

Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) &
Habitat Regulations Assessment

Screening Report
(October 2017)

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report is an assessment of whether or not the contents of the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan (hereafter known as 'ANP') 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 This report will also screen to determine whether the ANP requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). A HRA is required when it is deemed that likely adverse significant effects may occur on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the implementation of a plan/project. As a general 'rule of thumb' it is identified that sites with pathways of 10-15km of the plan/project boundary should be included with a HRA. Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Cannock Extension Canal SAC are within a 15km radius of the plan boundary. Whilst the River Mease SAC is within 15km of the ANP boundary, the ANP boundary is outside the water catchment area. Appendix 1 shows the Plan Boundary in relation to the 15km radius of Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.3 The purpose of the ANP is to provide a set of statutory planning policies to guide development within Alrewas Parish over the life of the plan. The Plan sets out the community's views on how the village can meet the challenges of the future and seeks to protect and enhance important elements of the Parish environment, establishes where development is most appropriate and sets standards for the type and quality of development. The ANP describes the changes which should or should not take place, provides the community's views on these and, where appropriate, identifies policies which any proposed development or change should comply with for the period to 2029. This SEA & HRA screening report has been undertaken in the ANP 'V12 edit October 2017' which was provided by the Qualifying Body for the purposes of this report. SEA & HRA screening was previously undertaken upon an earlier draft of the ANP in 2014, this screening report is independent of that previously under taken.
- 1.4 The legislative background set out in the following section outlines the regulations that require the need for this screening exercise. Section 3, provides a screening assessment of both the likely significant environmental effects of the ANP and the need for SEA. Section 4, provides a screening assessment of both the likely significant effects of the implementation of the ANP and the need for a Habitats Regulation Assessment.
- 1.5 This report will be split into two parts. The first will cover the screening for the SEA and the second will cover the screening process for the HRA. A summary of findings and conclusions for both screening processes can be found in the conclusions chapter at section 5.

2. Legislative Background

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed Guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005).
- 2.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required Local Authorities to produce Sustainability Appraisals (SA) for all local development documents to meet the requirement of the EU Directive on SEA. It is considered best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into an SA as discussed within the NPPF at paragraph 165. However, the 2008 Planning Act amended the requirement to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal for only development plan documents (DPD's), but did not remove the requirement to produce a Strategic Environmental Assessment. As a Neighbourhood Plan is not a development plan document it therefore does not legally require a Sustainability Appraisal. Where appropriate, however, an SEA still needs to be undertaken in line with the SEA regulations. The purpose of this report is to determine if SEA is required for the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.3 The District Council is required to consult three statutory consultation bodies designated within the regulations, these are; English Heritage, Natural England and Environment Agency on whether a SEA is required, Details of the consultation bodies responses can be found at Appendix 3.

Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA)

- 2.4 It is required by article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive and by regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) that an appropriate assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites and with reference to other plans and projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European Site.
- 2.5 To fulfil the legal requirements to identify if likely significant effects will occur with the implementation of the ANP upon European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) a screening assessment has been undertaken and is set out in section 4 of this report.
- 2.6 The legislation requires where there is a "risk" of a significant effect on a European Site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects then there will be requirement for the plan to progress from HRA screening to an Appropriate Assessment. This is known as the precautionary principle.

Description of the Plan or Programme

- 2.7 The ANP has been prepared by the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of the Qualifying Body (Alrewas Parish Council). The Plan includes 29 Planning Policies within six policy sections and 3 'Community Actions' which relate to the whole of Alrewas Parish (the designated Neighbourhood Area):
 - Community Facilities
 - Traffic and Transport;
 - Public realm;
 - Environment and Conservation;
 - Housing Development; and
 - Economic Development.

3. SEA Screening

Criteria for Assessing the Effects of ANP

3.1 Criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below:

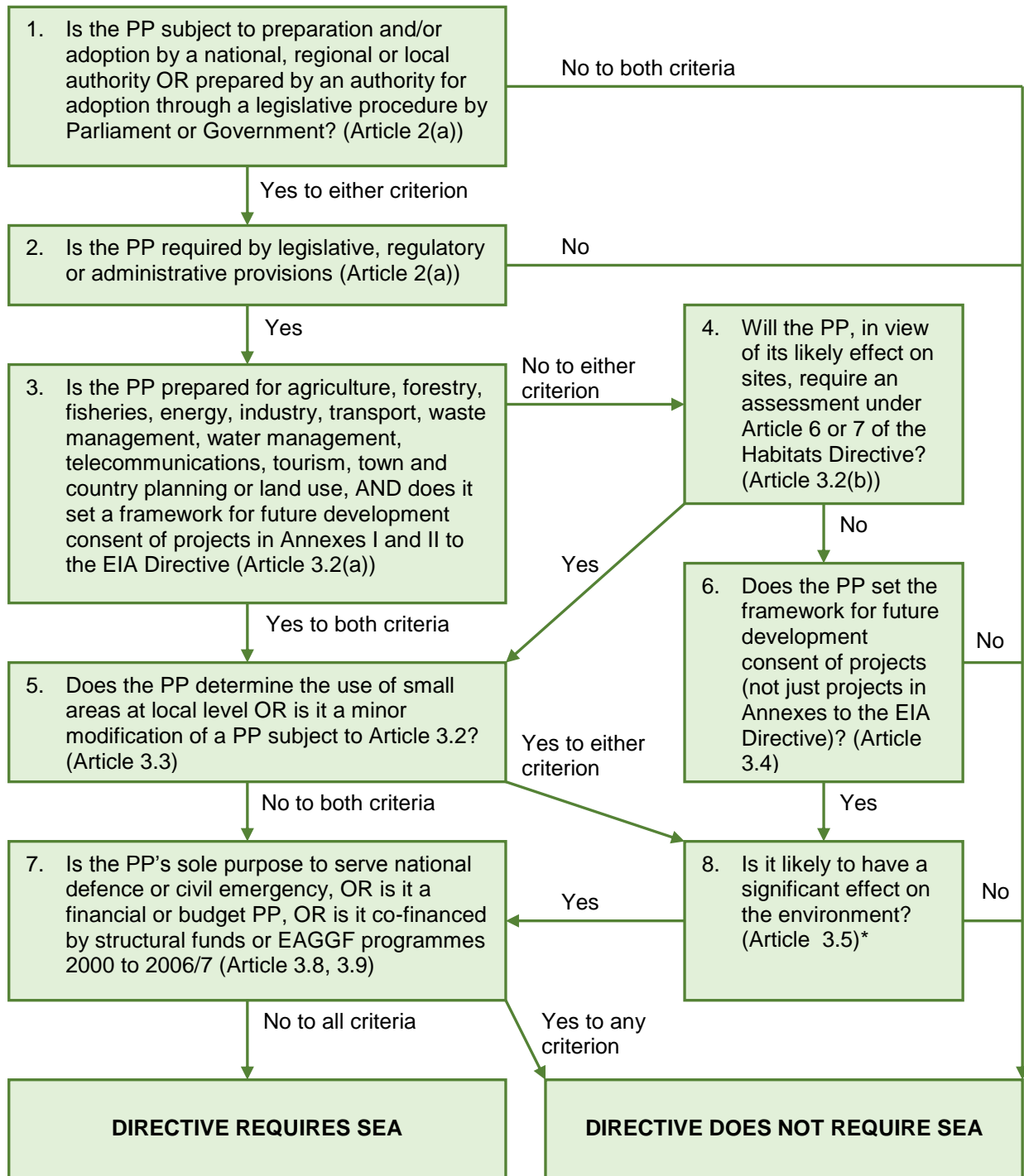
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
 - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
 - the degree to which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

Source: Annex II of SEA Directive
2001/42/EC

Assessment

- 3.2 It is required by the Localism Act that Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. The development plan for Lichfield District is currently made up of the adopted Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy (LPS) which includes some saved policies from the 1998 Lichfield District Local Plan (saved September 2007). Therefore the Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with these policies. The Local Plan Strategy (LPS) was subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal which included a SEA assessment. This ensured that there were no likely significant effects which would be produced from the implementation of the Local Plan and if so ensured mitigation measures were in place.
- 3.3 Guidance upon SEA's written by the Department of the Environment produces a diagram to the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required, see figure1.

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



* The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.

3.4 The process in figure 1 has been undertaken and the findings can be viewed in Table 1. Table 1 shows the assessment of whether the ANP will require a full SEA. The questions in table 1 are drawn from the diagram above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

Table 1: Establishing the Need for SEA

Stage	Yes/No	Reason
1. Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	This Neighbourhood Plan is prepared by Alrewas Parish Council (as the Qualifying Body) under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Once the plan is 'made' subject to examination and having received 50%+ or more 'yes' votes through a referendum it will be adopted by Lichfield District Council and become part of the Statutory Development Plan for the area.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	Communities have a right to produce a Neighbourhood Plan; however communities are not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative purposes to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. However, once 'made' the ANP would form part of the statutory development plan, and will be used when making decisions on planning applications within the Neighbourhood Area. Therefore it is considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine further if an SEA is required.
3. Is the PP 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))	Yes	The ANP is prepared for town and country planning and land use. The plan sets out a framework for future development in the Alrewas Neighbourhood Area. Once 'made' the ANP would form part of the statutory development plan, and will be used when making decisions on planning applications which may include development which may fall under Annex I and II of the EIA directive.
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?(Art. 3.2 (b))	Yes	The Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have an impact on internationally designated wildlife sites covered by the Habitats Regulations. See screening assessment for HRA in following section of this report.

Stage	Yes/No	Reason
5. Does the PP Determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art.3.3)	Yes	The ANP identifies the use of small areas at the local level, including the designation of Local Green Spaces. Once 'made' the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan would form part of the statutory development plan and be used when making decisions on planning applications of small areas at the local level.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Yes	The ANP, once the 'made', forms part of the statutory development plan and will be used to determine planning applications within the designated Alrewas Neighbourhood Area. Therefore the Neighbourhood Plan will set the framework for future developments.
7. Is the PP'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)	No	The Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with any of these categories of plan.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	Yes	The ANP could potentially have a significant effect on the environment not just within the neighbourhood area but also within the District as Alrewas is identified as one of the key settlements within the Local Plan Strategy. The ANP will impact upon Cannock Chase SAC a Natura 2000 sites, (see HRA section) however ANP is in accordance with the LPS and would be subject to the requirements of Policy NR7 which ensures that before development is permitted it must demonstrate that it (alone or in combination) will not have an adverse effect, whether direct or indirect, upon the integrity of the SAC having regard to avoidance or mitigation measures.

3.5 A number of the criteria above suggest that SEA of the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan may be required. Criteria 8 of the assessment in Figure 1 and Table 1 considered that the Neighbourhood Plan may have a significant effect on the environment depending on the proposals within the plan and a case by case assessment may be made on a case by case basis. The criteria for undertaking such an assessment are drawn from Article 3(5) of the SEA Directive as set out at paragraph 3.1 of this report. Table 2 outlines the result of this assessment in relation to the pre-submission Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan (May 2014).

3.6 The following assessment will consider the likelihood of the Alrewas

Neighbourhood Plan (as published at the date of this report) to have significant effects on the environment.

Table 2: Assessment if likelihood of significant effects on the environment

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Summary of Significant effects
The characteristics of the plans, having regard to;	
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</p>	<p>Once 'made; the ANP will set out the framework which will be used to determine proposals for development within the neighbourhood area regarding housing, community facilities, commercial developments and protection of specific open spaces. The ANP provides protection to the character of the area which will influence development across the plan period/There is therefore the potential for an effect on the environment resulting from the proposals in the plan.</p> <p>However the plan does not propose development in excess of that identified within the adopted Local Plan Strategy (LPS) nor does it allocate sites for development. As such the SA/SEA carried out by the District Council for the LPS could be considered sufficient.</p>
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>The ANP must be in general conformity with the Lichfield District Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework. The Local Plan Allocations document has not yet been submitted as such the neighbourhood plan cannot be influenced by it, however the neighbourhood plan generally conforms with the emerging Local Plan Allocations document. The ANP only provides policies for the area it covers and the Local Plan Strategy will provide the necessary strategic context when determining planning applications.</p> <p>The ANP will help to deliver the overall aims of the Local Plan. Alrewas is identified as a key settlement within the Local Plan Strategy and the Neighbourhood Plan does not propose to restrict development which is considered to be in broad conformity with the LPS.</p>
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>Any Neighbourhood Plan is required to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and therefore the likelihood of significant effects on the environment is minimised. This plan contains policies to protect the environment and does not seek to allocate sites for development and as such the impact of the plan on the environment is minimal.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Summary of Significant effects
Environmental problems relevant to the plan.	Any environmental impacts of the proposals within the ANP are unlikely to arise.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The ANP has to be in general conformity with the Local Plan. The adopted Local Plan has had regard to European Community legislation on the environment and therefore this legislation will not be relevant for the Neighbourhood Plan.
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular to;	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	Development is supported within the ANP and therefore an element of environmental change will occur, the impacts of which will depend upon the proposals and will be subject to the policies within the LPS. The ANP seeks to minimise the effects of development on its immediate surroundings.
The cumulative nature of the effects.	The cumulative effects of proposals within the ANP are unlikely to be significant on the local environment given the level of development does not exceed that within the LPS.
The trans boundary nature of the effects.	Effects will be local with limited effects on neighbouring areas as the policies within the ANP only apply to the designated area. Alrewas Village is one of the Key Rural Settlements identified within the LPS's spatial strategy.
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).	There is limited risk to human health or the environment as a result of the ANP.
The magnitude spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	The scale of development proposed through the ANP is small and therefore effects are likely to be localised. It is unlikely that the effects of proposals within the neighbourhood plan will be large scale and extensive.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Summary of Significant effects
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage - exceeded environmental quality standards - intensive land use 	<p>The ANP is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to the special natural characteristics or cultural heritage. The policies within the ANP seek to provide greater protection and enhancement of the historic landscape.</p> <p>The level of development proposed through the ANP is unlikely to lead to intensive land use and as such not affect the value and vulnerability of the area.</p>
<p>The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	<p>The Cannock Chase SAC and AONB lies within 15km of the ANP boundary. Developments within the Cannock Chase SAC 15km zone of influence will in combination have an effect on the integrity of the SAC, development envisaged within the ANP is in accordance with the LPS and would be subject to the requirements of Policy NR7 which ensures that before development is permitted it must demonstrate that it (alone or in combination) will not have an adverse effect, whether direct or indirect, upon the integrity of the SAC having regard to avoidance or mitigation measures.</p> <p>The ANP boundary is within 15km of the Cannock Extension Canal SAC, Humber Estuary and outside the River Mease SAC water catchment. There will be no significant effects from the proposals within the ANP on these European Sites.</p>

Screening Outcome

- 3.7 The ANP does not propose more development than is set out within the Local Plan Strategy, nor does it allocate sites for development. The plan proposes the designation of a number of Local Green Spaces.
- 3.8 The conclusions of the above screening assessment on the 'V12 edit October 2017' indicate that Strategic Environmental Assessment will not be required for the ANP.

4. HRA Screening

- 4.1 The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the assessment required for any plan or project to assess the potential impacts against the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 wildlife sites. The assessment must determine whether the plans would adversely affect, or are likely to affect, the integrity of a site(s) in terms of its nature conservation objectives. Where negative effects are identified other options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.
- 4.2 Under Criteria 4 of Figure 1 and Table 1 it was concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan may have an impact upon internationally designated sites and as such a 'case by case' assessment is required.
- 4.3 The HRA process is generally divided into three stages. The initial stage of the HRA process is called the screening stage and determines if there are any likely significant effects or risk of significant effects possible as a result of the implementation of the plan. If there are significant effects the plan will need to undertake an Appropriate Assessment. The screening process should provide a description of the plan and an identification of the Natura 2000 sites which may be affected by the plan and assess the significance of any possible effects on the identified sites.
- 4.4 The Lichfield Local Plan Strategy was subject to HRA during its production. This assessment looked at all internationally designated sites which could be impacted by development within Lichfield District. [The Habitat Regulations Assessment: Lichfield District & Tamworth Borough \(May 2012\)](#) was updated by the [Addendum to Habitat Regulations Assessment \(January 2014\)](#) which concluded that the Local Plan Strategy (as modified by the proposed Main Modifications) would have no likely significant effects upon European sites.
- 4.5 This section of the report provides a "screening" assessment for the ANP. It looks at the potential impacts of the plan's proposals on European Sites within 15km of the Neighbourhood Plan area; these sites are illustrated at Appendix 1. The following screening assessment will determine if the ANP will have any likely significant effects to determine whether the subsequent stages will be required.

Relevant Natura 2000 sites

- 4.6 The relevant Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Alrewas Neighbourhood Area are;
- Cannock Chase SAC – approximately 15km to the west
 - Cannock Extension Canal – approximately 15km to the south-west
 - River Mease SAC – approximately 1km to the east
 - Humber Estuary SAC – River Trent whose catchment is part of the Humber Estuary SAC is within the ANP boundary.
- 4.7 The Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC), The Cannock Extension Canal SAC and the River Mease SAC are within a 15km radius of the Alrewas Neighbourhood Area boundary. However, the ANP boundary is not within the River Mease water catchment area (as illustrated at Appendix A). The River Trent whose water catchment is part of the Humber Estuary SAC is within the ANP boundary. Therefore the HRA screening assessment needs to identify if any likely significant effects on the reasons for these sites to be designated will be caused by the implementation of the plan. This

assessment has been undertaken having regard to the results and information in the HRA and HRA addendum prepared for the Local Plan Strategy and is set out at Table 3.

Table 3: Sites within 15km of Alrewas Neighbourhood Area¹

Name of Site	Reason for Designation	Conservation Objectives	Identified Impacts
Cannock Chase SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> European dry heaths <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> 	<p>Maintain in favourable condition Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. European dry heaths for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom</p>	<p>Visitor pressures include dog walking, horse riding, mountain biking and off-track activities such as orienteering, all of which cause disturbance and result in erosion, new track creation and vegetation damage. Bracken invasion is significant, but is being controlled. Birch and pine scrub, much of the latter from surrounding commercial plantations, is continually invading the site and has to be controlled. High visitor usage and the fact that a significant proportion of the site is Common Land, requiring Secretary of State approval before fencing can take place, means that the reintroduction of sustainable management in the form of livestock grazing has many problems. Cannock Chase overlies coal measures which have been deep-mined. Mining fissures continue to appear across the site even though mining has ceased and this is thought to detrimentally affect site hydrology. Furthermore the underlying Sherwood Sandstone is a major aquifer with water abstracted for public and industrial uses and the effects of this on the wetland features of the Chase are not fully understood.</p>
Cannock Extension Canal SAC	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p>	<p>Maintain favourable condition as this is considered to be one</p>	<p>The population of <i>Luronium natans</i> in this cul-de-sac canal is dependent upon a balanced level of boat traffic. If the canal is not used,</p>

¹ Extracts from the Habitat Regulations Assessment: Lichfield District & Tamworth Borough (May 2012)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> 	<p>of the best areas in the United Kingdom</p>	<p>the abundant growth of other aquatic macrophytes may shade-out the <i>Luronium natans</i> unless routinely controlled by cutting. An increase in recreational activity would be to the detriment of <i>Luronium natans</i>. Existing discharges of surface water run-off, principally from roads, cause some reduction in water quality.</p>
<p>River Mease SAC</p>	<p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i> ▪ Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> 	<p>Maintain the river as a favourable habitat for floating formations of water Crowfoot (<i>ranunculus</i>), populations of bull head, spined loach and white clawed crayfish and the river and adjoining land as habitat for populations of otter.</p>	<p>The River Mease is an unusually semi-natural system in a largely rural landscape, dominated by intensive agriculture. Water quality and quantity are vital to the European interests, whilst competition for water resources is high. Diffuse pollution and excessive sedimentation are catchment-wide issues which have the potential to affect the site. The SSSI assessment report undertaken in 2007 notes the site's adverse condition and identifies the following issues: drainage, invasive freshwater species, water pollution – agriculture/run-off, water pollution – discharge. Significant new development could take place within the catchment as a result of new housing and employment development in North-West Leicestershire, South Derbyshire and East Staffs which may impact upon water quality and quantity. The continuing creation of the National Forest will lead to further catchment wide changes in land use.</p>

<p>Humber Estuary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> <p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Estuaries ▪ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time ▪ Coastal lagoons * Priority feature ▪ Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ▪ Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco- Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) ▪ Embryonic shifting dunes ▪ Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (`white dunes`) ▪ Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation 	<p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time - for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Estuaries, for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, of which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>Coastal lagoons, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco -Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p>	<p>The Humber Estuary is subject to the impacts of human activities (past and present) as well as ongoing processes such as sea level rise and climate change. Management intervention is therefore necessary to enable the estuary to recover and to secure the ecological resilience required to respond to both natural and anthropogenic change. Key issues include coastal squeeze, impacts on the sediment budget, and geomorphological structure and function of the estuary (due to sea level rise, flood defence works, dredging, and the construction, operation and maintenance of ports, pipelines and other infrastructure), changes in water quality and flows, pressure from additional built development, and damage and disturbance arising from access, recreation and other activities. Coastal squeeze is being addressed through the development and implementation of the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy. All proposals for flood defence, development, dredging, abstractions and discharges which require consent from any statutory body, and land use plans which may have impacts upon the site are subject to assessment under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (the "Habitats Regulations"). Diffuse pollution will be addressed through a range of measures including implementation of the Waste Water</p>
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	<p>(`grey dunes`) * Priority feature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ▪ River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ▪ Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> 	<p>Embryonic shifting dunes, which are considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes"), for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"), for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>, which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p><i>Petromyzon marinus</i>, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p>	<p>Framework Directive and Catchment Sensitive Farming initiatives.</p> <p>Other issues are addressed via a range of measures including regulation of on-site land management activities and implementation of the Humber Management Scheme, developed by all relevant statutory bodies to assist in the delivery of their duties under the Habitats Regulations.</p>
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		<p>Lampetra fluviatilis for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Halichoerus grypus for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p>	
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- 4.8 The likelihood of significant effects have been assessed in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected sites, as could be effected by the ANP, or in combination with other known plans, taking particular account of the sites conservation objectives. As part of establishing what effects are significant, the probability of impact, duration of the impact, frequency of any impact and reversibility of impact have been considered.
- 4.9 Tables 4-7 set out the assessment based on the effects of the ANP on the four sites detailed above.

Table 4: Cannock Chase SAC

	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressures	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
Is ANP likely to impact upon this site	Potential	Potential	Potential	No	Yes	No	No	No
Possible effects in combination with other plans	The site is influenced by traffic and visitors from a wide area. Evidence has been produced which demonstrates that any new residential development within 15km of the SAC will, alone or in combination, have an impact upon the integrity of the SAC due to the potential for increasing visitors to the SAC. The ANP recognises the requirement to deliver sufficient housing to meet the needs of the adopted Local Plan Strategy which will generate increased visitor pressure on the SAC							
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	The Alrewas Neighbourhood Area is on the edge of the 15km radius surrounding the site. Evidence has highlighted there are vulnerabilities from recreational pressures. Where there is potential for development within the 15km zone of influence identified by evidence for the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy this is in accordance with the scale and nature of the adopted Local Plan Strategy which contains Policy NR7 and mitigation agreed as part of the adopted Local Plan will ensure any necessary mitigation is delivered and no significant harm will arise alone or in combination upon the factors influencing European Sites.							
Conclusion: No significant effects								

Table 5: Cannock Extension Canal SAC

	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressures	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
Is ANP likely to impact upon this site	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Possible effects in combination	None							

with other plans	
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	The pressures on the Cannock Extension Canal SAC are very localised and relate to increase boat movements and impact upon water quality. The Alrewas Neighbourhood area is 14km from the SAC and does not include proposals which are likely to result in any significant effects upon the factors influencing this SAC.
Conclusion: No significant effects	

Table 6: River Mease SAC

	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressures	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
Is ANP likely to impact upon this site	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Possible effects in combination with other plans	None.							
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	Whilst the Alrewas Neighbourhood Area is within 1km of the River Mease SAC, it is outside of the River Mease SAC Water catchment area (as identified at appendix 1). Due to the scale of development proposed and proximity to the SAC no significant effects are likely.							
Conclusion: No significant effects								

Table 7: Humber Estuary SAC

	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressures	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
Is ANP likely to impact upon this site	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Possible effects in combination with other plans	None - The site is currently managed as a National Nature Reserve. It would be vulnerable to on site physical alterations to the water quality and quantity. There are many plans still being developed along the length of the River system.							
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	Site is over 20km from the ANP boundary. Development proposals within the neighbourhood area will not affect the site physically as any effects would be through discharges into the River Tame and Trent as this eventually flows to the Humber. As the ANP does not propose more growth than the Local Plan it is unlikely this position would change.							
Conclusion: No significant effects								

Screening Outcome

- 4.10 Tables 4-7 do not identify any significant effects upon the identified European sites as a result of the ANP (as published at the date of this report).
- 4.11 Appendix 2 sets out a detailed assessment of the likely significant effects on European sites as a result of each policy within the ANP. The assessment concludes that none of the policies within the ANP are likely to have significant impacts upon the European sites identified within the assessment.
- 4.12 The conclusions of the screening assessment above indicate that no further stages of Appropriate Assessment are required for the ANP.

5. Conclusions and recommendations of the Screening Assessments

- 5.1 This report contains the detail of the assessment of the need for the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment as required by the SEA Directive and Appropriate Assessment as required by the Habitats Directive.
- 5.2 The assessment of both of these requirements has been undertaken on the 'V12 edit October 2017' version of the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan which was produced in October 2017 for the purposes of this screening assessment. As such if the content of the Neighbourhood Plan is significantly changed there may be the need for a further screening exercise to be undertaken on any modified version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

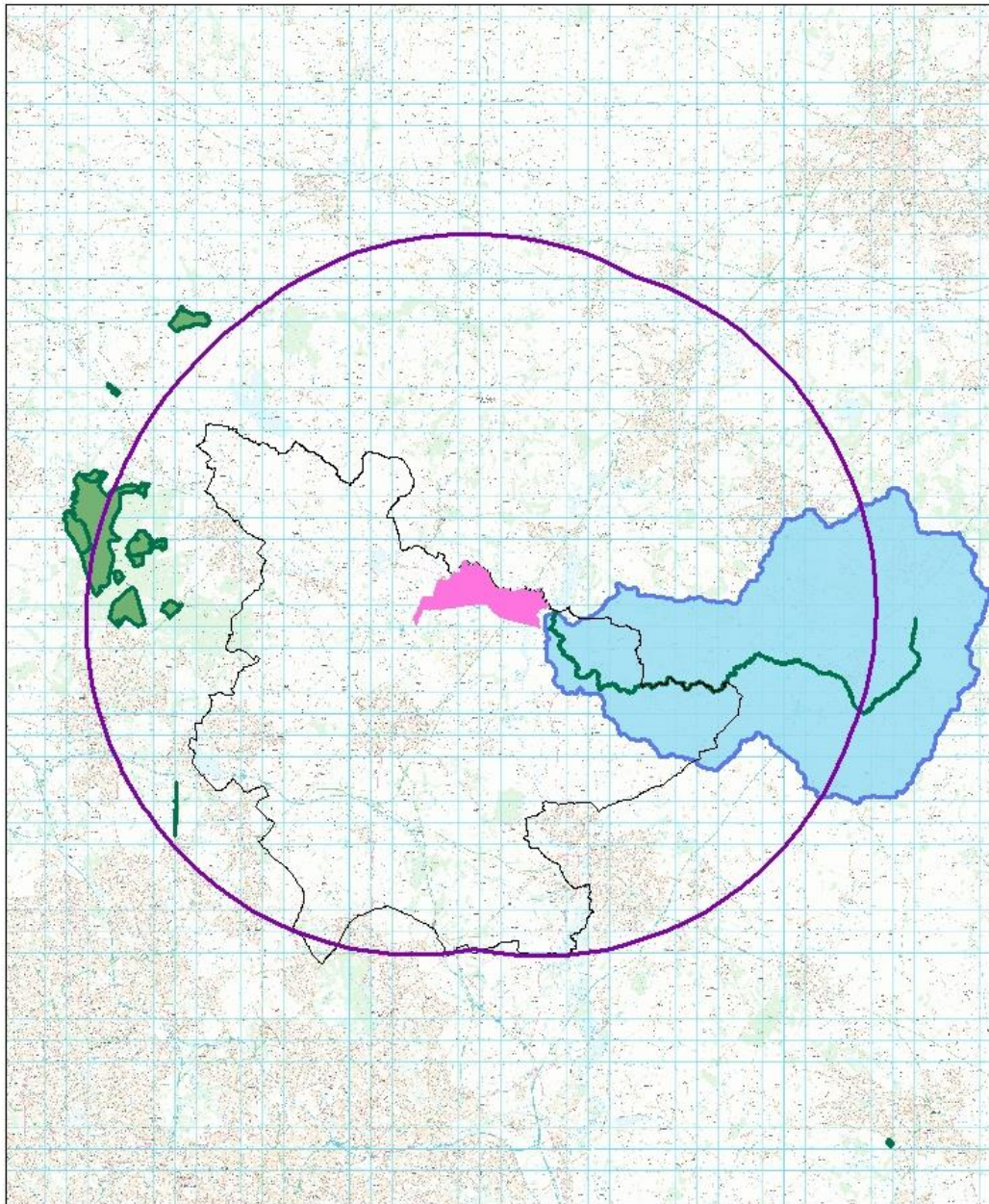
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 5.3 In relation to the requirement for the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment, the assessment detailed in Section 3 of this report concludes that as the plan in its current form is not likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore SEA will not be required. The Statutory Consultees agreed with the conclusions of this screening report in that regard.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

- 5.4 5.4 In relation to the requirement for the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan to be subject to Habitat Regulations Assessment, the assessment detailed at Section 4 of this report concludes that there are no potential significant effects upon European Sites and no further work as part of the compliance with the Habitat Regulations will be required. The Statutory Consultees agreed with the conclusions of this screening report in that regard.

Appendix 1: Map of Natura 2000 sites within 15km of Neighbourhood Plan Boundary



Key

-  Alrewas Neighbourhood Area
-  15km zone
-  Lichfield District Boundary
-  Special Areas of Conservation
-  River Mease SAC Water Catchment

Lichfield
district council
www.lichfielddc.gov.uk

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Appendix 2 – HRA review of Proposed Policies in Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan

ANP Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
Policy CF1	Protection of Community Facilities: Policy provides protection to existing community facilities.	No – The policy does not itself propose development. It provides support for proposals which are unlikely to have impact upon any European sites.
Policy CF2	New Community Facilities: The policy provides support for new community facilities within the neighbourhood area.	No – The policy does not itself propose development. It provides support for proposals which are unlikely to have impact upon any European sites.
Policy TT1	Traffic: Support for proposals which direct traffic away from village centre. Support will not be given where proposals result in severe impacts on traffic unless mitigated.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy TT2	Pedestrian and Cycle Access: Support for the provision of pedestrian access across the A38 to the National Memorial Arboretum, National Forest and Central Rivers area.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy TT3	Alrewas Railway Station: Policy provides support for the re-opening of Alrewas railway station.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy TT4	Car Parking: Policy provides support for proposals which improve the provision of public car parking within Alrewas village.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy TT5	Road Safety: Support for proposals which improve pedestrian safety and reduce traffic speed.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.

ANP Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
Policy TT6	Road Noise and Air Pollution: Support for proposals which delivery reduced noise and air pollution from on the A513 and A38.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy PR1	Protection and Enhancement of Public Open Space: Protect and enhance publically accessible open spaces.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy PR2	Public Rights of Way: Protection for public rights of way and support for improvements to such facilities.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy PR3	Public Realm Design: The policy provides support for improvements to the public realm.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy PR4	Trees and Hedges: Policy requires development to retain good quality trees and hedgerows and recognises their ecological and amenity value. Provides support for further tree planting within the neighbourhood area.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy EC1	Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Character: Development to achieve high quality design, form and layout consistent with village character.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy EC2	Protecting and Enhancing the Historic and Natural Environment: Policy seeks to provide protection to the	No – The policy does not itself propose development.

ANP Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
	historic/natural environment. Proposals which adversely affect character will not be supported.	
Policy EC3	Protection of Significant Views: Requires development to have regard to the identified important views from and into the village.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy EC4	Protection of Local Green Space: Proposes the designation of two Local Green Spaces within the neighbourhood area.	No – The policy does not itself propose development. The policy seeks to protect two locally important open spaces.
Policy H1	Housing Provision: Provides support for development within the defined settlement boundary to meet the LPS target.	No – The policy does not itself propose development. The policy supports development within a defined village settlement boundary to deliver the requirement as set out within the adopted Local Plan.
Policy H2	Alrewas Village: Supports infill development and redevelopment of brownfield sites.	No – The policy does not itself propose development. Provides support for infill development and development of previously developed sites.
Policy H3	Overly and Orgreave: Supports small scale development in identified hamlets within the neighbourhood area.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy H4	Flood Mitigation: Requires development to have regard to flood mitigation where appropriate.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy H5	Affordable Housing: New development to provide appropriate levels of affordable housing.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.

ANP Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
Policy H6	Rural Exception Sites: Support for Rural Exception sites within the neighbourhood area which meet specific criteria.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy H7	Housing Size: Support for proposals which deliver smaller properties and homes suitable for older people.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy H7	Building for Life: Developments, where appropriate, to demonstrate how design has considered a range of criteria.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy ED1	Business Expansion: support for small-scale expansion if existing employment premises.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy ED2	Small Scale Business Development: Support for small scale commercial development and the expansion/diversification of existing businesses subject to criteria.	No – The policy does not itself propose development.
Policy ED3	Commercial Development East of the A38: Support for commercial development to the east of the A38 and re-opening of the Alrewas Rail Way Station.	No – The policy does not itself propose development. Area referred to in policy is outside of the River Mease water catchment and on the edge of the 15km boundary to other European sites.
Policy ED4	Support for Existing Shops and Services: Policy provides protection to existing shops, services and facilities.	No – The policy does not itself propose development. It provides support for proposals which are unlikely to have impact upon any European sites.
Policy ED5	Tourism: Supports development which	No – The policy does not itself propose development.

Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitat Regulations
Assessment Screening Report

ANP Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
	provides facilities for visitors and tourists.	

Appendix 3: SEA & HRA Screening Opinion and Statutory Consultee Responses

The following appendix includes the screening opinion requests from Lichfield District Council to the Statutory Bodies (Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency) who have been consulted through the SEA & HRA process and their responses.

- 3.1 SEA & HRA Screening Opinion Letter (24 October 2017)**
- 3.2 Natural England Response (21 November 2017)**
- 3.3 Environment Agency Response (15 November 2017)**
- 3.4 Historic England Response (01 November 2017)**

Appendix 3.1: SEA & HRA Screening Opinion Letter (24 October 2017)

Your ref Alrewas neighbourhood plan
Our ref ANP-SEA/HRA
Ask for Patrick Jervis
Email Patrick.jervis@lichfielddc.gov.uk



District Council House, Frog Lane
Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 6YZ

Customer Services 01543 308000
Direct Line 01543 308192

24 October 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Alrewas neighbourhood plan – screening opinion for an SEA & HRA

Alrewas Parish Council has requested Lichfield District Council to undertake screening for SEA & HRA of the draft Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan. The District Council has undertaken a screening process and produced the attached Screening Report which concludes that SEA and HRA of the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan (as currently drafted) will not be required.

Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI No.1633) Lichfield District Council ('the responsible authority') is required to consult with the consultation bodies in determining whether or not the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and will therefore require an SEA. The Parish Council also requested screening opinion with regards to the need for a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

I am therefore requesting that you consider the attached Screening Report and provide any comments on its conclusions to assist in determining whether or not the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and will therefore require an SEA. I would also welcome your comments on the need for a HRA.

If you have any comments I would ask for these to be sent within the next 21 working days (by 30 October 2017) and if you have any queries please contact myself on 01543 308196. If no reply is received by 5pm Friday 24th November 2017 it will be assumed that you concur with the conclusions of the Screening Report.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Jervis
Principal Spatial Policy & Delivery
Spatial Policy & Delivery - Economic Growth



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[lichfield_dc](https://twitter.com/lichfield_dc)



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Appendix 3.2: Natural England Response (21 November 2017)

Our Ref: 229578

Planning Consultation: Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan SEA & HRA Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation and for the attached report.

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.

Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Natural England welcomes the Screening Report which assesses the requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan. The methodology and baseline information used to inform the report appear to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and associated guidance. We are pleased to note that the impact of the proposal on the Cannock Chase SSSI/SAC, the Cannock Extension Canal SSSI/SAC, the Humber Estuary SSSI/SAC/SPA & Ramsar Site, the River Mease SSSI/SAC and the Cannock Chase AONB have been thoroughly considered as part of the screening assessment. Since the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan does not propose more development than is set out within the Local Plan Strategy nor allocate sites for development, we acknowledge the conclusion that a full SEA will not be required for the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan. As a statutory consultee, Natural England would expect to be consulted on site allocations and the associated planning applications.

Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Natural England welcomes the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan and considers that the scope of the report, its methodology and conclusions meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive and associated guidance. Natural England concurs with the report's conclusion that the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan will not have a likely significant effect on any European Site either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. Therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

We hope that you find these comments helpful. 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.
Kind regards

Kristina Cox

Kristina Cox,
Lead Adviser – Sustainable Development
Natural England (East Midlands)

Appendix 3.3: Environment Agency Response (15 November 2017)

Mr Patrick Jervis - Planning Officer
Lichfield District Council
Planning Policy
PO Box 66
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS13 6QB

Our ref:UT/2007/101798/SE-20/SC1-L01

Your ref:

Date: 15th November 2017

Dear Mr Jervis

Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan - Screening opinion for a SEA & HRA

Thank you for giving the Environment Agency the opportunity to comment on the above document.

The Environment Agency is the main agency providing advice on improving resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change, with particular regard on flood risk, water resources, water quality and aquatic biodiversity.

We strive to make a positive contribution through our statutory consultee role and we hope you will find our comments useful.

We agree with the findings of the Screening Report (2016) that the Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan in its current form is unlikely to have a significant environmental effect and does not pose any significant risk therefore concur with the conclusions of the report that a Strategic Environmental Assessment or a Habitat Regulations Assessment is not required.

If you have any queries regarding the above please contact me on the details below.

Yours sincerely

Mr Kazi Hussain
Planning Specialist

Appendix 3.4: Historic England Response (01 November 2017)

Mr Patrick Jervis
Lichfield District Council
Spatial Policy & Delivery
District Council House
Frog Lane
Lichfield
WS13 6YZ

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6887

Our ref: PL00206082

1 November 2017

Dear Mr Jervis

ALREWAS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- SEA AND HRA SCREENING

Thank you for your consultation and the invitation to comment on the SEA/HRA 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 currently 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,

Peter Boland
Historic Places Advisor



THE AXIS 10 HOLLIDAY STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 1TG

Telephone 0121 625 6870
HistoricEngland.org.uk





Historic England

WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

CC:



THE AXIS 10 HOLLIDAY STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 1TG

Telephone 0121 625 6870
HistoricEngland.org.uk



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