

# **Longdon Neighbourhood Plan**

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) &  
Habitat Regulations Assessment

Screening Report  
(March 2018)

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report is an assessment of whether or not the contents of the Longdon Neighbourhood Plan (hereafter known as 'LNP') 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 LNP 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), Cannock Extension Canal SAC, Pasturefields Saltmarsh SAC, Humber Estuary and West Midlands Mosses and Chartley Moss SAC are within a 15km radius of the plan boundary. Whilst the River Mease SAC is within 15km of the LNP boundary, the LPNP 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 LPNP is to provide a set of statutory planning policies to guide development within Longdon Parish over the life of the plan. The Plan sets out the community's vision of how the area will look by 2030. The LPNP also provides support for improved facilities to serve the community, improvement of movement networks, addressing existing traffic issues and seeks to protect and enhance important elements of the local environment. The Longdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Draft. This SEA & HRA screening report has been undertaken in the LNP Submission Draft (November 2017) as submitted by the Qualifying Body to Lichfield District Council. SEA & HRA screening was previously undertaken upon an earlier draft of the LNP in 2015, 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 LNP and the need for SEA. Section 4, provides a screening assessment of both the likely significant effects of the implementation of the LNP 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 Longdon 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 LNP 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 LPNP has been prepared by the Longdon Parish Working Group on behalf of the Qualifying Body (Longdon Parish Council). The Plan includes 18 Planning Policies within five policy themes which relate to the whole of Longdon Parish (the designated Neighbourhood Area).

### 3. SEA Screening

#### Criteria for Assessing the Effects of LNP

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

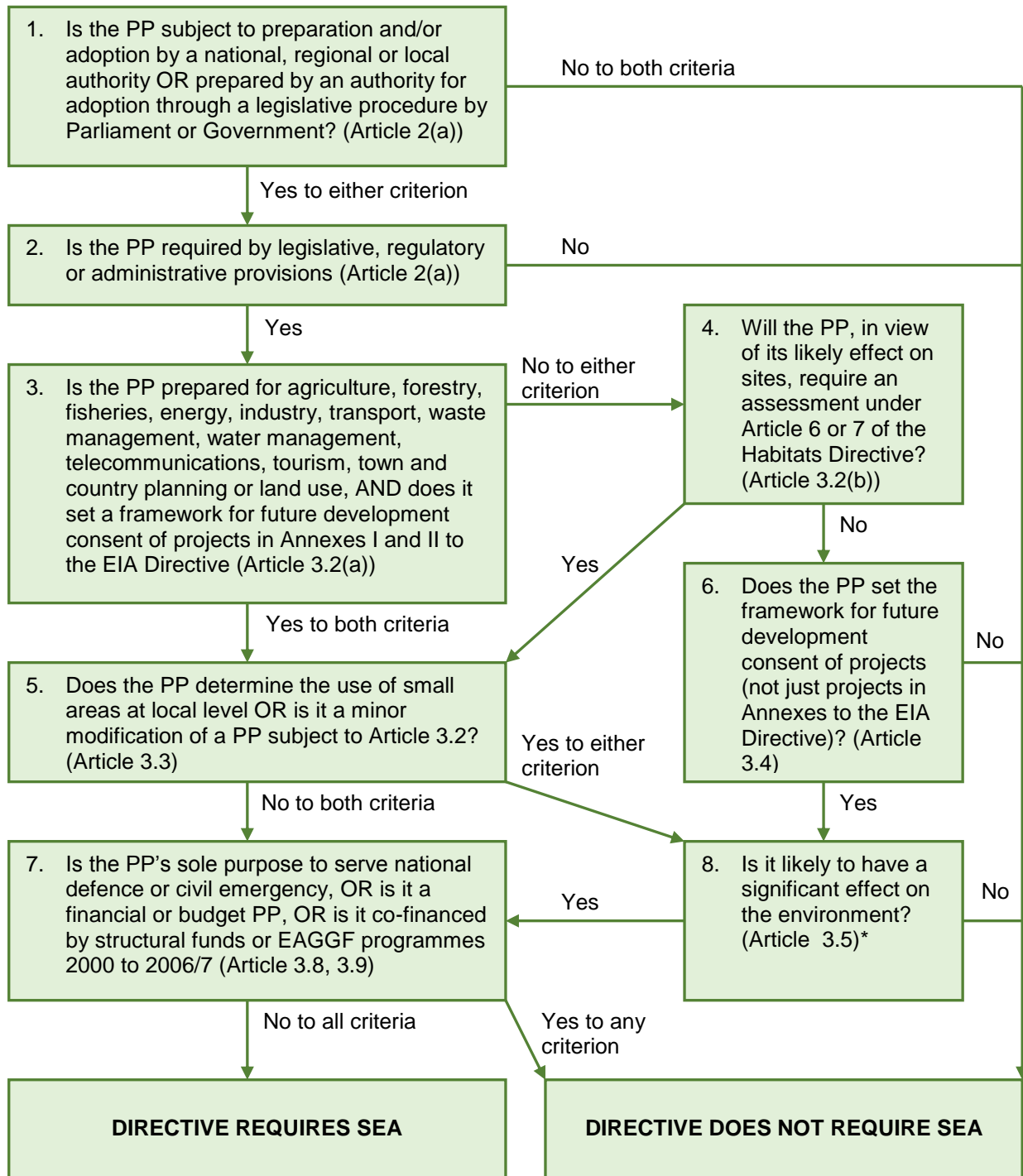
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
  - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
  - the degree to which 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 LNP 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))	<b>Yes</b>	This Neighbourhood Plan is prepared by Longdon 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))	<b>Yes</b>	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 Longdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan 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))	<b>Yes</b>	The LNP is prepared for town and country planning and land use. The plan sets out a framework for future development in the Longdon Neighbourhood Area. Once 'made' the LNP 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))	<b>Yes</b>	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)	<b>Yes</b>	The LNP does not identify any land allocations at the local level. Once 'made' the LPNP 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)	<b>Yes</b>	The LNP, once the 'made', forms part of the statutory development plan and will be used to determine planning applications within the designated Longdon 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)	<b>No</b>	The LPNP 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)	<b>Yes</b>	The LPNP could potentially have a significant effect on the environment, not just within the Neighbourhood Area but also within the District. The LPNP could also impact upon Cannock Chase SAC a Natura 2000 sites, (see HRA section). For these reasons a case by case assessment of the LPNP is required.

3.5 A number of the criteria above suggest that SEA of the Longdon 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 Longdon Neighbourhood Plan Draft Submission version.

3.6 The following assessment will consider the likelihood of the Longdon 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
<b>The characteristics of the plans, having regard to;</b>	
<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 LNP will set out the framework which will be used to determine proposals for development within the neighbourhood area regarding housing, employment and community facilities. The LNP also provides protection to the character of the area which will influence potential 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 emerging 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 is 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 LNP 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 produced as such the neighbourhood plan cannot be influenced by or influence this. The LNP 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 LNP will help to deliver the overall aims of the Local Plan. Longdon Parish is not 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 does not seek to allocate sites and as such the impact of the plan on the environment is minimal. However the creation of new footpaths/bridleways could impact upon Cannock Chase SAC a Natura 2000 site.</p>
<p>Environmental problems relevant to the plan.</p>	<p>Any environmental impacts of the proposals within the LNP are unlikely to arise.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Summary of Significant effects
<p>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).</p>	<p>The LNP has to be in general conformity with the Local Plan. The adopted Local Plan and emerging LPS has had regard to European Community legislation on the environment and therefore this legislation will not be relevant for the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p><b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular to;</b></p>	
<p>The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.</p>	<p>Development is supported within the LNP 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 LNP seeks to minimise the effects of development on its immediate surroundings.</p>
<p>The cumulative nature of the effects.</p>	<p>The cumulative effects of proposals within the LNP are unlikely to be significant on the local environment given the level of development does not exceed that within the LPS.</p>
<p>The trans boundary nature of the effects.</p>	<p>Effects will be local with limited effects on neighbouring areas as the policies within the LNP only apply to the designated area.</p>
<p>The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).</p>	<p>There is limited risk to human health or the environment as a result of the LNP.</p>
<p>The magnitude spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).</p>	<p>The scale of development proposed through the LNP 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.</p>

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"> <li>- special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</li> <li>- exceeded environmental quality standards</li> <li>- intensive land use</li> </ul>	<p>The LNP is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to the special natural characteristics or cultural heritage. The level of development proposed through the LNP is unlikely to lead to intensive land use and as such not affect the value and vulnerability of the area.</p> <p>The level of development proposed through the LPNP is unlikely to lead to intensive land use and will not affect the value and vulnerability of the area on this criteria.</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 LNP boundary. Residential 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 LNP 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 LPNP boundary is within 15km of the Cannock Extension Canal SAC, Pasturefields Saltmarsh, West Midlands Mosses and Chartley Moss SAC, Humber Estuary and outside the River Mease SAC water catchment. There will be no significant effects from the proposals within the LPNP on these SAC.</p>

### Screening Outcome

- 3.7 The LNP does not propose more development than is set out within the Local Plan Strategy, nor does it allocate sites for development. The conclusions of the above screening assessment on the Longdon Neighbourhood Plan (Draft Submission) indicate that Strategic Environmental Assessment will not be required for the LNP.

## 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 LNP. 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 LNP 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 Longdon Neighbourhood Area are;
- Cannock Chase SAC – approximately 2.5km to the west;
  - Cannock Extension Canal – approximately 5km to the south-west;
  - River Mease SAC – approximately 15km to the north-east;
  - Pasturefields Salt March – approximately 11km to the north-west;
  - West Midlands Mosses – approximately 12.5km to the north; and
  - Humber Estuary SAC – River Trent whose catchment is part of the Humber Estuary SAC is within the LNP boundary.
- 4.7 4.7 The Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC), The Cannock Extension Canal SAC Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC, West Midland Mosses and Chartley Moss and the River Mease SAC are within a 15km radius of the Longdon Parish Neighbourhood Area boundary. However, the LPNP 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 LPNP 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 Longdon Neighbourhood Area<sup>1</sup>**

Name of Site	Reason for Designation	Conservation Objectives	Identified Impacts
<b>Cannock Chase SAC</b>	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ European dry heaths</li> </ul> <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"> <li>▪ Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix</li> </ul>	<p>Maintain in favourable condition Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix 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>
<b>Cannock Extension Canal SAC</b>	<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 Luronium natans in this cul-de-sac canal is dependent upon a balanced level of boat traffic. If the canal is not used,</p>

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i></li> </ul>	<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><b>River Mease SAC</b></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"> <li>▪ Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li> </ul> <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i></li> <li>▪ Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> </ul> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li> </ul>	<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><b>Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> </ul> <p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inland salt meadows; inland saltmarshes *Priority feature</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>▪ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>▪ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely</li> </ul>	<p>This inland saltmarsh is dependent upon traditional agricultural management, with livestock grazing and no, or minimal use, of agricultural chemicals. It is also dependent upon the brine source being maintained and whilst the hydrogeology of the site is not fully understood, it would be likely to be vulnerable to any abstractions of water from the underground aquifer. The site is managed by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust with support from Natural England's Reserve Enhancement Scheme.</p>
<p><b>West Midland Mosses &amp; Chartley Moss SAC</b></p>	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; Acid peat- stained lakes and ponds</li> <li>▪ Transition mires and quaking bogs;</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The extent and</li> </ul>	<p>Site threatened by nutrient enrichment, including atmospheric deposition of nutrients. A Management Agreement controls agricultural run-off at Chartley Moss. Trees at this site trap airborne nutrients and provide roost areas for birds, but the enrichment effect of both is only localised. All parts of that site are vulnerable to recreational disturbance, particularly the northern portion which is a scout camp.</p>

	<p>very wet mires often identified by unstable 'quaking' surface</p>	<p>distribution of the qualifying natural habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>▪ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Humber Estuary</b></p>	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Estuaries</li> <li>▪ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> </ul> <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"> <li>▪ Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</li> <li>▪ Coastal lagoons * Priority feature</li> </ul>	<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>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</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</li> <li>▪ Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco- Puccinellietalia maritimae)</li> <li>▪ Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>▪ Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ( `white dunes` )</li> <li>▪ Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ( `grey dunes` ) * Priority feature</li> <li>▪ Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides</li> </ul> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>▪ River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i></li> <li>▪ Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i></li> </ul>	<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 (Glauco -Puccinellietalia maritimae) for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <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 Ammophila arenaria ( "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 Hippophae rhamnoides, which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United</p>	<p>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, &amp;c.) Regulations 1994 (the "Habitats Regulations"). Diffuse pollution will be addressed through a range of measures including implementation of the Waste Water 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>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><i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p><i>Halichoerus grypus</i> 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 LNP, 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 4-9 set out the assessment based on the effects of the LNP 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 LNP likely to impact upon this site	<b>Potential</b>	<b>Potential</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
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.							
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	The Longdon Parish Neighbourhood Area is approximately 2.5km east of the Cannock Chase SAC. 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.							
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>								

**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 LNP likely to impact upon this site	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Possible effects in combination	<b>None</b>							

with other plans	
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	The Longdon Parish Neighbourhood area is 5km from the SAC. Development within the neighbourhood area would not have a direct impact upon the habitat, any protected species, air and water quality of this site. Additionally the site is a significant distance from the Neighbourhood Area and it is considered that the plan would have no significant effects.
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>	

**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 LNP likely to impact upon this site	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Possible effects in combination with other plans	None.							
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	Whilst the Longdon Parish Neighbourhood Area is within 15km of the River Mease SAC, it is outside of the River Mease SAC Water catchment area (as identified at appendix 1). As such no significant effects are likely.							
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>								

**Table 7: Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC**

	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressures	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
Is LNP likely to impact upon this site	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Possible effects in combination with other plans	None.							
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	The vulnerabilities of the site are to changes in water quality and water quantity, the LPNP proposes no development and no changes to water quality or water quantity will arise.							
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>								

**Table 8: West Midland Mosses and Chartley Moss SAC**

	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressures	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
Is LNP likely to impact upon this site	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Possible effects in combination with other plans	None.							



Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	The vulnerability of the site arises from localised agricultural run-off, water quality, water quantity and recreational disturbance. The LPNP proposes no development and due to the distance of the Parish from this SAC no significant in combination effects will arise.
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>	

**Table 9: 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 LNP likely to impact upon this site	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
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 LNP 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 LNP does not propose more growth than the Local Plan it is unlikely this position would change.							
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>								

**Screening Outcome**

- 4.10 Tables 4-9 do not identify any significant effects upon the identified European sites as a result of the LNP.
- 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 LNP. The assessment concludes that none of the policies within the LNP 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 LNP.

## **5. Conclusions and recommendations of the Screening Assessments**

- 5.1 This report contains the detail of the assessment of the need for the Longdon 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 Longdon Neighbourhood Plan which was submitted by the Qualifying Body. 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.

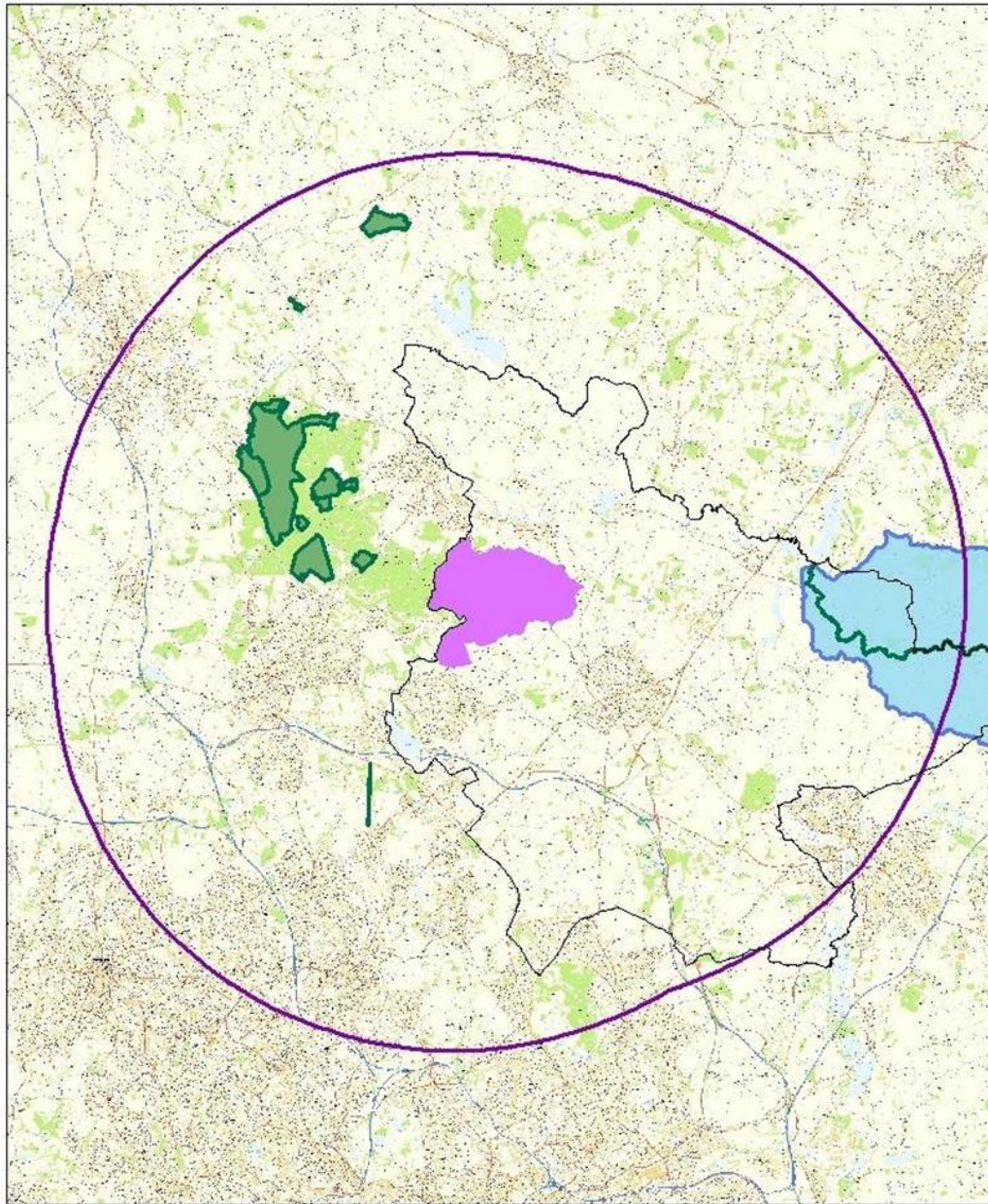
### **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

- 5.3 In relation to the requirement for the Longdon 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 this regard.

### **Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

- 5.4 In relation to the requirement for the Longdon 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 this regard.

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



### Key

-  Lichfield District Boundary
-  Longdon Neighbourhood Area 15k Radius
-  Longdon Neighbourhood Area
-  Special Areas of Conservation
-  River Mease SAC Water Catchment

*Lichfield*  
district council  
[www.lichfielddc.gov.uk](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk)

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## Appendix 2 – HRA review of Proposed Policies in Longdon Neighbourhood Plan

LNP Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
<b>Landscape and Built Environment Policies</b>		
<b>Policy 1</b>	To protect and enhance the natural landscape and designated wildlife habitats and species, in accordance with the Staffordshire and Lichfield District Biodiversity Action Plan. Where possible resist the removal of hedgerows.	<b>No</b> – the policy protects and enhances designated wildlife habitats and species which includes the SAC.
<b>Policy 2</b>	In principle, the creation of new public footpaths/bridleways, especially to the countryside, will be encouraged.	<b>No</b> – The policy does not itself propose development. It provides support for proposals which are unlikely to have impact upon any European sites.
<b>Policy 3</b>	Presumption against built development outside the village boundaries, except for rural exceptions and agricultural workers dwellings.	<b>No</b> – policy allows for development. The Policy is not contrary to the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy (LPS) which contains Policy NR7.
<b>Policy 4</b>	Requires applications to be accompanied by design statements.	<b>No</b> – The policy does not itself propose development.
<b>Housing Policies</b>		
<b>Policy 5</b>	Supports in principle small scale development which respects the local vernacular.	<b>No</b> – The policy does not itself propose development.
<b>Policy 6</b>	Supports new housing for local people, especially for starter homes and the elderly in appropriate village locations.	<b>No</b> – The policy does not itself propose development.
<b>Policy 7</b>	Conversion of brownfield land and non-residential properties to residential will be considered on their merits, subject to not	<b>No</b> – The policy does not itself propose development.

LNP Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
	leading to encroachment into the Green Belt and merging of settlements.	
<b>Policy 8</b>	Provision of affordable housing in accordance with LDC policy.	<b>No</b> – The policy does not itself propose development.
<b>Movement Policies</b>		
<b>Policy 9</b>	<b>Improving access-</b> supports in principle improvements in safety and provision of footways where lacking, enhancement of public footpaths and more frequent bus services.	<b>No</b> – The policy does not itself propose development.
<b>Policy 10</b>	<b>Improving safety</b> – encourages the review of speed limits on roads, proliferation of signage, and highway maintenance.	<b>No</b> – The policy does not itself propose development.
<b>Policy 11</b>	<b>Supporting development-</b> all new development should have no adverse impact upon the safe and efficient operation of the local road network.	<b>No</b> – the policy does not itself propose development.
<b>Community Facilities and Leisure Policies</b>		
<b>Policy 12</b>	Presumption against loss of existing community and recreational facilities unless net gain in quantity and quality.	<b>No</b> – the policy does not itself propose development.
<b>Policy 13</b>	Opportunities to create a purpose built multi-functional community 'hub' in Longdon village will be explored.	<b>No</b> – the policy does not itself propose development.
<b>Policy 14</b>	Promotes the creation of a children's playground and a multi- purpose outdoor recreation ground with associated small scale built facilities.	<b>No</b> – the policy does not itself propose development.

LNP Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
<b>Policy 15</b>	Promote outdoor community activity and general fitness. Support in principle for the creation of a multi-purpose outdoor recreation ground.	<b>No</b> – the policy does not itself propose development.
<b>Rural Economy and Infrastructure Policies</b>		
<b>Policy 16</b>	Supports in principle the creation of local employment opportunities in accordance with this plan.	<b>No</b> – the policy does not itself propose development.
<b>Policy 17</b>	Supports the delivery of superfast broad band.	<b>No</b> – the policy does not itself propose development.
<b>Policy 18</b>	Development generating CIL or s106 contributions will be expected to contribute toward Parish-wide infrastructure works	<b>No</b> – the policy does not itself propose development.

## **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 Natural England Response (27 April 2018)**
- 3.2 Environment Agency Response (2 May 2018)**
- 3.3 Historic England Response (18 April 2018)**



**Appendix 3.1: Natural England Response (27 April 2018)**

Date: 27 April 2018  
Our ref: 243747  
Your ref: N/a



Lichfield District Council

For attention of Patrick Jervis

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

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

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Patrick

**Planning consultation: Longdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Draft SEA & HRA Screening report consultation**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 10 April 2018 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

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.

We have considered the contents of the SEA and HRA screening report and agree that the neighbourhood plan is not likely to bring about significant environmental effects or to have a significant effect on European designated sites. No further steps in the HRA process are therefore required.

Note - you may wish to amend Table 2 of the report to reflect the fact that the evidence base shows residential development to need specific consideration in respect of recreation pressure on Cannock Chase SAC. Your published guidance document ('Cannock Chase SAC – Guidance to mitigate the impact of residential development' refers.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact me on 020 802 60939. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondence to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Antony Muller  
Lead Adviser – Planning for a Better Environment Team – North Mercia Area

**Appendix 3.2: Environment Agency Response (2 May 2018)**

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

**Our ref:**UT/2007/101798/SE-23/SC1-L01

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

Dear Mr Jervis

## **Longdon Neighbourhood Plan**

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) & Habitat Regulations Assessment**

Thank you for referring the above screening opinion for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which was received on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

We have previously responded to the SEA and HRA Screening Report in 2015. We understand this updated version of the Screening Report (March 2018) has some alteration in respect of Policy 2 with regards to creation of footpaths and no longer refers directly to the Cannock Chase SAC.

We agree with the Council's view that this is unlikely to have a significant environmental effect and does not pose any significant risk.

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

Yours sincerely

**Mr Kazi Hussain**  
**Planning Specialist**

Direct dial 020 3025 3030

Direct e-mail [swwmplanning@Environment-Agency.gov.uk](mailto:swwmplanning@Environment-Agency.gov.uk)

Environment Agency  
Sentinel House 9 Wellington Crescent, Fradley Park, LICHFIELD, WS13 8RR.  
Customer services line: 03708 506 506

[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

Cont/d..

**Appendix 3.3: Historic England Response (18 April 2018)**



Historic England

WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

Mr Patrick Jervis  
6887

Direct Dial: 0121 625

Lichfield District Council

Spatial Policy & Delivery  
PL00376643

Our ref:

District Council House

Frog Lane

Lichfield

WS13 6YZ  
2018

18 April

Dear Mr Jervis

### **LONGDON 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 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 Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available



THE AXIS 10 HOLLIDAY STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 1TF

Telephone 0121 625 6870  
HistoricEngland.org.uk





Historic England

WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

at: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

I trust the above comments will be of help in taking forward the Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Boland  
Historic Places Advisor  
peter.boland@HistoricEngland.org.uk

cc:



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