.2. The Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan applies to an area of approximately 2,501 hectares, which is largely comprised of open agricultural land, areas of woodland and a few small scattered settlements. A small portion (~45ha) of land in the south of the plan area is also part of the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB).
- 3.3. The 2011 census recorded that 1,565 people live in the plan area in a total of 677 dwellings. The main settlement and service centre in the plan area is the village of Martley, with a small number of additional services also being available in Knightwick.
- 3.4. The vision of the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan is as follows:

“Our Vision for Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham is for our three parishes to remain places of great natural beauty, characterised by wooded hills, riverside meadows and scattered small villages and hamlets.

Our community will provide a safe and stimulating life for people of all ages and occupations, having within its boundaries primary healthcare clinics, primary and secondary schools, places to shop, eat and drink, and a range of places to work.”

In addition to this vision, the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan also includes the following objectives:

Objective 1

To protect the rural character of our parishes, with their characteristic landscape of fields, woodlands, riverside meadows and dispersed communities.

Objective 2

To maintain a range of employment opportunities for local residents, including workplaces in industrial and office estates and home-based work.

Objective 3

To provide an active and stimulating community life for all the people in the area, being a pleasant and safe place to be young and a pleasant place to grow old.

Objective 4

To hand to future generations of the three parishes as good as or even better quality of life than the one we have inherited.

- 3.5. A total of 14 policies have been published as part of the draft plan, which address a variety of issues specific to the local area such as housing, design, landscape and heritage and community facilities.
- 3.6. A brief overview of these policies is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of emerging policies in the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan

Policy	Policy Summary
MKD1 – Landscape Design Principles	The policy proposes 7 areas to be designated as Local Green Space. A number of Significant Views are also identified, and any developments must demonstrate how the potential impact on these views has been considered. The policy features an extensive suite of Landscape Design Principles which development proposals should take into account, relating to factors such as design, layout, boundary treatments, biodiversity, geology and drainage. The policy also seeks to protect areas of specific landscape character, such as Principal Timbered Farmlands, Principle Wooded Hills and Riverside Meadows.
MKD2 - Maintaining the Settlement Pattern in Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham	All development must be keeping with the existing settlement pattern of scattered buildings and open spaces. Proposals must be small in scale (less than 6 houses), retain open spaces, promote accessibility between areas and reflect the rural nature of the parish. Extensions should be subordinate in scale to the existing building and infill developments should be subservient to the existing surrounding properties and not reduce amenity.
MKD3 – Building Design Principles in Martley and Affecting the Conservation Area	New development within or affecting the Martley Conservation Area will only be permitted where it enhances the existing area. Any new developments or extensions should reflect the pattern of settlements within or around the Conservation Area. New buildings and extensions generally should be sited in accordance with the locally prevailing building pattern. Proposals should retain important view, open spaces, tress, hedgerows and boundary features. New boundary walls, railings or hedges should be in character with the village and of suitable local materials or native species.
MKD4 – Building Design Principles	All new developments must enhance or reinforce the local distinctiveness and be in keeping with the “grain” of the surrounding area.
MKD5 – Protecting Local Heritage Assets and Archaeology	The demolition or loss of buildings and features (including those identified in the Local Heritage List) which contribute to the character of the area will be resisted. Proposals which involve alterations to buildings or structures on the Local Heritage List must demonstrate how they preserve or enhance the structure. New development must take into account known surface or sub surface archaeology, and ensure any such features are identified if such evidence is absent.
MKD6 – Providing Open Space and Green Infrastructure	New developments must include open space in the following proportions; 40% of land area for sites in excess of 1ha and 20% of land area for sites smaller than 1ha but larger than 0.2ha. This open space must be protected once the permission has been implemented. Proposals for development should include ecological enhancements. Priority habitats within the plan area, such as ancient woodland, meadows, grasslands and riverside pasture are protected to preserve the existing eco-system network.
MKD7 – New Housing Development in Marley	New development will be permitted within the Martley settlement boundary, provided it; is infill development on previously

Policy	Policy Summary
Village	developed land, is the conversion or re-use of existing buildings, does not lead to the loss of community facilities or employment opportunities; and conforms with other relevant policies of the neighbourhood plan.
MKD8 – New Housing Development in the Parish’s Countryside Area	New development in the open countryside and outside the Martley settlement boundary will be permitted when it is demonstrated to be necessary for use by rural workers, is affordable housing to meet local need on an exception site, is a replacement for an existing dwelling with established use rights (not exceeding 30% of original footprint), is an extension of appropriate scale to an existing dwelling or conversion and reuse of existing buildings.
MKD9 – Housing Mix	New housing development of 5 or more units should seek to incorporate the following within the mix of house types; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affordable housing for rental or shared ownership by those with a local connection - Properties with one or two bedrooms to meet the needs of first time buyers and small families. - Properties designed to be suitable for the elderly, located close to key facilities. - Plots for individual self-build houses.
MKD10 – New Housing Development Settlement Design Principles	All new housing development should incorporate the following settlement design principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be small in scale (less than six houses) or on larger developments include phasing or building styles that create a sense of small-scale, organic growth rather than a standard “estate” style; - Retention and creation of open spaces - Movement through sites of more than one plot, unless impractical or unnecessary. - Boundary treatments which reflect rural nature of the parish - Use of SuDS - Limited lighting which ensures public safety but does not lead to light pollution that detracts from the areas dark skies.
MKD11 – Housing Design	All new housing development proposals should; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance and reinforce the local distinctiveness of an area through appropriate attention to character, scale, mass and layout of the site. - Follow a consistent design approach to the use of materials, fenestration and roofline of the building. Materials should be chosen to complement the design of a development and add to the quality or character of the surrounding environment; - New buildings and all building alterations or extensions must be sensitive to the local context in terms of materials, design, colour scheme, scale and structure. Housing should use natural materials from environmentally responsible sources, the use of energy saving materials, and materials of high quality, which have been reclaimed, salvaged or recycled; - Redevelopment, alteration or extension of historic farmsteads and agricultural buildings must be sensitive to

Policy	Policy Summary
	<p>their distinctive character, materials and form. Due reference and consideration should be made to the Worcestershire Farmstead Assessment Framework; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposals should minimise the impact on residential amenity and give careful consideration to noise, odour and light
<p>MKD 12 – Protecting Local Community Facilities</p>	<p>The enhancement of existing or provision on new community facilities are supported where there is an identified local need. The redevelopment or change of use of existing facilities will only be permitted if there is no longer a need for the facility (for instance through marketing for a period of at least two years). Where it is not demonstrated that there is no longer an existing need for the facility, re-provision of alternative community facilities of equivalent size and quality will be required to be provided in an equally or more-accessible location and in any case within a safe walking-distance of no more than 800 metres</p>
<p>MKD13 – Supporting Local Employment</p>	<p>The following forms of employment development will be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - B1 Business use, B2 general industrial and B8 warehousing development at the Maylite Trading Estate and Edgar Estate - Extensions to existing B1, B2 AND B8 premises where they do not conflict with other policies in this plan and the SWDP - Rural diversification at existing agricultural businesses - Extensions to existing dwellings to support home based working where this would not lead to adverse impact on the amenity of adjacent users and uses <p>All new employment development should seek to include measures to facilitate access to the latest information technology.</p>
<p>MKD14 – Transport Management</p>	<p>All new developments must demonstrate that they take into account the following highways, pavements and traffic principles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The impact of development on the existing environment should be reviewed to ensure sustainability in terms of infrastructure, road safety and maintaining a safe and peaceful parish; - Traffic calming measures and landscape designs which define settlements and influence driver behaviour will be encouraged, in accordance with the recommended standards of WCC; - Street furniture and signage should be practical of modest scale and in keeping with the surrounding area. - Any additional areas of parking should be small in scale, subservient to the peaceful nature of the parish and seek to limit the domination of motorised vehicles in a rural environment

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 Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan area were examined. Within this range one protected site was identified. Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC is an area of grassland and ponds located on the outskirts of Worcester city, approximately ~11km to the east of the plan area (direct distance).
- 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 (SWDP). The initial HRA screening exercise of the SWDP raised concerns with regards to the potential for negative impact on the protected site as a result of increased disturbance through recreation

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

and changes in water levels/quality due to nearby developments. This concern prompted a full AA to be conducted.

- 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan. In line with these findings, it is concluded that the implementation of the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan would not result in likely significant or in combination effects on any internationally designated wildlife sites.

HRA Screening Opinion

- 4.9. As a result of the assessment above, it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will occur as a result of the implementation of the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan that were not examined and dealt with by the HRA carried out for the SWDP. This judgement applies to the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan when considered 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan in Table 2.

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

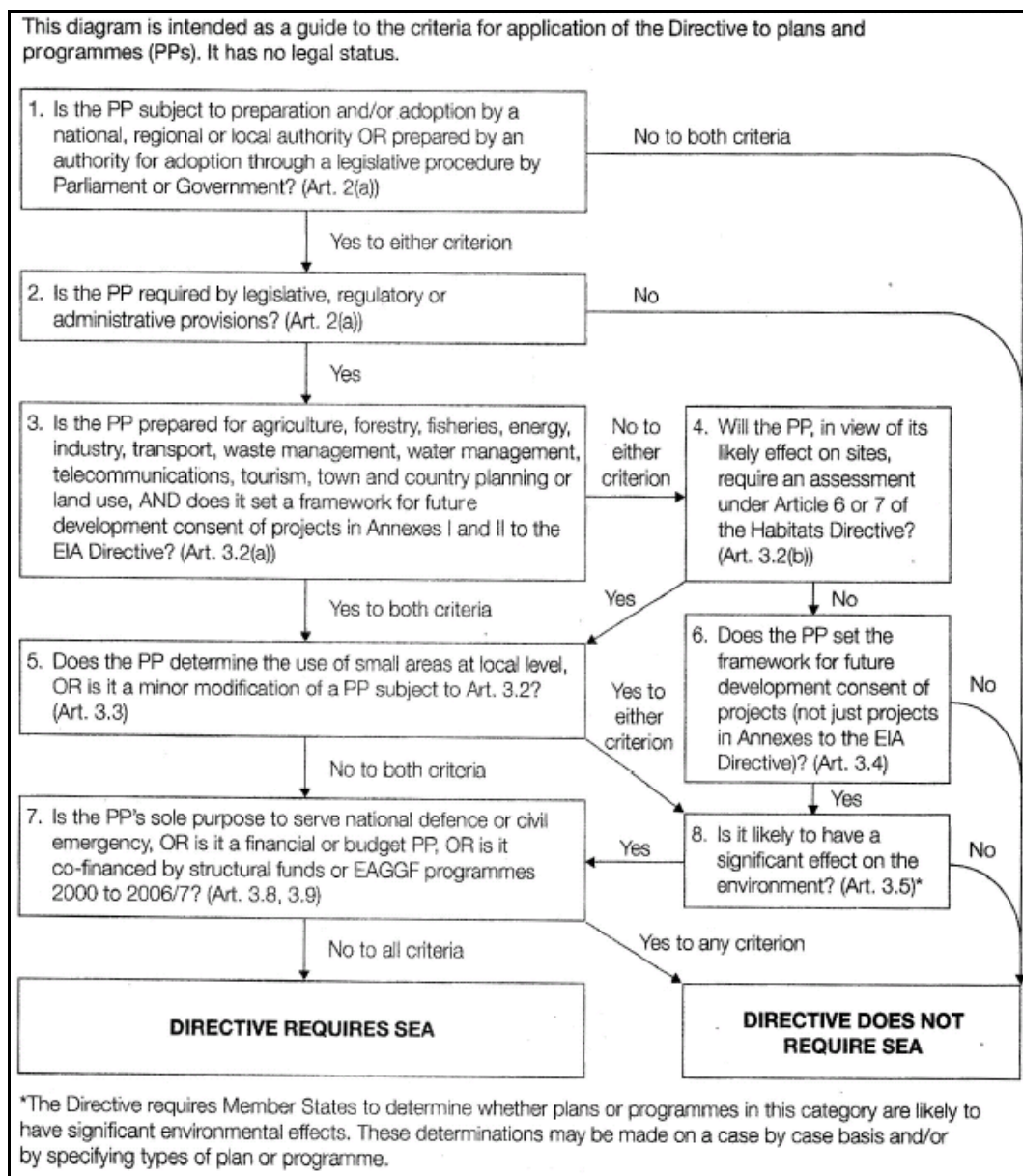


Table 2: Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan using SEA Directive Criteria

Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 (a steering committee composed of representatives of Marltey Parish Council and Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	N	Neighbourhood Plans are not mandatory requirements, and the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 which is in-line with that of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP).
4. Will the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan	Y	The Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan is expected to

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)		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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan will have any negative environmental impacts.

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

5.3. The assessment in Table 2 suggests that it is unlikely that the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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.

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
1a. The degree to which the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham (MKD) 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. The neighbourhood plan does not propose any specific sites for development.
1b. The degree to which the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	Policies within the Draft MKD 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.
1c. The relevance of the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	No	The policies of the Draft MKD Neighbourhood Plan are not considered likely to have a significant impact on the integration of environmental considerations.
1d. Environmental problems relevant to the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan	No	The potential for negative environmental effects as a result of the policies and proposals in the Draft MKD Neighbourhood Plan is deemed to be minimal. There are not considered to be any significant environmental problems which are specific to the area, above and beyond those considered and addressed in the Local Plan. 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 relevant.

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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 MKD 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 MKD Neighbourhood Plan. The majority of policies seek to protect and enhance the environment and are likely to be beneficial rather than damaging.
2b. The cumulative nature of the effects	No	It is considered that the policies of the Draft MKD 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 MKD 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 MKD Neighbourhood Plan.
2e. The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	The Draft MKD Neighbourhood Plan applies to an area of 2,501 hectares (Figure 1), which has a resident population of 1,565 in 677 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; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage - exceeded 	No	There are a number of significant heritage assets located within the plan area. Berrow Hill Camp is an Iron Age Fort located in the centre of the plan area which is a Scheduled Monument. There are also 79 listed buildings identified, two of which are Grade I (St Peter's Church and The Old Hall, Martley). The highest concentration of listed buildings is in the village of Martley, which also has a Conservation Area. The

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>environmental quality standards or limit values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intensive land-use 		<p>Draft MKD Plan shows regard to these designations in a number of policies, such as MKD3 Building Design Principles in Marlton and Affecting the Conservation Area, MKD4 Building Design Principles and MKD5 Protecting Local Heritage Assets and Archaeology, and the plan is therefore likely to have a beneficial rather than damaging effect on these assets.</p> <p>The draft NP does not propose any policies or allocate any land for development which are likely to result in exceeded environmental quality standards or in intensive land use. All development proposals must conform with the SWDP policies regarding environmental quality standards, such as those relating to air, water or soil quality. The draft plan is therefore not likely to have a significant environmental effect in relation to these criteria.</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 MKD Neighbourhood Plan area, and the plan is not likely to impact such sites located beyond its boundaries (See HRA Screening, Section 4).</p> <p>A number of SSSI's are located in the MKD neighbourhood area (See Figure 1). For example, the SSSI designation applies to the course of the River Teme, which represents a large part of the western and southern boundary of the plan area. In the north of the plan area can be found Hillend Meadow & Orchard SSSI, Quarry Farm Meadow SSSI and Penny Hill Bank SSSI, whilst Hay Wood & Tinkers Coppice SSSI and Lords Wood Meadows SSSI can be found in the south. A further SSSI, Osebury Rock, is located adjacent to the southern boundary of the plan area. The plan features a number of policies relating to environmental sustainability which are designed to sustain and enhance these protected sites (MKD1 Landscape Design Principles, MKD6 Open Space and Green Infrastructure), reinforcing policies of the SWDP and the</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>NPPF. Furthermore, as the draft MKD Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any policies or land for development which departs from the strategy of the Local Plan, it is considered that the potential impact on these protected sites 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 these sites.</p> <p>A small portion (~45 ha, ~1.8%) of the southern tip of the plan area lies in the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The majority of the plan area, including the entirety of the Knightwick and Doddenham parishes, is also designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). The draft neighbourhood plan seeks to protect and enhance these areas through a number of its policies (MKD1 Landscape Design Principles, MKD8 New Development in the Parish's Countryside Area), and also proposes that the district council prepare a bid to upgrade the existing AGLV to AONB. The draft plan is therefore not likely to have any significant negative impact on these protected landscapes.</p>

- 5.4. Based upon the case-by-case screening assessment set out in Table 3 above, it is concluded that the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 policies or allocate any sites for development 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan also seek to avoid or minimise negative environmental effects through the provision of guidance on issues which are specific to the neighbourhood area, such as

development within the Martley Conservation Area (MKD3), protection of local heritage assets (MKD5) or development in the open countryside (MKD8). It is therefore likely that the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan will have (both directly and indirectly) a positive environmental impact rather than negative, as it will provide guidance which will enable developers to minimise potential 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Representations from Consultation Bodies

- 6.1. The three statutory consultation bodies (Historic England, Environment Agency and Natural England) have been consulted 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).
- 6.2. Historic England considered that the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan would not have any significant effects on any aspects of the historic environment, and as such a full SEA would not be required.
- 6.3. The Environment Agency considered that the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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.
- 6.4. Natural England considered that the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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.

7. Screening Opinion Conclusions

- 7.1. The preceding assessment exercises have examined whether the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full Habitats Regulation Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) to be undertaken. There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the plan area, and as the draft neighbourhood plan is largely in conformity with the Local Plan strategy it is considered that any potential impact on sites further afield has already been sufficiently examined and addressed as part of the Appropriate Assessment conducted for the SWDP.
- 7.3. The SEA screening exercise featured in Section 5 concludes that the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan will 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 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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 Martley Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan **will not require a full Habitats Regulations Assessment or Strategic Environmental Assessment.**

8. **Appendices:** Responses from Statutory Consultation Bodies

Appendix 1: Response from Historic England



Historic England
WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

██████████
Malvern Hills District Council
Council House
Avenue Road
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 3AF

████████████████████
Our ref: PL00017851

13 May 2016

Dear Mr Lewis

DRAFT MARTLEY, KNIGHTWICK, AND DODDENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the above pre-consultation Neighbourhood Plan.

Historic England is supportive of both the Vision and objectives set out in the Plan and consider that it takes a suitably proportionate approach to the historic environment of the Parish. Beyond these observations we have at this stage no further substantive comments to make.

I hope you find this advice helpful.

Yours sincerely,
████████████████████
Peter Boland
Historic Places Advisor
peter.boland@HistoricEngland.org.uk

cc:



THE AXIS 10 HOLLIDAY STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 1TG
Telephone ██████████
██████████



████████████████████
████████████████████
██████████

Appendix 2: Response from Environment Agency

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

Sent: 07 April 2016 15:04

To: Adam Lewis

Subject: RE: SEA Screening Opinion Consultation - Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham 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



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 3: Response from Natural England

Date: 20 May 2016
Our ref: 183794
Your ref: Martley Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan



Malvern Hills District Council,
Development Plans and Conservation

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

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Clarke,

**Planning consultation: Martley Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan:
Environmental Assessment of Pland and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 04/04/2016.

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.

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 further SEA is required with regard to Natural England's remit.

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](#).

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.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Tom Amos on 02080 260961. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

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

Yours sincerely

Tom Amos
Consultations Team