SHEEPY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

August 2018

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement

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1. Introduction

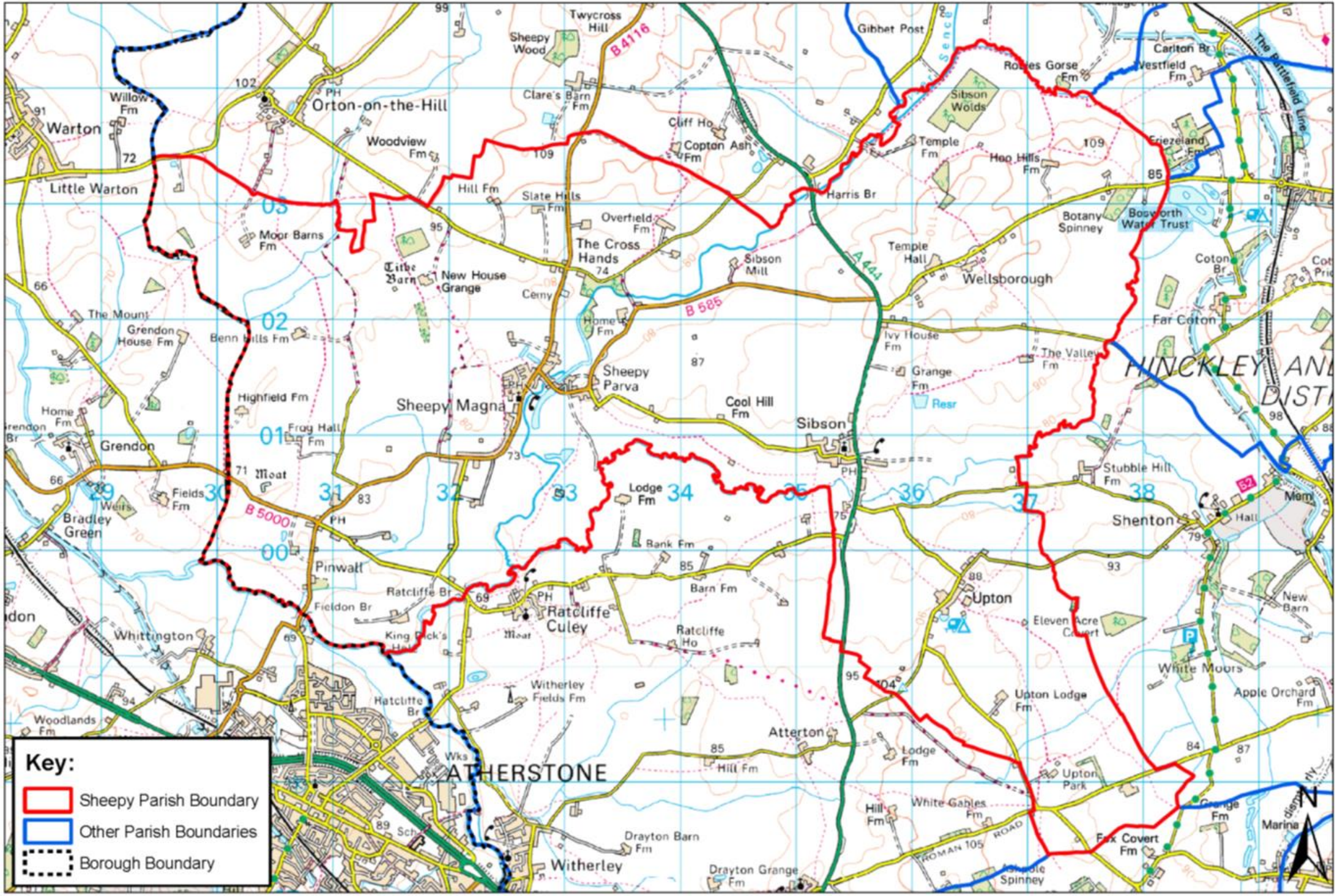
This SEA Screening Statement has been prepared on behalf of Sheepy Parish Council in relation to the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan (Pre-Submission version).

The purpose of the Screening Statement is to set out a screening opinion in relation to whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process is required to accompany the development of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan. The Screening Statement is to be provided to the statutory consultation bodies for SEA (Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England) for their opinion.

SEA is a systematic process undertaken to evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of plans. The requirement for SEA in England was introduced in 2004 through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation 2004 ('The SEA Regulations'), which transposed the European SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).

One of the 'Basic Conditions' that a neighbourhood plan is tested against is whether the making of the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European Union obligations, including obligations under the SEA Directive. Neighbourhood plans only require SEA where they are likely to lead to significant environmental effects. To decide whether a proposed Neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it should be screened against the criteria set out in Annex 2 of the SEA Directive. Where it is determined that the Neighbourhood plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require SEA), a statement of reasons for this determination should be prepared and published for consultation with the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England). Where a Neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment an SEA process must be carried out.

This Screening Statement therefore provides a screening opinion as to whether or not the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environment effects, and as such requires a SEA process.



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2. Details of the Neighbourhood Plan

Title of the plan:

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Name of Qualifying Body and Local Planning Authority:

The qualifying body preparing the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is Sheepy Parish Council. The Local Planning Authority is Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan contact point:

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Location and spatial extent of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan:

The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan covers the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area, comprising the parish of Sheepy in south-west Leicestershire.

The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan area is a large rural area, crossed by the River Sence, located on the borders of Leicestershire and North Warwickshire. Its main village is Sheepy Magna, which provides several services. Other settlements include Sibson, with limited services as well as the smaller settlements and grouping of properties at Sheepy Parva, Wellsborough, Upton, Pinwall and The Cross Hands. This area is famous for The Battle of Bosworth Battle Field.

Timeframe of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan:

To 2036.

Main aims of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan:

The main aims of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan are as represented in the following diagram:

Relationship with the Local Plan:

The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan. For the purposes of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the relevant parts of the Local Plan 2006-2026 (formerly LDF) are the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) and the Site Allocation and Development Management Policies DPD.

The Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy was adopted in December 2009. It provides the vision and spatial strategy for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. It also identifies development requirements for key Rural Villages and Rural Hamlets. Sheepy Magna is identified as a Rural Village and Sibson as a Rural Hamlet. There are limited services within Sheepy Parva, Wellsborough, Upton, Pinwall and The Cross Hands and the Core Strategy does not identify specific requirements for these small settlements and grouping of properties.

The Site Allocation and Development Management Policies DPD was adopted in 2016 and identifies sites for uses such as housing, employment, retail, open space and community facilities that will deliver the aims, vision and objectives of the Core Strategy. It also contains development management policies which will be used to assess planning applications over the plan period.

A parallel process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was undertaken alongside the plan-making process for these two documents.

Given the importance of having an up-to-date local plan, the Council is currently in the process of reviewing its local plan documents, including the Core Strategy and the Site Allocation and Development Management Policies DPD.

Will the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan propose allocations? And if so, will these be over and above those likely to be included in the Local Plan?

The Core Strategy identifies Sheepy Magna as a 'Rural Village' where at least 20 new homes are to be located over the plan period 2006 – 2026. The Site Allocation and Development Management Policies DPD subsequently allocated the site at Trouts Pond Farm, Sheepy Magna for the development of 15 houses. The Core Strategy also supports housing development within the settlement boundary.

Since 2006, 10 houses have been built in the Parish and a further 41 have planning permission. 43 of these homes are in Sheepy Magna- most at the Trouts Pond Farm site.

There is also currently an outstanding outline planning application for the residential development of the Hornsey Rise Memorial Site, Wellsborough. The development would include the erection of 20 dwellings. As such the latest version of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan includes a policy (S13) to provide principles to guide the determination of any subsequent detailed planning application. As such the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan allocates for one site for development. Development of this site would increase the total supply of homes in the Parish to 71.

The Site Allocation and Development Management Policies DPD allocates a site for housing development at Trout Pond Farm. This has since received planning permission for 24 homes and construction has started. It means that the Core Strategy minimum housing allocation for Sheepy Magna has been exceeded.

However, the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan does make provision up to 2036, beyond the period of the Core Strategy and Site Allocation and Development Management Policies DPD, both of which are currently being reviewed. In addition, development of the Hornsey Rise Memorial Site would comprise brownfield development.

What are the key environmental assets (including 'sensitive areas') near the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area?

'Sensitive areas'

A key determinant of whether effects are likely to be significant is the sensitivity of the asset affected. In this context, the more environmentally sensitive a location, the more likely it is that potential environmental effects from a plan will be significant.

National Planning Practice Guidance provides guidance on this topic through providing a list of sites and areas which should be deemed as 'sensitive areas' for the purposes of environmental assessment. These comprise:

- Natura 2000 sites;
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- National Parks;
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- World Heritage Sites; and
- Scheduled Monuments.

In the context of the categories of 'sensitive areas' described by the Planning Practice Guidance, the following sites and areas exist within or near the Neighbourhood Area.

Natura 2000 sites

Within the Neighbourhood Area:

No Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are present within the Neighbourhood Area.

Within 10km of the Neighbourhood Area

The nearest is the River Mease Special Area of Conservation which is located approximately 6.5km from the northern boundary of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area.

The River Mease and the lower part of Gilwiskaw Brook are designated as a SAC. They were designated because the River Mease represents one of the best examples of an unspoilt meandering lowland river which supports characteristic habitats and species and supports populations of spined loach and bullhead, two notable species of native freshwater fish that have a restricted distribution in England. The rivers also support populations of white-clawed crayfish, otter and a range of river plants such as water crow-foot.

Ensor's Pool Special Area of Conservation is located approximately 7.3km from the southern boundary of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area. This lowland site in Central England represents and qualifies as a SAC as it holds a large population of white-clawed crayfish in standing water. This waterbody is isolated from river systems and is a good example of a 'refuge' site.

All SCA's are also notified as SSSI's, being sites that are of specific biological or geological features.

The nearest SPA is at Rutland Water and is 49km east of the Neighbourhood Area.

SSSIs

Within the Neighbourhood Area

Sheepy Fields

Sheepy Fields comprise two hay meadows developed on soils derived from post-glacial river terrace deposits. It contains some of the best remaining examples of neutral grassland in Leicestershire. It is representative of hay meadow plant communities developed on neutral soils in the East Midlands.

The site is well managed and meets favourable condition.

Within 5km of Neighbourhood Area

Ashby Canal

The Ashby Canal supports communities of aquatic and emergent plants that are representative of eutrophic standing water bodies in the English lowlands. The diversity of aquatic plants and invertebrates makes this one of the most important water bodies of its type in the East Midlands. The submerged plant community is of particular interest and the floating plant community is also well developed. The canal also supports populations of the native freshwater crayfish and of the water shrew.

Condition: Unfavourable – no change

675m from the most northern part of the boundary of the Neighbourhood Area.

Kendall's Meadow

A traditionally managed hay meadow with a diversity and richness of plant life unmatched in the south west of the County, an area otherwise sparse in interest. It is probably the best representative of this grassland community type in the central East Midlands. More than a dozen grass species have been found on this meadow which lies partly on alluviam and partly on boulder clay.

Condition: Favourable

738m from the east boundary of the Neighbourhood Area.

Birches Barn Meadows

Birches Barn Meadows comprises two unimproved fields adjacent to the south bank of the River Anker. They have been managed as hay meadows since 1913. The meadows are on alluviam and overlie Keuper sandstone with ridge and furrow topography in part. Birches Barn Meadows are now the last remaining flood meadows in the Anker valley. The sward associated with the meadow foxtail-great burnet community characteristic of the site, is species-rich with a great diversity of herbs. Eighteen species of grass have been recorded. Two species of bird that breed in the meadows, the quail and curlew are restricted to few other localities in Warwickshire.

Condition: Favourable
1.31km from the western boundary of the Neighbourhood Area

Alvecote Pools

This site is managed as a nature reserve and consists of a series of shallow pools which have arisen as a result of colliery subsidence. This site is one of the most extensive and diverse wetland areas in the county of Warwickshire and supports a regionally important bird community. As well as open waters there is a wide variety of other habitats present. These include fen, bog, weed bed, alder/willow carr, scattered woodland, pasture and areas of colliery waste. In the open waters are numerous aquatic plants. This site has one

of the most extensive species lists for plants and animals, collected over many years, in the West Midlands.

Condition: Part Favourable/Part Unfavourable – recovering

3.2km from the western boundary of the Neighbourhood Area.

Bentley Park Wood
This site is a large and important ancient woodland in north Warwickshire. There is an unusual and widespread juxtaposition of sessile oak and alder and there is a wider ecological range of alder woodland than possibly any other wood in Britain. The wood supports a sizeable bird community and is one of the three localities in the county for breeding redstart.

Condition: Favourable

3.3km from the southern boundary of the Neighbourhood Area.

Newton Burgoland Marshes
This site includes some of the best remaining examples of neutral alluvial grassland and marsh in Leicestershire. The vegetation of the site, which is located in two separate areas, has developed on alluvial soil. The northern area comprises marsh and wet grassland characteristics. The southern area of the site comprises grasslands representative of better drained alluvial soils.

Condition: Part Favourable/Part Unfavourable – recovering
4.5km from the northern boundary of the Neighbourhood Area

National Parks

Within the Neighbourhood Area
None.

Near the Neighbourhood Area
None- the closest National Park is the Peak District National Park (located 47.8km from the Parish).

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Within the Neighbourhood Area
None.

Near the Neighbourhood Area
None- the closest AONB is the Cannock Chase AONB (located 24.7km from the Parish).

World Heritage Sites

Within the Neighbourhood Area
None.

Near the Neighbourhood Area
None- the closest site is the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (located 32km from the Parish).

Scheduled Monuments

Within the Neighbourhood Area
Moated site north west of Pinwall

The moated site north-west of Pinwall survives well and has important connections with Merevale Abbey in Warwickshire. It is considered that the moat island contains the foundations of monastic grange buildings.

Barn at New House Grange
This large medieval aisled barn is said "to have been the storehouse for the Leicestershire portion of the produce belonging to Merevale Abbey. The barn is timber framed largely with 18th-19th century brick filling.

Near the Neighbourhood Area

Moat and fishponds at Ratcliffe Culey
The moat at Ratcliffe Culey is an above average example of a medieval manorial site with contemporary fishponds. Both the fishponds and moat survive in good condition and the moat island has considerable potential for preserving evidence of the original manor house.

330m south of the Neighbourhood Area.

Moated site and fishponds NNW of St James' Church, Tywcross
This monument includes two separate areas; the first containing a moat and fishpond, and the second situated 100m to the north containing two fishponds. The moat and fishponds survive well. The earthworks are well defined and the monument is of high archaeological potential due both to the lack of disturbance and to waterlogging in part of the moat and one of the ponds providing conditions to the preservation of organic remains.

1.5km north of Neighbourhood Area

Merevale Abbey, a Cistercian monastery, associated water features and industrial remains, Merevale
This monument includes two areas at the junction of two small valleys. It is a well-documented example of a Cistercian monastery founded in the mid-12th Century. The central part of the monument includes the ruins of two conventual buildings, which are Listed Grade II and II*and buried remains associated with the core of the monastery. It also includes earth remains of buildings and other features within the monastic precinct, parts of a monastic water system and early industrial remains. The remains illustrate the development of the monastery and will preserve rich evidence of the changing lifestyle of monks.

1.8km south west of Neighbourhood Area

Roman Foundation east of Barton Road, Market Bosworth
The site was excavated in the 1960s. Part of a mosaic pavement was uncovered and various finds (pottery, building materials, coins, querns etc) were found. Geophysical survey recorded a large ditch with at least three structures to the east of it.

2.4km east of Neighbourhood Area

Motte and associated earthworks at Shackerstone
The motte, together with a fishpond , survive in good condition and apart from some small excavation, the mound is essentially undisturbed and has considerable potential for the survival of archaeological evidence. It was later incorporated into a formal garden , some earthworks of which are included in the scheduling. Motte castles are medieval fortifications introduced in Britain by the Normans.

2.5km north of Neighbourhood Area

Manduessedum Roman Villa and settlement with associated industrial complex, Mancetter
Mancetter was an important location during the Roman period and Manduessedum is particularly important because of the survival of a large number of Roman features. It provides an insight into some of the more scarce and less well recognised elements of the Roman occupation of Britain.

2.8km south of Neighbourhood Area

Roman Camp, Mancetter
Part of a series of Roman vexillation fortresses surrounding Mancetter Farm. This monument, which falls into three areas, comprises fortresses and camps which survive entirely of buried structures. Documentary evidence indicates at least one of the fortresses was connected with Boudicca's last battle in 60 AD.

2.8km south of Neighbourhood Area

Ambion deserted medieval village, Sutton Cheney
The site is adjacent to the site of the battle of Bosworth and includes the earthwork remains of a deserted medieval village. A number of house platforms can be identified. Ambion Hill was the site of Richard IIIs camp before the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 but there is no archaeological evidence of this on the site.

2.9km east of Neighbourhood Area

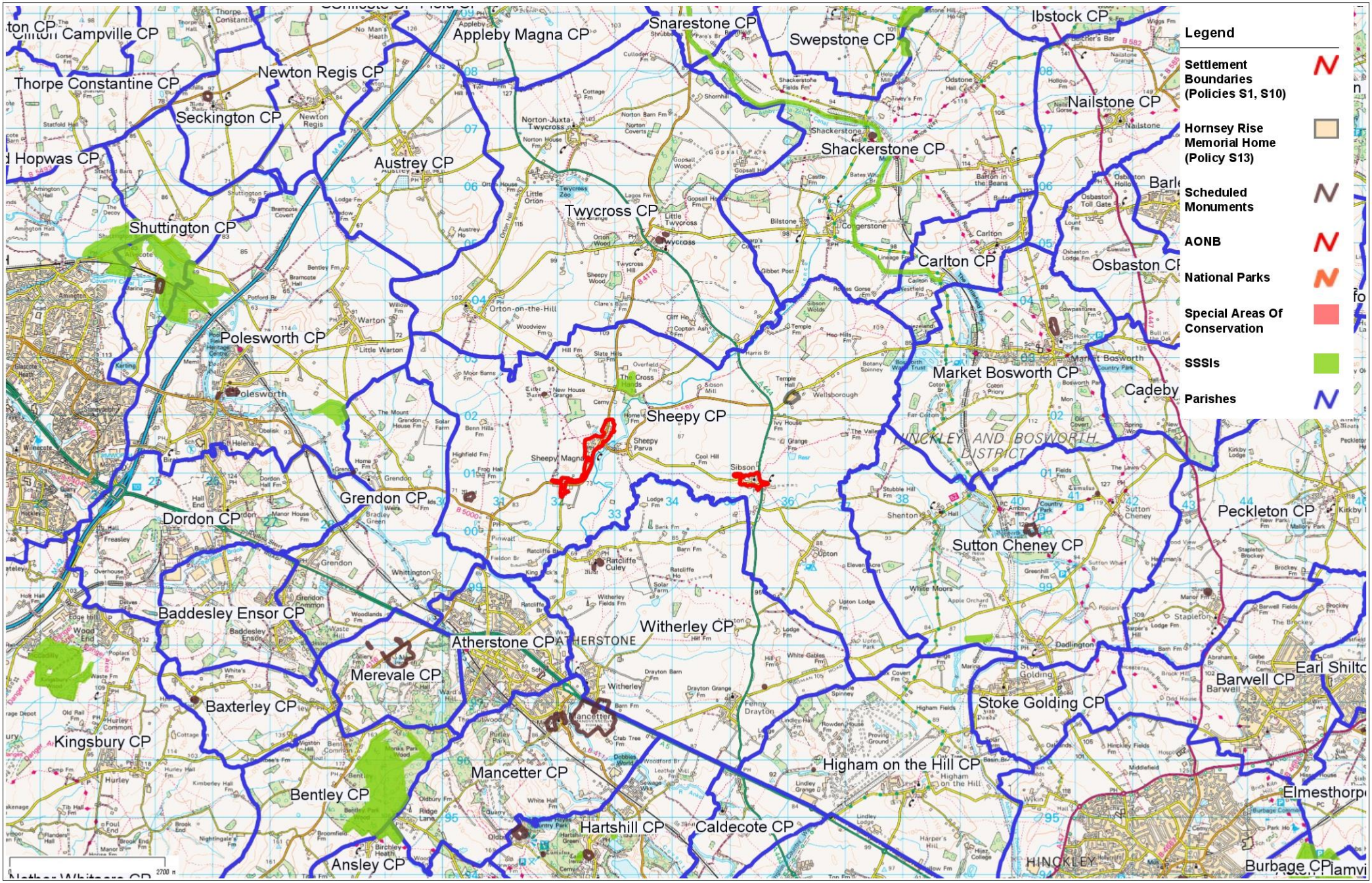
Polesworth Bridge, Polesworth
This bridge is also a Grade II Listed Structure and was first built in the medieval period.

2.9km west of the Neighbourhood Are

Parish Online

Sensitive Areas

Sheepy CP



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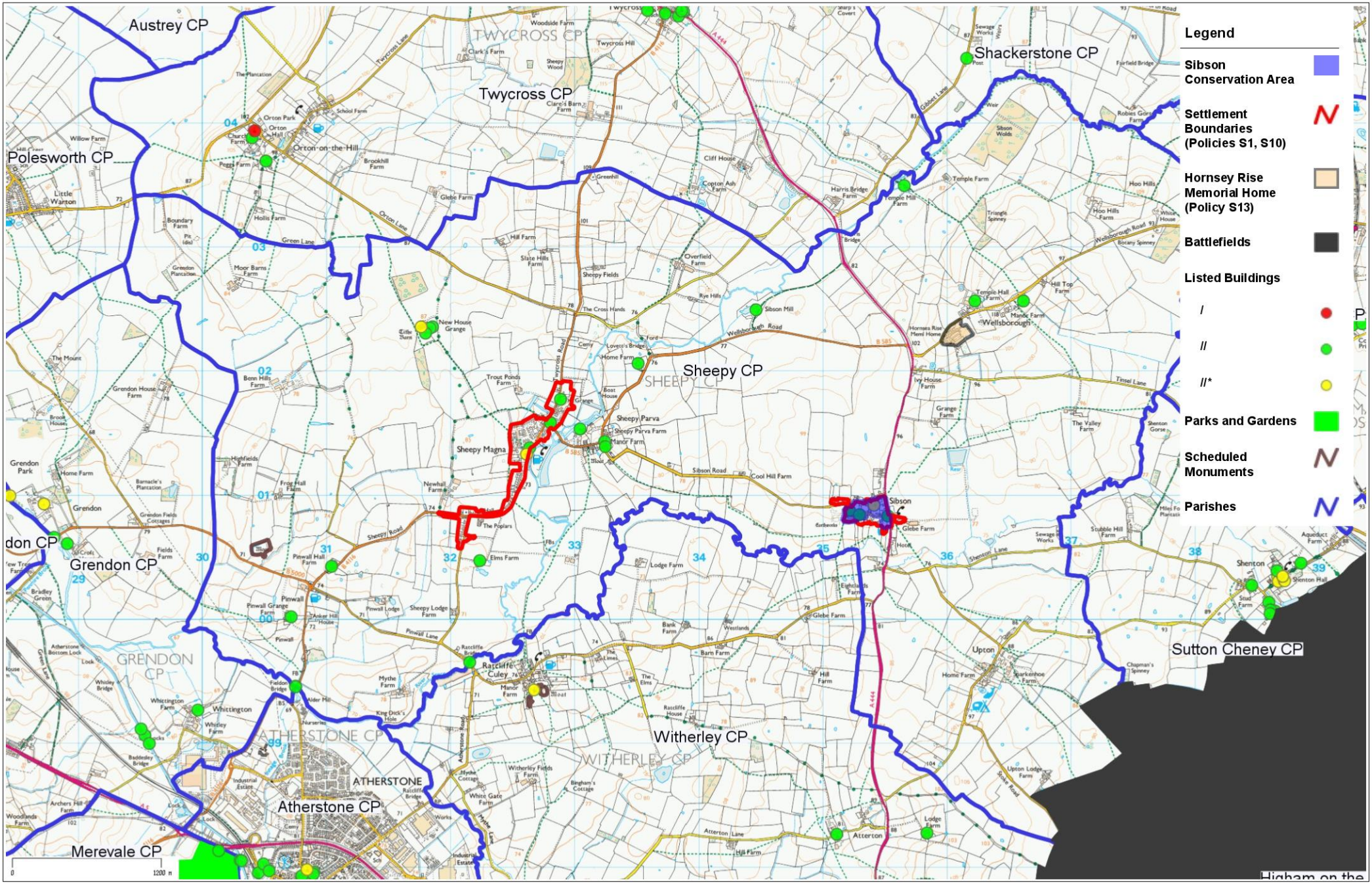
Other Key Environmental Assets

Sheepy CP



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Other key environmental assets

Other designated environmental assets located within the Neighbourhood Area (i.e. those which are not defined as 'sensitive areas' as defined by the Planning Practice Guidance) include as follows:

Historic Park and Gardens

There are no Historic Parks or Gardens in Sheepy Parish. The closest is Merevale Hall, a Grade II* Historic Park and Garden, 1.4km south-west of the Neighbourhood Area.

Battle of Bosworth (Field) 1485

The registered battlefield site is located across five Parishes including Sheepy. It is located within the south eastern part of Sheepy Parish. It is registered due to its historical importance, topographic integrity, archaeological potential and technological significance.

Conservation Areas

Sibson Conservation Area was designated by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in December 1995. The Conservation Area covers most of the village.

The character of the village is derived from its agricultural origins of the settlement. This can be identified from the number of former and existing farm buildings within the designated area. The ancient road pattern, with its unique twists and turn, has added a further layer of distinctiveness to the village. There are four listed buildings in the Conservation Area.

Listed buildings

There are 25 buildings in Sheepy Parish listed by Historic England for their special architectural or historic interest. They include the Grade II* Church of All Saints and the Great Barn at New House Grange, in Sheepy Magna and the Grade II* Church of St Botolph in Sibson. There are no Grade I listed buildings and the remainder are Grade II listings.

3. Legislative Background

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

Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 makes provision in relation to the Habitats Directive. The Directive requires that any plan or project, likely to have a significant effect on a European site, must be subject to an appropriate assessment. To achieve this, paragraph 1 prescribes a basic condition that the making of a neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site. Paragraphs 2 to 5 of the Schedule amend the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 so as to apply its provisions to neighbourhood development orders and neighbourhood plans. In particular, paragraph 4 inserts new regulation 78A which provides that a neighbourhood development order may not grant planning permission for development which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site.

Schedule 3 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 makes provision in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive. The Directive requires that EIA development must be subject to a development consent process. To enable this, Schedule 3 prescribes a basic condition that applies where development which is the subject of a proposal for a neighbourhood development order is of a type caught by the EIA Directive, and applies the relevant provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011(3) ("the EIA Regulations") with appropriate modifications (regulation 33 and paragraphs 1 to 4 and 6 of Schedule 3). Paragraphs 5 and 7 to 13 of Schedule 3 correct errors in the EIA Regulations.

It may be appropriate, and in some cases a requirement, that the statutory environmental bodies of Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England be consulted, for example, a draft neighbourhood plan proposal must be assessed to determine whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects.

There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, a qualifying body must demonstrate how its plan or order will contribute to achieving sustainable development.

This report focuses on screening for SEA and the criteria for establishing whether a full assessment is needed considering the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment undertaken for the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026 in 2010 and the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies 2006-2026 in 2014 and 2016.

4. Criteria for Assessing the Effects of Neighbourhood Plans (the 'plan')

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

1. The characteristics of neighbourhood plans ("plan"), having regard, in particular, to - the degree to which the plan 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 influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy, - the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development, - environmental problems relevant to the plan, - the relevance of the plan for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).

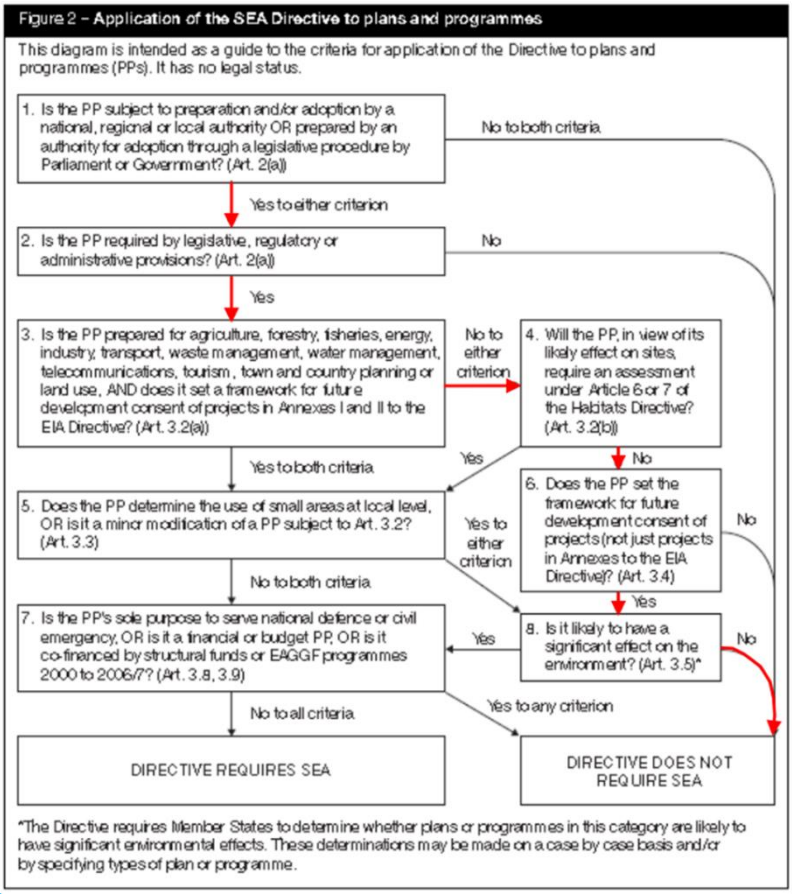
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects, - the cumulative nature of the effects, - the trans boundary nature of the effects, - the risks to human health or the environment (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

5. Assessment

This diagram shows the Directive's field of application in the form of a diagram. The original diagram is from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Objective'. The red arrows indicate the process route for the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Assessment.

The table below shows the assessment of whether the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA. The questions below are drawn from the diagram above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.



Stage	Yes/No	Reason
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	**Yes**	The preparation of and adoption of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is allowed under The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared by Sheepy Parish Council (as the 'relevant body') and will be 'made' by Hinckley and Bosworth Council as the local authority. The preparation of neighbourhood plans is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012.
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	**Yes**	Whilst the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by

Stage	Yes/No	Reason
		the Localism Act 2011, it will if 'made', form part of the Development Plan for the District. It is therefore important that the screening process considers whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive.
3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	**No**	Whilst the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan covers a range of land use issues and allocations, it does not set the framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive (see Appendix 2 for list). Instead, the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is a non-strategic scale document, focused solely upon the Parish of Sheepy.
4. Will the Neighbourhood Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	**No**	The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites. The two nearest SACs – the River Mease Catchment to the north east of the Parish and Ensors Pools to the south west of the Parish- are both within 10km of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area. There are no SPAs within 10km of the Neighbourhood Area. The Hinckley and Bosworth Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2017 confirms there is no physical connection between the Borough and The Ensor's Pool SAC. From this we consider that activities within the Borough – and indeed the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area - would not have implications for this site. Part of the River Mease (not the part defined as a European site (SAC)) passes through the Borough coming in from Snarestone over the border of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, flowing shortly after towards Swepstone. In addition, three tributaries of the river flow

Stage	Yes/No	Reason
		down towards and through Norton juxta Twycross, ending to the east, west and north of Norton juxta Twycross. As a result, given the physical connection to the River Mease SAC, provided by its flow through the Borough and via these tributaries, it might be conceivable that some areas of the Borough could have an impact on this site despite the actual designation being outside the Borough. However, no part of the River Mease or its tributaries as described above flow through the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area. The tributaries as described above are located roughly 3km away from the closest part of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area boundary. In view of this as well as considering the scope of proposals within the draft Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the Borough Council considers that further stages in the HRA process are not required (including further screening, or Appropriate Assessment) and that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to have any impact on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites.
5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	**Yes**	Determination of small sites at local level only.
6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	**Yes**	The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is to be used for determining future planning applications
7. Is the Neighbourhood Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAFF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	**No**	No further comments

Stage	Yes/No	Reason
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	**No**	Appendix 1 presents the environmental effects which have the potential to arise as a result of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Summary of screening determination

This determination has considered whether the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects as defined by Directive 2001/42/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and the transposing regulations. In particular, the review has considered a number of sensitive areas located in the vicinity of the Neighbourhood Area and the potential environmental effects on these areas that may arise as a result of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Whilst environmental effects have the potential to take place as a result of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan, including in relation to the majority of the SEA 'topics', it is considered that these are unlikely to be significant in the context of the SEA Directive. This SEA screening opinion provides the necessary analysis relating to the potential for negative effects on the nearby SSSIs. Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and the Sibson Conservation Area.

In this context, the significance of potential effects will be limited by key aims of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan. These are in turn reflected by the policy approaches proposed by the latest version of the plan.

Habitats Regulation Assessment

It is the opinion of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council that a full Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment of the current Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is not required, as it is unlikely to have a significant effect on any designated sites.

Conclusion

This screening opinion has been prepared in order to fulfil the statutory SEA requirements, as set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The environmental consultation bodies Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency have been consulted during the preparation of this Screening Assessment. They have concluded that there are unlikely to be significant effects on cultural or significant environmental concerns and that neither Strategic Environmental Assessment or Habitat Regulations Assessment are a requirement for this plan. A full copy of the responses received are attached as Appendix 3.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, following consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, has determined that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. It is therefore considered that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required.

For the above reasons, it is considered that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is not subject to the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and accompanying regulations.

Appendix 1: Assessment of potential environmental effects

The following table presents the environmental effects which have the potential to arise because of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan. This is accompanied by a commentary on whether these effects are likely to be significant. The environmental effects have been grouped by the SEA 'topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive.

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
Biodiversity, flora and fauna (Including biodiversity habitats and species, biodiversity sites, areas of geological interest)	Y	Without mitigation and enhancement measures, new allocations in Sheepy Parish have the potential to lead to effects on biodiversity, including through loss of habitat, disturbance, effects on ecological connections and indirect effects such as from impacts on water quality and quantity.	There are no Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPA) present within the Neighbourhood Area. As concluded in Section 5 of the above assessment, the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan would not have implications for The Ensors Pool SAC or The River Mease SAC. As such the contents of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to have an impact on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites. In relation to biodiversity, the main 'sensitive areas' near the Neighbourhood Area are the seven SSSIs described in Section 2. The two closet SSSIs to the site at Hornsey Rise Memorial Home, Wellsborough are Sheepy Fields (favourable condition) and Ashby Canal (Unfavourable condition). These lie within 2.6km and 2.7km respectively of this allocated housing site. Wellsborough and the housing allocated site lie within the outer zone of the SSSI Impact Risk Zone for Ashby Canal. Certain developments within this 'zone' require consultation with Natural England, namely airport, helipads and other aviation proposals, quarry development, pig and poultry units, industrial and commercial development that causes air pollution, general combustion processes and development that discharges more than 5,000 litres of water per day. The housing allocation at Hornsey Rise Memorial Home therefore

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
			does not require consultation with Natural England due to the nature of the development proposed. The site at Hornsey Rise Memorial Home being considered for allocation through the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan only has the potential to deliver 20 dwellings. Potential significant effects resulting from the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan housing allocation are also likely to be avoided by the current policy approach proposed for the site by the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Policy S13 specific to the housing allocation seeks to improve biodiversity and include the retention and enhancement of trees and hedgerows along the site boundaries. In addition, the overarching biodiversity policy seeks to ensure that new development maintains and enhances existing ecological corridors and landscape features for biodiversity. In terms of the remaining SSSIs, due in part to the relative distance of the sites, no parts of Wellsborough are within Impact Risk Zones for the five SSSIs. This reduces the likelihood of significant effects on these 'sensitive areas'. **Effects on biodiversity are therefore unlikely to be significant** if the current policy approach proposed in relation to 'Hornsey Rise Memorial Home' allocation are taken forward.
Population (Including residents' quality of life, accessibility to services and facilities, deprivation and similar)	Y	As indicated by the current policy approaches proposed for the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the Plan has the potential to have a range of benefits for the quality	Whilst the benefits for residents of Sheepy Parish from a well-designed neighbourhood plan have the potential to be wide-ranging, these are **not deemed to be significant** in the context of the SEA Directive.

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		of life of residents and for accessibility to services, facilities and opportunities. It seeks to prevent the loss of community services and facilities. The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan will also support the delivery of affordable housing for local people and help deliver a range of types and tenures of houses, including the provision of homes for older households and smaller, lower-cost homes.	
Human Health (Incorporating residents' health and wellbeing)	Y	As indicated by the current policy approaches proposed for Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the Plan has the potential to have a range of benefits for residents' health and wellbeing through promoting healthier lifestyles and supporting accessibility to services and facilities. Policies include that which support the creation of footpath and cycle links, the protection of local green spaces, and the	Whilst the health and wellbeing benefits for residents of the Neighbourhood Area from a well-designed neighbourhood plan have the potential to be wide-ranging, these are not deemed to be significant in the context of the SEA Directive. Likely effects from noise quality are also **not deemed to be significant**.

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		protection of residential amenities from traffic impacts. Direct impacts from the plan on human health from noise quality, air quality and light pollution issues may arise, including from new development areas. The Plan seeks to protect the health and well being of residents from these impacts.	
Soil (Including agricultural land, soil erosion, soil quality)	Y	It is uncertain whether proposed development areas will be sited on land classified as the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land, as recent detailed agricultural land classification has not taken place. The Plan seeks to limit development outside of the Sheepy Magna and Sibson Settlement Boundaries. Development of the Hornsey Rise Memorial Home would be in the form of brownfield development.	Due to the relatively limited area of land likely to be developed through the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan, effects on the soils resource are **unlikely to be significant**.

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
Water (Including water quality and availability)	Y	The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to lead to a small-scale increase in water demand in the Neighbourhood Area through supporting the delivery of new housing provision. The Plan also supports development which incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).	Potential effects on water availability will be limited by the relatively small-scale of proposals likely to be facilitated by the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Effects **unlikely to be significant**.
Air (Including air quality)	Y	Whilst new development areas in the Neighbourhood Area may lead to increased traffic flows and congestion, this is unlikely to lead to marked effects on air quality. In addition, the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan includes policy which seeks to restrict adverse impacts from air quality on residential amenity, and to prevent a significant increase in the volume of traffic through the Parish's settlements.	No existing air quality issues exist in the Neighbourhood Area and there are no Air Quality Management Areas within the Neighbourhood Area. Any effects on air quality are **not deemed to be significant** in the context of the SEA Directive.
Climatic Factors	Y	In terms of climate change mitigation, the Sheepy	Due to the small scale, local scope of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the nature and magnitude of effects

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
(Including relating to climate change mitigation (limiting greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (adapting to the anticipated effects of climate change, including flood risk)		Parish Neighbourhood Plan actively seeks to located new housing development within the defined settlement boundaries of Sheepy Magna and Sibson, where the majority of the local services and facilities are located. This will help limit potential increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Area. New development will also be expected to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems which will help meet the challenges of climate change and in terms of climate change adaptation, statutory requirements (including the requirements of the NPPF) will ensure that flood risk is addressed through new development proposals. The proposed policy approach of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan also shows support	directly arising as a result of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan are **unlikely to be significant** in the context of the SEA Directive.

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		for the development of suitable renewable energy infrastructure in the form of solar photovoltaic farms.	
Material Assets (Including minerals resources, waste considerations)	Y	The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan may lead to small increases in the Neighbourhood Area's waste management requirements through supporting the delivery of new housing. No mineral sites or resources are likely to be affected as a result of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan.	Potential increases in waste as a direct result of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan will be managed through statutory requirements regarding waste management. Due to their limited magnitude, effects are therefore **unlikely to be significant** in the context of the SEA Directive.
Cultural Heritage (Including historic environment, cultural heritage, historic settings)	Y	The housing allocation proposed through the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to have effects on the fabric and setting of historic environment assets.	Whilst three scheduled monuments (a 'sensitive area' as defined by the Planning Practice Guidance) are located within the Neighbourhood Area, namely the moated site at Pinwall, the Barn at New House Grange and the Battle of Bosworth Field, they are unlikely to be directly affected by the proposed housing development site at Hornsey Rise Memorial Home, Wellsborough due to their relative distance (5.6km, 4.1km and 3.1km respectively) from this site. In terms of the conservation area within the Parish, the proposed site is located approximately 1.4km north of the Sibson Conservation Area and it is unlikely that the proposed housing site would have a significant effect on the integrity of this Conservation Area.

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
			In terms of the listed buildings present in the Parish the proposed allocation is unlikely to affect the setting of these features of cultural heritage importance, including the three Grade II Listed Buildings in Wellsborough, due to the siting of the proposed allocation in relation to these assets. In addition, the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan focuses on protecting and enhancing the historic environment and key features of historic importance. Therefore, effects are **unlikely to be significant** in the context of the SEA Directive.
Landscape (Including landscape and townscape quality)	Y	Direct effects from the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan on landscape and townscape character have the potential to take place from housing allocation taken forward through the plan.	In terms of landscape quality, no 'sensitive areas' as defined by the NPPG are present in the Neighbourhood Area. The likelihood of significant effects on the integrity of the Conservation Area are also likely to be limited by the implementation of design guidance put forward through the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the Plan's focus on protecting and enhancing the historic environment and landscape of the Neighbourhood Area and the Plan's focus on protecting key features of importance for the historic environment. Overall, the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan's focus on protecting and enhancing the landscape/townscape of the Neighbourhood Area and protecting key features of importance for the historic environment will deliver positive effects on landscape and townscape quality and facilitate enhancements. Therefore, potential effects on landscape character and townscape quality are **unlikely to be significant** in the context of the SEA Directive.

Appendix 2: Annex I and Annex II Projects, EIA Directive

Annex I Projects, EIA Directive

All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an Environmental Impact Assessment. The listed projects are summarised as follows:

1. Crude oil refineries, coal or shale gasification liquefaction installations
2. Thermal power stations, nuclear power stations, other nuclear reactors etc
3. Installations for the processing, reprocessing, final disposal or storage of irradiated nuclear fuel, or the production or enrichment of nuclear fuel
4. Integrated works for the initial smelting of cast-iron and steel, and the production of non-ferrous crude metals from ore
5. Installations for the extraction, processing and transforming of asbestos
6. Integrated chemical installations for the industrial scale manufacture of basic organic and inorganic fertilisers, plant health products and biocides, pharmaceuticals, and explosives
7. Construction of long-distance railway lines. Airports with a basic runway length run of 2,100 metres or more. Construction of motorways and express roads. New roads of four or more lanes and roads which have been improved so as to convert two lanes or fewer to four lanes or more, where such road would be 10 kilometres or more in continuous length
8. Inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic, trading ports and piers
9. Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment of hazardous waste
10. Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment of non-hazardous waste
11. Groundwater abstraction or artificial groundwater recharge schemes
12. Water transfer schemes between river basins
13. Waste water treatment plants
14. Commercial extraction of petroleum and natural gas
15. Dams and water storage installations
16. Gas, oil or chemical pipelines and pipelines used for the transport of carbon dioxide for geological storage

Annex II Projects, EIA Directive

For the projects listed in Annex II the national authorities have to decide whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is needed. The projects listed in Annex II are in general those not included in Annex I but also other types such as urban development projects and flood-relief works. The listed projects are summarised as follows:

(1) Agriculture, silviculture and aquaculture

(a) Projects for the restructuring of rural land holdings;

(b) Projects for the use of uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agricultural purposes;

(c) Water management projects for agriculture, including irrigation and land drainage projects;

(d) Initial afforestation and deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use;

(e) Intensive livestock installations (projects not included in Annex I);

(f) Intensive fish farming;

(g) Reclamation of land from the sea.

(2) Extractive Industry

(a) Quarries, open-cast mining and peat extraction (projects not included in Annex I);

(b) Underground mining;

(c) Extraction of minerals by marine or fluvial dredging;

(d) Deep drillings, in particular: (i) geothermal drilling; (ii) drilling for the storage of nuclear waste material; (iii) drilling for water supplies; with the exception of drillings for investigating the stability of the soil;

(e) Surface industrial installations for the extraction of coal, petroleum, natural gas and ores, as well as bituminous shale.

(3) Energy industry

(a) Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water (projects not included in Annex I);

(b) Industrial installations for carrying gas, steam and hot water; transmission of electrical energy by overhead cables (projects not included in Annex I);

(c) Surface storage of natural gas;

(d) Underground storage of combustible gases;

(e) Surface storage of fossil fuels;

(f) Industrial briquetting of coal and lignite;

(g) Installations for the processing and storage of radioactive waste (unless included in Annex I);

(h) Installations for hydroelectric energy production;

(i) Installations for the harnessing of power for energy production (wind farms) and

(j) Installations for the capture of CO2 streams for the purposes of geological storage, pursuant to Directive 2009/31/EC, from installations not covered by Annex I to this Directive.

(4) Production and processing of metals

(a) Installations for the production of pig iron or steel (primary or secondary fusion) including continuous casting;

(b) Installations for the processing of ferrous metals: (i) hot-rolling mills; (ii) smitheries with hammers; (iii) application of protective fused metal coats;

(c) Ferrous metal foundries;

(d) Installations for the smelting, including the alloyage, of non-ferrous metals, excluding precious metals, including recovered products (refining, foundry casting, etc.);

(e) Installations for surface treatment of metals and plastic materials using an electrolytic or chemical process;

(f) Manufacture and assembly of motor vehicles and manufacture of motor-vehicle engines;

(g) Shipyards;

(h) Installations for the construction and repair of aircraft;

(i) Manufacture of railway equipment;

(j) Swaging by explosives;

(k) Installations for the roasting and sintering of metallic ores.

(5) Mineral industry

(a) Coke ovens (dry coal distillation);

(b) Installations for the manufacture of cement;

(c) Installations for the production of asbestos and the manufacture of asbestos products (projects not included in Annex I); See under corresponding Annex I project category, Annex I (5) above;

(d) Installations for the manufacture of glass including glass fibre;

(e) Installations for smelting mineral substances including the production of mineral fibres;

(f) Manufacture of ceramic products by burning, in particular roofing tiles, bricks, refractory bricks, tiles, stoneware or porcelain.

(6) Chemical industry (Projects not included in Annex I)

(a) Treatment of intermediate products and production of chemicals;

(b) Production of pesticides and pharmaceutical products, paint and varnishes, elastomers and peroxides;

(c) Storage facilities for petroleum, petrochemical and chemical products

(7) Food industry

(a) Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats;

(b) Packing and canning of animal and vegetable products;

(c) Manufacture of dairy products;

(d) Brewing and malting;

(e) Confectionery and syrup manufacture;

(f) Installations for the slaughter of animals;

(g) Industrial starch manufacturing installations;

(h) Fish-meal and fish-oil factories;

i) Sugar factories.

(8) Textile, leather, wood and paper industries

(a) Industrial plants for the production of paper and board (projects not included in Annex I);

(b) Plants for the pre-treatment (operations such as washing, bleaching, mercerisation) or dyeing of fibres or textiles;

(c) Plants for the tanning of hides and skins;

(d) Cellulose-processing and production installations. Annex II (9) Rubber Industry Manufacture and treatment of elastomer-based products

Annex II (10) Infrastructure projects

(a) Industrial estate development projects

(b) Urban development projects, including the construction of shopping centres and car parks.

(c) Construction of railways and intermodal transhipment facilities, and of intermodal terminals (projects not included in Annex I);

(d) Construction of airfields (projects not included in Annex I) This project category could be interpreted as including heliports;

(e) Construction of roads, harbours, and port installations, including fishing harbours (projects not included in Annex I);

(f) Inland waterway construction not included in Annex I, canalisation and flood relief works;

(g) Dams and other installations designed to hold water or store it on a long-term basis (projects not included in Annex I);

(h) Tramways, elevated and underground railways, suspended lines or similar lines of a particular type, used exclusively or mainly for passenger transport;

(i) Oil and gas pipeline installations and pipelines for the transport of CO2 streams for the purposes of geological storage (projects not included in Annex I); Annex II (10)(f) Annex II (10)(h) 53;

(j) Installations of long-distance aqueducts;

(k) Coastal work to combat erosion and maritime works capable of altering the coast through the construction, for example, of dykes, moles, jetties and other sea defence works, excluding the maintenance and reconstruction of such works;

(l) Groundwater abstraction and artificial groundwater recharge schemes not included in Annex I;

(m) Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins not included in Annex I.

(11) Other projects

(a) Permanent racing and test tracks for motorised vehicles;

(b) Installations for the disposal of waste (projects not included in Annex I);

(c) Wastewater treatment plants (projects not included in Annex I);

(d) Sludge-deposition sites; The treatment and disposal of sludge could be interpreted as being covered by this project category.

(10)(m) Annex II (11)(a) Annex II (11)(b) 55

Annex II (10) Infrastructure projects

(a) Industrial estate development projects

(b) Urban development projects, including the construction of shopping centres and car parks.

(c) Construction of railways and intermodal transhipment facilities, and of intermodal terminals (projects not included in Annex I);

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(f) Inland waterway construction not included in Annex I, canalisation and flood relief works;

(g) Dams and other installations designed to hold water or store it on a long-term basis (projects not included in Annex I);

(h) Tramways, elevated and underground railways, suspended lines or similar lines of a particular type, used exclusively or mainly for passenger transport;

(i) Oil and gas pipeline installations and pipelines for the transport of CO2 streams for the purposes of geological storage (projects not included in Annex I); Annex II (10)(f) Annex II (10)(h) 53;

(j) Installations of long-distance aqueducts;

(k) Coastal work to combat erosion and maritime works capable of altering the coast through the construction, for example, of dykes, moles, jetties and other sea defence works, excluding the maintenance and reconstruction of such works;

(l) Groundwater abstraction and artificial groundwater recharge schemes not included in Annex I;

(m) Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins not included in Annex I.

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(a) Permanent racing and test tracks for motorised vehicles;

(b) Installations for the disposal of waste (projects not included in Annex I);

(c) Wastewater treatment plants (projects not included in Annex I);

(d) Sludge-deposition sites; The treatment and disposal of sludge could be interpreted as being covered by this project category.

(10)(m) Annex II (11)(a) Annex II (11)(b) 55

(e) Storage of scrap iron, including scrap vehicles;

(f) Test benches for engines, turbines or reactors;

(g) Installations for the manufacture of artificial mineral fibres; (h) Installations for the recovery or destruction of explosive substances; (i) Knackers' yards.

(12) Tourism and leisure

(a) Ski runs, ski lifts and cable cars and associated developments;

(b) Marinas;

(c) Holiday villages and hotel complexes outside urban areas and associated developments;

(d) Permanent campsites and caravan sites;

(12)(a) 56 (e) Theme parks.

(13)

(a) Any change or extension of projects listed in Annex I or Annex II, already authorised, executed or in the process of being executed, which may have significant adverse effects on the environment;

(b) Projects in Annex I, undertaken exclusively or mainly for the development and testing of new methods or products and not used for more than two years.

Appendix 3: Responses from Environmental Consultation Bodies

Ms. Rachel Dexter - Planning Policy Officer
Hinckley & Bosworth BC
Council Offices Argents Mead
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 1BZ

Our ref: LT/2006/000101/OR-10/IS1-L02
Your ref:

Date: 27 July 2018

Dear Ms. Dexter

Sheepy Parish NHP – Screening Determination SEA & HRA

Thank you for your e-mail of 11th July 2018 in respect of the above.

I have reviewed the Sheepy Parish SEA Screening Statement and I concur with the conclusions within that statement that neither SEA or HRA are a requirement for this Plan.

Yours sincerely

MR GEOFF PLATTS
Planning Specialist Sustainable Places

Direct dial 0203 0253242
Direct e-mail geoff.platts@environment-agency.gov.uk

Historic England

Rachel.dexter@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Our ref:
PL00448403
Your ref:

Telephone
07769
242872

31 July 2018

Dear Ms Dexter

re: Request for screening for SEA - Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above 11 June 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

Positive About Disabled People
Stonewall DIVERSITY CHAMPION

Date: 21 June 2018
Our ref: 249355

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Rachel.dexter@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

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

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Ms Dexter

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan: Screening Determination

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 11 June 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 Guidance. 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 email consultations@naturalengland.org.uk For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

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Yours sincerely
Dawn Kinrade
Consultations Team