

Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Neighbourhood Development Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

Introduction

1. This document contains the Screening Statements for the Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) with regards to whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) are required to be undertaken.
2. Regulation 15 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations sets out the information that must accompany a Neighbourhood Plan when submitted to the local planning authority. In February 2015 amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations came into force; this is known as the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015. Regulation 2(4) of these amendments adds additions to the list of documents that a qualifying body must submit to a local planning authority with a Neighbourhood Plan. The additional document which must be submitted is either an environmental report prepared in accordance with the relevant regulations or, if the outcome concludes that an SEA or HRA is not necessary, a statement that sets out how environmental issues have been taken into account and considered during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.
3. The National Planning Policy Framework (para 167) advises that assessments should be proportionate, and should not repeat policy assessment that has already taken place. In view of this, only a high level screening assessment of the Plan has been undertaken for both the SEA and HRA, and this assessment should be read in conjunction with the relevant reports produced for Bassetlaw District Councils Local Development Framework.¹ A conclusion of each assessment is also provided in this document as well information on what the required next steps are in both the SEA and HRA process.
4. As the responsible authority under relevant regulations, that are described below, Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) have undertaken both of the Screening Assessment's contained in this document working with Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

5. The requirement for a SEA to be undertaken on development plans and programmes that may have a significant environmental effect is outlined in European Union Directive 2001/42/EC. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 2004 Regulations) state that this is determined by a screening process, utilising a specified set of criteria which is outlined in Schedule 1 of the Regulations. The results of this process must be set out in an SEA Screening Statement, which must be publicly available.

¹ <http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/everything-else/planning-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework.aspx>

6. The objective of undertaking an SEA is *“to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.”*²

Habitat Regulations Assessment

7. European protected sites (the ‘Natura 2000 Network’) are of exceptional importance for the conservation of important species and natural habitats within the European Union. The network of European protected sites comprises Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention 1975. Government guidance advises that potential SPAs (pSPA), candidate SACs (cSAC) and potential Ramsar (pRamsar) sites are also included in HRA’s.
8. As a land use plan, an assessment of the draft Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan may be required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012 (the Habitat Regulations) and Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive in order to determine whether the Plan may result in a significant effect on identified sites. As with the SEA process, a screening process is used to establish whether any elements of the Draft Plan may have a significant effect on these sites. Regulation 32 of the Regulations 2015 further reemphasises the importance of carrying out this assessment by stating that one of the basic conditions that must be met before the Plan may be ‘made’ is that *“the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)”*.³

Summary of Findings

9. Following the undertaking of the Screening Assessments, it has been shown that the Draft Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Neighbourhood Development Plan (the Plan) in its current form will not have any significant negative effects on the environment or any identified European sites. It is considered therefore that a full environmental assessment and habitat regulations assessment is not necessary, but it is a requirement for the Qualifying Body to demonstrate that the plan does contribute towards the delivery of sustainable development without having a significant effect on the environment. This can be justified through the Sustainability Appraisal process. This determination has been reached by assessing the contents of the Draft Plan against criteria provided in Schedule 1 of the 2004 Regulations and with regard to Regulation 32 of the 2015 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations & the Habitat Regulations.

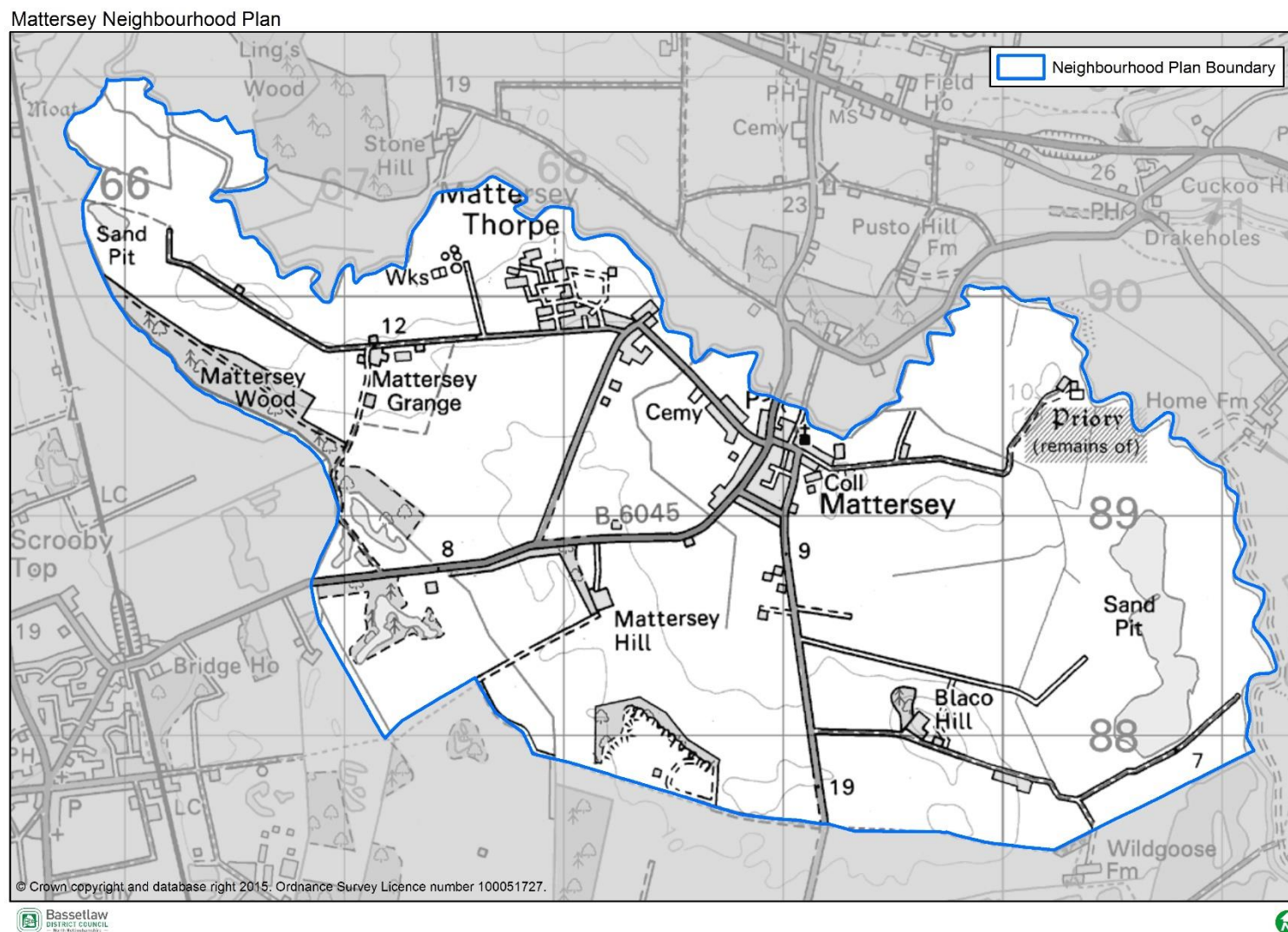
² SEA Directive, Article 1

³ Planning Guidance - Reference ID: 41-079-20140306

The Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Neighbourhood Development Plan

10. The Plan is being produced by Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Parish Council with the aid of local residents; it plans for the future development and growth of the area up to the year 2034. The NP covers the designated Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe neighbourhood area as seen on **Figure 1** below.

Figure 1: Neighbourhood Plan area



Draft Plan Overview

11. The main priorities of the Plan are expressed throughout the Draft document, most clearly in its Vision and Objectives, these will be delivered in turn by the Development Policies and Community Projects contained in the Plan. The Vision and Objectives of the Plan, as well as the Policies can be found below.

Vision

In 15 years' time Mattersey Parish will be a thriving community and sensitively developed area. It will value the community, the school and its rural location and provide people with an opportunity and the facilities to live, work and grow. It will be a Parish that has sufficient housing and facilities to attract and retain families, where everyone can live, work and enjoy village life.

Objectives

Objective 1	To encourage sufficient housing growth to sustain the range of facilities in the village like the school and post office.
Objective 2	To ensure that future housing development meets local need.
Objective 3	To ensure that the design of new development reflects the rural nature of the parish.
Objective 4	To ensure that development protects and where possible enhances the heritage assets in the parish.
Objective 5	To improve the range of community facilities particularly increasing the provision of indoor space (for example a village hall and a pub).
Objective 6	To protect, enhance and, where possible, extend the walking, cycling routes and public open spaces in the Parish.
Objective 7	To ensure that future development minimises its impact on the environment and reduces running costs by using energy efficient materials.
Objective 8	To ensure the Parish Council is consulted early in the planning application process (at pre-application stage) via the mechanisms outlined in this Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Development Management Policies

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Intent
<p>Policy 1: Protecting the Landscape Character of Mattersey Parish</p>	<p>To protect the landscape character of the Parish, development in Mattersey is required to demonstrate that:</p> <p>a) it does not represent a significant visual intrusion into the landscape setting. The view corridors highlighted in Map 9a and 9b are particularly sensitive in these respects and development is required to demonstrate it will not have a significantly adverse impact on these publicly accessible views.</p> <p>b) where practicable, it conforms with the actions of the landscape and built features recommended for the policy zone as designated in the Landscape Character Assessment and listed at Appendix B. Where appropriate, mitigation planting should include native species recommended for the Idle Lowlands 05 and 07 character area.</p> <p>2. Development proposals are required to show they have taken into account the guidance in the Mattersey Village Appraisal Landscape sections for both villages in relation to;</p> <p>a) the use of landscaping to provide a green soft edge to site boundaries, and</p> <p>b) by orientating rear gardens to meet the edge of the settlement boundary.</p> <p>3. The settlement break between Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe as shown on Map 10 is a key character forming space. Development in this gap is required to demonstrate that it would not create coalescence between the two settlements.</p>
<p>Policy 2: Design Principles</p>	<p>Proposals for residential development should demonstrate a high design quality that enhances the distinctiveness and quality of Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe and contributes to their rural character.</p> <p>2. Development in Mattersey village should;</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Intent
	<p>a) reflect the prevailing plot sizes and set back from the street; and</p> <p>b) be on plots that have front gardens and on plot parking; and</p> <p>c) where possible present an active edge to the street with front doors and windows overlooking the frontage; and</p> <p>d) use a locally inspired range of materials (red brick with multi grained texture and some render in light colours) which will ensure a narrow colour palette in keeping with the character of the village; and</p> <p>e) use low walls made from local materials (red brick) and native species hedges as boundary treatments, to delineate public and private space; and</p> <p>f) have a scale and mass that provides views to the wider landscape; and</p> <p>g) demonstrates a layout that maximises opportunities to integrate new development with the existing settlement pattern.</p> <p>3. Development in Mattersey Thorpe should, where possible reflect the rural character of the older part of the village by;</p> <p>a) presenting an active edge to the street with front doors and windows overlooking the frontage; and</p> <p>b) ensuring that the spaces at front and back are private; and</p> <p>c) using regular plots with front gardens and on plot parking; and</p> <p>d) establishing a strong boundary treatment (low walls and hedges) to the plot edge; and</p> <p>e) using a simple palate of materials (multi grain red brick and red clay pantiles).</p> <p>4. In Mattersey Thorpe, where development is located near to the open spaces 1,2 and 3 on Aerial View 2 it should be well connected</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Intent
	<p>by direct walking routes and development should front these spaces.</p> <p>5. In both settlements, where development is located along a through road the plots should be regular with buildings facing the front with consistent building lines and regular spacing.</p> <p>6. In both settlements, where development adjoins the countryside, proposals should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) use landscaping to provide a green soft edge to site boundaries; and b) reflect existing character by orientating rear gardens to meet the edge of the settlement boundary. <p>7. Applicants will be required to demonstrate that their scheme accords with national design standards (9 greens for BfL 12 or equivalent).</p>
<p>Policy 3: Infill and Redevelopment in Mattersey Parish</p>	<p>1. Applications for residential development on infill and redevelopment sites will only be supported where the proposals are of a high design quality and where such development meets all the following criteria;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the scheme is in keeping with the character of the area particularly in relation to historic development patterns and building plot sizes; and b) the scheme does not detract from the setting of the listed building, Conservation Area or non-designated heritage assets; and c) building lines and boundary treatments reflect the positive characteristics of the area. <p>2. Proposals that include smaller dwellings on infill sites that are within a safe walking distance of local amenities will be encouraged.</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Intent
Policy 4: Development Affecting Heritage Assets	<p>1. Applications for development will only be supported within the Mattersey Conservation Area where the proposals are of a high design quality and where such development meets the following criteria:</p> <p>a) it is in keeping with the character of the area particularly in relation to historic development patterns and plot sizes; and</p> <p>b) the design preserves and where possible enhances the heritage attributes of the Conservation Area; and</p> <p>c) the materials used should be in keeping with the character of surrounding development particularly the prevailing red brick and clay pantiles.</p> <p>2. Where applicable, development adjacent to the Conservation Area should not detract from the setting of the Conservation Area and should ensure that building lines and boundary treatment reflect the positive attributes in that character area and preserve the significance of the asset.</p> <p>3. The effect of a proposal on the significance of non-designated heritage assets, including their setting, will be taken into consideration when determining planning applications. Applications that are considered to be harmful to the significance of a non-designated heritage asset, including full demolition, will require a clear and convincing justification. Proposals should minimise the conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.</p>
Policy 5: A Mix of Housing Types	<p>1. Planning applications for housing schemes are required to deliver a housing mix that reflects the demonstrable need for smaller (2 bed) market dwellings in the most recent Housing Needs Assessment.</p> <p>2. Developers must show how this has been taken into account in the different house types and bedroom numbers proposed.</p>
Policy 6: Enhancing facilities in the Parish	<p>1. The facilities identified in Map 3 support the vibrancy and vitality of the villages. Development that improves these and expands the range of facilities for</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Intent
	<p>the local community (particularly the provision of a pub and village hall in either of the settlements and the provision of a multi-use community building in Mattersey Thorpe) will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal;</p> <p>a) is meeting a local need; and</p> <p>b) is appropriate to its rural setting; and</p> <p>c) does not cause material harm to the amenity of neighbouring residential properties.</p> <p>2. In order to promote a thriving village for all ages, and notwithstanding permitted development rights, the redevelopment of community facilities for non - community uses will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that the operation of the facility is no longer financially viable or necessary or that a replacement facility of equal size and quality is provided elsewhere within either settlement.</p>
Policy 7: Local Green Spaces	<p>1. The Green and the Playing Fields at Mattersey Thorpe (shown on Map 12) are designated as Local Green Spaces.</p> <p>2 Development that would have an adverse effect on the openness or special character of these Local Green Spaces will not be supported except in exceptional circumstances.</p>
Policy 8: Conservation and Enhancement of Non-Vehicular Routes	<p>1. Development which is related to improving, extending or creating new non-vehicular routes will be permitted where the proposals do not detract from the landscape character or areas of identified ecological value as defined in the most recent Landscape Character Assessment Study.</p> <p>2. Proposals that seek to create connecting routes particularly along the River Idle will be encouraged.</p> <p>3. Development proposals for the allocated sites should demonstrate how they have sought opportunities to create new routes or extend existing ones where possible.</p>
Policy 9: Land west of Main Street Mattersey	<p>1. Permission will be granted for residential development on the site shown on Map 14 where the applicant can demonstrate that;</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Intent
	<p>a) the development fronts the street; and b) the buildings have active frontages that look onto Ranskill Road; and c) boundary treatment creates private space at the front to allow for the planting of native trees and shrubs with low walls or hedges; and d) boundary treatment in the form of hedges or low walls/fences in the rear gardens allows for a soft transition to the open countryside, and e) the means by which a pedestrian footpath will be provided along the length of the site frontage connecting to the existing footpath north of the site.</p>
<p>Policy 10: Land north of Thorpe Road Mattersey</p>	<p>1. Permission will be granted for residential development on the site shown on Map 15 where the applicant can demonstrate;</p> <p>a) a layout that retains a sense of openness to ensure it respects the settlement break between the western edge of Mattersey village and the eastern edge of Mattersey Thorpe; and b) the buildings have active frontages that overlook Thorpe Road; and c) the use of local materials (red brick with a multi grain texture and clay pantiles and some render); and d) to the front a boundary treatment of low walls or hedges that creates private space to allow for the planting of native trees and shrubs; and e) boundary treatment in the form of hedges or low walls/fences in the rear gardens that allows for a soft transition to the open countryside to the west and north; and f) a flood risk assessment has been undertaken which establishes that the proposed development would not give rise to an increased risk of flooding either on the site or in the vicinity which cannot be effectively mitigated; and g) the means by which a carriageway side kerb will be provided along the length of the site frontage to connect to the existing kerb to the</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Intent
	south east.
Policy 11: Land East of Retford Road	<p>1. Permission will be granted for residential development on the site shown on Map 16 where the applicant can demonstrate;</p> <p>a) a layout that does not diminish the setting of the Grade 2 college or conservation area; and</p> <p>b) a landscaping scheme that minimises the impact on the Lime Trees along the western boundary. Where it can be demonstrated to BDC's satisfaction that any of these mature trees need to be removed the landscaping scheme will include mitigation measures;</p> <p>c) a layout that reflects the character of the dwellings on the west of Retford Road with active frontages that overlook Retford Road; and</p> <p>d) the use of local materials (red brick with a multi grain texture and clay pantiles and some render); and</p> <p>e) to the front a boundary treatment of low walls or hedges that creates private space to allow for the planting of native trees and shrubs; and</p> <p>f) boundary treatment in the form of hedges or low walls/fences in the rear gardens that allows for a soft transition to the open countryside to the east; and</p> <p>g) the means by which a pedestrian footpath will be provided along the length of the site frontage connecting to the existing footpath north of the site.</p>
Policy 12: Land south of Thorpe Road Mattersey	<p>1. Permission will be granted for residential development on the site shown on Map 17 where the applicant can demonstrate;</p> <p>a) a layout that does not negatively impact on the peace and tranquillity or the setting of the cemetery including overlooking;</p> <p>and</p> <p>b) the buildings have active frontages that overlook Thorpe Road; and</p> <p>c) the use of local materials (red brick with a multi grain texture and clay pantiles and some render); and</p> <p>d) to the front a boundary treatment of low walls or hedges that creates private space to allow for the planting of native trees and shrubs; and</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Intent
	<p>e) boundary treatment in the form of hedges or low walls/fences in the rear gardens that allows for a soft transition to the open countryside; and</p> <p>f) the means by which a pedestrian footpath will be provided along the length of the site frontage that includes an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing point to the footway opposite.</p>
<p>Policy 13: Land east of Main Street Mattersey</p>	<p>1. Permission will be granted for residential development on the site shown on Map 18 where the applicant can demonstrate;</p> <p>a) a high design quality that responds positively to its immediate setting with a scale, appearance, boundary treatment and access that does not harm the historic rural character; and</p> <p>b) is in keeping with the character of the Conservation Area in relation to materials used (prevailing red brick and clay pantiles); and</p> <p>c) the layout allows for gaps between the houses to afford views of the church.</p>
<p>Policy 14: Land north of Newall Drive Mattersey Thorpe</p>	<p>1. Permission will be granted for residential development on the site shown on Map 19 where the applicant can demonstrate that;</p> <p>a) the layout constitutes frontage development onto an adopted highway; and</p> <p>b) the buildings have active frontages and overlook the open space;</p> <p>and</p> <p>c) boundary treatment creates private space at the front to allow for the planting of native trees and shrubs with low walls or hedges;</p> <p>and</p> <p>d) boundary treatment in the form of hedges or low walls/fences in the rear gardens allows for a soft transition to the open countryside,</p> <p>e) a flood risk assessment has been undertaken which establishes that the proposed development would not give rise to an increased risk of flooding either on the site or in the vicinity which cannot be effectively mitigated.</p>
<p>Policy 15: Land south of Breck Lane, Mattersey Thorpe</p>	<p>1. Permission will be granted for residential development on the site shown on Map 20 where the applicant can demonstrate;</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Intent
	<p>a) a layout that reflects the rural and historic character of the oldest part of Mattersey Thorpe to which it adjoins; and</p> <p>b) the use of multi grain red brick and red clay pantiles; and</p> <p>c) landscape scheme that includes the mature trees and mature hedgerow or includes the provision of new native planting where it can be demonstrated that the retention of the existing hedgerow is not possible; and</p> <p>d) a highways scheme that provides adequate road width to accommodate increased vehicle movements on this country lane.</p>
<p>Policy 16: Land to the rear of Gilbert Croft</p>	<p>1. Permission will be granted for residential development on the site shown on Map 21 where the applicant can demonstrate;</p> <p>a) layout that reflects the rural and historic character of the oldest part of Mattersey Thorpe to which it adjoins; and</p> <p>b) the use of multi grain red brick and red clay pantiles; and</p> <p>c) to the rear a boundary treatment of native species hedges.</p>

SEA Screening – Assessment

12. **Table 1** includes the assessment of the Draft Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan, including its Objectives and Development Management Policies against the criteria included in Schedule 1 of the 2004 Regulations. The Neighbourhood Plan is being assessed as a whole against the criteria listed below to allow for the consideration of its effects on the environment.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Significant effect likely?	Comment
1a The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	NO	<p>The NP will set out a spatial vision for the designated Neighbourhood Plan (NP) area and provides a framework for proposals for development in the area. This framework will be delivered by development management policies contained within the NP. This framework will have some impacts on the environment, noticeably the support of development proposals however it is deemed that these impacts will not be significant due to their small, localised nature.</p> <p>The NP is considered to be in general conformity with Bassetlaw District Councils Core Strategy 2011. It is also considered to be in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p>
1b The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	NO	<p>The NP, where possible, will respond to rather than influence other plans and programmes. An NP can only provide policies within the designated NP area it covers and will also provide policies to help offices at Bassetlaw District Council determine planning applications along with the Bassetlaw Local Plan. None of the policies contained in the NP have a direct impact on other plans in the neighbouring areas.</p> <p>The NP will have minimal influence on the development proposed in Bassetlaw District Councils Core Strategy. As this Plan is already adopted and in use these likely effects of the NP can be considered as being minimal. The NP will have some influence on the emerging New Local Plan for Bassetlaw but the environmental effects of this influence are again considered to be minimal.</p>
1c The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	NO	<p>The NP sets out and promotes sustainable development within the NP area through balancing environmental, social and economic needs. The Plan's Vision, in conjunction with Policy NP1, work to ensure that all development brought forward in the area will take this balance into account.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Significant effect likely?	Comment
		Due to the inclusion of these elements it is considered that the NP integrates all environmental considerations associated with the development supported in the Plan and there impacts on the environment are therefore not significant.
1d Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	NO	<p>The majority of effects the NP will have on the environment will be positive. This is due to Policies NP4 & NP5 in the Plan that work to protect and enhance environmental assets and the environment in general, particularly the landscape character of the area, through good management and the promotion of sustainable development.</p> <p>Any additional housing and employment brought forward in the Plan area that is supported by the NP is likely to have some effects on the local environment. However existing national and local Planning Policy and the planning application process will ensure these effects are not significant, as well as NP1 of the Plan and the Plan's support for sustainable development.</p>
1e The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	NO	The NP will be in compliance with Bassetlaw's Local Development Framework which has taken into account the existing European and National legislative framework for environmental protection and it will therefore have a positive effect on compliance with regards to relevant legislation and programmes. It is deemed that no proposals within the Plan will compromise this position.
2a The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	NO	<p>It is deemed highly unlikely that there will be any irreversible damaging environmental impacts associated with the NP. The policies within the NP seek to ensure new development is sustainably built and promotes the enhancement and protection of environmental assets.</p> <p>The timescales of the NP is intended to be until 2031.</p> <p>Should any unforeseen significant effects on the environment arise as a result of the NP, the intention to produce an AMR and to also amend/update the Plan every 5 years will allow these effects to be addressed and reversed (see <i>Monitoring & Review</i>)</p>
2b The cumulative nature of the effects.	NO	It is considered that the Policies contained in the NP cumulatively will have minimal negative effects on the environment and will in fact have moderate to

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Significant effect likely?	Comment
		significant positive effects. It is considered that all effects will be at a local level.
2c The transboundary nature of the effects.	NO	Effects will be local with no expected impacts on neighbouring areas.
2d The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents).	NO	No obvious risks have been identified as the NPs overall aim is to focus on the enhancement and protection of environmental assets to provide for local residents in the NP area and enhance social wellbeing.
2e The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	NO	The resident population of the NP area is 870 (Census 2011). The whole NP area will be affected by the NP because the Policies within the Plan focus only on the Plan area. It is deemed the Plan as a whole will have a positive impact upon local residents through the protection and enhancement of local environmental assets.
2f The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use.	NO	The NP is deemed unlikely to have an adverse effect on the areas natural characteristics and cultural heritage. Policies NP2, NP4 and NP5 of the Plan work to actively protect and enhance these. Local wildlife sites are present in the Plan area. The effects on these of the Plan are however not considered significant and it is deemed the Plan offers these sites further protection. The NP does not exceed environmental quality standards or limit values and does not provide specific policies in relation to intensive land uses.
2g The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	NO	It is considered that the NP will not adversely affect areas of landscape which have recognised community, national or international protection as the NP aims to protect these through Policy NP4. The Plan area is covered by Policy Zone 8 of the Mid-Notts Farmlands character area; the suggested landscape action for this area is its conversation.

HRA Screening - Assessment

13. For the HRA “screening” assessment the Neighbourhood Plan area was checked to see if any Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation sites (SAC), or Ramsar sites were located within its area, as well as those considered as potential sites (pSPA, cSAC & pRamsar). The assessment also checked to see if any of these internationally important sites were located within a 15km radius from the Neighbourhood Plan area.
14. In carrying out this screening assessment the Assessment has considered the main possible sources of effects on the sites arising from the Plan, possible pathways to the European sites and the effects on possible sensitive receptors in the sites. The assessment considers the impacts of the Policies in the Plan directly on the sites as these are land use Policies which mostly are expected to have some direct or indirect impact on the local environment.

Birklands & Bilhaugh (SAC)

15. No designated sites were found within the Neighbourhood area; however the Birklands & Bilhaugh SAC is located approximately 19 km to the south west of the border of the Plan area. This site covers 270.5 hectares, information on its characteristics and designation justification can be seen below and using the following link, <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?eucode=UK0012740>.

“Birklands and Bilhaugh is the most northerly site selected for old acidophilous oak woods and is notable for its rich invertebrate fauna, particularly spiders, and for a diverse fungal assemblage, including Grifoa suphurea and Fistulina hepatica. Both native oak species, Quercus petraea and Quercus robur, are present, with a mixture of age-classes, so there is good potential for maintaining the structure and function of the woodland system and a continuity of dead-wood habitats.”

Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA

16. No designated sites were found within the Neighbourhood area; however the southern element of the Thorne & Hatfield SPA is located approximately 11km to the north of the border of the Plan area. This site covers 2453 hectares, information on its characteristics and designation justification can be viewed using the following link in addition to the information below, <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1988-theme=default>

Hatfield Moor SAC

17. The Hatfield Moor SAC is also located approximately 12km to the north of the Plan area and adjacent to the Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA described above. The site covers 1359 hectares; information on its characteristics and designation justification can be viewed using the following link in addition to the information below, <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?eucode=UK0030166>.

“Hatfield Moors is a remnant of the once-extensive bog and fen peatlands within the Humberhead Levels, and is still the second-largest area of extant lowland raised bog peat in England. Moraines of sand occur beneath the peat, the largest of which forms Lindholme Island, in the centre of the bog. Little, if any, original bog surface has survived the massive extraction of peat over the last few decades. Peat-cutting has now ceased, and the bog is being restored over its remaining minimum average depth of 0.5 m of peat.”

HRA of the Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan

Policy of the Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan	Significant effect likely?	Comment
Policy 1: Protecting the Landscape Character of Mattersey Parish	NO	This Policy does not allocate land for development and it is considered it will have no impact on the SAC or pSPA.
Policy 2: Design Principles	NO	This Policy does not allocate land for development but focuses on controlling the design of new housing when it is brought forward. Although this Policy does support development in the Plan area, any effects on the identified sites will be managed and mitigated through the planning application process. It is therefore considered this Policy will have no significant effect on the SAC or pSPA.
Policy 3: Infill and Redevelopment in Mattersey Parish	NO	This Policy does not allocate land for development in the Plan area but has regard to existing community facilities in the Plan area; it is considered it will have no effect on the SAC or pSPA.
Policy 4: Development Affecting Heritage Assets	NO	This Policy does not allocate land for development but works to protect the important local landscape character of the Plan area, the effects of this Policy are again deemed to be local in nature and considered to have no effect on the SAC or pSPA.
Policy 5: A Mix of Housing Types	NO	This Policy does not allocate land for development but works to protect the important local landscape character of the Plan area, the effects of this Policy are again deemed to be local in nature and considered to have no effect on the SAC or pSPA.
Policy 6: Enhancing facilities in the Parish	NO	This Policy does not allocate land for development but focuses on influencing the type of new employment when it is brought forward. Although this Policy does support development in the Plan area, any effects on the identified sites will be managed and mitigated through the planning application process. It is therefore considered this Policy will have no significant effect on the SAC or pSPA.
Policy 7: Local Green Spaces	NO	This Policy does not allocate land for development but works to protect the important local landscape character of the Plan area, the effects of this Policy are again deemed to be local

Policy of the Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan	Significant effect likely?	Comment
		in nature and considered to have no effect on the SAC or pSPA.
Policy 8: Conservation and Enhancement of Non-Vehicular Routes	NO	This Policy does not allocate land for development but works to protect the important local landscape character of the Plan area, the effects of this Policy are again deemed to be local in nature and considered to have no effect on the SAC or pSPA.
Policy 9: Land west of Main Street Mattersey	NO	This policy seeks to allocate a small area of land adjoining the existing built up area of the village for residential development. The site is currently used as an area of scrub and grassland and is not located within, or near to, any existing environmental designations. The effects of this Policy are again deemed to be local in nature and considered to have no effect on the SAC or pSPA.
Policy 10: Land north of Thorpe Road Mattersey	NO	This policy seeks to allocate a small area of land adjoining the existing built up area of the village for residential development. The site is currently used as an area of grazing land and is not located within, or near to, any existing environmental designations. The effects of this Policy are again deemed to be local in nature and considered to have no effect on the SAC or pSPA.
Policy 11: Land East of Retford Road	NO	This policy seeks to allocate a small area of land adjoining the existing built up area of the village for residential development. The site is currently used as an area of grazing land and is not located within, or near to, any existing environmental designations. The effects of this Policy are again deemed to be local in nature and considered to have no effect on the SAC or pSPA. The site has already been granted outline planning permission.
Policy 12: Land south of Thorpe Road Mattersey	NO	This policy seeks to allocate a small area of land adjoining the existing built up area of the village for residential development. The site is currently used as an area of grazing land and is not located within, or near to, any existing environmental designations. The effects of this Policy are again deemed to be local in nature and considered to have no effect on the SAC or pSPA. The site has already been granted outline planning permission.
Policy 13: Land east of Main Street Mattersey	NO	This policy seeks to allocate a small area of land adjoining the existing built up area of the village for residential development. The site is currently used as an area of former agricultural buildings

Policy of the Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan	Significant effect likely?	Comment
		and is not located within, or near to, any existing environmental designations. The effects of this Policy are again deemed to be local in nature and considered to have no effect on the SAC or pSPA.
Policy 14: Land north of Newall Drive Mattersey Thorpe	NO	This policy seeks to allocate a small area of land adjoining the existing built up area of the village for residential development. The site is currently used as an area of grazing land and is not located within, or near to, any existing environmental designations. The effects of this Policy are again deemed to be local in nature and considered to have no effect on the SAC or pSPA.
Policy 15: Land south of Breck Lane, Mattersey Thorpe	NO	This policy seeks to allocate a small area of land adjoining the existing built up area of the village for residential development. The site is currently used as an area of grazing land and is not located within, or near to, any existing environmental designations. The effects of this Policy are again deemed to be local in nature and considered to have no effect on the SAC or pSPA.

In combination effects

18. Existing plans and proposals must be considered when assessing new plans or programmes for likely significant effects as they may create ‘in combination’ effects. As the Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Neighbourhood will be required to be in general conformity with existing strategic policies in BDC Development Plan, and is not allocating additional development above that outlined in the Core Strategy, it is concluded that no significant in-combination effects will occur due to its implementation.
19. As set out below, it is concluded as a result of the above assessments, that the Plan will not lead to a significant effect on the integrity of the SAC and pSPA and therefore does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

Conclusions

SEA Screening

20. On the basis of the SEA Screening Assessment set out above, the conclusion is that the Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant environmental effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, and therefore does not need to be subject to a full SEA.

HRA Screening

21. The Screening Assessment concludes that the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant effects with regards to the integrity of the SAC and SPA around Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe. As such the Plan does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

22. The main reasons for these conclusions are:

- The plans for the proposed allocated sites for development are either previously developed land or are small in size; and
- The development supported in the Plan is of such a small scale that it is unlikely to have any effects on the identified sites, and any adverse impacts could be mitigated through the planning application stage.

Next Stages

23. This document will now be the subject of a consultation period with relevant stakeholders, following this consultation a decision will be made with regard to whether a SEA and HRA on the Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan is required.