



# Dinnington Neighbourhood

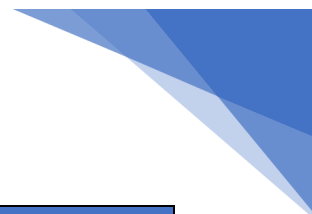
**Plan** Strategic Environmental Assessment and  
Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report  
August 2021

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# SEA and HRA Screening Opinion of Dinnington's Neighbourhood Plan



# SEA and HRA Screening Opinion of Dinnington's Neighbourhood Plan



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# SEA and HRA Screening Opinion of Dinnington's Neighbourhood Plan

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report is an assessment of whether the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/ EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations. A SEA is required if the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.
- 1.2 This report also screens 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 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. A HRA is required when it is deemed that likely adverse significant effects may occur on protected Habitats (Natura 2000) sites, as a result of the implementation of a plan or project.
- 1.3 In general terms, a neighbourhood plan may require full SEA where its policies and proposals are likely to result in significant environmental effects, particularly where such effects have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.
- 1.4 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental effects of a plan before it is made. The SEA screening determines whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an environmental report must be produced.
- 1.5 In the context of neighbourhood planning, a full Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) may be required where a Neighbourhood Plan is deemed likely to result in significant negative effects occurring on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the plan's implementation. The HRA screening will determine whether significant effects on a European site are likely.

## 2.0 Brexit and SEA requirements

- 2.0 The UK left the EU on 31st January 2020. Under the UK-EU withdrawal agreement, a transition period ended on 31st December 2020, during which time all EU law continued to apply to the UK. During the transition period the UK needed to continue following domestic law that implements EU law, or directly applicable EU law that is given effect through the EUWA 2018.
- 2.1 Beyond the transition period, the SEA Regulations, which previously implemented the requirements of the SEA Directive in England, will continue to apply as before unless and until new legislation is introduced.

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## 3.0 Strategic Planning Context/ Newcastle City Council Local Plan

- 3.1 The basic conditions require a Neighbourhood Plan to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan (the Local Plan) for the area.
- 3.2 Through its strategic policies, the Local Plan effectively defines the parameters within which the Neighbourhood Plan may operate. Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in 'general conformity' with Local Plans. Local Plans are subject to SEA (generally incorporated through a Sustainability Appraisal) and HRA. In screening the Neighbourhood Plan it is therefore relevant to consider the strategic policy context, to enable the identification of environmental effects not already considered and addressed through the Local Plan-making process.
- 3.3 The current Local Plan is made up of two parts:
- 3.4 Part 1-The Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan (CSUCP) was adopted in 2015 – Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan (CSUCP) is a strategic planning framework that will guide development in Newcastle and Gateshead to 2030. It is the first part of both councils Local Plan, containing an overall vision and spatial strategy to deliver economic prosperity and create lifetime neighbourhoods. The Plan covers the whole of the area within the administrative boundaries of Gateshead and Newcastle and includes strategic policies and specific policies for the Urban Core, Sub-Areas and sites.
- 3.5 The CSUCP identified sites in the city's Neighbourhood and Village Growth Areas for suitable expansion. Two sites at Dinnington were allocated for housing development. These sites lie on the western edge of the village with one partly developed out and one fully developed.
- 3.6 A third site known colloquially as the 'Donkey Field' was not allocated in the CSUCP but has since been granted planning permission.
- 3.7 **Sustainability Appraisal & Habitats Regulations Assessment (Local Plan Part 1)**
- 3.8 The Sustainability Appraisal prepared for the Local Plan incorporated the requirements of SEA. Throughout the stages of plan preparation, the Sustainability Appraisal influenced policy formulation and the allocation of development sites.
- 3.9 A range of sites were appraised in Dinnington village. The proposed sites and overall level of growth are considered to provide a sustainable approach to growth.

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- 3.10 In November 2013 Newcastle City Council published the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan for Gateshead and Newcastle including the methodology and approach used for the appraisal.
- 3.11 Relevant Natura 2000 sites were scoped as part of the HRA assessment of Part 1 of the Local Plan. It is not proposed that all of these sites should be considered as part of the HRA assessment of the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan as the considerable distances involved prevent any likely interaction. A more proportionate approach, and one which is taken in the SEA & HRA assessment of other neighbourhood Plans.

Table 1: European and Ramsar Sites that could possibly be adversely affected by the NP

Site Name	Distance from Local Plan Boundary (km)	Sites within 10km of the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan or with any known linkages (eg. Rivers) to NP Area
Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast (SAC)	34km Newcastle	No
Coquet Island (SPA)	29km Newcastle	No
Durham Coast (SAC)	11 km Gateshead	No
Farne Islands (SPA)	59 KM Newcastle	
Ford Moss (SAC)	67 km Newcastle	No
Harbottle Moors (SAC)	38km Newcastle	No
Holburn Lake and Moss (SPA) and Ramsar Site	62 km Newcastle	No
Lindisfarne Ramsar Site	59 m Newcastle	No
Newham Fen (SAC)	54km Newcastle	No
Northumbria Coast (SPA)	9m Newcastle	Yes
Northumbria Coast Ramsar Site	64 km Newcastle	No
North Northumberland Dunes (SAC)	39 km Newcastle	No
North Pennine Dales Meadows (SAC)	10km Gateshead	No
North Pennine Moors (SAC)	9km Newcastle	Yes
North Pennine Moors (SPA)	43km Newcastle	No
River Tweed (SAC)	43 km Newcastle	No
Simonside Hills (SAC)	27 km Newcastle	No
Tweed Estuary (SAC)	80 km Newcastle	No
Additional known sites		
Prestwick Carr (SSSI)	Within Neighbourhood Area	yes
Brenkley Meadows (SSSI)	Within Neighbourhood Area	Yes

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Big Waters (SSSI)	Adjacent to Neighbourhood Area	Yes
Arcot Hall Grassland and Ponds (SSSI)	Adjacent to Neighbourhood Area	Yes
Gosforth Park SSSI	Adjacent to Neighbourhood Area	Yes

Source: CSUCP: Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 3.12 The above table demonstrates the lack of linkages through a known pathway, and the considerable geographical distances between all Natura 2000 & Ramsar sites in relation to the Dinnington Neighbourhood plan Area. Several SSSI sites identified above are in proximity to or with in the area of the Proposed Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.13 The Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any additional development sites to those already committed and will therefore be unlikely to result in significant increases in activity. Its policies DNP1 and DNP2 relate to the designation of protected Local Green Spaces within the village of Dinnington and to the protection of Valued Village Assets (historic buildings, local pubs etc.).
- 3.14 The HRA concludes that:

*“The potential effects on Natura 2000 sites identified as arising from policies in the Plan are in all instances indirect and not considered to be significant. They therefore do not pose a threat to the site integrity or to the achievement of conservation objectives of any of the European sites considered.*

*Given the limited effects identifies as arising from the Plan, it is considered that its contribution to possible ‘in combination’ effects will be adequately mitigated against by the policies within the Plan designed to protect these designated sites as well as green infrastructure and the natural environment. This will be strengthened further by the mitigation proposed by the policies of the neighbouring authorities.*

*It is considered that the policy framework and supporting text of the Plan provides an appropriate level of protection for Natura 2000 sites against any possible effects arising from the proposed policies.*

*The two Councils have therefore determined, based on this screening, that the implementation of the Plan will have not significant effect on any of the European Natura 2000 sites.*

*A further appraisal the Appropriate Assessment that would consider significant adverse impacts caused by the proposed Plan and its policies, is not therefore required.”*

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- 3.15 The Sustainability Appraisal prepared for the Local Plan incorporated the requirements of SEA. Throughout the stages of plan preparation, and the influenced policy formulation and the allocation of development sites.
- 3.16 A range of sites were appraised in Dinnington village. The proposed sites and overall level of growth are considered to provide a sustainable approach to growth.
- 3.17 Part 2-The Development and Allocations Plan (DAP) provides detailed policies to support our growth ambitions for Newcastle including policies which will be used to make decisions on planning applications, allocations of housing and employment sites to support Part 1 (CSUCP), and designations of retail centre boundaries and sites for environmental protection. The DAP was formally adopted by Newcastle City Council on 24 June 2020.

### *Sustainability Appraisal Habitats Regulations Assessment (Local Plan Part 2)*

- 3.18 The DAP does not propose any allocations beyond those established in the Part 1 of the Local Plan within Dinnington.
- 3.19 In preparation of the DAP, Newcastle City Council undertook a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the DAP under Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory purchase Act 2004. This incorporated the requirements of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (commonly referred to as the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations'), which implement the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') (European Parliament, 2001).
- 3.20 The SA promotes sustainable development by identifying the likely significant economic, environmental and social effects associated with the implementation of the proposed DAP, along with measures to minimise any negative effects and maximise positive effects.

## **4.0 Summary of The Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan**

- 4.1 Name of Qualifying Body and Local Planning Authority
- 4.2 The qualifying Body preparing the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan is Dinnington Parish Council. The Local Planning Authority is Newcastle City Council.

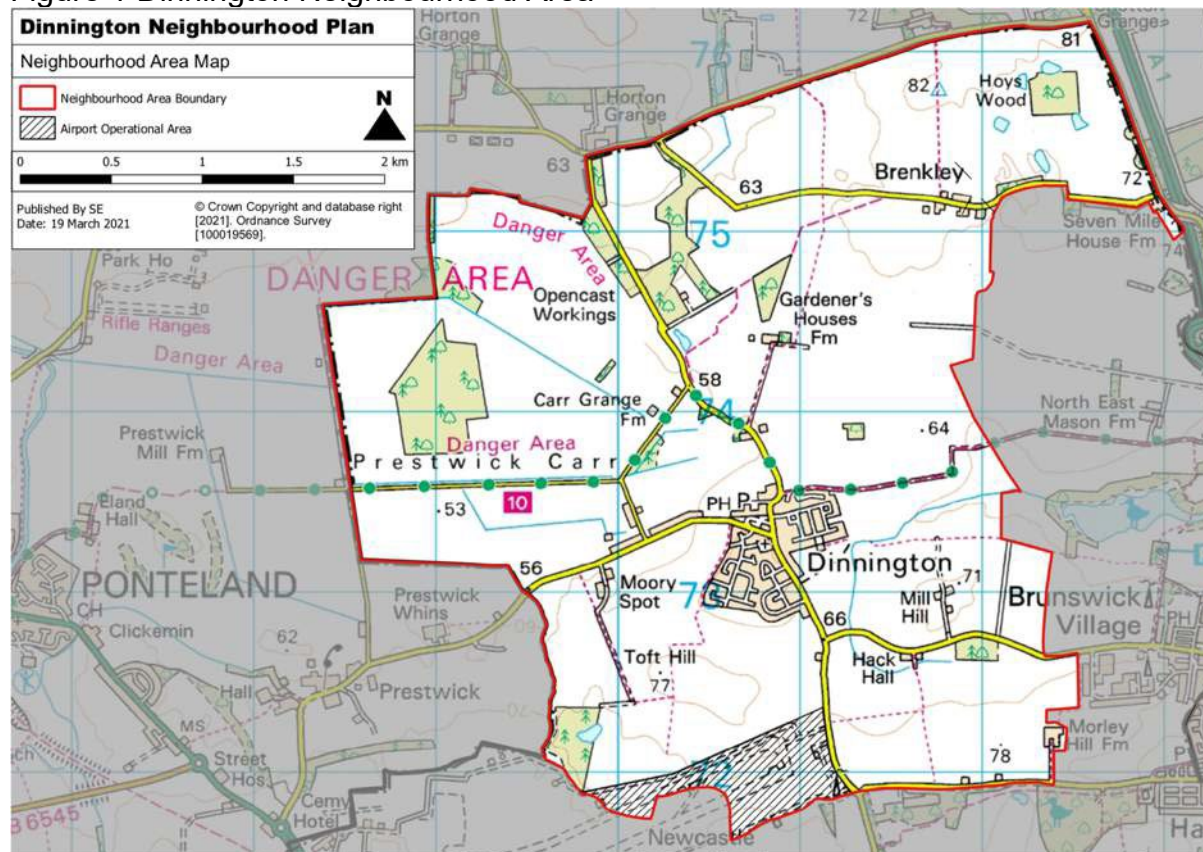
### ***Location and spatial extent of the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan***

- 4.3 The Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan covers the Dinnington Neighbourhood Area, comprising the Parish of Dinnington in Newcastle upon Tyne.



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Figure 1 Dinnington Neighbourhood Area



## ***Timeframe of the Dinnington neighbourhood Plan***

4.4 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to cover a 15 year period, commencing in 2021 and ending in 2036.

## ***Main Aims of the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan***

4.5 Prior to embarking on a Neighbourhood Plan, Dinnington Parish Council has had a long history working with and for the local community. Its established aims are to improve village facilities, encourage and support community events and activities, to improve the environment of the village and generally represent its interests.

4.6 The DNP has been prepared by Dinnington Parish Council, the 'qualifying body' for the purposes of neighbourhood planning. The DNP and supporting information are available to view and download from Dinnington Parish Council's neighbourhood planning website<sup>1</sup>. Where necessary, please refer to the DNP alongside this screening report.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.spanglefish.com/dinnington/index.asp?pageid=657380>

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## 5.0 Objectives & Policies

5.1 The DNP sets out the following objectives and policies:

Table 2 DNP Objectives & Policies

TOPIC CHAPTER	OBJECTIVE(S)	POLICIES
Chapter 4: The Valued Rural Setting of Dinnington Village	To protect and enhance the essential village character of Dinnington provided by its rural countryside setting'	N/A - Chapter 4 is a narrative to highlight the role and value attached to Dinnington's rural setting
Chapter 5: The Valued Attributes of Dinnington Village	'To protect and enhance the green spaces which contribute to the attractiveness of Dinnington and the wider Parish as a place to live and work'	DNP1: Local Green Spaces
	'To protect and enhance the facilities, amenities and services within Dinnington which help support a thriving, cohesive and sustainable community'	DNP2: Valued Village Assets

5.2 As indicated in objective 1, the DNP seeks to 'To protect and enhance the green spaces which contribute to the attractiveness of Dinnington and the wider Parish as a place to live and work'. It also aims to protect and enhance the facilities, amenities and services within the Neighbourhood Plan Area to support a sustainable community.

5.3 The provisions of DNP1 are aligned with those set out in CSUCP Policy CS14 Wellbeing and Leisure which promotes access to green spaces, sports facilities, play and recreation opportunities. It also compliments CSUCP Policy CS18 Green Infrastructure and the Natural Environment and DAP Policy DM30 Protecting and Providing for Open Space, Sports and Recreational Buildings and Land. As mentioned above the CSUCP policies have been subject to SA and HRA assessment.

5.4 DNP2: Valued Village Assets (VVA's) is complementary to Core Strategy Policy CS9 Existing Communities. This seeks, among other things, to maintain and improve existing community facilities and services. Several VVA's are businesses, and their protection aligns with Policy CS5 Employment and Economic Growth Priorities. A similar connection can also be made to Policy CS7 Retail and Local Centres given that Dinnington is identified as a Local Centre in the Core Strategy.

### *Does the Neighbourhood Plan Propose Allocations?*

5.5 A neighbourhood plan can allocate sites for development, including housing. Where they do contain policies relevant to housing supply, these policies should take account of latest and up-to-date evidence of housing need.

## 6.0 SEA Screening Assessment

- 6.1 Planning Practice Guidance – Strategic environmental assessment requirements for neighbourhood plans (Paragraph: 026 Reference ID: 11-026-20140306) states that,

*'In some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This process is commonly referred to as a "screening" assessment and the requirements are set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of those Regulations.*

*One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the making of the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European Union obligations (including under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive).*

*To decide whether a draft neighbourhood plan might have significant environmental effects, it must be assessed (screened) at an early stage of the plan's preparation according to the requirements set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These include a requirement to consult the environmental assessment consultation bodies.*

*Each consultation body will be able to advise on particular topics relevant to its specific area of expertise and responsibility, and the specific information that it holds. Where it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), a statement of reasons for the determination should be prepared. A copy of the statement must be submitted with the neighbourhood plan proposal and made available to the independent examiner.'*

- 6.2 The Following section screens the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan against various criteria to determine if a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required. Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC details the criteria for determining whether plans are likely to have significant environmental effects. This criteria are outlined below.



**Table 3 SEA Screening Assessment Criteria**

<p>Article 3, Scope</p> <p>5. Member States shall determine whether plans or programmes referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 are likely to have significant environmental effects either through case-by-case examination or by specifying types of plans and programmes or by combining both approaches. For this purpose Member States shall in all cases take into account relevant criteria set out in Annex II, in order to ensure that plans and programmes with likely significant effects on the environment are covered by this Directive.</p> <p>Annex II Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)</p> <p>1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to</p> <p>the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;</li> <li>- the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;</li> <li>- environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;</li> <li>- 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).</li> </ul> <p>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</li> <li>- the cumulative nature of the effects;</li> <li>- the transboundary nature of the effects;</li> <li>- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);</li> <li>- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);</li> <li>- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</li> <li>– exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;</li> <li>– intensive land-use;</li> </ul> </li> <li>-the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</li> </ul>
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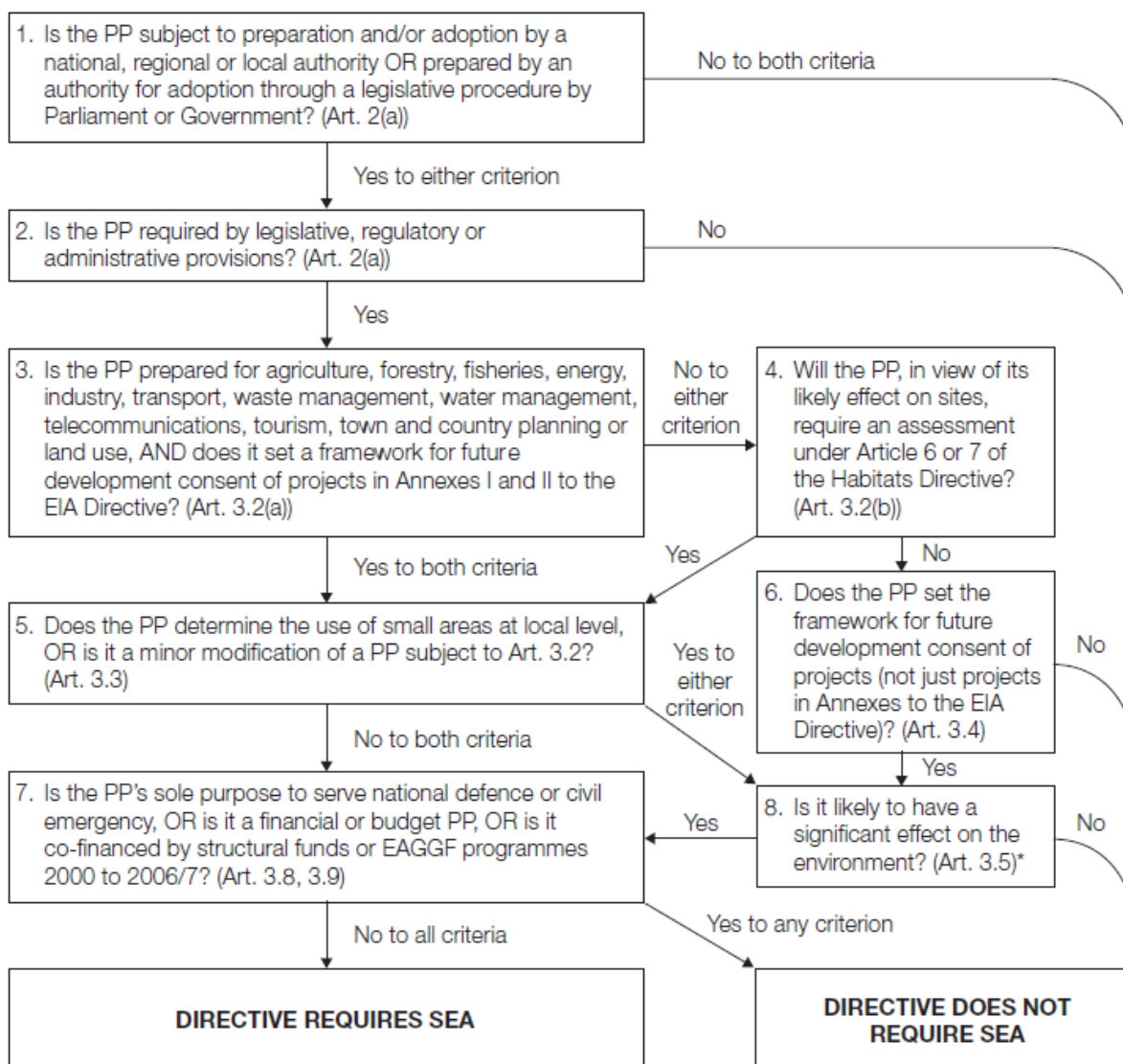
6.3 The Department of the Environment produced a flow chart which sets out the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required. See Figure 1 below.

6.4 This diagram shows the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive's field of application in the form of a diagram. The original diagram is from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Objective'.

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

This diagram is intended as a guide to the criteria for application of the Directive to plans and programmes (PPs). It has no legal status.



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

6.5 The process outlined in Figure 2 has been undertaken for the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan and the findings are outlined in Table 4. As the questions have been answered using the flow diagram above, some of the questions may not be applicable as a result of previous answers: where this is the case, the response is stated as 'not applicable'.

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Table 4: Assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	NCC assessment	Likely significant environmental effect
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to—		
a) 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 DNP would, if adopted, form part of the Local Plan and contribute to the framework for future development projects. However, it would only apply to a very limited geographical area (the Dinnington Neighbourhood Area) where proposals over the plan period are likely to be few to none.	None
b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The DNP would not influence other plans and programmes to a significant degree. The DNP is required to be in general conformity with the Newcastle Local Plan.	None
c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	<p>It is a basic condition that a Neighbourhood Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The proposed FNP includes a number of policies which promote environmental considerations.</p> <p>The narrative contained in Chapter 4, focusses upon the valued open rural setting of Dinnington village, and, Policy DNP1, sets out the valued Local Green Spaces within the village.</p> <p>The DNP also includes a social and economic component in Policy DNP2, identifying and safeguarding its 'Valued Village Assets', which play a vital role in the economic and social wellbeing of the community.</p>	None

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d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	There is a large area within Flood Zone 3 around to the north west of Dinnington Village bounding the Neighbourhood Area. However the DNP does not include specific proposals within the flood zone areas. The Neighbourhood Plan Area is in proximity to and contains several SSSI sites however the DNP proposes no policies or land allocations which would impact these sites	None
e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The DNP is not relevant to the implementation of Community legislation on the environment.	None
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—		
a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	The effects of the implementation of the DNP are expected to be minimal in terms of probability, duration and frequency. Further it seeks to result in positive environmental effects through policies to protect open spaces and landscape	None
b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	The DNP does not propose any development sites.	None
c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	It is not anticipated that any effects will be transboundary.	None
d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	The DNP is not expected to pose any risks to human health or the environment: the effects of policies may enhance these elements.	None
e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population)	Census data from 2011 shows that the Parish had a usually resident population of 1636.  The extent of any effects of the implementation of the FNP are therefore expected	None

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	to be limited to the immediate local area.	
f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to— (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	<p>There are several known SSSI designated natural assets in proximity to Dinnington (SSSI's, SAC,s Ramsar Sites etc.). The value and vulnerability is not likely to be affected due to criterion (I, ii, iii)</p> <p>Dinnington is not within a conservation area Dinnington includes a small number of listed buildings and a scheduled monument.</p> <p>The DNP Policies DNP1 and DNP2 seek to protect and enhance local assets, improving the sustainability and quality of the local environment, affording protection to historic assets.</p>	None
g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	Any effects of the DNP are expected to be positive and localised: the effects are not likely to be significant. Policy 4 protects the open character of the landscape surrounding Fordham village.	None

Table 5 shows the assessment of whether the DNP will require a full SEA. The questions in table 1 are drawn from the diagram above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

Criteria/ Stage	Response:	Details
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?	yes	The preparation and adoption of the DNP is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Whilst the DNP has been prepared by Dinnington Parish Council it will be adopted by Newcastle City Council as the local authority. GO TO STAGE 2
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Yes	Whilst the production of a Neighbourhood Plan is not a requirement and is optional, it will, if made, form part of the Local Plan for the Newcastle City Council area. It is therefore



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		important that this screening process considers the potential effects. GO TO STAGE 3
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 to the EIA Directive?	Yes -Town & Country Planning/ land use: No – EIA Directive Annex I&II	The DNP is being prepared for town and country planning and land use. It does not set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive. GO TO STAGE 4.
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?	No	The DNP does not propose any development sites for allocation. Allocated sites within the neighbourhood plan area are either identified by the adopted Local Plan or have existing planning consent. GO TO STAGE 6
5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a Plan subject to Article 3.2?	Yes	Local Green Space designation will afford several sites the same level of protection as Green Belt.
6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)?	Yes	Alongside the Newcastle Local Plan the DNP will set the framework for development consents in the neighbourhood area. GO TO STAGE 8
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 EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7?	NA	

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8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	No	The extent to which implementation of the FNP will result in likely significant environmental effects is assessed in Figure 3. The assessment identifies that no likely significant environmental effects are expected to arise through implementation of the FNP.
<b>Outcome</b>		<b>SEA not required</b>

### 7.0 HRA Screening

- 7.1 The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2020 and again in 2012. These updates were consolidated into the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- 7.2 In order to initiate the search of European sites that could potentially be affected by a neighbourhood plan, it is established practice in HRAs to consider European sites within the area covered by the plan, and other sites that may be affected beyond this area. Table 1 identifies several potentially relevant sites (SSSI's) as well as highlighting the distances of other European Sites. Several SSSI sites identified are in proximity to or with in the area of the Proposed Neighbourhood Plan.
- 7.3 The Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any development and neither of its policies relate to the SSSI sites or would in any way negatively impact them. Its policies DNP1 and DNP2 relate to the designation of protected Local Green Spaces within the village of Dinnington and to the protection of Valued Village Assets (historic buildings, local pubs etc.). It is considered that a full HRA assessment for the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan is not Required.

### 8.0 SEA & HRA Conclusions

- 8.1 The assessment in Section 6 indicates that it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the DNP and thus an SEA is not required.
- 8.2 The assessment in section 4 also considers the effects of the DNP in respect of designated sites. The assessment determines that implementation of the DNP is not expected to result in likely significant effects on designated sites and therefore, a full HRA is not required for the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan.
- 8.3 The Council has circulated this report to relevant Statutory Agencies, namely the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. It has taken into account the comments provided, and these are set out in appendix 1 of this report. The full responses can be found in appendix 2: Statutory Consultee Responses.

# SEA and HRA Screening Opinion of Dinnington's Neighbourhood Plan

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Summary of Statutory Consultee Responses

Statutory Consultee	Summary of Comments
Historic England	Based on the analysis set out in the Screening Opinion, and within the areas of interest to Historic England, we agree that the emerging plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects and, therefore, it does not need SEA
Environment Agency	Based on matters within our remit, it is considered that the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment when considered against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations. Therefore, a SEA will not be required.
Natural England	(No specific response)  The lack of comment from Natural England does not imply that there are no impacts on the natural environment, but only that the proposals are not likely to result in significant impacts on statutory designated nature conservation sites or landscapes.

## Annex A – Additional advice

Natural England offers the following additional advice:

### Landscape

Paragraph 174 of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) highlights the need to protect and enhance valued landscapes through the planning system. This application may present opportunities to protect and enhance locally valued landscapes, including any local landscape designations. You may want to consider whether any local landscape features or characteristics (such as ponds, woodland, or dry-stone walls) could be incorporated into the development to respond to and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness, in line with any local landscape character assessments. Where the impacts of development are likely to be significant, a Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment should be provided with the proposal to inform decision making. We refer you to the [Landscape Institute](#) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment for further guidance.

### Best and most versatile agricultural land and soils

Local planning authorities are responsible for ensuring that they have sufficient detailed agricultural land classification (ALC) information to apply NPPF policies (Paragraphs 174 and 175). This is the case regardless of whether the proposed development is sufficiently large to consult Natural England. Further information is contained in [GOV.UK guidance](#). Agricultural Land Classification information is available on the [Magic](#) website on the [Data.Gov.uk](#) website. If you consider the proposal has significant implications for further loss of 'best and most versatile' agricultural land, we would be pleased to discuss the matter further.

Guidance on soil protection is available in the Defra [Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites](#), and we recommend its use in the design and construction of development, including any planning conditions. For mineral working and landfilling separate guidance on soil protection for site restoration and aftercare is available on Gov.uk website. Detailed guidance on soil handling for mineral sites is contained in the Institute of Quarrying [Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils in Mineral Workings](#).

Should the development proceed, we advise that the developer uses an appropriately experienced soil specialist to advise on, and supervise soil handling, including identifying when soils are dry enough to be handled and how to make the best use of soils on site.

### Protected Species

Natural England has produced [standing advice](#)<sup>1</sup> to help planning authorities understand the impact of particular developments on protected species. We advise you to refer to this advice. Natural England will only provide bespoke advice on protected species where they form part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest or in exceptional circumstances.

### Local sites and priority habitats and species

You should consider the impacts of the proposed development on any local wildlife or geodiversity sites, in line with paragraphs 175 and 179 of the NPPF and any relevant development plan policy. There may also be opportunities to enhance local sites and improve their connectivity. Natural England does not hold locally specific information on local sites and recommends further information is obtained from appropriate bodies such as the local records centre, wildlife trust, geoconservation groups or recording societies.

Priority habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. List of priority habitats and species can be found [here](#)<sup>2</sup>. Natural England does not routinely hold species data, such data should be collected when impacts on priority habitats or species are considered likely. Consideration should also be given to the potential environmental value of brownfield sites, often found in urban areas and former industrial land, further information including links to the open mosaic habitats inventory can be found [here](#).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

<sup>2</sup> <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

## Annex A – Additional advice

### Ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees

You should consider any impacts on ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees in line with paragraph 180 of the NPPF. Natural England maintains the Ancient Woodland [Inventory](#) which can help identify ancient woodland. Natural England and the Forestry Commission have produced [standing advice](#) for planning authorities in relation to ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees. It should be taken into account by planning authorities when determining relevant planning applications. Natural England will only provide bespoke advice on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees where they form part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest or in exceptional circumstances.

### Environmental gains

Development should provide net gains for biodiversity in line with the NPPF paragraphs 174(d), 179 and 180. Development also provides opportunities to secure wider environmental gains, as outlined in the NPPF (paragraphs 8, 73, 104, 120, 174, 175 and 180). We advise you to follow the mitigation hierarchy as set out in paragraph 180 of the NPPF and firstly consider what existing environmental features on and around the site can be retained or enhanced or what new features could be incorporated into the development proposal. Where onsite measures are not possible, you should consider off site measures. Opportunities for enhancement might include:

- Providing a new footpath through the new development to link into existing rights of way.
- Restoring a neglected hedgerow.
- Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the site.
- Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.
- Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.
- Incorporating swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of new buildings.
- Designing lighting to encourage wildlife.
- Adding a green roof to new buildings.

Natural England's [Biodiversity Metric 3.1](#) may be used to calculate biodiversity losses and gains for terrestrial and intertidal habitats and can be used to inform any development project. For small development sites the [Small Sites Metric](#) may be used. This is a simplified version of [Biodiversity Metric 3.1](#) and is designed for use where certain criteria are met. It is available as a beta test version.

You could also consider how the proposed development can contribute to the wider environment and help implement elements of any Landscape, Green Infrastructure or Biodiversity Strategy in place in your area. For example:

- Links to existing greenspace and/or opportunities to enhance and improve access.
- Identifying opportunities for new greenspace and managing existing (and new) public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g. by sowing wild flower strips)
- Planting additional street trees.
- Identifying any improvements to the existing public right of way network or using the opportunity of new development to extend the network to create missing links.
- Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g. coppicing a prominent hedge that is in poor condition or clearing away an eyesore).

Natural England's [Environmental Benefits from Nature tool](#) may be used to identify opportunities to enhance wider benefits from nature and to avoid and minimise any negative impacts. It is designed to work alongside [Biodiversity Metric 3.1](#) and is available as a beta test version.

### Access and Recreation

Natural England encourages any proposal to incorporate measures to help improve people's access to the natural environment. Measures such as reinstating existing footpaths together with the creation of new footpaths and bridleways should be considered. Links to other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure. Relevant aspects of local authority green infrastructure strategies should be delivered where appropriate.

## **Annex A – Additional advice**

### **Rights of Way, Access land, Coastal access and National Trails**

Paragraphs 100 and 174 of the NPPF highlight the importance of public rights of way and access. Development should consider potential impacts on access land, common land, rights of way and coastal access routes in the vicinity of the development. Consideration should also be given to the potential impacts on any nearby National Trails. The National Trails website [www.nationaltrail.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk) provides information including contact details for the National Trail Officer. Appropriate mitigation measures should be incorporated for any adverse impacts.

### **Biodiversity duty**

Your authority has a [duty](#) to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of your decision making. Conserving biodiversity can also include restoration or enhancement to a population or habitat. Further information is available [here](#).



Historic England

Mr Luke Waterston

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Newcastle City Council

Planning Policy, 9th Floor

Our ref: PL00754064

Civic Centre

Barras Bridge

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE1 8QH

10 August 2021

Dear Mr Waterston

**Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004: Regulation 9  
Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan: SEA Screening Opinion, August 2021**

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion. As the public body that advises on England's historic environment, we are pleased to offer our comments.

Based on the analysis set out in the Screening Opinion, and within the areas of interest to Historic England, we agree that the emerging plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects and, therefore, it does not need SEA. In coming to this view we have taken the following factors into consideration:

- The plan area contains a small number of heritage assets including listed buildings, a scheduled monument, and the potential for non-designated assets.
- Heritage assets are fragile and irreplaceable and can be damaged by change through development both directly and indirectly by development in their setting.
- The plan is not expected to allocate sites for development.

As such, from the perspective of our area of interest, the need for SEA of the draft plan



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can be screened out as it is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects. However, the views of the other two statutory consultees should be taken into account before you conclude on whether SEA is needed. According to Regulation 11 of the above Regulations, I look forward to receiving a copy of your determination in this case.

We reserve the right to review our opinion should the plan change materially in its content and direction. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries relating to our comments or would like any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Jules Brown

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*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.*



Luke Waterson  
Newcastle City Council  
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Newcastle upon Tyne  
Tyne and Wear  
NE1 8PD

**Our ref:** NA/2006/100161/SE-  
06/SC1-L01

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 01 September 2021

Dear Luke

**Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan SEA & HRA Screening Report DRAFT**

Based on matters within our remit, it is considered that the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment when considered against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations. Therefore, a SEA will not be required.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Yours sincerely

**Lucy Mo**  
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