

**Strategic Environmental Assessment Determination Report
Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan**



**Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment
Determination**

**Prepared by
Harborough District Council
On behalf of**

Shearsby Parish Council

April 2018

**Strategic Environmental Assessment Determination Report
Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan
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1. Introduction

1.1 Harborough District Council have been asked by Shearsby Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Group to undertake a screening report for Strategic Environmental Assessment. The screening report was completed in September 2017 and submitted to the Statutory Consultees for comment.

1.2 The screening report is used to determine whether or not the contents of the Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

1.3 This determination gives the opinion of the Local Planning Authority whether the Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan requires a full Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.4 The Statutory Consultees (Historic England, Natural England and The Environment Agency) have responded to the Screening Report of February 2018 with the following comments.

Consultee	Comments
Natural England	Natural England welcomes the Screening Report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Natural England concurs with the report's conclusion that it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from policies in the pre-submission version of the Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal for the emerging New Local Plan. As such, the Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.
Historic England	Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above 20 March 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

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Environment Agency	information provided in the screening request and the submission Neighbourhood Plan with the email dated 20 March. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on the SEA process, and subsequent draft Plan's.
Environment Agency	No response

1.5 Planning Practice Guidance states:

“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.”

1.6 The Shearsby policies have been assessed individually as part of this determination by Harborough District Council (Appendix 4); additionally the effects of the Plan policies on the natural and historic environment have been considered by the Qualifying Body during the preparation of the Plan.

1.7 It is the opinion of the Authority that there will not be any significant environmental impacts that would necessitate a full Strategic Environmental Assessment being completed.

1.8 The vision statement for SNP is as follows:

‘To maintain and enhance the unique, self-contained character of Shearsby, whilst supporting small scale sustainable growth that is proportionate to the size of the Village and in line with the needs and wishes of the community’

1.9 The Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan seeks to achieve the vision through the following objectives:

a) Housing

In evaluating locations that are most suitable for housing development, we have given preference to those that:

- Maintain the compact form of the Village
- Are on roads or streets that allow safe road access or where safe road access can be achieved through improvements;
- Are within easy access to community facilities and accessible green open space.

b) Environment

In order to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment, we are seeking to ensure that:

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- The special open spaces within our village are protected from development, to protect the village identity and retain the rural nature of its surroundings; Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan V6 May 2017
- Development preserves and contributes to the attractive local countryside including replacement of any hedging which needs to be maintained.
- Development recognises the need to protect and, where possible, improve biodiversity and important habitats and includes adding hedging to boundaries of new developments;
- Consideration is given to improving pedestrian and cycling facilities to enable access from the village to The Old Road and to provide a safe footpath and bridleway on Bath Lane between A5199 and Bruntingthorpe

c) Economy

Whilst the community is primarily residential, there is a desire to safeguard its employment outlets, including the farming community. We therefore wish to retain the current level of employment, and develop it further where possible, in our area by:

- Retaining our existing sites which provide jobs for continued use and where possible improving them, unless it can be clearly proven that they are not viable;
- Supporting diversification of existing businesses where necessary;
- Encouraging appropriate business development by supporting the use of land to the East of the A5199 and to the South of Saddington Road as sites for 4-6 small business units with, possibly, accommodation above some units. These units should be available for local arts and crafts/agricultural based enterprises.

1.10 The objectives of the Pre -Submission Draft (Regulation 14) Neighbourhood Plan emerged through the consultation exercises and the work of the Theme Group/Advisory Committee discussions. The development of these objectives helped to provide the basis for the policies.

1.11 The Neighbourhood Plan submission draft has the following policies at its core:

POLICY S1: PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT -

When considering development proposals, the Plan will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in national and District-wide plans and policies.

POLICY H1: LIMITS TO DEVELOPMENT - Within the defined Limits to Development as shown in Figure 2, development proposals for small scale infill development (up to 4 units) and the conversion of existing buildings will be looked on sympathetically where it:

- Is small scale, and reflects the size, character and level of service provision of Shearsby;

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- Helps meet a clearly identified need for Shearsby or the wider Parish;
- Retains existing natural boundaries such as trees, hedges and streams which either contribute to visual amenity or are important for their ecological value;
- Preserves and, where possible, enhances the setting of any heritage asset, where the setting of that heritage asset would be affected by the proposal;
- Preserves and, where possible, enhances Shearsby Conservation area, where relevant;
- Provides suitable off-road parking in line with Leicestershire County Council Highways requirements;
- Does not reduce garden/green space to an extent where it adversely affects the special character of the area or the amenity of the proposed occupiers of the new development or adjacent properties/uses.

POLICY H2: HOUSING MIX - New housing development proposals should provide a mixture of housing types specifically to meet identified local needs in Shearsby. Sites should deliver more than 50% of the units as 3-bed or fewer (which can include bungalows for older people which should be built to the recognised mobility/wheelchair standard).

POLICY H3: Building Design Principles - All new development proposals of one or more houses, replacement dwellings and extensions will need to satisfy the following building design principles:

- a) Care should be taken to ensure that the development does not disrupt the visual amenities of the street scene and impact negatively on any significant wider landscape views;
- b) New buildings should follow a consistent design approach in the use of materials, fenestration and the roofline to the building. Materials should be chosen to complement the design of the development and add to the quality or character of the surrounding environment and of the Conservation Area;
- c) All new housing should reflect the character and historic context of existing developments within the Parish. However, contemporary and innovative materials and design will be supported where positive improvement can be robustly demonstrated without detracting from the historic context;
- d) Development should enhance biodiversity and relate well to the topography of the area, with existing trees and hedges preserved whenever possible; and
- e) Development should incorporate sustainable design and construction techniques to meet high standards for energy and water efficiency, including the use of renewable and low carbon energy technology, as appropriate.

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POLICY H4: TANDEM AND BACKLAND DEVELOPMENT in gardens of existing properties will not be supported where the development would cause harm to the local area.

Policy CF1: THE RETENTION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND AMENITIES - Development leading to the loss of an existing community facility (including the village hall, village green, children's play area, Chandlers Arms and Shearsby Bath) will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that:

- a) There is no longer any need or demand for the existing community facility; or
- b) The existing community facility is no longer economically viable; or
- c) The proposal makes alternative provision for the relocation of the existing community facility to an equally or more appropriate and accessible location within the Parish which complies with the other general policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

POLICY CF2: NEW OR IMPROVED COMMUNITY FACILITIES - Proposals that improve the quality and/or range of community facilities, will be supported provided that the development:

- a) Will not generate a need for parking that cannot be adequately catered for; and
- b) Is of a scale appropriate to the needs of the locality and conveniently accessible for residents of the village wishing to walk or cycle.

POLICY E1: SUPPORT FOR EXISTING EMPLOYMENT

OPPORTUNITIES –There will be a strong presumption against the loss of commercial premises or land (B-class) on the Saddington Road employment site, which provides employment and future potential employment opportunities Applications for a change of use to an activity that does not provide employment opportunities will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that:

- a) The commercial premises or land in question has not been in active use for at least 12 months; and
 - b) The commercial premises or land in question has no potential for either reoccupation or redevelopment for employment generating uses and as demonstrated through the results both of a full valuation report and a marketing campaign lasting for a continuous period of at least six months
- The small-scale expansion of existing employment premises across the Parish will be supported

POLICY E2: SUPPORT FOR NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - In supporting additional employment opportunities, Class B1 Light Industrial purposes will be supported at existing or the proposed sites (figures 4 and 5) at Saddington Rd provided:

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- a) it relates to small scale leisure or tourism activities or other forms of commercial/employment related development appropriate to a countryside location or there are proven exceptional circumstances; and
- b) where it can be demonstrated that there would be no adverse impact or conflict on surrounding residential and community amenity and uses; and
- c) that the impact on the road network of any additional business development is mitigated.

Proposals for General Industrial use (B2) and large scale B1 uses will not be permitted except in exceptional circumstances; large scale B1 and B2 uses being directed towards higher order settlements in the settlement hierarchy and suitable locations on the edge of the built framework of Leicester, as they are likely to have existing infrastructure and facilities to deliver and sustain such employment proposals.

POLICY E3: RE-USE OF AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS - The re-use, conversion and adaptation of rural buildings for small businesses, recreation, or tourism purposes will be supported where:

- a) The use proposed is appropriate to the rural location;
- b) The conversion/adaptation works respect the local character of the surrounding area
- c) The development will not have an adverse impact on any archaeological, architectural, historic or environmental features
- d) The local road system is capable of accommodating the traffic generated by the proposed new use and adequate parking can be accommodated within the site.
- e) There is no significant adverse impact on neighbours through noise, light pollution, increased traffic levels or increased flood risk

POLICY E4: BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE - Proposals to provide increased access to a super-fast broadband service (of at least 30Mbps) and improve the mobile telecommunication network that will serve businesses and other properties within the Parish will be supported. This may require above ground network installations, which must be sympathetically located and designed to integrate into the landscape and not be located in or near to open landscapes.

POLICY E5: WORKING FROM HOME – Proposals for the use of part of a dwelling for office and/or light industrial uses, and for small scale free standing buildings within its curtilage, extensions to the dwelling or conversion of outbuildings for those uses, will be supported where:

- a) No significant and adverse impact arises to nearby residents or other sensitive land uses from noise, fumes, odour or other nuisance associated with the work activity;
- b) Does not generate unacceptable levels of traffic movement or additional on-street parking; and
- c) Any extension or free-standing building shall be designed having regard to policies in this Plan and should not detract from the quality and

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character of the building to which they are subservient by reason of height, scale, massing, location or the facing materials used in their construction.

POLICY ENV 1: LOCAL GREEN SPACES – Development proposals that would result in the loss of, or have an adverse effect on, any of the following identified Local Green Spaces (map above) will not be supported, other than in very special circumstances.

Thorpehill Farm Spinney west (map reference 1)

Thorpehill Farm Spinney east (02)

Back Lane verges and green areas (03)

Fenny Lane – Bear’s Hole and field (04)

Welford Road bungalows triangle (05)

Old Turnpike road (06)

POLICY ENV 2: PROTECTION OF OTHER SITES OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

SIGNIFICANCE - The following sites identified in this Plan (figure 7) are of local significance for their wildlife and/or landscape features. They are important in their own right and are locally valued. Development proposals that affect them will be expected to protect and/or enhance their identified features.

Willow Brook Farm meadows and riparian corridor (map reference 07)

Mill Lane (13)

New Inn Farm spinney north (15)

New Inn Farm spinney and pond (16)

POLICY ENV 3: PROTECTION OF OTHER SITES OF HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE - The following sites (map below) are formally identified in this Plan as non-designated heritage assets for their extant and visible historical and/or archaeological features. They are important in their own right and are locally valued.

Development proposals that affect them will be expected to protect the identified features.

Medieval village earthworks, Meadowcroft (Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record MLE21831, map reference 08)

Medieval village earthworks, west of church (MLE2347, map ref 09)

Medieval village earthworks, north of church (MLE2346, map ref 10)

St Mary Magdalene Church burial ground and mound (MLE21833, map ref 11)

Medieval village earthworks, east of Mill Lane (MLE21832, map ref 14)

Shearsby windmill field (MLE2351, map ref 12)

POLICY ENV 4: RIDGE AND FURROW FIELDS - Development proposals that adversely affect or damage an identified surviving area of ridge and furrow earthworks (figure 8) will be resisted. Development should only take place in exceptional circumstances and a full archaeological survey will be required.

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They sites are identified in the Plan as non-designated heritage assets.

POLICY ENV 5: IMPORTANT TREES AND WOODLAND – Development should have regard to the trees and woodland present on the site. Where possible all trees and woodland should be preserved, where it is not possible additional planting must be included to compensate for any unavoidable loss.

POLICY ENV 6: FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS - Development must preserve existing footpaths and where appropriate, should contribute to increased connectivity and promote sustainable travel choices, or similar. The maintenance or improvement of public rights of way, including the footpath joining Shearsby with Arnesby, will be supported.

- 1.7 The legislation set out below outlines the regulations that require the need for this screening exercise. Section 4 provides a screening assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Neighbourhood Plan and the need for a full SEA.

2. Legislative Background

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is [European Directive 2001/42/EC](#) and was transposed into English law by the [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#), or SEA Regulations. Detailed Guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication [‘A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’ \(ODPM 2005\)](#).
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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

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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

2.4 This report focuses on screening for SEA and the criteria for establishing whether a full assessment is needed in light of the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment undertaken for the Core Strategy in 2010 and the interim Sustainability Appraisal for the new Local Plan. A copy of the SA Report can be viewed here; [Harborough District Council - Sustainability Appraisal \(SA\) and Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\)](#) and the [Sustainability Appraisal as part of the New Local Plan](#) during 2016.

3. Criteria for Assessing the Effects of Neighbourhood Plans (the ‘plan’)

3.1 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,

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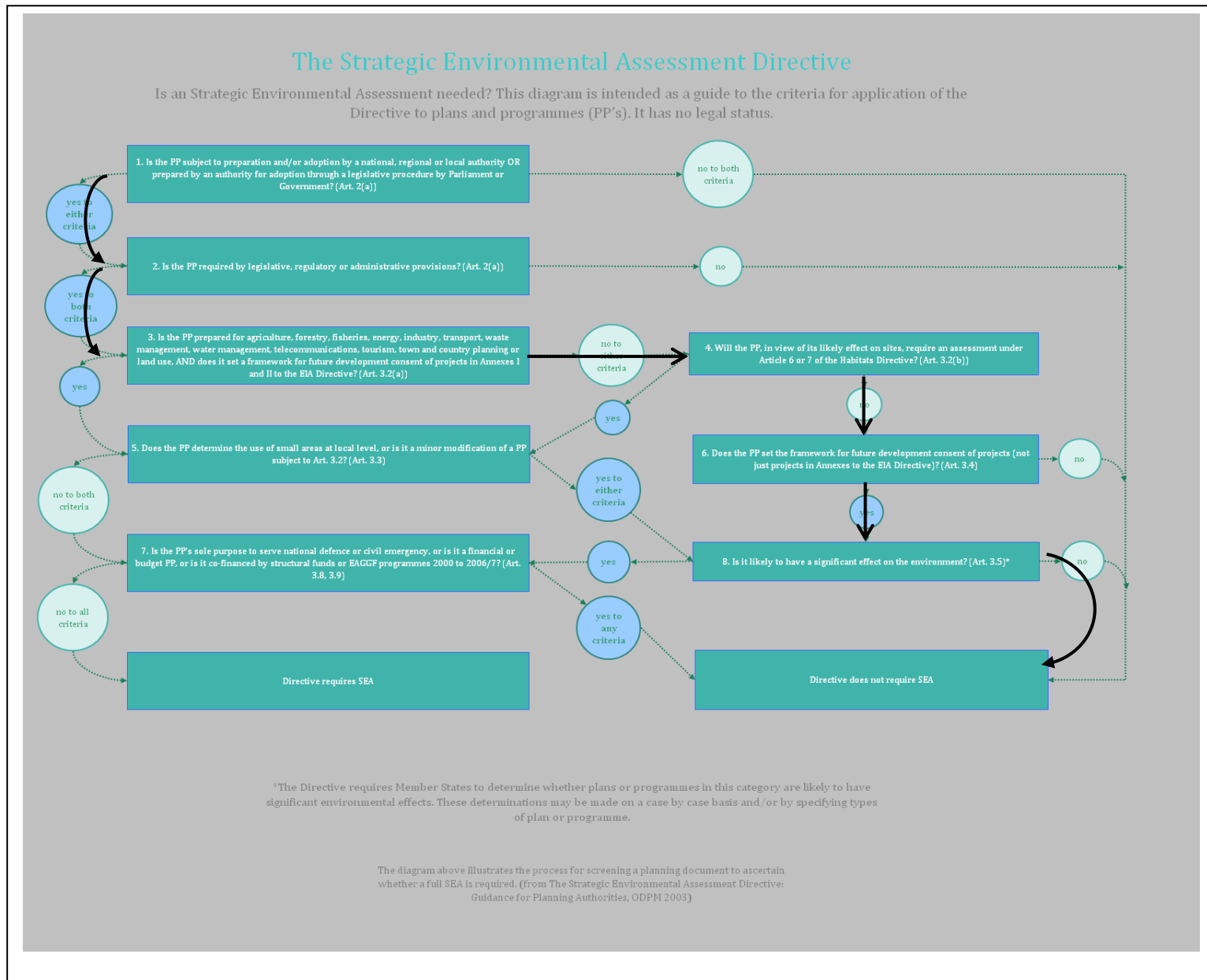
- exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
- intensive land-use,
- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Source: Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

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4. Assessment
 4.1 Black arrows indicate the process route for Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Assessment.



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4.2 The table below shows the assessment of whether the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) 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	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the NP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The preparation of and adoption of the NP is allowed under The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The NP has been prepared by Shearsby Parish Council (as the 'relevant body') and will be 'made' by HDC as the local authority. The preparation of NPs is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017
2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by 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 NP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	N	Whilst the Shearsby NP 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).
4. Will the NP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N	The Shearsby NP is unlikely to have a substantial effect on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites. A full Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report (contained at Appendix 3 of this report) was carried out as part of the Core Strategy preparation process in 2011. The report concludes that the Harborough Core Strategy alone, or in combination with other plans, is unlikely to have an adverse impact on any of the <i>Natura 2000</i> sites within approximately 25kms of the boundary of the district. Of the 3 Natura 2000 sites looked at in the Screening Report, Rutland Water SPA is closest to Shearsby lying some 20 km away. However, any effects on Rutland Water

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		<p>SPA would be indirect and relate only to a greater number of visitors being attracted to the site from additional development in the District.</p> <p>Ensor's Pool SAC approximately 40km away was found to be essentially a self contained eco system. The report concluded that its vulnerabilities are very local in nature and unlikely to be caused harm by the Harborough Core Strategy.</p> <p>The Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report also concluded that the Core Strategy would not lead to significant adverse effects on the River Mease SAC as the River Mease SAC is separate to any water courses in the district and does not contribute to the water supply or drainage of the district.</p> <p>It is considered that the NP will not affect the 3 specified Natura 2000 sites over and above the impacts identified in the Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report carried out for the Core Strategy in 2011. Therefore, it is concluded that a full Appropriate Assessment is not deemed to be required.</p>
5. Does the NP 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)	Y	Determination of small sites at local level. The Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate sites for housing development
6. Does the NP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	The NP is to be used for determining future planning applications
7. Is the NP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	N	
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	<p>The Shearsby NP is a relatively self contained plan and considers sites only at a local level. The Plan does not allocate site and therefore will not impact on any Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Area does not contain any Sites of Special Scientific Interest, the closest site being Saddington Reservoir. It is not considered that the proposals of the Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan will have any detrimental effects on this site.</p> <p>Proposed development will not impact on any nationally recognised landscape designations.</p>

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	<p>Flood risk is not identified as being issue in Shearsby. In this regard the Core Strategy and emerging Local Plan policies will be used to determine planning applications. The Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan proposes protection to important trees and woodland (Policy ENV). Hedges are considered under Community Action (ENV3 – Hedgerows) Community Action ENV4 also seeks to enhance biodiversity</p> <p>The Plan also seeks to identified ridge and furrow that are worthy of protection and other sites of natural and historical interest that are listed in Appendix 1of this report.</p> <p>Additionally Local Green Spaces have been nominated for designation and protection for reasons such as having significant environmental features (wildlife, history, landscape, etc.) and as being valued by the community. The Local Green Spaces considered compatible with the criteria in the NPPF 2012 and therefore suitable to designate within the NDP have been listed by the community. The Local Green Space sites are mapped in Appendix 1 of this report.</p> <p>The listed buildings within the Neighbourhood Area (see appendix 1) are recognised within the Heritage section of the NP.</p> <p>The conservation area of Shearsby is recognised in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan supports these national designations and the protection this gives from inappropriate development.</p>
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These questions are answered using the flow diagram above. The result is given by following the logical steps shown by the black arrows on the flow diagram. Note: some of the questions may not be applicable depending on previous answers.

5. Sustainability Appraisal and SEA for New Local Plan

5.1 Shearsby has not been assessed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal and SEA for the New Local Plan, as the Local Plan does not allocate a quantum of housing to this settlement.

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6. Determination Outcome of April 2018

- 6.1 As a result of the assessment in Section 4 above and the further detailed assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policies in Appendix 4 below, it is unlikely there will be any significant detrimental environmental effects arising from the Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan Submission Draft as submitted to Harborough District Council, that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy. **As such, it is the determination of the Local Planning Authority that the Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.**
- 6.2 The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England have been consulted on this Screening Report and their responses are made available in this report. The determination will be available on the District Council and parish Council websites.

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Appendix 1

SSSI/LISTED BUILDINGS/SAMs WITHIN THE PARISH OF SHEARSBY

Settlement feature:	Occurrence
Conservation Area	<p>Shearsby lies in a hollow close to the A5199 Leicester to Northampton Road. The Conservation Area embraces the whole of the compact village and includes Back Lane and the land either side up to the junction with the A50 where there are some older buildings. It also includes peripheral open areas of pastures which are important to the overall character and settlement. Back Lane drops steeply from the A5199, it is very narrow and at its lower end is flanked by red brick buildings on a cobble or granite plinth. Grange Farm House, a long and low red brick building sits well back at an angle directly in front of the church and looks outwards up Back Lane.</p> <p>The centre of Shearsby is a large (100m long) enclosed open space of the Green with an encircling road. The road at its lower and narrow end is The Square with substantial houses overlooking it and small old red brick cottages at the edge of the Green flanking it. In one corner is a small grassed area with a K6 telephone kiosk and water pump. The Square would benefit from some floorscape redesigning to increase the area for use by pedestrians. The green is enclosed, in part by the buildings adjacent to The Square, in part to the south by a red brick wall, and partly by a hedge. It is the centre of the village structure. Around the Green are cottages and more substantial houses, in red brick or slate or rendered. At its upper (western) end a red brick wall on the outer side links dwellings and forms the boundary to the pasture land behind. The wall helps to emphasise the sense of enclosure round the Green.</p>

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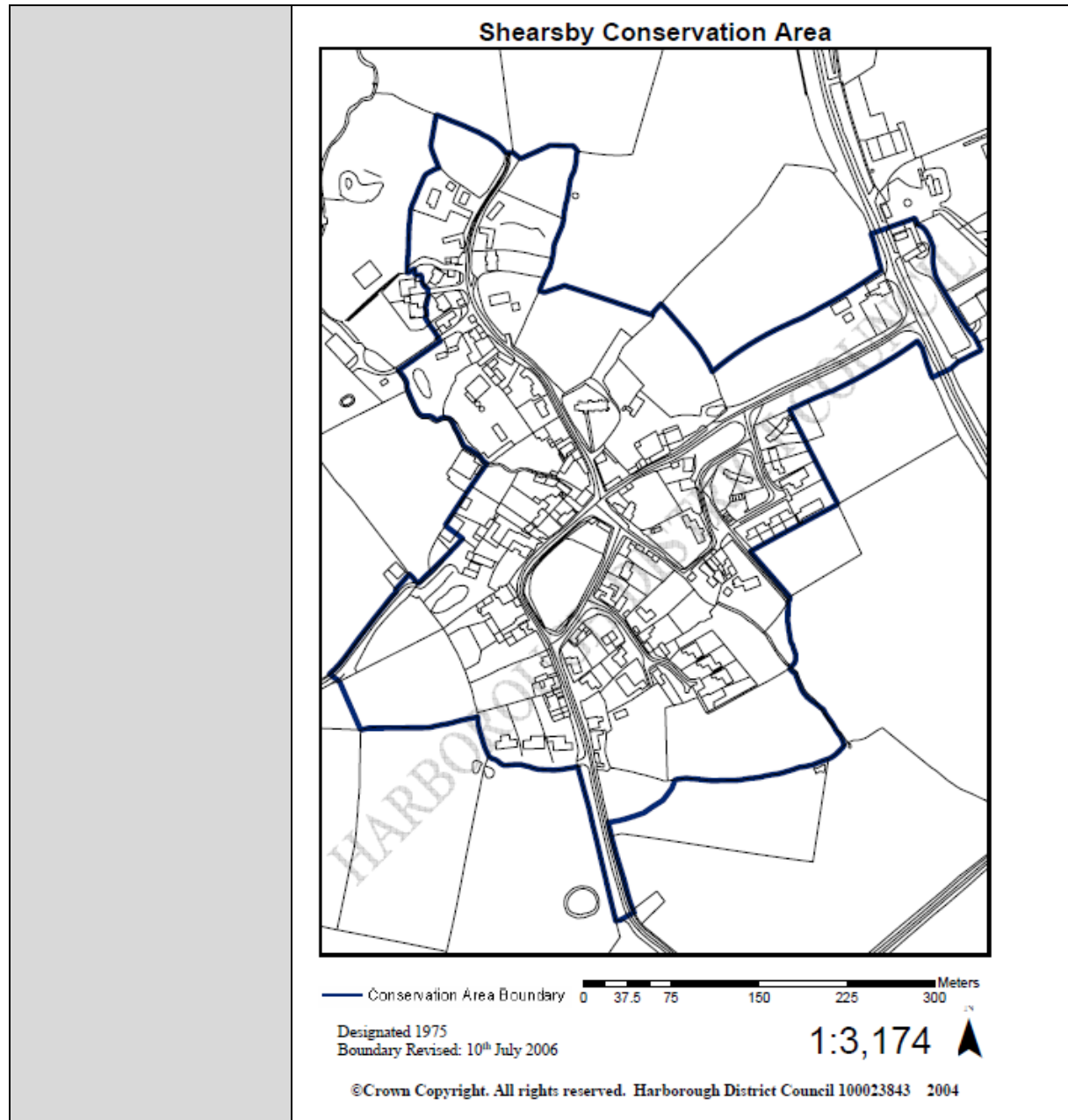
From the Green and its encircling road lead out various roads: the narrow Back Lane rises up to the A5199; Mill Lane with early cottages on either side rises to the Peatling Road; the short Fenny Lane is a cul-de-sac rising towards open countryside from the Chandlers Arms Public House. It is closely developed with a mixture of buildings in age and style including a 17th century timber framed thatched houses.

A fourth road, the narrow Church Lane is a larger no-through road straggling downwards to the north and forming its own distinct area. Close to The Square and facing in from a bank is the symmetrical Church Farm House. Behind it is the churchyard gate with its cast iron overthrow looking downhill towards The Square. A yew tree here partially overhanging the lane closes the view downwards from The Square. Opposite, facing Church Lane is the substantial 16th century timber framed and thatched Yeomans Cottage. Beyond, the churchyard rises steeply to the south with retaining granite wall and the church's squat sandstone tower of 1789 with elaborate weather vane. It is the church tower and weather vane that make a visual stop looking up Church Lane towards the village. Immediately opposite is the former 19th century village school now the village hall (enlarged 1997).

The rest of Church Lane is a mixture of old and new, of working farms, farmhouses and yards, cottages, individual new houses and a recent close of new houses whose materials and massing orientation are in sympathy with the irregular form of building in the lane. The use of Swithland slate for houses, cottages and farm buildings is a notable feature of Shearsby.

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<p>Scheduled Monuments</p> <p>Listed Buildings/Features:</p> <p>Grade I, Grade II*, Grade II</p>	<p>MILEPOST CIRCA 500 YARDS NORTH OF SHEARSBY ROAD AT NGR 624915 List Entry Number: 1061492 Heritage Category: Listing Grade: II Location: MILEPOST CIRCA 500 YARDS NORTH OF SHEARSBY ROAD AT NGR 624915, WELFORD ROAD, Shearsby, Harborough, Leicestershire .</p> <p>ROSE COTTAGE List Entry Number: 1188171 Heritage Category: Listing Grade: II Location: ROSE COTTAGE, MILL LANE, Shearsby, Harborough, Leicestershire .</p> <p>COBBLESTONES List Entry Number: 1061489 Heritage Category: Listing Grade: II Location: COBBLESTONES, BACK LANE, Shearsby, Harborough, Leicestershire .</p> <p>WOODBINE COTTAGE List Entry Number: 1360746 Heritage Category: Listing Grade: II Location: WOODBINE COTTAGE, MAIN STREET, Shearsby, Harborough, Leicestershire .</p> <p>WHEATHILL FARMHOUSE AND LITTLE WHEATHILL List Entry Number: 1294873 Heritage Category: Listing Grade: II Location: WHEATHILL FARMHOUSE AND LITTLE WHEATHILL, CHURCH LANE, Shearsby, Harborough, Leicestershire .</p>
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	<p>LIME TREE COTTAGE List Entry Number: 1294877 Heritage Category: Listing Grade: II Location: LIME TREE COTTAGE, CHURCH LANE, Shearsby, Harborough, Leicestershire .</p> <p>BEAN HILL FARMHOUSE AND GARDEN WALL List Entry Number: 1061490 Heritage Category: Listing Grade: II Location: BEAN HILL FARMHOUSE AND GARDEN WALL, CHURCH LANE, Shearsby, Harborough, Leicestershire .</p> <p>YEOMANS COTTAGE List Entry Number: 1188157 Heritage Category: Listing Grade: II Location: YEOMANS COTTAGE, CHURCH LANE, Shearsby, Harborough, Leicestershire .</p> <p>CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE List Entry Number: 1061491 Heritage Category: Listing Grade: II* Location: CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, CHURCH LANE, Shearsby, Harborough, Leicestershire</p>
Other sites of natural or historical interest	In addition there are other locally identified sites that have been included in the NDP (Environmental Inventory below) for their natural or historical interest. The sites are also mapped below

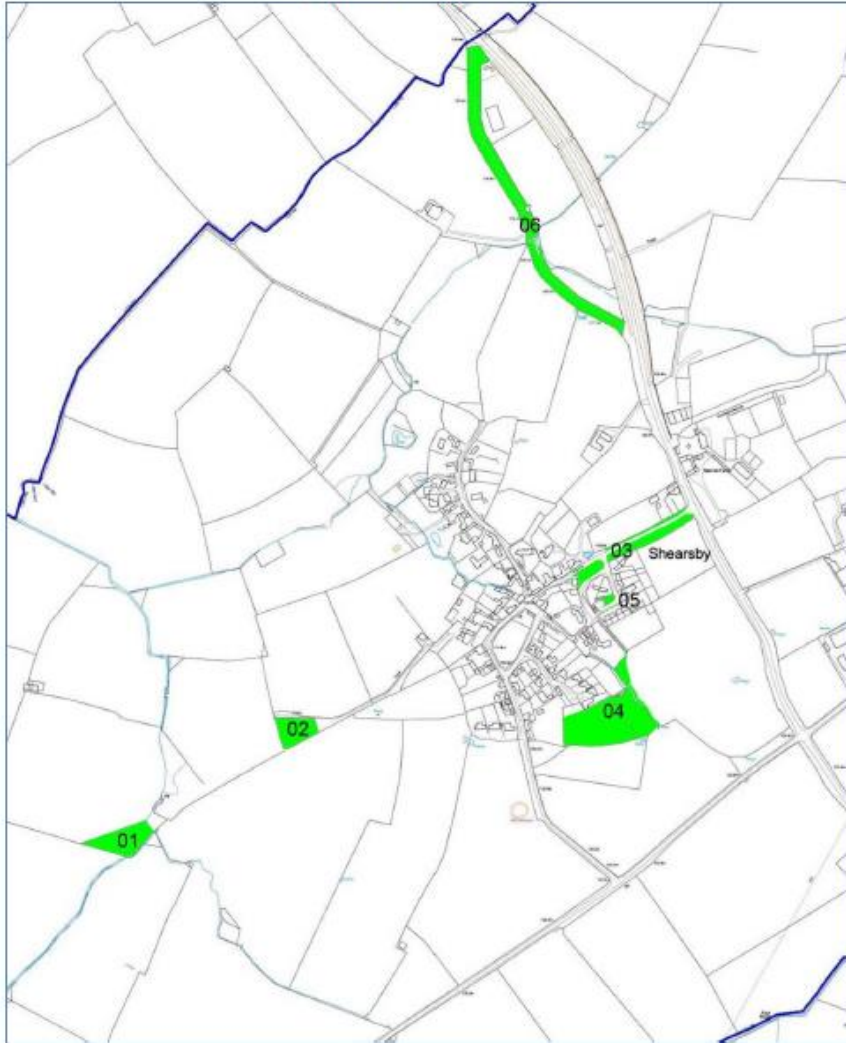
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Ridge and Furrow	Ridge and Furrow has been identified within the NDP and those fields considered worth protection against damage are shown below.

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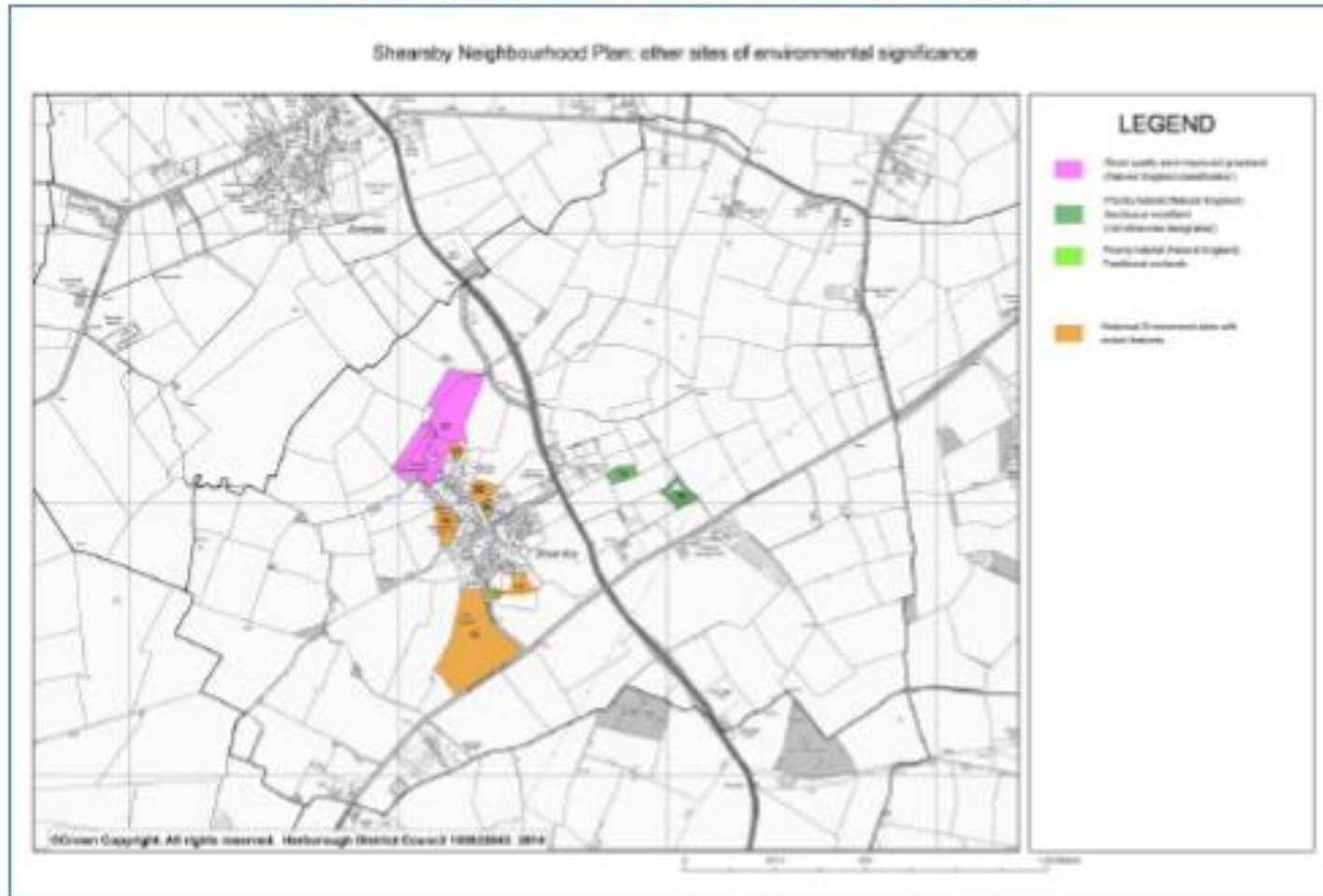
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Figure 6 -Local Green Spaces



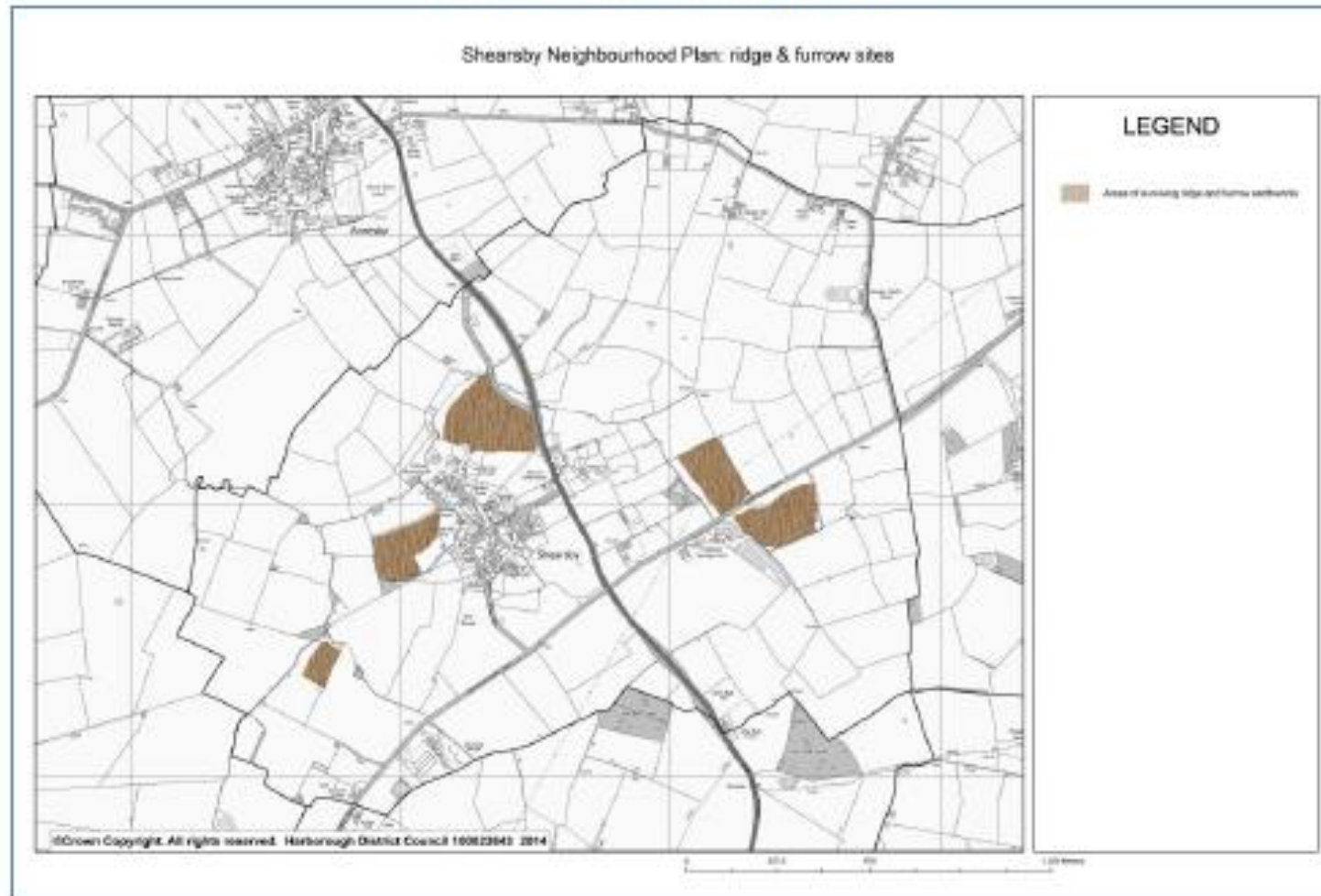
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Figure 7 - Other sites of Environmental Significance



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Figure 8- Ridge and Furrow Sites



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Appendix 2

Annex I

1. Crude-oil refineries (excluding undertakings manufacturing only lubricants from crude oil) and installations for the gasification and liquefaction of 500 tonnes or more of coal or bituminous shale per day.
2. Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more and nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors (except research installations for the production and conversion of fissionable and fertile materials, whose maximum power does not exceed 1 kilowatt continuous thermal load).
3. Installations solely designed for the permanent storage or final disposal of radioactive waste.
4. Integrated works for the initial melting of cast-iron and steel.
5. Installations for the extraction of asbestos and for the processing and transformation of asbestos and products containing asbestos: for asbestos-cement products, with an annual production of more than 20 000 tonnes of finished products, for friction material, with an annual production of more than 50 tonnes of finished products, and for other uses of asbestos, utilization of more than 200 tonnes per year.
6. Integrated chemical installations.
7. Construction of motorways, express roads (1) and lines for long-distance railway traffic and of airports (2) with a basic runway length of 2 100 m or more.
8. Trading ports and also inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic which permit the passage of vessels of over 1 350 tonnes.
9. Waste-disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment or land fill of toxic and dangerous wastes.

(1) For the purposes of the Directive, 'express road' means a road which complies with the definition in the European Agreement on main international traffic arteries of 15 November 1975.

(2) For the purposes of this Directive, 'airport' means airports which comply with the definition in the 1944 Chicago Convention setting up the International Civil Aviation Organization (Annex 14).

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Annex II

1. Agriculture

- (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.
- (d) Initial afforestation where this may lead to adverse ecological changes and land reclamation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use.
- (e) Poultry-rearing installations.
- (f) Pig-rearing installations.
- (g) Salmon breeding.
- (h) Reclamation of land from the sea.

2. Extractive industry

- (a) Extraction of peat.
- (b) Deep drillings with the exception of drillings for investigating the stability of the soil and in particular:
 - geothermal drilling,
 - drilling for the storage of nuclear waste material,
 - drilling for water supplies.
- (c) Extraction of minerals other than metalliferous and energy-producing minerals, such as marble, sand, gravel, shale, salt, phosphates and potash.
- (d) Extraction of coal and lignite by underground mining. (e) Extraction of coal and lignite by open-cast mining. (f) Extraction of petroleum.
- (g) Extraction of natural gas.
- (h) Extraction of ores.
- (i) Extraction of bituminous shale.
- (j) Extraction of minerals other than metalliferous and energy-producing minerals by open-cast mining.
- (k) Surface industrial installations for the extraction of coal, petroleum, natural gas and ores, as well as bituminous shale.
- (l) Coke ovens (dry coal distillation).
- (m) Installations for the manufacture of cement.

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3. Energy industry

- (a) Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water (unless included in Annex I).
- (b) Industrial installations for carrying gas, steam and hot water; transmission of electrical energy by overhead cables.
- (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 production or enrichment of nuclear fuels.
- (h) Installations for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuels.
- (i) Installations for the collection and processing of radioactive waste (unless included in Annex I).
- (j) Installations for hydroelectric energy production.

4. Processing of metals

- (a) Iron and steelworks, including foundries, forges, drawing plants and rolling mills (unless included in Annex I).
- (b) Installations for the production, including smelting, refining, drawing and rolling, of nonferrous metals, excluding precious metals.
- (c) Pressing, drawing and stamping of large castings.
- (d) Surface treatment and coating of metals.
- (e) Boilermaking, manufacture of reservoirs, tanks and other sheet-metal containers.
- (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. Manufacture of glass

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7. Chemical industry

- (a) Treatment of intermediate products and production of chemicals (unless included in Annex I).
- (b) Production of pesticides and pharmaceutical products, paint and varnishes, elastomers and peroxides.
- (c) Storage facilities for petroleum, petrochemical and chemical products.

8. 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.

9. Textile, leather, wood and paper industries

- (a) Wool scouring, degreasing and bleaching factories.
- (b) Manufacture of fibre board, particle board and plywood.
- (c) Manufacture of pulp, paper and board.
- (d) Fibre-dyeing factories.
- (e) Cellulose-processing and production installations.
- (f) Tannery and leather-dressing factories.

10. Rubber industry

Manufacture and treatment of elastomer-based products.

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11. Infrastructure projects

- (a) Industrial-estate development projects.
- (b) Urban-development projects.
- (c) Ski-lifts and cable-cars.
- (d) Construction of roads, harbours, including fishing harbours, and airfields (projects not listed in Annex I).
- (e) Canalization and flood-relief works.
- (f) Dams and other installations designed to hold water or store it on a long-term basis.
- (g) Tramways, elevated and underground railways, suspended lines or similar lines of a particular type, used exclusively or mainly for passenger transport.
- (h) Oil and gas pipeline installations.
- (i) Installation of long-distance aqueducts.
- (j) Yacht marinas.

12. Other projects

- (a) Holiday villages, hotel complexes.
- (b) Permanent racing and test tracks for cars and motor cycles.
- (c) Installations for the disposal of industrial and domestic waste (unless included in Annex I).
- (d) Waste water treatment plants.
- (e) Sludge-deposition sites.
- (f) Storage of scrap iron.
- (g) Test benches for engines, turbines or reactors.
- (h) Manufacture of artificial mineral fibres.
- (i) Manufacture, packing, loading or placing in cartridges of gunpowder and explosives.
- (j) Knackers' yards.

13. Modifications to development projects included in Annex I and projects in Annex II undertaken exclusively or mainly for the development and testing of new methods or products and not used for more than one year

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Appendix 3

Harborough Local Development Framework

Core Strategy

Habitat Regulations Assessment - Screening Report

Harborough District Council
Built Environment Services – LDF Team
October 2010

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Contents

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- 1.2 Habitat Regulations
- 1.3 Overview of Harborough Core Strategy

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- 2.2 Likely Effects of Core Strategy
- 2.3 Cumulative Effect of Other Plans
- 2.4 Summary of Likely Effects at River Mease SAC
- 2.5 Summary of Likely Effects at Rutland Water SPA

3.0 Conclusions

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Table A: Harborough District – Relevant *Natura 2000* Sites

Table B: Assessment of Core Strategy Policies

Table C: Other Relevant Plans

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Report

Harborough District Council, as planning authority, has a statutory responsibility to adhere to the requirements of the Habitat Regulations. In particular, we must consider whether a full Appropriate Assessment is necessary for the Core Strategy and other land use plans we are scheduled to prepare (i.e. Allocation DPD, Developer Contributions SPD) and carry out such assessments, if required.

The following report considers the effects of the Harborough LDF Core Strategy on the *Natura 2000* network of protected areas. It has been prepared to meet the obligations of EC Habitat Directive 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna, as interpreted into British law by Regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) (Amendment) (England & Wales) Regulations 2007 which inserts a new Part IVA into the 1994 Regulations and came into force in August 2007. It covers the Screen stage of the HRA process and contains a screening statement. The report will be sent to English Nature for a screening opinion and made available, as one of a suite of evidence documents, as part of the Publication Core Strategy Consultation.

1.2 Habitat Regulations

The Habitat Regulations require that any plan or project, including land use plans such as Local Development Frameworks, not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the sites conservation objectives.

The purpose of a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is to assess the impact of a land use plan against the conservation objectives of European Sites and consider whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site, in terms of habitat and species.

European sites are made up of Special Protection Areas (SPA) - sites where particular bird species are important, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) where particular habitats are important and Offshore Marine Sites (OMG). Although not European Sites within the meaning of the legislation Ramsar sites – internationally important wetlands are also covered by the requirement for an Appropriate Assessment (AA). Together these sites are known as *Natura 2000* network of protected areas.

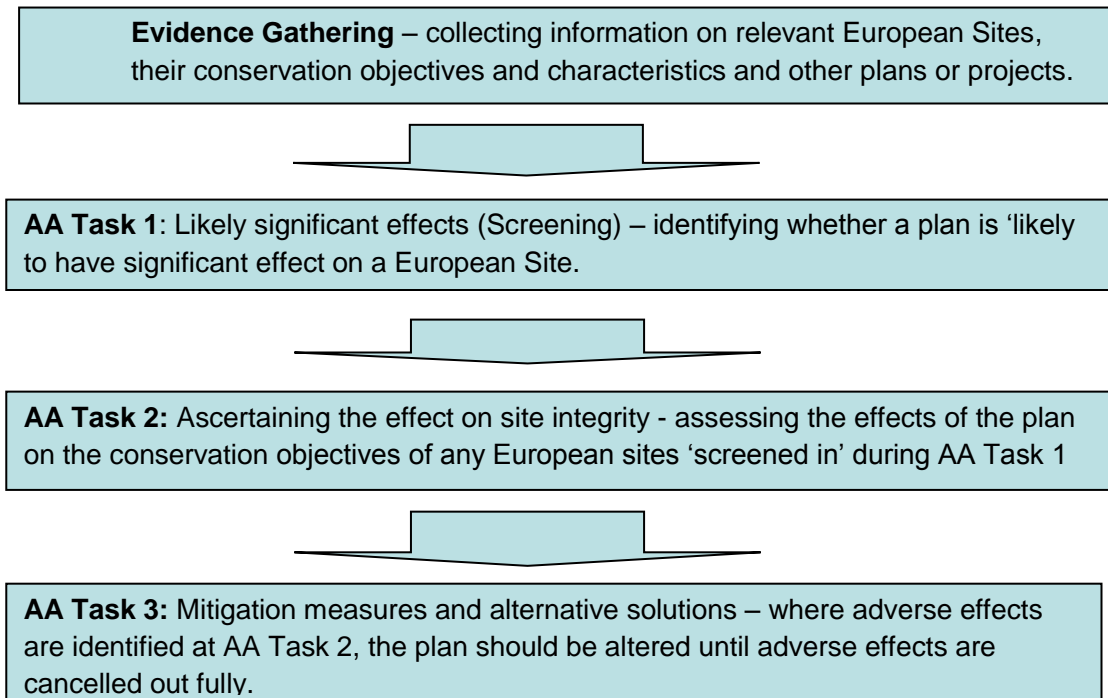
Draft guidance on undertaking an HRA was published by the Government in 2006 (DCLG now CLG), Natural England has produced more prescriptive guidance on HRA for Regional Spatial Plans. Generally these outline a 4 stage approach (see diagram below). The stages are iterative. If significant effects are unlikely a policy can be screened out of the assessment, where significant effects occur the stages are repeated until no significant adverse effects remain. The first procedural task of an HRA is the Screening Assessment, only if this identifies likely significant effects is a full Appropriate Assessment (AA) required. Selecting the best methodology, on a case by case basis, is what makes any HRA appropriate. Using best practise and ensuring that the level of detail at the

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screening stage is proportionate to the likely risk and significance of any effects is also key.

Diagram 1: Habitat Regulations Assessment – 4 Stage Approach (Source CLG, 2006)



1.3 Overview of Harborough Core Strategy

The aim of the Harborough Core Strategy is to maintain the District's unique rural character whilst ensuring that the needs of the community are met through sustainable growth and suitable access to services.

The Publication Core Strategy contains 13 strategic objectives and 17 policies. A full copy of the Core Strategy can be viewed at www.harborough.gov.uk.

The strategy makes provision to allocate land for housing development to accommodate 2,726 new dwellings to 2026 (the additional required to meet Regional Strategy housing needs for Harborough). Dwellings are proposed to be distributed as follows; 1,200 located at Market Harborough to include a strategic development area of approximately 1,000 dwellings, 500 dwellings at Lutterworth, 350 dwellings at the Leicester Urban Fringe, 300 dwellings at Broughton Astley, 376 dwellings at identified Rural Centres and rural villages.

In addition a modest amount of new employment land (5ha) will be provided at Market Harborough in accordance with the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area Employment Land Study. A review of employment land at Allocations DPD stage may result in further provision of employment land to meet any identified shortfalls. Future shopping needs will be met by the delivery of an additional 13,800m² of comparison / convenience retail floorspace split between Market Harborough and Lutterworth town centres.

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Market Harborough will be the main focus for additional development. The role of key and rural centres will be developed. Working in partnership, the Core Strategy will co-ordinate the provision and funding of infrastructure and facilities required to meet the needs of planned development including; transport infrastructure, community facilities, green infrastructure (open space and recreation facilities). The heritage, environmental and bio-diversity assets of the district will be conserved and enhanced through the delivery of the Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal Report which assesses its proposals against a set of sustainability objectives developed from an initial sustainability scoping report. A copy of the SA Report can be viewed here; [Harborough District Council - Sustainability Appraisal \(SA\) and Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\)](#)

2.0 Methodology

We have broadly followed CLG draft guidance and for consistency have taken a similar approach to our HRA as that used by other adjacent authorities e.g. Leicester City, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

2.1 Evidence Gathering.

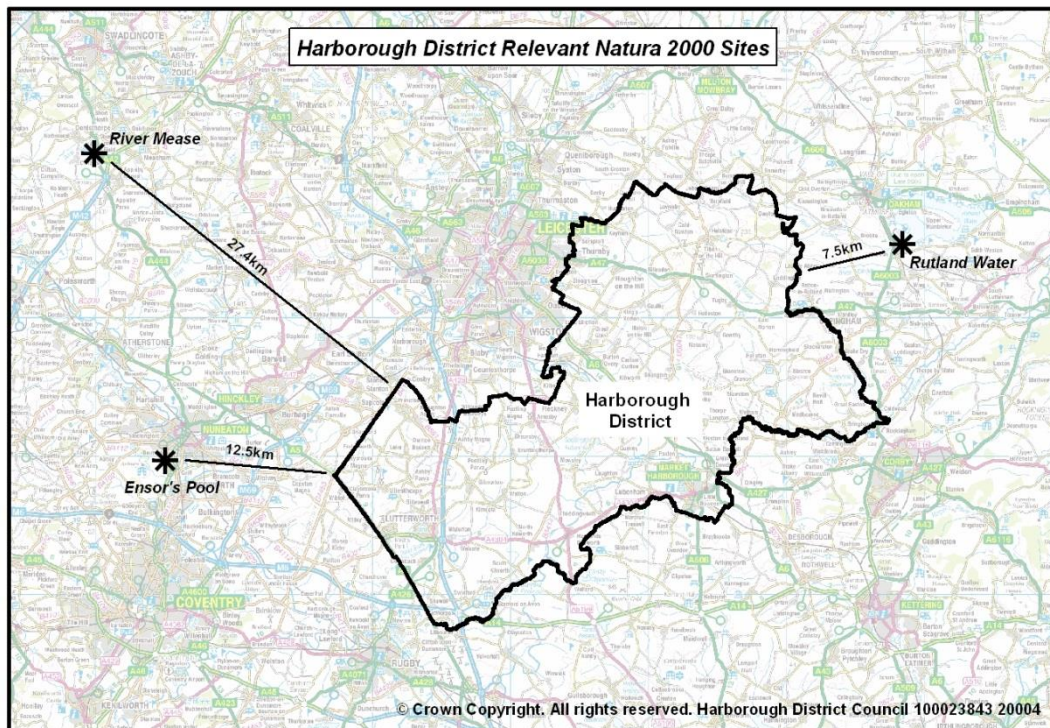
Harborough district contains no *Natura 2000* sites. However, the regulations require us to look at sites beyond the District on which the Core Strategy may or may not have an impact. No distance thresholds are set in the regulations for identifying these sites. Therefore this report considers sites within 25kms of the boundary of the district, as per other the HRA's of adjacent authorities.

Three *Natura 2000* fall within the 25kms or just over the threshold as follows;

- Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA, Ramsar)
- River Mease Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Ensor's Pool Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

A map showing these sites and their distance from the district boundary is given below;

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Details for each of the relevant *Natura 2000* sites are given in table A below;

Table A: Harborough District – Relevant *Natura 2000* Sites

Harborough District - Relevant <i>Natura 2000</i> Sites	
Name and Location	Rutland Water SPA / Ramsar
European Site Ref.	UK9008051 / UK11062
Description	1,557ha. NGR: SK928070 Lying between Oakham and Stamford (approximately 1.4km west and 5.8km east respectively). Lies approx. 7.5km from Harborough district boundary.
Reasons for designation	Lagoon habitat important for wintering populations of the following species: Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i> Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i> Coot <i>Fulica atra</i> Goosander <i>Mergus merganser</i> Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> A wintering bird assemblage regularly supporting 25,037 waterfowl, including Great Crested Grebe, Wigeon, Gadwell, Teal, Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Goosander and Coot.

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Conservation Objectives	To maintain the designated interest features in favourable condition, with particular reference to open water and surrounding marginal habitats.
Key factors affecting site integrity	<p>Maintenance of the current extent, connectivity and quality of feeding habitats with areas of open water of varying sizes and depths, suitable levels of benthic, aquatic and surface invertebrates, a fish presence which does not impact on the dominant macrophyte assemblages, and open habitats incorporating suitable feeding pastures with 50m of the water.</p> <p>Maintenance of characteristic water quality and quantity is important with seasonal changes in levels occurring slowly.</p> <p>Maintenance and extent of roosting habitat including mature trees and areas of scrub.</p> <p>Levels of disturbance should be maintained within necessary noise levels.</p>
Existing trends and pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree regeneration ability has been reduced through deer browsing although this is now being managed through appropriate fencing • Inappropriate weed control and introduction of non native species • Noise, visual presence and abrasion from land / water based leisure and recreation uses • High phosphate levels • Overgrazing • Low levels of water abstraction
Name and Location	River Mease SAC
European Site Ref.	UK0030258
Description	21.86 ha NGR: SK260114 Crossed by the A42 and aligned beside the A513 to the west. The closest significant settlement is Ashby de la Zouch. The river feeds into the Tame and ultimately the Trent and has retain a reasonable degree of channel diversity. Lies approx. 27kms from Harborough district boundary, within Leicestershire.
Reasons for designation	<p>Habitats: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation.</p> <p>Species: Spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i> Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> White-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></p>
Conservation	To maintain the designated interest features,

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Objectives	designated species, and the rivers and streams in favourable condition.
Key factors affecting site integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of water quality and quantity • Pollution inputs and inappropriate water abstraction. • Maintenance of natural structure and form to support a natural flow regime, including the avoidance of constriction of the river or blockage of its floodplain. • Watercourse (<i>Ranunculus</i>) habitat: a natural flow regime is required for maintenance of natural erosion and sedimentation processes and hence the channel morphology. Riparian areas and the wider catchment need to be managed to avoid excessive run-off of soil particles and nutrients into the river. The structure and composition of bankside and aquatic vegetation should be maintained. • All species: maintenance of suitable habitat and appropriate management to ensure the provision of habitat suitable for spawning and shelter, including gravel –dominated substrate with areas of sand and silt, patchy vegetation cover provided by submerged and marginal macrophyte assemblages, slack water resting pools for fish, a presence of submerged woody debris, and presence of artificial barriers. • Any exploitation of fish population or other native animals or plants at a non-sustainable level, or manipulation of the river’s natural capacity to support them. • Introduction of non native species is important. • Otter; maintenance of terrestrial habitat with cover and holt sites provided by dense scrub mature trees along river banks. Maintenance of suitably low levels of disturbance.
Vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality and quantity are vital to the European interests, whilst competition for water resources is high. • Diffuse pollution and excessive sedimentation are catchment-wide issues which have the potential to affect the site.
Name and Location	Ensor’s Pool SAC
European Site Ref.	UK0012646
Description	3.8 ha NGR: SP 348903 Lies on the outskirts of Nuneaton approx. 1.5km from the centre. Since 1995 the area has been leased by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and is

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	managed as a Local Nature Reserve, has statutory designations as LNR, SSSI and SAC. Lies approx 12kms from Harborough district boundary.
Reasons for designation	Species: <i>Crayfish Austropotamobius pallipes</i>
Conservation Objectives	To maintain the designated habitat (extent of) and native population of crayfish in favourable condition and maintain the standing open water habitat.
Key factors affecting site integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pollution and general habitat modification / changes in water course management (though mainly rain water fed) • introduction of non-native crayfish, and the associated affects (e.g. crayfish plague) through uncontrolled access. • Disturbance from people – sensitive balance needed.
Existing trends and pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution • Introduction of non-native crayfish

2.2 Likely Effects of Core Strategy Policies (AA Task 1)

Table A identifies the vulnerabilities and factors affecting the integrity of the three *Natura 2000* sites relevant to Harborough district. The Core Strategy could have an impact on these in the following ways;

- additional development – including the quantum, type and location of proposed growth
- Changes to water flows and quality e.g. affect on flood risk areas, increased surface run-off
- Changes to air and noise pollution (development and associated travel) and its affect on site habitats / species.
- Increased accessibility and the attraction of more people / visitors to the district. This is particular relevant for Rutland Water SPA due to its proximity to Market Harborough and other district visitor assets.
- Disturbance to protected habitats / species (including birds) that sites support from development, including some forms of renewable energy development

The ways in which impacts may occur (as described above) frames our consideration of the likely effects of the Core Strategy. The Ensor's Pool SAC is some distance from the district boundary and is a self contained eco-system. The site's vulnerabilities set out in Table A are very local in nature and are unlikely to be caused by the Harborough Core Strategy, hence we conclude that there are no anticipated significant effects, adverse or otherwise, and screen the site out of further detailed consideration.

Table B below considers in more detail the likely effect that each of the 17 policies within the Core Strategy may have, it focuses particularly on the remaining 2 relevant sites, the River Mease SAC and the Rutland Water SPA.

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Table B: Assessment of Core Strategy Policies

Core Strategy Policy	Potential Effects of Policy on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>Policy 1 – Spatial Strategy. This policy sets out the overall approach to development. It identifies Market Harborough as the main focus for additional development, and sets out a hierarchy of settlements (Key and Rural Centres) and how these will develop. It sets out the scale of housing and other growth and the proposal to bring forward an SDA.</p>	<p>The scale of development proposed for Harborough district is commensurate with its rural character and is relatively modest compared to other areas of the county. The policy makes provision for the quantum / type of development and indicates broad locations, generally concentrating growth in existing settlements, but the detailed location of development will be selected via the Allocation DPD. Accordingly, as no development could happen through this policy alone it will have no adverse impact on either the River Mease SAC or Rutland Water SPA.</p>
<p>Policy 2 – Delivering New Housing. The policy set out how the housing needs of the district’s population will be met. The scale of housing growth (dwellings) for different settlements is detailed; Market Harborough 1,200, Lutterworth 500, Leicester Urban Fringe 350, Broughton Astley 300, Rural Centres / selected villages (ref. policy17) 376. It outlines broad principles for where and what type of land will be given priority, for what type / mix of development and how this will be managed.</p>	<p>The policy provides the framework for increased levels of housing development within existing settlements, predominantly Market Harborough and with a priority for the use of brownfield sites, thus steering development away from <i>Natura 2000</i> sites.</p> <p>Development may increase the chance of surface water run-off and has the potential to affect water quality – site locations will be selected at Allocations stage (with ref to Policy 10).</p> <p>Concentrating development in existing settlement, particularly Market Harbrough may help improve air quality by enabling the use of sustainable modes of transport (walking, cycling, public transport) and reducing car use.</p> <p>Meeting the differing housing needs of the district is unlikely to adversely effect habitats or species in the R. Mease SAC or Rutland Water SPA due to distance from each site.</p> <p>The increase in population enabled by new housing development in the district might lead to more visitors to Rutland Water – a popular visitor attraction in the region. Anglian Water has a management plan in place that creates zoned activity areas, manages visitors and protects habitats addressing the additional impact from increased tourism. It is difficult to</p>

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	<p>quantify the likely increase in trips, from the modest level of housing growth proposed in Harborough. However, it is anticipated that the mitigation already put in place by Anglian Water is sufficient to militate against any effects arising from proposed housing development.</p>
<p>Policy 3 – Delivering Housing Choice and Affordability Sets out how new homes will meet the requirement of all members of the community. It seeks to provide a real choice for everyone by increasing the supply of affordable homes through all new housing developments.</p>	<p>Effects are as stated for Policy 2. All new residential development will be required to contribute towards meeting affordable housing need.</p>
<p>Policy 4 – Providing for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs. The policy seeks to meet the housing needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show-people. It sets out the considerations for determining locations for new sites and extensions to existing sites.</p>	<p>The accommodation needs of this community will localised within the district and in proximity to existing settlements The scale of provision is low and will have no adverse effects on the 2 <i>Natura 2000</i> sites.</p>
<p>Policy 5 – Providing Sustainable Transport. The aim of the policy is to continue to direct most development into areas which already have capacity to offer transport choices for local journeys and to make best use of existing infrastructure.</p>	<p>The policy aims to maximise the use and efficiency of existing transport facilities. The majority of future development will be focused in areas well served by local services where people can gain convenient access to public transport for longer journeys and where local journey can be undertaken on foot / bicycle. Significant proposal will be required to contribute to the co-ordinated delivery of transport improvements / infrastructure.</p> <p>Road transport affects air quality in a localised way; therefore growth in the district is unlikely to have an impact on the River Mease SAC or Rutland Water SPA.</p>
<p>Policy 6 – Improving Town</p>	<p>New development to provide for town centre</p>

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<p>Centres and Retailing. The policy seeks to maintain and enhance Market Harborough Lutterworth town centres and Broughton Astley as a district centre. New shopping, leisure and entertainment uses will be focused in the S and BA of these centres. Retail and service provision in local and neighbourhood centres will be protected.</p>	<p>uses will be concentrated in the Principal Shopping and Business Area of Market Harborough and Lutterworth. Focusing development in these urban areas will support the use of sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>The scale of proposed growth is modest and it is not felt that it will have adverse effects on the 2 <i>Natura 2000</i> sites due to the distance of these settlements from the sites.</p>
<p>Policy 7 – Enabling Employment and Business Development The aim of the policy is meet employment needs, foster business growth and maintain high levels of employment in the district.</p>	<p>The policy proposes a modest 5ha of new land for employment use at Market Harborough, and possible further provision in Key Centres following a review of existing employment sites / land allocations at Allocation DPD stage.</p> <p>Development may increase the chance of surface water run-off and has the potential to affect water quality – site locations will be selected at Allocations stage (with ref to Policy 10).</p> <p>Concentrating development in existing settlements may help improve air quality by enabling the use of sustainable modes of transport (walking, cycling, and public transport) and reducing car use. Employment uses likely to generate HGV traffic will be located away from Lutterworth town centre.</p> <p>Meeting the differing employment needs of the district is unlikely to adversely effect habitats or species in the R. Mease SAC or Rutland Water SPA due to distance from each site.</p>
<p>Policy 8 – Protecting and Enhancing Our Green Infrastructure. The policy seeks to secure a high quality, accessible and multi-functional green infrastructure network across both the rural and urban areas of the district, which contributes to healthy lifestyles and a rich and</p>	<p>The policy is intended to protect, conserve and improve the green infrastructure assets of the district, with regard to the natural environment, biodiversity and geo-diversity. It will therefore have no adverse effect on <i>Natura 2000</i> sites.</p> <p>Opportunities to maximise the value of existing and new green space will be encouraged through the promotion of recreation, tourism and public access. Improved local provision and access will give</p>

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<p>diverse natural environment.</p>	<p>residents more variety and choice of sites for informal recreation, and may reduce the need to travel outside the district and lessen the impact of residents visiting Rutland Water SPA.</p>
<p>Policy 9 – Addressing Climate Change. The policy seeks to reduced energy demand, encourage the use of sustainable materials and construction methods, encourage development that adapts to climate change and maximise the use of renewable energy resources and innovations that have a positive impact on climate change adaption. All new development will be encouraged to meet minimum standards (of Code for Sustainable Homes program, BREEAM ‘Very Good’) and provision for on-site renewal energy is encouraged.</p>	<p>The policy is likely to generate positive effects by virtue of its objective to encourage development that adapts to climate change and helps reduce the district carbon footprint, thus contributing to national efforts to reduce the impact of climate change. It may bring benefits for local habitats and species through reducing the impact of climate change. The distance to Rutland Water SPA and the R. Mease SAC, mean marginal positive effects may result for these sites.</p> <p>Standalone renewable energy generation is supported (the potential for particular renewable forms is noted) however, broad locations are not identified, in favour of a criteria based approach. Development may increase the chance of localised noise pollution; mitigation is a consideration within the policy.</p> <p>The encouragement of innovations which have a positive impact on climate change adaption may lessen surface water run-off / aid water quality, increase waste water recycling, reduce energy use and mitigate CO₂ emissions.</p> <p>Focusing development in areas well served by local services where people can gain convenient access to public transport for longer journey and where local journeys can be undertaken on foot / bicycle will create positive benefits in terms of reducing the need to travel.</p>
<p>Policy 10 – Addressing Flood Risk The aim of the policy is to restrict new development to areas of lowest flood risk, and manage and militate against any increase in the level of flooding experienced</p>	<p>The Core Strategy provides the framework to ensure that new development does not increase flooding, that the net increase in surface water discharged into the local public sewer is minimised and that natural forms of on-site drainage are encouraged.</p> <p>Concentrating development in existing</p>

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<p>in the district.</p>	<p>settlements, giving priority to land in Flood Zone 1 and safeguarding / reinstating functional floodplains (Flood Zone 3) will help lessen the effects of climate change and steer growth away from <i>Natura 2000</i> sites. The scale of development proposed for the district is relatively modest and the provisions of the policy will ensure that its unlikely any flooding incident would affect either Rutland Water or the River Mease sites.</p>
<p>Policy 11 – Promoting Our Built Heritage and Design The policy aims secure the highest standards of design for new development, which respects the context in which it takes place, to create attractive places. Heritage assets will be protected, conserved and enhanced incl. buildings, parks and gardens, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, nationally important archaeological remains and landscapes. Improved access to buildings and place of heritage for people and visitors will be encouraged.</p>	<p>The policy is intended to protect the built and historic environment of the district and protect, conserve and enhance its heritage assets. Its effect will be localised and would not therefore have an adverse impact on either of the 2 relevant <i>Nature 2000</i> sites.</p>
<p>Policy 12 – Delivering Development and Supporting Infrastructure The policy seeks to ensure that the impact of all forms of development is mitigated or that necessary infrastructure to accompany development is provided, through Developer Contributions.</p>	<p>Development is required to contribute to funding elements of the Infrastructure Schedule associated with the Core Strategy, delivery will be localised within the district. No significant highway schemes, in the vicinity or otherwise of <i>Natura 2000</i> site, is included in the schedule so no adverse impact from air / noise pollution is likely.</p>
<p>Policy 13 – 16 Policies for Places (Market Harborough, Leicester Urban Fringe, Lutterworth, Broughton Astley,) These policies explain what the district-wide spatial</p>	<p>The policies provide no new provisions to Policies 1-12, the impacts of which have been considered above.</p>

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strategy and delivery policies mean for individual places within the district.	
<p>Policy 17 Countryside / Rural Centres and Rural Villages</p> <p>This policy explains what the district-wide spatial strategy and delivery policies mean for this particular area, Rural Centres and selected rural villages.</p>	<p>The list of selected rural villages includes Great Easton and Tilton on the Hill, which may help to deliver a proportion of the 376 dwellings directed to Rural centres and selected rural villages as stated in Policy 2. These are the closest of the selected villages to the western boundary of the district and thus closest to the Rutland Water SPA. The scale of development per village will be very small and is not likely to have an adverse impact on SPA.</p>

2.3 Cumulative Effect of Other Plans

The Habitat regulations require consideration of the cumulative effect of plans / projects on *Natura 2000* sites, not just the impacts of Harborough Core Strategy as detailed in Table B. The following lists other relevant plans and considers whether a cumulative effect is likely.

Table C: Other Relevant Plans

Plan or Project	Cumulative Effect Likely?
Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy (Submission version)	No. The HRA Screening report for this plan identifies the same 3 <i>Natura 2000</i> sites for assessment and concludes no adverse impact from the relatively modest level of growth proposed.
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Core Strategy 2008 (in progress)	No. Ensor's Pool site was screened out of detailed consideration see section 2.2.
East Midlands Regional Plan (now revoked)	No. The Harborough Core Strategy is in conformity with this plan, for which an HRA AA has been undertaken. Growth within the east midlands up to 2026 as set out in the plan has regard to the 2 sites relevant to Harborough.
Rutland Core Strategy DPD Proposed Submission Document (Aug 2010) Rutland Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies.	No. Mitigation measures following HRA result in no adverse impact for the Rutland Water SPA

2.4 Summary of Likely effects at River Mease SAC

The River Mease is 27kms away from the nearest border of Harborough district, is separate to any water courses in the district and does not contribute to the

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water supply or drainage of the district. The Core Strategy is not judged to lead to any significant adverse effects on the River Mease SAC.

2.5 Summary of Likely effects at Rutland Water SPA

Rutland Water is the closest *Natura 2000* site to Harborough district but it is still outside and some 7.5kms from the nearest border of Harborough district. Any effects of the Harborough Core Strategy on the site are likely to be indirect and relate to a greater number of visitors being attracted to the site, from the modest scale of development proposed in the district. The impact of this is not felt to be significant.

3.0 Conclusions

This report has shown that the Harborough Core Strategy alone, or in combination with other plans, is unlikely to have an adverse impact on any of the *Natura 2000* sites within approximately 25kms of the boundary of the district. The main reasons for this are;

- There are no *Natura 2000* sites within Harborough district
- The scale of development proposed in the district is modest and policies require that development is steered towards existing settlements and away from *Natura 2000* sites
- It is unlikely that any flooding incident in Harborough district would affect any of the SAC or SPA sites, due to distance to the sites.
- The mitigation already in place is adequate to militate against any increase in visitors to Rutland Water SPA arising from the relatively modest amount of housing and other development proposed for the district.
- Policies of the Core Strategy will help to improve air quality, promote sustainable modes of transport and protect the natural environment and assets.

In conclusion, a full Appropriate Assessment is not deemed to be required.

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Appendix 4

LPA assessment of the requirement for a SEA for Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan

The Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan has been screened and assessed at regulation 14 consultation.

The table below has demonstrated that in the opinion on the Local Planning Authority the policies of the Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan do not give potential for significant detrimental effects on local historic or environmental sites, Natura 2000 sites, or Habitat Regulations.

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Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Policy in Harborough District Core Strategy (CS) /NPPF/ emerging Local Plan (LP)	Relationship between Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan and Core Strategy/ emerging Local Plan	Potential for likely significant effects on national and local historic and/or environmental designations	Conclusions relating to Strategic Environmental Assessment	Potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites within 50km (nearest Rutland Water approx. 15km away)	Conclusion relating to Habitat Regulations (HRA)
<p>POLICY S1: PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>CS1: Spatial Strategy for Harborough (adopted prior to NPPF but generally seeks to secure sustainable development).</p> <p>NPPF: Presumption in favour of sustainable development (para 14).</p> <p>Emerging Local Plan will have an overarching policy reflecting the presumption in favour of development.</p>	<p>S1 is considered to be in general conformity with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Core Strategy policy CS1 (m) which supports the provision of rural housing which contributes towards the provision of affordable housing where there is a demonstrable need and to protect existing services in smaller settlements (below Rural Centre level). The CS predated the NPPF and therefore does not specify the presumption in favour of sustainable development; and Emerging LP which will have a general policy reflecting the presumption in favour of sustainable 	<p>The policy is unlikely to result in significant effects. Policy promotes sustainable development in principle.</p>	<p>No significant effects identified.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Policy reflects NPPF presumption in favour of sustainable development. No negative effect.</p>

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		development.				
POLICY H1: LIMITS TO DEVELOPMENT	Policy CS17: Countryside, rural centres and rural villages. NPPF: 3 - Supporting a prosperous rural economy. NPPF para. 55 – Promoting sustainable development in rural areas..	H1 could be considered to be in general conformity as it allows for development proposals within the area identified NPPF supports sustainable development in rural areas	There may be some potential limited impacts but the policy is unlikely to result in significant effects	No significant effects identified. Detailed mitigation will be considered through the Development Management process	None	No negative effect. Development of this scale and on these sites will not adversely impact on Natura 2000 sites.
POLICY H2: HOUSING MIX	Policy CS2 – Delivering New Housing NPPF – Delivering a wide choice of high	H2 is considered to be in general conformity with the CS and NPPF in seeking to deliver an appropriate mix of housing types to reflect local needs based on local	The policy is unlikely to result in significant effects as it only relates to mix of homes on previously identified sites.	No significant effects identified.	None.	No negative effect arising from this policy.

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	<p>quality homes – para. 50</p> <p>Emerging LP will have a policy requiring developments to deliver a suitable mix of housing.</p>	evidence.				
Policy H3: BUILDING DESIGN PRINCIPLES	<p>Policy CS11: Promoting Design and Built Heritage.</p> <p>NPPF – Requiring good design (paras 56-68).</p>	H3 is considered to be in general conformity with CS and NPPF in setting out building design principles and emphasising the importance of the design affecting the Conservation Area and of surrounding areas.	Potential positive impacts as the policy promotes design of new development which reflects the character and historic context of its surroundings.	Possible positive impacts. No significant effects identified.	None.	No negative effect arising from this policy.

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	Emerging LP will have a policy to achieve good design in development.					
POLICY H4: Tandem and back land Development	<p>Policy CS11: Promoting Design and Built Heritage.</p> <p>NPPF – Requiring good design (paras 56-68).</p> <p>Emerging LP will have a policy to achieve good design in</p>	H4 is considered to be in general conformity with CS11 and NPPF in seeking to ensure that development does not cause harm to the local area.	Potential for limited positive impacts as policy aims to ensure that development takes into account potential impacts the village .	Limited positive impacts. No significant effects identified.	None.	No negative effect arising from this policy

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	development					
Policy CF1: THE RETENTION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND AMENITIES	<p>CS12: Delivering Development and Supporting Infrastructure.</p> <p>CS6: Improving town centres and retailing.</p> <p>NPPF: Supporting a prosperous rural economy.</p> <p>Emerging LP will have policy to protect local services and community facilities from unnecessary loss.</p>	<p>CF1 is considered to be in general conformity with the CS and NPPF in aiming to prevent the loss of or adverse effects on community facilities and services. It sets out the requirement to provide alternative facilities.</p>	<p>The policy is unlikely to result in significant effects as scope for redevelopment of such premises and its scale is likely to be limited. Applications will also be assessed against other NP policies.</p>	<p>No significant effects identified.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect arising from this policy.</p>

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<p>POLICY CF2: NEW OR IMPROVED COMMUNITY FACILITIES</p>	<p>CS12: Delivering Development and Supporting Infrastructure.</p> <p>CS6: Improving town centres and retailing.</p> <p>NPPF: Supporting a prosperous rural economy.</p> <p>Emerging LP will have policy to protect local services and community facilities from unnecessary loss</p>	<p>CF2 sets out to support improvements to community facilities while setting out criteria that should be met by new development. It reflects Core Strategy and NPPF policy in recognising the importance of community facilities in promoting healthy communities.</p>	<p>The policy is unlikely to result in significant effects given the scale of such facilities.</p>	<p>No significant effects identified.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect arising from this policy</p>

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<p>Policy E1: SUPPORT FOR EXISTING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES</p>	<p>Policy CS7: Enabling Employment and Business Development.</p> <p>NPPF: Supporting a prosperous rural economy.</p> <p>Emerging LP will have policies promoting healthy rural communities.</p>	<p>E1 is considered to be in general conformity with the CS and NPPF in so far it aims to promote small scale employment at a specific site, and to prevent the loss of current employment opportunities in the village.</p>	<p>The policy is unlikely to result in significant effects. There are criteria included for change of use from existing B Class premises</p>	<p>No significant effects identified.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect arising from this policy.</p>

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Policy E2: SUPPORT FOR NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES	<p>Policy CS7: Enabling Employment and Business Development.</p> <p>NPPF: Supporting a prosperous rural economy.</p> <p>Emerging LP will have policies promoting healthy rural communities.</p>	E2 is considered to be in general conformity with the CS and NPPF in so far it aims to support new employment opportunities in the existing employment sites on Saddington Road. Certain criteria must be met to reduce the impact of new employment opportunities.	The policy is unlikely to result in significant effects given the policy criteria would limit the impacts of any employment development.	No significant effects identified.	None.	No negative effect arising from this policy.
Policy E3: Re-Use of Agricultural and	Policy CS7: Enabling Employment and Business	E3 is considered to be in general conformity with the CS and NPPF by supporting the re-use of agricultural and	The policy is unlikely to result in significant effects given the policy criteria set out to	No significant effects identified.	None.	No negative effect arising from this

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Commercial Buildings	<p>Development.</p> <p>NPPF: Supporting a prosperous rural economy.</p> <p>Emerging LP will have policies promoting healthy rural communities.</p>	<p>commercial buildings providing the proposals meet certain criteria aimed at protecting landscape, character of the area, historic and environmental features, road network and residential amenity.</p>	<p>protect the local environment.</p>			<p>policy</p>

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POLICY E4: BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE	<p>CS17: Countryside, rural centres and rural villages.</p> <p>NPPF: Supporting high quality communications infrastructure.</p> <p>Emerging LP will have a policy to support the provision of infrastructure alongside new development.</p>	E4 is considered to be in general conformity with the CS and NPPF in supporting the provision infrastructure to ensure the provision of super-fast broadband providing it is sensitively located.	The policy is unlikely to result in significant effects given the requirement for sensitive location of such installations.	Limited impact only. No significant effects identified.	None.	No negative effect arising from this policy
POLICY E3: WORKING	CS17: Countryside, rural centres and rural	E3 is considered to be in general conformity with the	The policy is unlikely to result in significant	No significant	None.	No negative effect arising

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FROM HOME	villages. NPPF: Supporting a prosperous rural economy.	CS and NPPF in supporting working from home providing residential amenity is protected and adverse impacts are not significant. Any new standing structure to be subservient to the original building.	effects given the policy specifies that any development will need to be subservient and in character.	effects identified.		from this policy

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POLICY ENV 1: PROTECTION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES	<p>CS11: Promoting design and built heritage.</p> <p>Policy CS8: Protecting and Enhancing Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>CS does not refer to LGS as it predates the NPPF. Important Open Land Policy HS/9 (Local Plan 2009) is retained in the CS.</p> <p>NPPF – Promoting healthy communities (para 76 and para 77).</p> <p>Emerging LP will identify LGS not allocated in NPs.</p>	<p>ENV1 is considered to be in general conformity with the CS and NPPF in identifying LGS and setting out policy for their protection.</p> <p>CS11 refers to new development being directed away from undeveloped areas of land which are important to the form and character of a settlement or locality. The designation of LGS in the village recognises the value of such areas and the contribution they make to the character and setting of the settlement.</p>	<p>Potential for limited positive impact as the policy identifies and protects open land that is of demonstrable value to the community and of outstanding significance for their natural and historical or environmental features.</p>	<p>Possible positive impacts. No significant effects identified.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect arising from this policy which seeks to protect local green space.</p>

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POLICY ENV 2: PROTECTION OF OTHER SITES OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SIGNIFICANCE	<p>Policy CS8: Protecting and Enhancing Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>NPPF: 11 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.</p> <p>Emerging LP will have policy relating to biodiversity and geodiversity protection and improvement.</p>	<p>ENV2 is considered to be in general conformity with NPPF and CS policy in seeking to protect, and where possible enhance new features, species and habitats.</p>	<p>Possible positive impact as the policy requires development proposals are required to conserve and enhance areas of biodiversity.</p>	<p>Possible limited positive impact. No significant effects identified.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect arising from this policy as it promotes biodiversity.</p>

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<p>POLICY ENV 3: PROTECTION OF OTHER SITES OF HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT SIGNIFICANCE</p>	<p>Policy CS11: Promoting Design and Built Heritage.</p> <p>Policy CS8: Protecting and Enhancing Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>Policy CS17: Countryside, rural centres and rural villages.</p> <p>NPPF: 12 . Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.</p>	<p>ENV3 is considered to be in general conformity with the NPPF and CS as it seeks to protect sites which are of historical significance locally.</p>	<p>The policy is unlikely to result in significant effects as it aims to protect sites with local historic significance.</p>	<p>No significant effects identified.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect arising from this policy which seeks to protect other historical sites of significance in the parish.</p>

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	Emerging LP will have policies protecting built heritage and local landscape character.					

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POLICY ENV 4: RIDGE AND FURROW FIELDS	<p>Policy CS11: Promoting Design and Built Heritage.</p> <p>Policy CS17: Countryside, rural centres and rural villages.</p> <p>NPPF: 12 . Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.</p> <p>Emerging LP will have policy to protect heritage and local landscape character.</p>	<p>ENV4 is considered to be in general conformity with the NPPF and CS as it seeks to protect ridge and furrow, part of the historic landscape.</p>	<p>The policy is unlikely to result in significant effects as it aims to protect ridge and furrow as part of the historic landscape.</p>	<p>No significant effects identified.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect arising from this policy which gives protection to historic landscape feature.</p>

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Policy ENV5: IMPORTANT HEDGES	<p>Policy CS8: Protecting and Enhancing Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>NPPF: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.</p>	ENV5 is considered to be in general conformity with the NPPF and CS as it seeks to protect areas of hedgerows (non-designated heritage assets).	The policy is unlikely to result in significant effects as it gives protection to hedgerows.	No significant effects identified.	None.	No negative effect arising from this policy which gives protection to hedgerows.

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Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Policy in Harborough District Core Strategy (CS) /NPPF/ emerging Local Plan (LP)	Relationship between Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan and Core Strategy/ emerging Local Plan	Potential for likely significant effects on national and local historic and/or environmental designations	Conclusions relating to Strategic Environmental Assessment	Potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites within 50km (nearest Rutland Water approx. 15km away)	Conclusion relating to Habitat Regulations (HRA)
POLICY ENV 5: IMPORTANT WOODLAND, TREES AND HEDGES	<p>Policy CS8: Protecting and Enhancing Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>NPPF: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.</p>	ENV5 is considered to be in general conformity with the NPPF and CS as it seeks to protect trees, woodland and hedgerows of value.	The policy is unlikely to result in significant effects as it gives protection to trees and hedgerows of value.	Limited impact. No significant effects identified.	None.	No negative effect arising from this policy which gives protection to trees and hedgerows.
There is no ENV6						

Strategic Environmental Assessment Determination Report Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan

Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Policy in Harborough District Core Strategy (CS) /NPPF/ emerging Local Plan (LP)	Relationship between Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan and Core Strategy/ emerging Local Plan	Potential for likely significant effects on national and local historic and/or environmental designations	Conclusions relating to Strategic Environmental Assessment	Potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites within 50km (nearest Rutland Water approx. 15km away)	Conclusion relating to Habitat Regulations (HRA)
POLICY ENV 7: FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS	<p>CS5: Providing sustainable transport.</p> <p>CS8: Protecting and enhancing green infrastructure.</p> <p>NPPF: Promoting healthy communities.</p> <p>Emerging LP will have policies promoting linkages within the green infrastructure network.</p>	<p>ENV7 is considered to be in general conformity with the CS and NPPF in seeking to the existing network of footpaths/bridleways contributing to healthy lifestyles and community safety. A specific route has been identified between Shearsby and Arnesby</p>	<p>The policy may deliver minor positive impacts as it is about protection and improvements of bridleways/ footpaths.</p>	<p>Possible minor positive impacts. No significant effects identified.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect arising from this policy as it is about protection of footpaths and bridleways</p>