

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES REGULATIONS 2004  
REGULATION 9 SCREENING DETERMINATION STATEMENT**

**Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan**

**Introduction**

European Union Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans or programmes that would have a significant environmental effect. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the regulations) require that this is determined by a screening process, which should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations). The results of this process must be set out in an SEA Screening Statement, which must be publicly available. Before the Council make a formal determination, there is a requirement to consult three statutory consultation bodies designated in the regulations (Historic England, Environment Agency & Natural England) on whether an environmental assessment is required.

This document is the Screening Determination of the need to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan and is made in accordance with the regulations. Within 28 days of making its determination, Rugby Borough Council and Willoughby Parish Council will publish a statement, setting out this decision. If it is determined that an SEA is not required, the statement must include reasons for this.

**Determination**

In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, Rugby Borough Council has determined that an environmental assessment of the emerging Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan is not required as it is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. In making this determination, Rugby Borough Council has had regard to Schedule 1 of the Regulations and has carried out consultation with the consultation bodies. An assessment against Schedule 1 of Regulations forms **Appendix 1** to this determination and comments made by the Consultation bodies form **Appendix 2**.

This determination has been made on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018**.

**Further Information**

A copy of this determination will be sent to the Consultation Bodies and made available on the Rugby Borough Council website and Willoughby Parish Council's website.

**Appendix 1- SEA and HRA Screening Report**

Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan  
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations  
Assessment  
Screening Report

14<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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## **1. Introduction**

Under the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation (2004) certain types of plans that set the framework for the consent of future development projects, must be subject to an environmental assessment.

This screening report has been prepared to determine whether the Willoughby Neighbourhood Development Plan to 2031 should be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive) and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation 2004 (SEA Regulations)

## **2. Legislative Background**

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

2.2 This report will also screen to determine whether the Neighbourhood Plan requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). A HRA is required when it is deemed that likely adverse significant effects may occur on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the implementation of a plan/project. As a general 'rule of thumb' it is identified that sites with pathways of 10-15km of the plan/project boundary should be included with a HRA.

2.3 This report focuses on screening for SEA and HRA and the criteria for establishing whether a full assessment is needed.

## **3. Criteria for Screening for SEA**

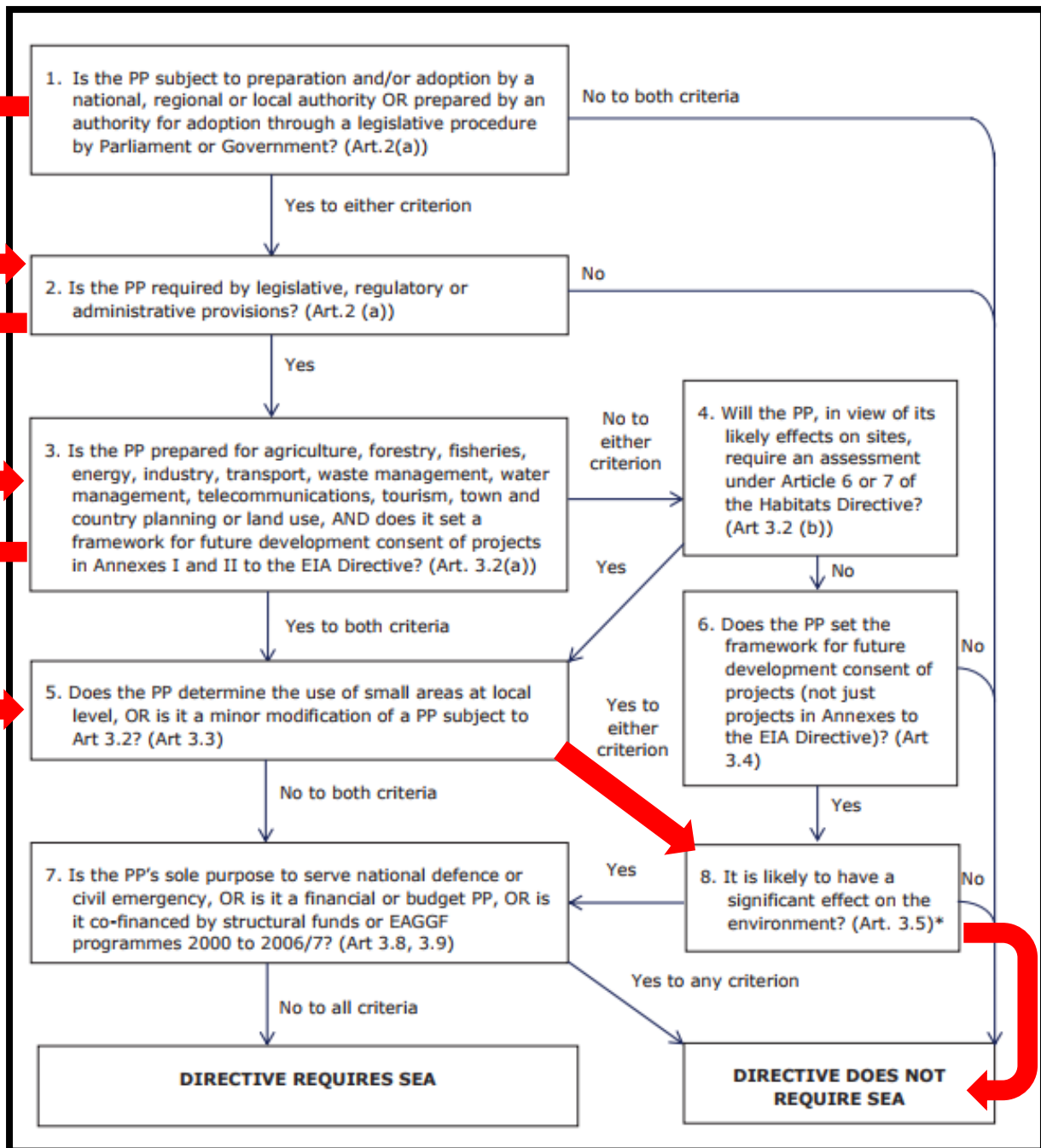
3.1 Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects are set in Schedule 1 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These are:

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

Source: Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

#### **4. Assessment for SEA**

4.1 The red arrows indicate the Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan SEA screening route.



Source: Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005)

Table 1: Establishing the need for an SEA

Stage	No/Yes	Reason
1. Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative	Yes	If the final Neighbourhood Plan is successful at referendum and is subsequently Made by the Local Planning Authority it will become a Development Plan Document with equal status to the Local Plan.

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procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))		
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	Communities have a right to produce a Neighbourhood Plan; however communities are not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative purposes to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. However, once 'made' the Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan would form part of the statutory development plan, and will be used when making decisions on planning applications within the Neighbourhood Area. Therefore it is considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine further if an SEA is required.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Yes	The Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan is prepared for town and country planning and land use. The plan sets out a framework for some aspects of future development in the Willoughby Neighbourhood Area. Once 'made' the Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan would form part of the statutory development plan, and will be used when making decisions on planning applications which may include development which may fall under Annex I and II of the EIA directive.
5. Does the PP Determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art.3.3)	Yes	Once 'made' the Neighbourhood Plan would form part of the statutory development plan and be used when making decisions on planning applications of small areas at the local level.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Yes	The Neighbourhood Plan, once the 'made', forms part of the statutory development plan and will be used to determine planning applications within the designated Neighbourhood Area. Therefore the Neighbourhood Plan will set the framework for future developments.



8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	No	See table 2 below for further detail.
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Source: Stages taken from the Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005)

4.2 The following assessment in table 2 provides further detail on the response to criteria 8 in table one. The assessment considers the likelihood of the Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan to have significant effects on the environment.

Table 2: Likelihood of significant effects on the environment part 1

<b>Characteristics of the Plan</b>	<b>Summary of Effects</b>
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.	Once 'made; the Neighbourhood Plan will set out the framework which will be used to determine proposals for development within the neighbourhood area.
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the currently adopted Rugby Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework and all proposals within the Neighbourhood Area must comply with the policies of all three documents.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	Draft policies W1, W2, W4 and W5 of the Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan include elements of environmental protection. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats, corridors and heritage assets;</li> <li>• Protection of grass verges, hedges and other landscape features;</li> <li>• Minimising light pollution;</li> <li>• Protecting and enhancing GI assets;</li> <li>• Improving water quality management and reducing flood risk;</li> <li>• Ensuring new development links to existing cycle networks.</li> </ul>

	<p>Any proposal would have to comply with the principle of Sustainable Development as laid out in the NPPF and has to comply with the environmental protection policies of both the NPPF and the Local Plan.</p>
<p>Environmental problems relevant to the plan.</p>	<p>Current issues in Willoughby raised during the initial public consultation included traffic volumes and flooding. However it is not felt that this plan would have any increased impact on these issues as no sites have been allocated for development.</p> <p>The key environmental issues from the Rugby Core Strategy and the draft Rugby Local Plan which are relevant to this plan includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The risk of flooding;</li> <li>2. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity</li> <li>3. The effects of development on the historic environment;</li> <li>4. The effects of development on the wider landscape;</li> <li>5. The protection of the best and most versatile agricultural land;</li> </ol> <p>The Local Plan contains policies to tackle these issues. The Neighbourhood Plan adds additional support to this.</p>
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).</p>	<p>The Local Plan has regard to European community legislation on the environment and the Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan has to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan.</p>

Source: Criteria taken from Schedule 2, Paragraph 1&2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Table 3 looks at the specific issues and assesses the likelihood of a significant environmental impact.

**Table 3: Likelihood of significant effects on the environment part 2**

	Traffic	Flooding	Biodiversity	Historic Environment	Landscape	Agricultural Land
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected.</b>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does support development on infill sites within the village boundary. This is in line with the Local Plan.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does support development on infill sites within the village boundary. This is in line with the Local Plan.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does support development on infill sites within the village boundary. This is in line with the Local Plan.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does support development on infill sites within the village boundary. This is in line with the Local Plan.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does support development on infill sites within the village boundary. This is in line with the Local Plan.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does support development on infill sites within the village boundary. This is in line with the Local Plan.</p>
<b>The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.</b>	<p>Any proposal would have to comply with transport policies at National and Local level. The Highways Authority would be consulted on this. Additionally there may be no</p>	<p>There are areas of flood zones 2 and 3 within the village boundary. Applications would have to comply with National and Local Policy on flooding which would minimise probability.</p>	<p>Any proposal would have to comply with biodiversity policies at National and Local level as well as the policies within this Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p>Any proposal which impacts a Listed Building or Scheduled Monument would be subject to National Policies on the historic environment.</p> <p>Policies in this plan identify</p>	<p>Any proposal which has an impact on the wider landscape would be subject to National and Local policies as well as policies within this Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p>Any proposal would have to have regard to National policy on agricultural land. There are only small amounts of agricultural land which sit within the village boundary.</p>

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	development proposals put forward. Therefore the probability would be very low.	Additionally there may be no development proposals put forward.	Additionally there may be no development proposals put forward. Therefore the probability of a negative impact would be low.  Under these policies there is scope for positive impacts.	further historic features important to the village and also cover the importance of retaining the character of the village.  Additionally there may be no development proposals put forward.  As such the probability of a negative impact is low.	Additionally there may be no development proposals put forward.  As such the potential for negative impacts is very low.	Additionally there may be no development proposals put forward. Therefore the potential for negative impacts is low.
<b>The cumulative nature of the effects.</b>	Any impacts of additional traffic would be an addition to that which already passes through the village.	Additional development in a flood zone would have a negative cumulative effect on flooding.	Impacts on one species could impact further species.	Any detraction or deterioration of important historic features could lead to further deterioration in future.	If the quality of the relationship between the village and the wider landscape deteriorates this could lead to further deterioration in future.	This would impact only specific land parcels.

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<b>The trans boundary nature of the effects.</b>	Air pollution from traffic may have a trans boundary effect.	Flooding would generally be localised	These would generally be fairly localised.	These would be localised.	This could have an impact on the wider landscape.	These would be localised.
<b>The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).</b>	Potential for a decrease in air quality, increase in noise and potential for car accidents.	Potential for impacts to human health and damage to habitats.	Very little risk to human health. Potential impacts on individual plants and animals, their habitats and the wider ecosystem.	Very little risk to human health. Risk to the quality of the historic environment and deterioration of the character of Willoughby.	Very little risk to human health. Risk to the relationship between the village and the wider landscape.	Very little risk to human health. Some risk to flora and fauna that benefit from the agricultural land.
<b>The magnitude spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).</b>	These would be very localised impacts.	Localised impacts.	Localised impacts.	Localised impacts.	Impacts could be perceived to extend beyond the Neighbourhood Area.	Generally impacts would be local but could feed into a larger scale picture if good quality agricultural land is also being lost elsewhere.
<b>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</b>	This would be dependent on the location of any proposed development. Within the village boundary are 6 listed buildings, one scheduled ancient monument and several Tree Protection Orders.					

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<b>- exceeded environmental quality standards</b> <b>- intensive land use</b>	
<b>The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</b>	There are no nationally or internationally protected areas or landscapes within the Neighbourhood Area.

Source: Criteria taken from Schedule 2, Paragraph 1&2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations

2004

## **5. Assessment for HRA**

5.1 There are not any European sites within 15km of the Neighbourhood Area

## **6. Screening Outcomes**

6.1 As a result of the assessment in section 4, it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the emerging proposals to be contained within the Willoughby.

## **Appendix 2- Consultation Body Responses**



Ms Sophie Leaning  
Rugby Borough Council  
Development Control  
PO Box 16  
Rugby  
Warwickshire  
CV21 2LA

**Our ref:** UT/2007/101479/SE-  
04/SC1-L01  
**Your ref:** Willoughby  
**Date:** 30 October 2018

Dear Ms Leaning

### **Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Report**

Thank you for your email which was received on 16 October 2018.

As requested we have reviewed the Screening Assessment prepared in support of the Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan. Having reviewed the proposals we do not consider there to be significant environmental impacts as a result of this plan, therefore we concur with the conclusions of the report and do not require a SEA or HRA to be undertaken in support of the plan.

We note the presence of floodplain from the River Leam and its tributaries within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary, however as there are no proposed site allocations for development, we have no concerns.

Yours sincerely

**Ms Anne-Marie McLaughlin**  
**Planning Advisor**

Direct dial 020 3025 4111  
Direct e-mail [anne-marie.mclaughlin@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:anne-marie.mclaughlin@environment-agency.gov.uk)



Historic England

WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

Ms Sophie Leaning  
Rugby Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Evreux Way  
Rugby  
CV21 2RR

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6887

Our ref: PL00491002

30 October 2018

Dear Ms Leaning

**WILLOUGHBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- SEA AND HRA SCREENING**

Thank you for your consultation and the invitation to comment on the SEA and HRA Screening Document for the above Neighbourhood Plan.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage.

Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request. On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of the 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with your view, as set out in section 4 of the screening report, that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. Regarding HRA Historic England does not disagree with your conclusions but would defer to the opinions of the other statutory consultees.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at: [<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/)

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

Yours sincerely,

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

cc:



THE AXIS 10 HOLLIDAY STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 1TF

Telephone 0121 625 6870  
HistoricEngland.org.uk





Historic England

WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE



THE AXIS 10 HOLLIDAY STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 1TF

Telephone 0121 625 6870  
[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)



*Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.*

Date: 09 November 2018  
Our ref: 261668  
Your ref: NDP – SEA Screening



Ms Sophie Leaning  
Senior Planner  
Development Strategy Team  
Rugby Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Evreux Way  
Rugby CV21 2RR

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

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

[Sophie.Leaning@rugby.gov.uk](mailto:Sophie.Leaning@rugby.gov.uk)

Dear Ms Leaning

**Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 16th October 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 new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Sharon Jenkins  
Consultations Team