

Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan

FINAL

Screening Report for:

**Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats
Regulation Assessment**

February 2018

Prepared on behalf of Staverton Parish Council by Daventry District Council Local Strategy Team



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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 To meet the ‘basic conditions’ which are specified by law a Neighbourhood Development Plan must be compatible with EU obligations. Furthermore as at 9th February 2015 Regulation 15 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations was amended¹ to require that when a plan is submitted to the Local Planning Authority it should include either an environmental report prepared in accordance with the applicable regulations or where it has been determined as unlikely to have significant environmental effects, a statement of reasons for the determination.
- 1.2 This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the draft Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan (SNDP) (Appendix B) 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; and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). Once completed, this screening report will form the basis of seeking advice from the relevant statutory bodies; Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency as to whether the plan requires a full SEA and/or HRA assessment. The final outcome of this assessment will subsequently inform what is submitted under Regulation 15 (1)(e). If it is concluded that no further assessment is required it is considered that this report will fulfil the requirement at 15 (1)(e)(ii).
- 1.3 The report is broken down into the following four sections;
- Section 2 outlines the legislative background to SEA and HRA
 - Section 3 provides some background to the draft Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan and the wider Development Plan context
 - Section 4 provides a screening assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the draft Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan for SEA and HRA and also considers ‘In combination effects’ for HRA.
 - Section 5 considers the findings from section 4 and provides a conclusion on the need, or not for a full SEA and/or HRA.

¹ Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/20/pdfs/uksi_20150020_en.pdf

2.0 Requirement for SEA/ Legislative Background

- 2.1 A Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet the basic conditions². This includes demonstrating that the plan does not breach and is compatible with EU obligations.
- 2.2 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).
- 2.3 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. This is also discussed in paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework in paragraph 165.
- 2.4 However, the 2008 Planning Act amended the requirement to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal so that they are only required for Development Plan Documents (DPD's). However the Act did not remove the requirement to produce a Strategic Environmental Assessment. A Neighbourhood Plan is not a development plan document (also known as a Local Plan) and therefore it does not legally require a Sustainability Appraisal. Where appropriate, however, an SEA assessment may need to be undertaken, specifically where a neighbourhood plan could have significant environmental effects.
- 2.5 Whether a neighbourhood plan requires a strategic environmental assessment, and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft neighbourhood plan. A strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where:
- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development;
 - the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan;
 - the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.
- 2.6 Consequently to establish whether the plan might give rise to significant environmental affects it is necessary to screen the plan against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. This process is carried out in Section 4 of this report.

² Basic Conditions as set out in Para 065 of the National Planning Practice Guidance available at <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/the-basic-conditions-that-a-draft-neighbourhood-plan-or-order-must-meet-if-it-is-to-proceed-to-referendum/>

2.7 Requirement for HRA / legislative Background

- 2.8 Article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires that an appropriate assessment of plans and programmes is carried out with regard to the conservation objectives of European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) and that other plans and projects identify any significant effect that is likely for any European Site. In the context of neighbourhood planning, a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required where a Neighbourhood Plan is deemed likely to result in significant negative effects occurring on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the plan's implementation.
- 2.9 As illustrated on the map in Appendix C, Staverton Neighbourhood Area is 23km from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/RAMSAR and 53km from Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR. Consequently the impact on these sites will need to be considered. Further commentary on this is set out in section 4.

3.0 Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 3.1 Staverton Village Neighbourhood Area was designated on 8th May 2015. The village is situated to the south west of Daventry town in the south western part of the District. A map showing the designated area is set out in Appendix D. Following designation the steering group carried out consultation with the community based on a number of village surveys, exhibitions and consultation workshops which involved contact with households, businesses and landowners.
- 3.2 This has led to the formulation of a draft plan which is set out in full in Appendix B. However to assist with this screening report a summary of the draft plan is provided below.
- 3.3 The Vision for Staverton is set out on page 15 of the draft plan, it is as follows:
'A sustainable cohesive community that retains its character, rural surroundings and green spaces, whilst embracing the positive benefits appropriate development can bring.'
- 3.4 To deliver the vision the plan has the 3 core objectives, 'sustainable community, protection of the environment and management of change for the positive benefit'. Each objective consists of a number of goals. Set out below;

Core Objective 1: Sustainable Community

1. To provide housing that meets the needs of the local community
2. To protect community cohesion within the village
3. To encourage preferential access to new homes for people with a strong local connection
4. To retain existing valued amenities
5. To support the provision of mobile and broadband provision for the benefit of the community

Core Objective 2: Protection of the environment

6. To retain the rural character and cohesive nature of the village
7. To have a friendly and safe environment
8. To retain the open spaces in the village

9. To preserve the special landscape area

Core Objective 3: Management of change for the positive benefit (sustainable development)

10. To influence development for positive benefit
11. To ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is in place to support the existing and future needs of the village
12. To minimise the impact of any new development on the environment

- 3.5 The delivery of the vision and objectives is governed by a number of policies which are summarised as follows;

Policy SC1 Protection and enhancement of the local community

Policy identifies existing community facilities within the village. The policy supports the change of use or demolition of community facilities if it is for the benefit of the community, the proposal provides an alternative provision or there is independent evidence that demonstrates that there is no longer an economic or social demand for keeping the facility.

Policy SC2 Housing (inclusive of affordable housing and local connection policy) (SC2.1 – 2.3)

Policy supports the amount of housing required to deliver the housing need of Staverton. The policy sets out that residential development should be within or adjacent to the village confines and identifies the criteria that new schemes should be assessed against.

Policy SC3 Access (SC3.1 – 3.4)

Policy supports improvements to road safety, traffic management and provision of improvements to public transport where they are in keeping with the character of the village. Developer contributions and CIL payments will be sought for identified projects within the village. Support is also given to a school travel plan to reduce traffic congestion as well as proposals for improved linkages and accessibility of the village with the surrounding areas.

Policy PE1 Protecting and enhancing the landscape and character (PE1.1 – 1.2)

Policy allows development in the SLA provided that it does not adversely affect the character of the local landscape and identifies a number of landscape and character design principles that must be taken into account. The Policy also identifies a number of locally significant views that any development must consider the adverse impacts on, through landscape appraisals.

Policy PE2 Open / Green Spaces (PE2.1 – 2.2)

Policy identifies the local green spaces within the village that are considered to meet the criteria as set out in the NPPF. The policy only allows development in very special circumstances and not any development which adversely impacts the function, openness and permanence of the sites.

Policy MC1 Development Policy (MC1.1 – 1.3)

Policy MC1.1 allows for new developments, alterations or change of use to existing buildings within the village when they meet a number of criteria. The second part of the Policy MC1.2 and MC1.3 sets out the circumstance of when and the criteria that must be met for development to be outside the village confines.

Policy MC2 Design of Development Policy

Policy supports new development provided it makes a positive contribution to the distinct character of the area and be of good design and quality. The policy identifies a number of criteria that need to be met to ensure that the area is protected and enhanced. This includes identifying specific areas within the village that require particular attention due to their heritage value.

Policy MC3 Infrastructure Policy (MC3.1 – 3.3)

Policy seeks developer contributions and directs CIL towards proposals to improve the highway infrastructure. The policy identifies 3 priority areas, which identifies sustainable drainage systems, new development shall be designed to dispose of surface water.

- 3.6 To fulfil one of the basic conditions these policies are required to be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area. This comprises the saved policies of the Daventry District Local Plan and the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which was adopted on 15th December 2014.
- 3.7 Whilst this condition will be examined more thoroughly when the plan reaches the submission stage it has implications for the screening assessment because the WNJCS was subject to full SEA/SA and Appropriate Assessment where, subject to some modifications (which have been implemented) it was concluded that there would be no significant impact on the environment or on a protected site. Therefore it is considered that the conformity of the policies set out above with the policies in the WNJCS is a useful starting point for this screening assessment. This has been carried out in detail in the table in Appendix A which has informed the assessment in Table 1 on page 9. For the purposes of informing this screening assessment it is not considered necessary to assess conformity with the Daventry District Local Plan as this has not been subject to full SEA/SA, however, this will need to be carried out when the basic conditions are assessed in more detail when the plan is submitted.

4.0 SEA & HRA Screening: Assessment

- 4.1 The criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3 (5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out in figure 1 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.

Figure 1: Criteria for assessing the effects of the Staverton NDP (Source Annex II of SEA directive)

4.2 Figure 2 (below) illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required:

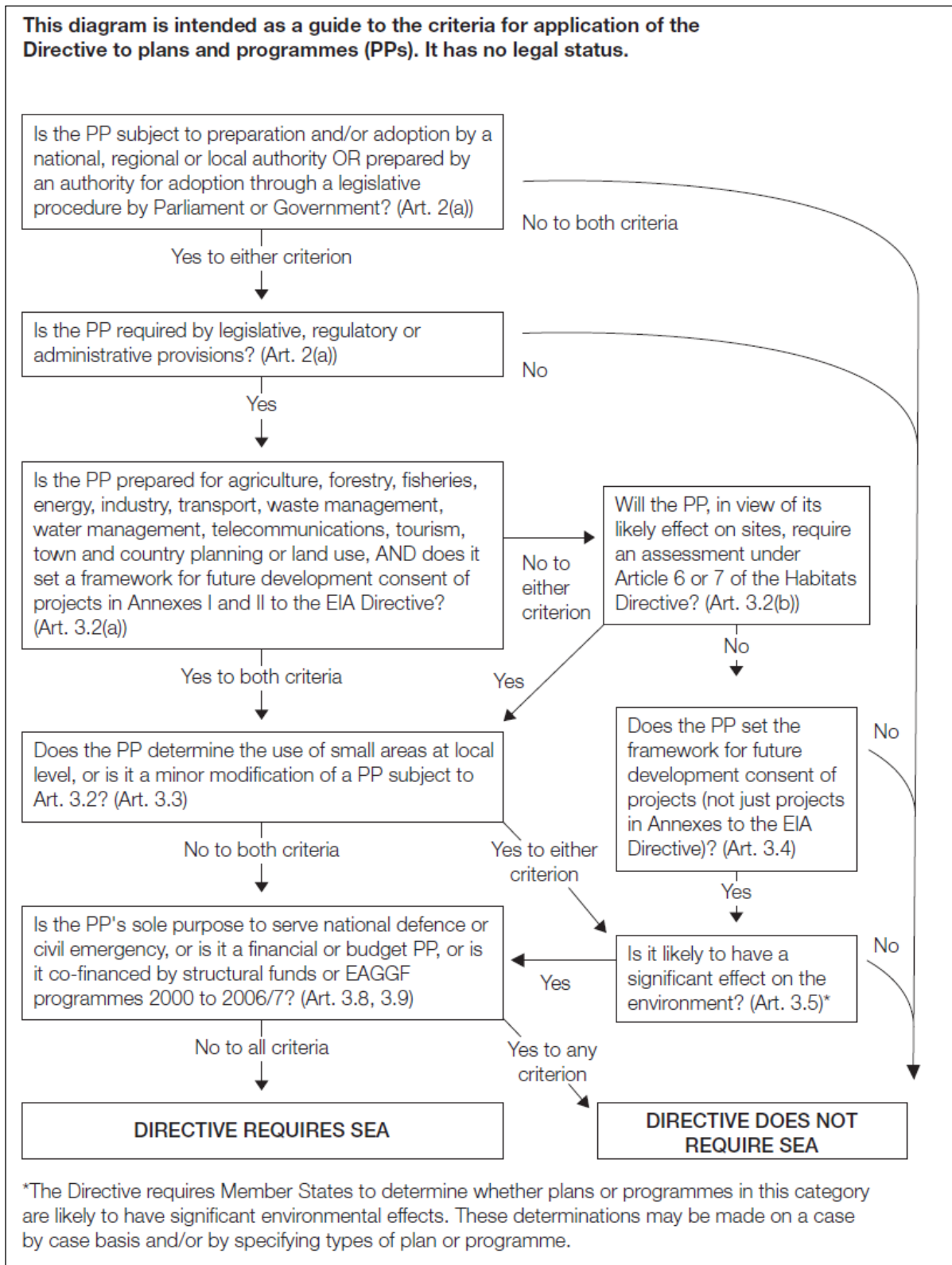


Figure 2. Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes

4.3 In the context of the above guidance and considering the findings of the assessment in the table in Appendix A, Table 1 below shows the assessment of whether or not the Staverton Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA. Furthermore stage 4 of the assessment also considers the impact on European sites in the context of HRA:

Stage	Y/ N	Reason
1. Is the NP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan (SNDP) is being prepared by the Parish Council and not by a national, regional or local authority. However if the plan receives support from the majority of the votes cast through a referendum it will be 'made' by Daventry District Council.
2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	As a qualifying body, Staverton Parish Council (SPC) has the right to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of the local community but this is not required by the relevant legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions (The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011) However, if 'made', the Neighbourhood Plan would form part of the statutory development plan for Daventry District. It is therefore considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine if an SEA is required.
3. Is the NP 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 (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	N	The Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan is prepared for town and country planning and land use, however, as illustrated by the summary of policies set out above it does not set the framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II of the EIA directive .
4. Will the NP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N	The appropriate assessment for the Joint Core Strategy identified that the nearest designated sites (Natura 2000 sites) which could be affected were Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and RAMSAR site. As illustrated on the map at Appendix C, Neighbourhood Area is 23 km from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits and 53 km from Rutland Water. Through the appropriate assessment for the West Northants Joint Core Strategy ³ it was concluded that there would be no adverse effect on site integrity for both of these sites as any affect was mitigated through modifications to the plan. Consequently the conformity of the policies

³ Appropriate Assessment for the West Northants Joint Core Strategy available from <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=6373413>

		<p>in the Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan has implications for the impact on these protected sites alongside any site specific impacts that may arise.</p> <p>A detailed assessment of the policies was carried out as part of this assessment (Appendix A) and has demonstrated that there will be not be a significant effect on either the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site or the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and RAMSAR sites.</p>
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)		Not applicable because of answer to 4.
6. Does the NP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	The Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan, once adopted, will be used as part of the Development Plan for determining planning applications.
7. Is the NP'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)		Not applicable because of answer to 6.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5 set out in figure 1 above)	N	<p>The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy was subject to full Sustainability Appraisal which included SEA assessment. This ensured that no significant effects are expected to arise from the implementation of the JCS.</p> <p>As set out in para 3.7 above, the conformity of the Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy has important implications for its likely significant effect on the environment.</p> <p>Consequently, as demonstrated in the table in Appendix A, as the policies of the Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan are considered to be in general conformity at this stage with the strategic policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy it is not considered that the plan will have a significant effect on the environment.</p>

Table 1: Establishing the need for SEA and HRA

4.4 Screening Outcome

- 4.5 As a result of the assessment in Table 1 which has been informed by the assessment in Appendix A, it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will occur from the implementation of the Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan that were not considered and dealt with by the Sustainability Appraisal of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. As such the Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

4.6 With regards Habitat Regulations Assessment, as set out in the table above, in particular the response to question 4, it is not considered that the implementation of the Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan, by virtue of its scale and distance, will result in any likely significant effects upon the Upper Nene Gravel Pits site or the Rutland Water site. This is demonstrated in the table in Appendix A.

4.7 Habitats Regulations Assessment: In combination effects

4.8 Existing plans and proposals must be considered when assessing new plans or programmes for likely significant effects as they may create 'in combination' effects.

4.9 For reference the relevant plans or programmes which should be considered when reviewing in combination effects are listed below:

- West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy DPD;
- Daventry District Local Plan (saved policies)
- Emerging Daventry District Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2)
- South Northamptonshire Local Plan (saved policies)
- Emerging South Northamptonshire Pre-submission Draft Local Plan Part 2
- Northampton Local Plan (saved policies);
- Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan;
- Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy;
- Locations for Waste and Minerals Development DPD;
- North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy DPD;
- North Northamptonshire Submission Joint Core Strategy (JCS)
- Rugby Core Strategy DPD
- Rugby Proposed Submission Local Plan
- Harborough District Council Core Strategy
- Harborough Local Plan Saved Policies
- Stratford on Avon Core Strategy
- National Planning Policy Framework

4.10 As the plan is required to be in general conformity and will contribute to delivering the growth identified and Strategy in the WNJCS , it is not considered that it will lead to any significant 'in combination effects'.

5.0 Conclusions and recommendations of the Screening Assessments

5.1 SEA

5.2 A screening assessment to determine the need for a SEA in line with regulations and guidance was undertaken and can be found in section 4 of this report. The assessment finds that no significant effects will occur as a result of the implementation of the Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan. The assessment also finds many of the policies are in conformity with the policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which have been subject to a full SA/SEA where no significant effects were identified.

5.3 Consequently from the findings of the screening assessment it is recommended that a full SEA does not need to be undertaken for the Staverton Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Through consultation with the statutory bodies responses were received from The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England (set out in Appendix E). None of these statutory bodies raised concerns regarding SEA.

5.4 HRA

- 5.5 A screening assessment to determine the need for HRA in line with regulations and guidance was undertaken and is set out in Appendix A of this report and summarised in response to question 4 in table 1. It has found that many of the policies are in conformity with the policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which was subject to full HRA which found no significant or in combination effects. It is considered that due to the plan demonstrating conformity with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy that it will not result in any significant effects, alone or in combination, upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/RAMSAR or the Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR sites.
- 5.6 Consequently from the findings of the screening assessment it is recommended that a full HRA does not need to be undertaken for the Staverton Neighbourhood Plan. This has been confirmed through the responses from Historic England, Natural England and The Environment Agency set out in Appendix E.

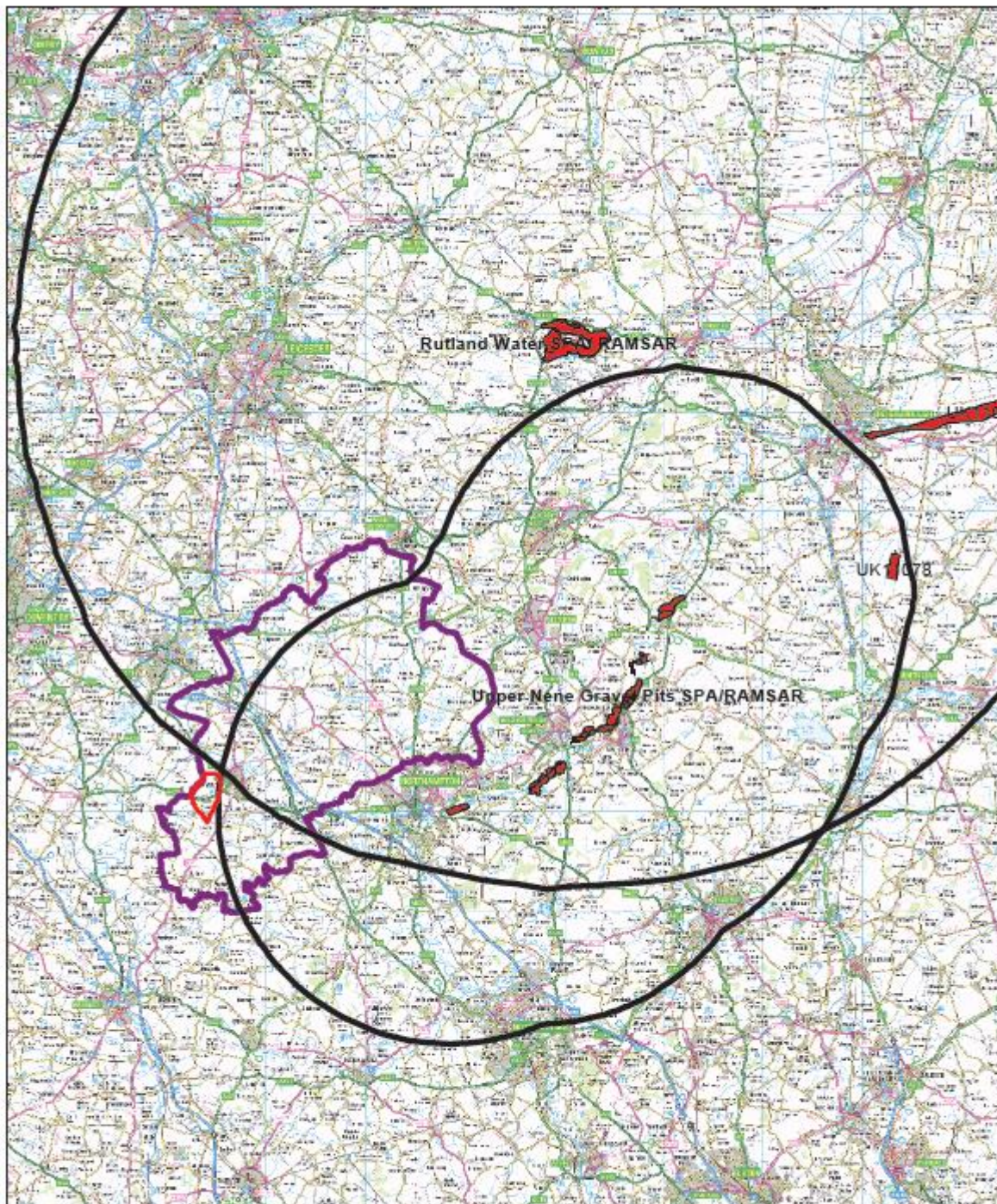
Appendix A: Assessment table of general conformity of policies against the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, the potential for significant effects on the environment and the likely significant effects upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/RAMSAR and Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR sites.

Staverton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Policy in WNJCS	Conformity/conflict between Staverton NP policies & WNJCS policies	Conclusions re SEA	Potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (Upper Nene Valley Gravel pits SPA and RAMSAR and Rutland Water SPA and RAMSAR)	Conclusions re HRA
Policy SC1 Protection and enhancement of the local community assets and recreational facilities	RC2 : Community Needs	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS; the policy seeks to protect valued local community assets and facilities in the village.	No significant effects are identified.	None	No negative effect arising from this policy.
Policy SC2 Housing (inclusive of affordable housing and local connection policy)	S1: The Distribution of Development S3: Scale and Distribution of Housing Development	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS; the policy approach is to support small scale housing of a mix, type and tenure that reflect the housing need.	No significant effects are identified.	None	No negative effects identified, new development is directed to existing settlement, either within the village confines or adjacent to meet an identified housing need.
Policy SC3 Access	R3: A Transport Strategy for the Rural Areas	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS; the policy approach is for improvements in road safety, traffic management and public transport in keeping with the character of the village.	No significant effects are identified.	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to promote the use of sustainable modes of transport and limiting the impact on the village.
Policy PE1 Protecting and enhancing the landscape and	BN5: The Historic Environment and Landscape	The policy is considered to be in general conformity	No significant effects are identified.	None	No negative effect as policy seeks

character		with JCS; the policy approach is to protect and enhance the character of the village and surrounding landscape.			preserve and enhances the landscape.
Policy PE2 Open / green Spaces	RC2 : Community Needs	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS as it seeks to protect green open space within the village.	No Significant effects are identified	None	No negative effects as policy seeks to protect identified local green space as defined in the NPPF.
Policy MC1 Development Policy	R1: Spatial Strategy for the Rural Areas S10 : Sustainable Development	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS as it seeks direct within the confines of the village and adjacent in particular circumstances	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effects as new development is directed to existing settlements either within or adjacent to meet an identified need
Policy MC2 Design of Development Policy	H1: Housing Design and Mix and Type of Dwellings	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS; the policy approach is to require all development to be of good design and quality, set against a number of criteria.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effects as policy seeks to ensure that new development makes a positive contribution to the character of the village.
Policy MC3 Infrastructure Policy	S10: Sustainable development principles	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS; the policy approach is to incorporate sustainable infrastructure into new development.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effects as policy seeks to ensure that new development incorporates appropriate infrastructure.

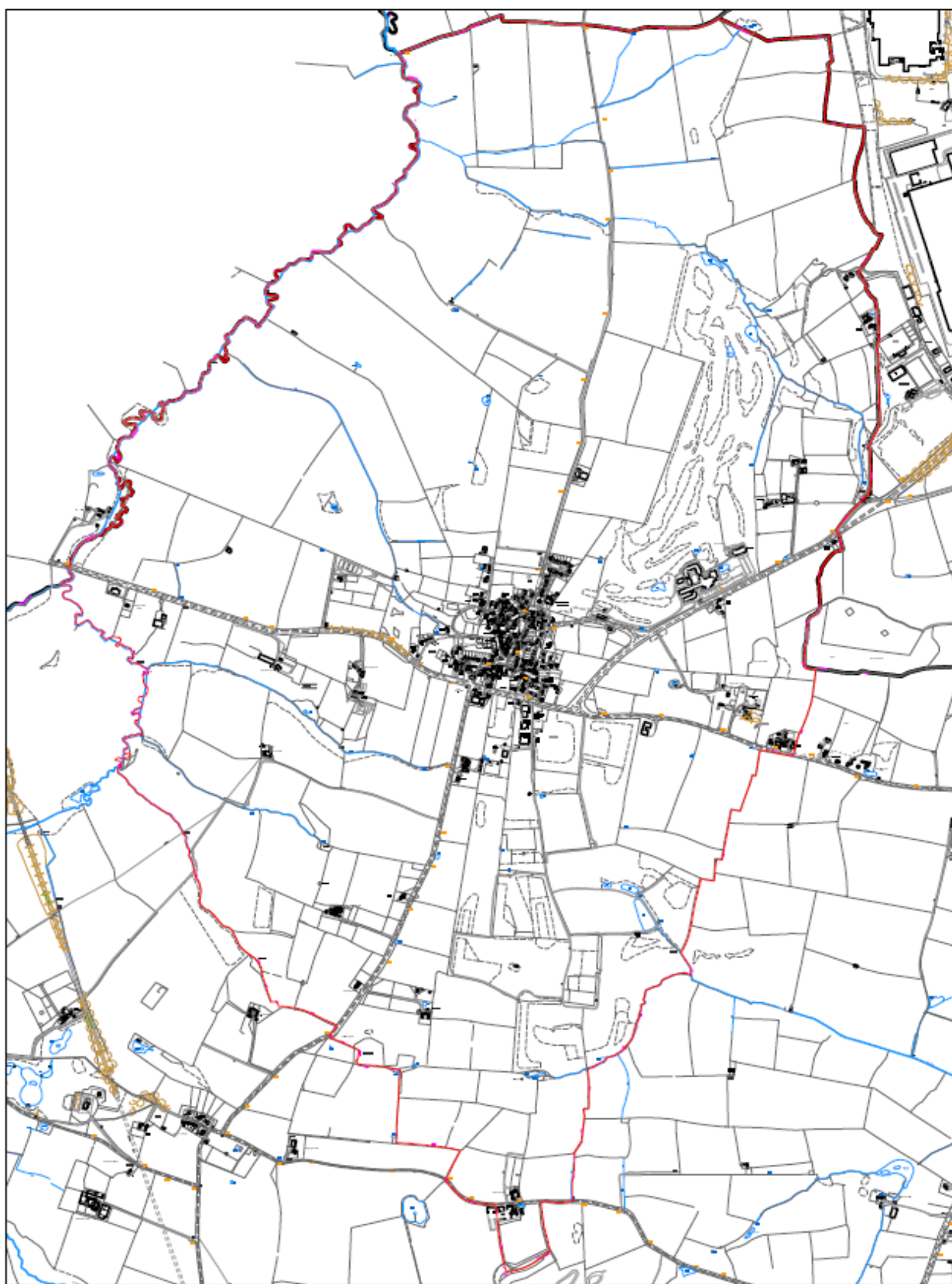
Appendix B: Draft Staverton Neighbourhood Plan (separate document)

Appendix C: Map showing distances from Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR and Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/RAMSAR sites



Staverton Neighbourhood Areas and 53km buffer from Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR site and 23km buffer from Upper Nene Gravel Pits SPA/RAMSAR site
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Appendix D: Map of Staverton Parish Neighbourhood Area



Appendix E: Responses from Statutory Bodies

Subject: RE: Draft Staverton Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening

From: O'Neill, John-Edward
Sent: 09 February 2018 11:59
To: 'Margaret Howe' <MHowe@daventrydc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Draft Staverton Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening

EA ref: AN/2012/115155/OR-18/PO1

Hi Margaret,

We are satisfied that the plan proposals will not have a significant environmental effect and that a full SEA is not therefore required.

Draft Plan EA comments

Groundwater & Contaminated Land

Please note these comments relate solely to the protection of 'Controlled Waters'.

Reference to the 1:50,000 scale geological map indicates that the area designated in 'Staverton Parish Development Plan 2017-2029' is located on the bedrock of the Marlstone Rock Formation which is designated a 'Secondary (A) Aquifer' by the Environment Agency. Superficial deposits are predominantly absent. There are no groundwater Source Protection Zones designated for the area.

Secondary A Aquifers are capable of supporting water supplies at a local rather than strategic scale, and in some cases forming an important source of base flow to rivers.

Our records indicate that three historic landfills are located within the area designated by the Development Plan. These are identified as 'Elderstubs Farm', 'Home Farm' and 'Staverton Road' historic landfills. They are identified to have accepted a range of wastes. It should be noted that Local Authorities hold the most detailed records of historic landfills and consequently the relevant department of Daventry District Council be contacted to ascertain if there is any additional information available.

If development is to be carried out in the areas of the former landfills, consideration should be given to any residual risk to 'Controlled Waters' receptors and the need for any remedial actions.

In planning any development in this neighbourhood plan area, reference should be made to our 'Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice' (GP3) document. This sets out our position on a wide range of activities and developments, including:

- Storage of pollutants and hazardous substances
- Solid waste management
- Discharge of liquid effluents into the ground (including site drainage)
- Management of groundwater resources
- Land contamination
- Ground source heat pumps
- Cemetery developments

Government Policy, as detailed in the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 120), states that 'where a site is affected by contamination or land stability issues, responsibility for securing a safe development rests with the

developer and/or landowner'. Consequently should a development site currently or formerly have been subject to land-use(s) which have the potential to have caused contamination of the underlying soils and groundwater then any Planning Application must be supported by a Preliminary Risk Assessment. This should demonstrate that the risks posed to 'Controlled Waters' by any contamination are understood by the applicant and can be safely managed.

Flood risk

The Plan does not propose any policies, except Policy MC3, to safeguard land at risk from fluvial flooding and the provision of sustainable management of surface water from both allocated and future windfall sites.

The Plan should consider including flood risk management policies that take into account the impacts of climate change. This should support the strategic development needs and policies as set out in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS) Local Plan and the emerging Settlements and Countryside Local Plan for Daventry District. In particular with regard to Policy BN7 (Flood Risk) of the WNJCS Local Plan and Policy ENV12 (Local Flood Risk Management) of the emerging Settlements and Countryside Local Plan.

All development proposals should be located in Flood Zone 1. Development within Flood Zone 2 and 3 will only be acceptable when the Sequential Test and, where applicable, the Exception Test have been satisfied, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Policy MC3 talks about surface water drainage, however this could be expanded to incorporate the following:

All developments should seek to control and discharge all surface water runoff generated on site during the 1 in 100 year plus climate change rainfall event. For Greenfield development sites, the surface water runoff generated as a result of the development should not exceed the Greenfield runoff rate. For Brownfield development sites, developers are expected to deliver a substantial reduction in the existing runoff rate (at least by 20%), and where possible, reduce the runoff to the equivalent Greenfield rate.

In addition, the NDP should also identify, where appropriate, what mitigation measures it considers necessary e.g. safeguarding specific land (after identification) for flood attenuation or natural flood risk management measures and include this in the policies, to ensure that sites are safe and will not increase flood risk elsewhere and that opportunities to reduce flood risk downstream are identified.

Consideration should be given to protect and enhance the river corridors of the Ordinary Watercourses that are located in the NDP area. In particular, the River Leam runs along the Western boundary of the NDP area. Any development in the vicinity of an Ordinary Watercourse should consider the inclusion of the following mitigation measures:

Ensuring all new development is in Flood Zone 1. Only if there is no viable/available land in Flood Zone 1 should other areas be considered using the Sequential Test approach.

Opportunities to reduce flood risk elsewhere by allocating flood storage areas or incorporating Natural Flood Risk Management measures.

Setting back development 8m from the watercourses to allow access for maintenance and restoring the natural floodplain.

Open up culverted watercourses and remove unnecessary obstructions.

Ensure all SuDS features are located outside of the 1 in 100 year plus climate change flood extent.

We recommend that Northamptonshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) are consulted on this Plan. The LLFA are responsible for managing flood risk from local sources including ordinary watercourses, groundwater and surface water.

If I can be of any further assistance please don't not hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Kind regards,

John

John O'Neill

Planning Specialist

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NEW: charging for planning

We now charge developers for strategic planning advice. Please get in touch if you have any questions.



From: Margaret Howe [<mailto:MHowe@daventrydc.gov.uk>]

Sent: 11 January 2018 14:54

To: 'consultations@naturalengland.org.uk'; LN Planning <LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk>; LN Planning <LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk>; EastMidlands.BusinessOfficers@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Subject: Draft Staverton Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening

Dear Sir or Madam,

Staverton Parish Council has reached the draft stage in the preparation of their neighbourhood development plan.

I have been instructed to prepare a screening report on behalf of the Parish Council for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment. As a relevant statutory body you are invited to comment on the draft screening report, principally in terms of whether you agree with the conclusion.

The draft screening report is attached, along with the draft neighbourhood plan. Appendix C of the screening report is attached separately.

Please note that the SEA/HRA screening report is currently confidential.

I would be grateful if you would return your comments directly to me at: mhowe@daventrydc.gov.uk by Friday 9th February 2018.

If you anticipate any difficulty in meeting this deadline or have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Please could I also ask you to confirm receipt of this email.

Kind regards

Mags Howe

Senior Policy Officer (Planning)

Daventry District Council – Business Team

Lodge Road, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 4FP

01327 302561

My working days are Mon 8.30 – 5, Tuesday 8.30 -5 and Wednesday 8.30 – 12.



*** View the latest Daventry Calling magazine at <https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/your-council/news/daventry-calling/> ***

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Date: 30 January 2018
Our ref: 235812
Your ref: Draft Staverton Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening



Margaret Howe
mhowe@daventrydc.gov.uk

Hornbeam House
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Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Margaret Howe

Draft Staverton Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 11 January 2018.

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

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance¹. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

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

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Tom Borges on 02080 266582.. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk. We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer.

We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Bottomley
Consultations Team



Historic England

MHowe@daventrydc.gov.uk

Our ref:
PL00279942
Your ref:

Telephone
07769
242872

07 February 2018

Dear Ms Howe

re: Request for screening for SEA - Staverton Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above 11 January 2018.

For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine 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. We have identified no significant effects to cultural heritage.

We would like to stress that this is based on the current information provided in the screening request and the current draft Neighbourhood Plan. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on the SEA process, and subsequent draft Plan's.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any of these comments.

Kind regards,

Emilie Carr
Historic Environment Planning Adviser
Emilie.carr@historicengland.org.uk



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