

**Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report
Fleckney Neighbourhood Plan Review**



**Fleckney Neighbourhood Plan Review
Strategic Environmental Assessment
Determination Report**

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

Fleckney Parish Council

July 2026

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Harborough District Council was asked in April 2026 to undertake a screening report for Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Council completed the report, consulted statutory consultees and must now issue its determination whether a full SEA is required for Fleckney Neighbourhood Plan Review
- 1.2 This report is used to determine whether or not the contents of the pre submission Fleckney Neighbourhood Pan Review as submitted in April 2026 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 is issued by the Harborough District Council and is the Council's opinion on whether a full SEA is required. **After consultation with the Statutory Consultees it is the Councils opinion that a full SEA is not required for the Fleckney Neighbourhood Plan Review.**
- 1.4 The screening report was submitted to the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England for comment. The responses can be found below

Consultee	Response
Natural England	Fleckney Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening Assessment Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 29 May 2026. Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely. The proposed neighbourhood plan is unlikely to significantly affect any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection area (SPA), Ramsar wetland or sites in the process of becoming SACs or SPAs ('candidate SACs', 'possible SACs', 'potential SPAs') or a Ramsar wetland. The plan area is unlikely to have a significant effect on a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coast, and is unlikely to impact upon the purposes for which these areas are designated or defined.

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	Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 is contained within the Planning Practice Guidance. This identifies three triggers that may require the production of an SEA: • a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development • the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan • the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan. Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require an SEA. Further information is included in Natural England's standing advice on protected species. Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant an SEA. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission standing advice. We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a SEA is necessary. Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If a SEA is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.
Historic England	FLECKNEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION CONSULTATION Thank you for your consultation and the invitation to comment on the SEA Screening Document for the above Neighbourhood Plan. For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to

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	have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request. On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of the 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with your view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. Regarding HRA Historic England does not disagree with your conclusions but would defer to the opinions of the other statutory consultees. The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at: https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainabilityappraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/
Environment Agency	No response

- 1.5 The first Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for the Parish of Fleckney was "Made" by Harborough District Council on 27 May 2021 after successful referendum.
- 1.6 The purpose of the Fleckney Neighbourhood Plan Review is to bring the Fleckney Neighbourhood Plan up to date and take account of changes both locally and as part of the legislative environment. The review will ensure the neighbourhood gets the right types of development in the right locations.
- 1.7 In order to demonstrate that a draft neighbourhood plan or Order contributes to sustainable development, sufficient and proportionate evidence should be presented on how the draft neighbourhood plan or Order guides development to sustainable solutions. There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal. However, qualifying bodies may find this a useful approach for demonstrating how their draft plan or order meets the basic conditions. Material produced as part of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan may be relevant to a neighbourhood plan.
- 1.8 This determination has been prepared prior to the Plan being submitted for pre submission consultation and can inform the Plan policies. It also reflects the representations made by the statutory consultees.

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2. Legislative Background

- 1.1 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).
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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 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
- 1.4 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 Local Plan. A copy of the SA Report can be viewed here; [Harborough District Council - Sustainability Appraisal \(SA\) and Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\)](#)

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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,
 - 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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4.2 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.

Table 1: Establishing the Need for SEA		
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 Fleckney 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 and The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012
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 NP covers a wide 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	Fleckney NP is unlikely to have a substantial effect on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites. The Plan does not allocate sites for housing but contains policies that influence where development might take place, the type of housing that should be encouraged and the design of new development. It is unlikely that the policies will cause significant detrimental effects on the historic and natural environments The Fleckney Plan contains policies to protect assets of significant historic or environmental importance. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been undertaken as part of the Local Plan preparation. The assessment concludes that the Local Plan will not have a likely significant effect on any internationally important wildlife sites either alone or in conjunction with other plans and projects. These conclusions are based on the fact that no such sites are located

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		within the district and no impact pathways were identified linking internationally important wildlife sites outside of the district (e.g. Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site) to development within Harborough District. The Local Plan HRA considered but dismissed the following sites from the analysis due to a combination of distance and absence of impact pathways linking it to the District: • Ensor's Pool SAC; • The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar; and • River Mease SAC. The HRA looked into the potential effects of the plan on Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site in more detail. However, it concluded that the Local Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the site as no impact pathways were identified linking it to development within Harborough District. Given that the Fleckney lies some 35 km from Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar, it is considered that the NP will not affect any Natura 2000 sites in line with the findings of the HRA. Therefore, it is concluded that a full Appropriate Assessment is not deemed to be required. The Local Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment is available at: https://www.harborough.gov.uk/downloads/download/1170/s7_habitat_regulations_assessment
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.
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	The Local Plan allocates one site to Fleckney at land at Arnesby Road (policy F1). Neighbourhood Plans are permitted to allocate sites in addition to any Local Plan housing allocation. The new Local Plan proposes the 150 dwellings to be allocated to Fleckney at land north of Kilby Road and land west of Longgrey

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		The Plan also contains policies to permit and influence infill housing. The level of development anticipated through these policies is not going to impact on any Natura 2000 site. Two Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are located within 10 kms of the Neighbourhood Area; one of them is on the Area boundary. Two Local Green Spaces have been identified and receive protection as part of ENV1. Other sites of local environmental importance have been identified and receive protection as part of the policies of the Plan. Where flood risk is an issue in Fleckney policy ENV9 helps address this. New development will be required to demonstrate that the benefit of development outweighs the harm in relation to its adverse impacts on-site or elsewhere. Development sites should be built to manage surface water sustainably and utilise resources sustainably during use. Use of SUDs for habitat creation is also is also required from new development. The Neighbourhood Area has also identified sites of historical and/or environmental significance and policies have been developed to protect these. Policy ENV7 identifies non designated heritage assets for protection against harm or loss. Ridge and Furrow fields are also identified as heritage assets and for protection from harm in ENV6.
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5. Screening Outcome

- 5..1 As a result of the assessment in Section 4 and the responses of the statutory consultees, it is Harborough District Councils determination that it is unlikely there will be any significant detrimental environmental effects arising from the Fleckney Neighbourhood Plan review as submitted at the date of this assessment. As such, it is the determination of the Council that the Fleckney Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.
- 5..2 If the issues addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan should change then a new screening process will need to be undertaken to determine whether the amendments will require an SEA. Please contact Harborough District Council for advice in this circumstance.

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Appendix 1

SSSI/LISTED BUILDINGS/SAMs WITHIN THE PARISH OF FLECKNEY REVIEW

Other Settlement features:	Occurrence
Conservation Area	Not applicable
Scheduled Monuments	Not applicable
Listed buildings	<u>THE MANOR HOUSE AND FLANKING WALL</u> • <u>List Entry Number: 1360758</u> • <u>Heritage Category: Listing</u> • <u>Grade: II</u> • <u>Location: THE MANOR HOUSE AND FLANKING WALL, MAIN STREET, Fleckney, Harborough, Leicestershire</u> <u>WOLSEY HOUSE</u> • <u>List Entry Number: 1180210</u> • <u>Heritage Category: Listing</u> • <u>Grade: II</u> • <u>Location: WOLSEY HOUSE, 15, MAIN STREET, Fleckney, Harborough, Leicestershire</u> <u>CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS</u> • <u>List Entry Number: 1180219</u> • <u>Heritage Category: Listing</u> • <u>Grade: II*</u> • <u>Location: CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS, CHURCH STREET, Fleckney, Harborough, Leicestershire</u>

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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.

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(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).

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.

2. 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

6. 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.

7. Food industry

- (a) Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats.
- (b) Packing and canning of animal and vegetable products.
- (c) Manufacture of dairy products.
- (d) Brewing and malting.
- (e) Confectionery and syrup manufacture.

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- (f) Installations for the slaughter of animals.
- (g) Industrial starch manufacturing installations.
- (h) Fish-meal and fish-oil factories.
- (i) Sugar factories.

8. Textile, leather, wood and paper industries

- (a) 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.

9. Rubber industry

Manufacture and treatment of elastomer-based products.

10. 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.

11. 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.

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12. 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