



# **Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening**

Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan  
(Review)

30 March 2021

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document contains the Screening Statements for the reviewed version of the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review) - (the Plan) - with regard to whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and / or Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) are required to be undertaken. Also included in this document is an assessment of the site-specific allocations proposed in the Plan with regards to Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- 1.2 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 Planning 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.
- 1.3 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, and this assessment should be read in conjunction with the relevant reports produced for [Bassetlaw District Councils Local Development Framework](#).
- 1.4 As the responsible authority under relevant regulations, as detailed below, Bassetlaw District Council has undertaken the Screening Assessment contained in this document working with the Parish Council for the Plan area and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 1.5 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, 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.
- 1.6 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.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> SEA Directive, Article 1

## Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 As a land use plan, an assessment of the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review) 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 significant effects on identified sites.
- 1.9 As with the SEA, a screening process is employed to establish whether any elements of the Draft Plan could have a significant effect on these sites. Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) 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)”*.<sup>2</sup>

## Summary of Findings

- 1.10 Following the undertaking of the Screening Assessments it has been shown that 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 required**.
- 1.11 This determination has been reached by assessing the contents of the Submission (Pre-Release) version of the Neighbourhood Plan (published February 2021) 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. The conclusions are detailed in full in Section 7 (p28) of this report.
- 1.12 This screening assessment is the second undertaken in respect to the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review). The previous assessment was undertaken in August 2020 in respect to the Draft version of the Plan. The latest version of the Plan responds to consultee comments received during the Regulation 14 consultation, comments received during the first SEA / HRA Screening consultation (including concerns raised by Historic England about some of the proposed housing allocations), and changes in the housing requirement figures issued by the District Council in the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (November 2020). The key change has been a significant reduction in the number of sites allocated for residential development (from 23 sites to 6 / from c.94 dwellings to c.19 dwellings) and a range of

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<sup>2</sup> Planning Guidance - Paragraph: 079: Reference ID: 41-079-20140306

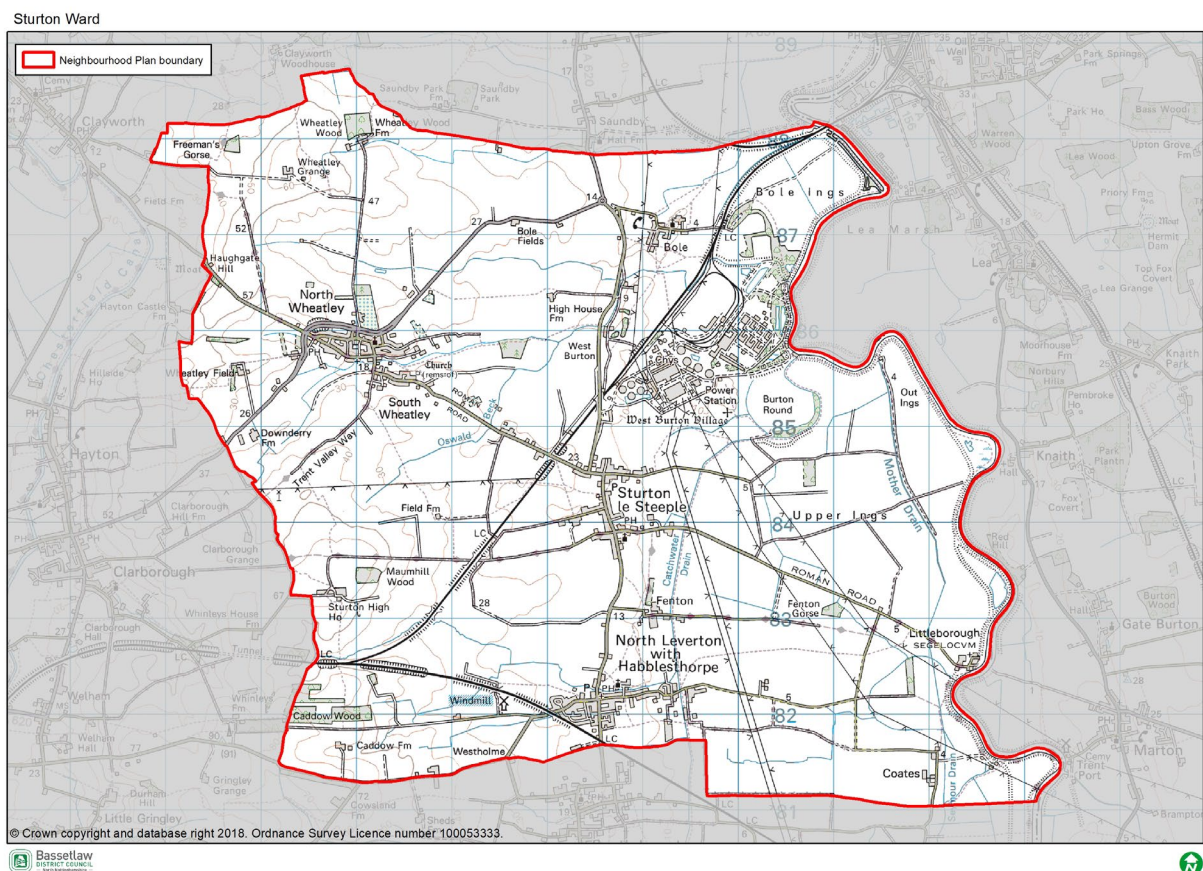
smaller-scale refinements to the framing of policies and the supporting text. The nature of the changes meant that it was considered appropriate to re-screen the Plan in the interests of clarity.



## 2 The Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review)

- 2.1 The Plan is being developed by the Sturton Ward Planning Group, an association of the three Parish Councils in the area (North and South Wheatley, Sturton-le-Steeple, and North Leverton) and local residents, with North and South Wheatley Parish Council acting as the Qualifying Body.
- 2.2 The Plan is a comprehensive review of the original Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan, ‘made’ following successful public referendum in February 2016. It plans for the future development and growth of the designated area (see Figure 1) up to the year 2037.

**Figure 1: Designated Neighbourhood Area**



### Plan Overview

- 2.3 The main priorities of the Plan are expressed throughout the document, most clearly in the Vision and Objectives; these will be delivered in turn by the 19 Development Management Policies contained in the Plan. The Vision and Objectives of the Plan, as well as the Policies can be found below.

### Vision

The villages and hamlets that comprise Sturton Ward will develop in a manner that protects the highly-valued rural character of the area, yet ensures that they remain vibrant and attractive places to live and work, sustained by a range of local services.

## Objectives

**Objective 1:** to protect and enhance the best of Sturton Ward's environmental assets to:

- a) promote biodiversity;
- b) enable people to access the countryside for leisure and recreation;
- c) retain the rural, open character of the Plan area; and
- d) retain the visual connections with the countryside from within the settlements.

**Objective 2:** to promote the economic vitality of the Ward by ensuring that:

- a) working from home is encouraged where practicable;
- b) future development ensures that good broadband and 5G connectivity is possible;
- c) existing businesses are given more flexibility to expand; and
- d) new small businesses are encouraged to relocate into the Ward.

**Objective 3:** to ensure that future housing growth meets the needs of the local community, especially those requiring starter homes and elderly residents who would prefer to downsize to smaller homes.

**Objective 4:** to ensure that all new development is sited where it does not detract from the setting of the settlements or adversely affect the landscape character of open countryside.

**Objective 5:** to ensure that all new development relates positively in form and function, in particular with respect to materials, style and connections where it will adjoin the existing settlement.

**Objective 6:** to protect and enhance our community assets such as pubs, village halls, shops, schools and churches.

**Objective 7:** to promote the tourism potential of the Plan area.

**Objective 8:** to reduce the carbon footprint of the Ward in ways which are sympathetic to the local environment.

## Development Management Policies

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Intent
<b>Policy 1: Sustainable development, infill and the development boundary</b>	Identifies the development boundaries of each of the three settlements and the criteria that development within the boundaries should meet in order to be supported. This includes consideration of District policies, issues of character and design, green infrastructure, heritage and conservation, sustainable transport, drainage, and biodiversity. The policy also specifies the parameters for infill development (one or two dwellings that fill a gap in a substantially built-up frontage).
<b>Policy 2a: Protecting the landscape character, significant green gaps and key views</b>	Ensures that development respects landscape character features identified in the Plan and the supporting Design Code, specifically key views, significant green gaps, landscape character zones, and trees and hedges.
<b>Policy 2b: Enhancing biodiversity</b>	Provides support to development that seeks to improve environmental assets and enhance biodiversity, with specific reference to hedgerows, tree and wildflower planting, drainage, and habitat features. Also details mitigation and compensation measures expected where significant ecological impacts are identified.
<b>Policy 3: Designation of Local Green Spaces</b>	Identifies 16 proposed Local Green Space (LGS) designations within and adjoining the three key settlements.
<b>Policy 4: Reducing the risk of flooding</b>	Identifies the need for a sequential approach to flood risk management, measures that should be incorporated into developments, and expected consideration of sewerage and surface water management.
<b>Policy 5: Design principles</b>	Draws attention to the accompanying Sturton Ward Design Code 2020, and details how it should be interpreted as part of development proposals, through reference to specific design-related variables.
<b>Policy 6: Protecting the historic environment</b>	Provides support for development proposals that respect and enhance the heritage assets in the Plan area
<b>Policy 7: Tourism development</b>	Supports developments that would enhance the opportunities for interpreting the historic and archaeological assets of the Plan area, subject to due respect to design and potential impact.
<b>Policy 8: Supporting the local economy</b>	Details criteria that will be used to assess proposals for economic development in the Plan area, specifically location, access, design, amenity, and environmental impact. Also details criteria that will be used to assess development to enable home working.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Intent
<b>Policy 9: Improving broadband and mobile connectivity</b>	Encourages the provision of superfast broadband connections to all new residential developments and other development where possible, and supports the roll-out of 4G and 5G technology, subject to respect for local landscape character.
<b>Policy 10: Housing mix and type</b>	Seeks a mix of housing types and sizes that meets the needs of local people, in accordance with the accompanying Housing Needs Assessment.
<b>Policy 11: Community facilities</b>	Provides support for developments that seek to enhance and improve community facilities, relocate them where necessary and appropriate, and supports the development of a new building for community use in North Leverton,
<b>Policy 12: Energy efficiency and sustainability</b>	Provides support for renewable and low carbon energy generation, subject to criteria including amenity, impact on natural and heritage assets, visual impact, access, and remediation.
<b>Policy 13: Development of buildings opposite Solent, Top Street (NP36)</b>	Supports the principle of the development of approximately 2 dwellings on this site in North Wheatley, subject to a number of site-specific criteria, including design, layout, landscaping, drainage, and access.
<b>Policy 14a: Development of Land between Roses Farm and Four Paws, Station Road (NP02)</b>	Supports the principle of the development of approximately 3 dwellings on this site in Sturton le Steeple, subject to a number of site-specific criteria, including design, layout, landscaping, drainage, and access.
<b>Policy 14b: Development of land north of The Barn, Cross Street (NP05)</b>	Supports the principle of the development of approximately 1 dwelling on this site in Sturton le Steeple, subject to a number of site-specific criteria, including design, layout, landscaping, drainage, and access.
<b>Policy 14c: Development of land east of Woodcotes, Freemans Lane (NP08)</b>	Supports the principle of the development of approximately 1 dwelling on this site in Sturton le Steeple, subject to a number of site-specific criteria, including design, layout, landscaping, drainage, and access.
<b>Policy 15a: Development of land north of Mill Close, Manor Grove and Main Street (NP18)</b>	Supports the principle of the development of approximately 10 dwellings on this site in North Leverton, subject to a number of site-specific criteria, including design, layout, landscaping, drainage, and access.
<b>Policy 15b: Development of the Old Shop, south of Main Street (NP31)</b>	Supports the principle of the development of approximately 2 dwellings on this site in North Leverton, subject to a number of site-specific criteria, including design, layout, landscaping, drainage, and access.

### 3 SEA Screening – Assessment

- 3.1 The table below includes the assessment of the Draft Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review), 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.

#### SEA Assessment

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Significant effect likely?	Comment
<b>1a</b> The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	NO	<p>The Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review) (the Plan) sets-out a spatial vision for the designated Neighbourhood Plan area and provides a framework for development proposals. This framework will be delivered by development management policies contained within the Plan. The 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-scale and localised nature.</p> <p>The Plan is considered to be in general conformity with Bassetlaw District Council's Core Strategy 2011. It is also considered to be in general conformity with the most recent version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> <p>In addition to the land use policies, 15 community projects are detailed as aspirations in the Appendix E of the Plan. These projects will be delivered in accordance with the policies in the Plan and those in the Bassetlaw Core Strategy, and it is deemed that they will not have any significant effects on the environment.</p>
<b>1b</b> The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	NO	<p>The Plan, where possible, will respond to rather than influence other plans and programmes. It is part of a hierarchy, but is at the lowest tier, sitting below the Bassetlaw Core Strategy DPD (District level) and National Planning Policy Framework (National level), and has thus been influenced by these higher-tier and pre-existing plans, rather than having an influence on them.</p>



Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Significant effect likely?	Comment
		<p>The Plan will have some influence on the emerging Bassetlaw Local Plan, but the environmental effects of this influence are, again, considered to be minimal.</p> <p>The policies within a neighbourhood plan apply only within the designated neighbourhood area, and so the Plan will not have a direct impact on other plans in adjoining areas.</p>
<p><b>1c</b> The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>The Plan promotes sustainable development within the neighbourhood area through balancing environmental, social and economic objectives. The Vision &amp; Objectives, in conjunction with Section 8 of the Plan (Sustainable development principles), and the development management policies, work to ensure that all development proposals brought forward in the area will take this balance into account.</p> <p>Specifically, the residential development supported in Policies 1, 13, 14, and 15, and the economic development supported in Policy 8 is viewed as key to ensuring the long term sustainability of the area. But this projected growth is balanced by the protection of key environmental and social / cultural assets, as supported by Policies 2a, 2b, 4, 6, 7, and 11.</p> <p>As a result, it is considered that the Plan effectively integrates and balances all potential environmental considerations, and that potential impacts are, therefore, not significant.</p>
<p><b>1d</b> Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>The majority of effects the Plan will have on the environment will be positive. This is due mainly to Policies 2a, 2b, 3, and 4 that work to protect and enhance environmental assets and green infrastructure in the Plan area.</p> <p>The proposed identification of land in the Plan for residential development is likely to have some effects on the local environment, notably the four residential allocation sites on greenfield land (Policies 14a, 14b, 14c, 15a). However existing national and local planning policies, the site-specific criteria in the above</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Significant effect likely?	Comment
		proposed policies, the Plan's general support for sustainable development, and the planning application process will ensure these effects are not significant.
<b>1e</b> 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 Plan will be in compliance with the Bassetlaw Local Development Framework which has taken into account the existing European and National legislative framework for environmental protection. The Plan 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.
<b>2a</b> 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 Plan. The policies within the Plan seek to ensure new development is sustainably built and promotes the enhancement and protection of environmental assets.</p> <p>The timescales of the Plan is intended to be until 2037.</p> <p>Should any unforeseen significant effects on the environment arise as a result of the Plan, the intention to monitor the Plan and to also amend/update the Plan every 5 years will allow these effects to be addressed and reversed (see Section 19: <i>Implementation, monitoring and review of the Plan</i>)</p>
<b>2b</b> The cumulative nature of the effects.	NO	It is considered that the Policies contained in the Plan cumulatively will have minimal negative effects on the environment and will in fact have moderate to significant positive effects. It is considered that all effects will be at a local level.
<b>2c</b> The transboundary nature of the effects.	NO	Effects will be local with no expected impacts on neighbouring areas.
<b>2d</b> The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents).	NO	No obvious risks have been identified as the overall aim of the Plan is to ensure the careful management of development and the continued sustainability of the Plan area.
<b>2e</b> The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	NO	The Plan relates to and will have an influence on a designated neighbourhood area of approximately 4860 hectares, with a resident population of 2280 (Census 2011).

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Significant effect likely?	Comment
		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 and through the delivery of identified community projects (see <i>Appendix E</i> ).
<p><b>2f</b> The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <p>(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</p> <p>(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or</p> <p>(iii) intensive land-use.</p>	NO	<p>The Plan is deemed unlikely to have an adverse effect on the natural characteristics and cultural heritage of the neighbourhood area. Indeed, Policies 2a, 2b, 4, 6, 7, and 11 of the Plan work to actively protect and enhance these.</p> <p>There are 14 Local Wildlife Sites and one Ancient Woodland within the Plan area (See <i>Appendix H</i>). However, it is considered that the Plan has been devised so as to avoid significant effects on these assets.</p> <p>The Plan does not exceed environmental quality standards or limit values and does not provide specific policies in relation to intensive land uses.</p>
<p><b>2g</b> The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	NO	<p>It is considered that the Plan will not adversely affect areas of landscape which have recognised community, national or international protection. Policy 2a specifically addresses the need to protect the local landscape character, including the identification of key views and significant green gaps.</p>



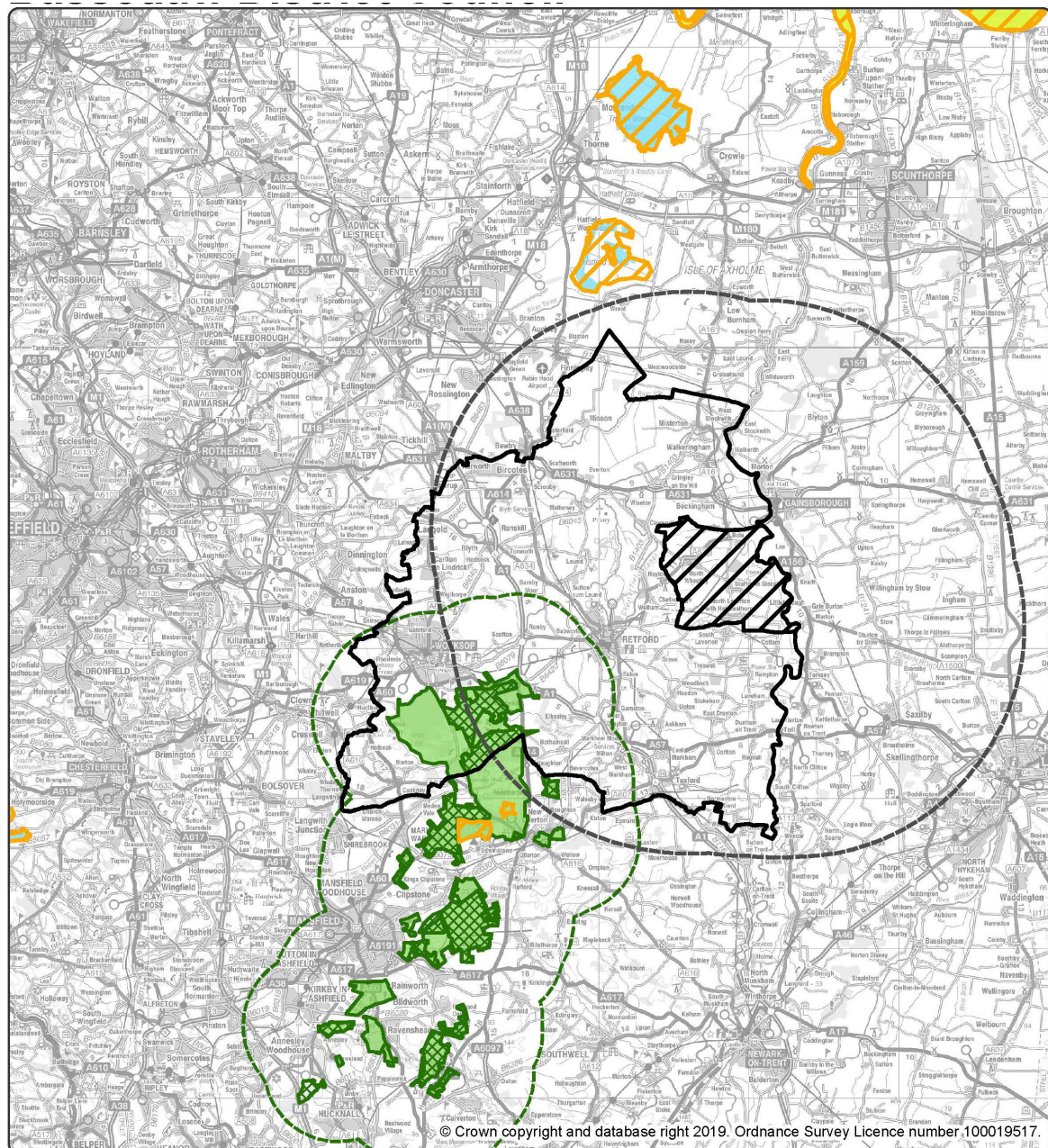
## 4 HRA Screening – Assessment

- 4.1 For the HRA screening assessment, the designated neighbourhood area was assessed to identify if any Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation sites (SAC), or Ramsar sites were located within the boundary, as well as those considered as potential sites (pSPA, ppSPA, cSAC & pRamsar). The assessment also identified if any of these internationally important sites were located within a 15km radius from the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 4.2 There are no designated sites within the neighbourhood area. However, the Sherwood Forest ppSPA is located approximately 10km south west of the Plan area, as shown on Figure 4 on page 13.

### **Sherwood Forest indicative prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)**

- 4.3 Although not formally a pSPA, Natural England has advised that there is a possibility of a Sherwood Forest pSPA being designated in the future on account of supporting populations of breeding nightjar and woodlark. In [a note to Local Planning Authorities](#) dated March 2014, Natural England advocates a precautionary approach to any plans or projects which could affect such a site. No formal assessments of the boundary of any future SPA have been made; therefore, it is not possible to definitively identify whether individual sites would fall inside or outside any possible future designated area. However, the Natural England note encloses a map which highlights the areas of greatest ornithological interest for breeding nightjar and woodlark.
- 4.4 The Screening Assessment on page 14 has considered the main possible sources of effects on the ppSPA arising from the Plan, possible pathways to the European site and the effects on possible sensitive receptors in the site. The assessment considers the impacts of the Policies in the Plan directly on the ppSPA as these are land use Policies which mostly are expected to have some direct or indirect impact on the local environment.

**Figure 4: Map of Special Protection Areas in relation to the Neighbourhood Area**



- Bassetlaw Boundary
- Sturton Boundary
- 15km from Sturton Boundary
- Special Area of Conservation
- Ramsar
- Special Protection Area
- Sherwood Forest Important Bird Area\*
- Indicative core area of breeding of Nightjar and Woodlark

- Indicative prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)
- Sherwood Forest Important Bird Area 5km buffer



Source: Natural England, NWT

\* IBA boundary from 2010 is shown. IBAs outside of Sherwood Forest are not shown on this map as they have not been considered in the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening.

1:350,000



## HRA Screening Matrix

The screening matrix below shows which types of impacts on European sites could potentially result from each of the policies and sites allocated in the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review). Where a site is not expected to have a particular type of impact, the relevant cell is shaded **green**. Where a site could potentially have a certain type of impact, this is shown in **orange**. The final column sets out the screening conclusions.

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</b>	<b>Likely effects if proposal implemented</b>	<b>European site(s) potentially affected</b>	<b>Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?</b>
Policy 1: Sustainable development, infill and the development boundary	Residential development. Economic development. Increase in vehicle traffic. Increase in recreation pressure.	Physical loss and damage. Air pollution. Disturbance from recreation.	Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)	Physical loss and damage is not possible as the European sites do not lie within the Neighbourhood Area. The ppSPA is at least 10 km away, with intervening infrastructure and settlements. It would not be expected for birds to be dependent on the habitat within the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area. This policy alone would not be expected to cause a significant increase in traffic and air pollution in the area, and should help to deliver development in the most sustainable locations.

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</b>	<b>Likely effects if proposal implemented</b>	<b>European site(s) potentially affected</b>	<b>Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?</b>
Policy 2a: Protecting the landscape character, significant green gaps and key views	None. This policy seeks to ensure the protection of landscape character, specifically key views, significant green gaps, landscape character zones, and trees and hedges - it will not itself result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
Policy 2b: Enhancing biodiversity	None. This policy supports the improvement of environment assets and biodiversity in the Plan area - it will not itself result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
Policy 3: Designation of Local Green Spaces	None. This policy identifies 16 sites for proposed designation as Local Green Spaces (LGS) – it will not itself result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
Policy 4: Reducing the risk of flooding	None. This policy ensures that development plays appropriate reference to flood risk management	n/a	n/a	No



<b>Policy</b>	<b>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</b>	<b>Likely effects if proposal implemented</b>	<b>European site(s) potentially affected</b>	<b>Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?</b>
	and incorporates measures to avoid or mitigate impacts – it will not itself result in new development.			
Policy 5: Design principles	None. This policy sets out principles to influence the design and layout of residential developments - it will not itself result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
Policy 6: Protecting the historic environment	None. This policy ensures that the heritage assets within the Plan area are respected and, where possible, enhanced – it will not itself result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
Policy 7: Tourism development	Economic / tourism-related development.  Increase in vehicular traffic.	Physical loss and damage.  Air pollution.	Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)	Physical loss and damage is not possible as the European sites do not lie within the Neighbourhood Area The ppSPA is at least 10 km away, with intervening infrastructure and settlements. It would not be expected for birds to be dependent on the

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</b>	<b>Likely effects if proposal implemented</b>	<b>European site(s) potentially affected</b>	<b>Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?</b>
				habitat within the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area. This policy alone would not be expected to cause a significant increase in traffic and air pollution in the area, and should help to deliver development in the most sustainable locations.
Policy 8: Supporting the local economy	Economic development.  Increase in vehicular traffic.	Physical loss and damage.  Air pollution.	Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)	Physical loss and damage is not possible as the European sites do not lie within the Neighbourhood Area. The ppSPA is at least 10 km away, with intervening infrastructure and settlements. It would not be expected for birds to be dependent on the habitat within the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area. This policy alone would not be expected to cause a significant increase in traffic and air pollution in the area, and should help to deliver

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</b>	<b>Likely effects if proposal implemented</b>	<b>European site(s) potentially affected</b>	<b>Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?</b>
				development in the most sustainable locations.
Policy 9: Improving broadband and mobile connectivity	None – this policy supports the provision of improvements to communications infrastructure as part of new development – it will not itself result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
Policy 10: Housing mix and type	None – this policy seeks a mix of housing types and sizes to meet identified local need – it will not itself result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
Policy 11: Community facilities	Development of community facilities  Increase in vehicular traffic	Physical loss and damage.  Air pollution.	Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)	Physical loss and damage is not possible as the European sites do not lie within the Neighbourhood Area. The ppSPA is at least 10 km away, with intervening infrastructure and settlements. It would not be expected for birds to be dependent on the habitat within the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood

Policy	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				Area. This policy alone would not be expected to cause a significant increase in traffic and air pollution in the area.
Policy 12: Energy efficiency and sustainability	Infrastructure development.  Increase in vehicular traffic.	Physical loss and damage.  Air pollution.	Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)	Physical loss and damage is not possible as the European sites do not lie within the Neighbourhood Area. The ppSPA is at least 10 km away, with intervening infrastructure and settlements. It would not be expected for birds to be dependent on the habitat within the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area. This policy alone would not be expected to cause a significant increase in traffic and air pollution in the area. The policy includes clear stipulations about the need to avoid impacts on protected species and designated sites / habitats.



<b>Policy</b>	<b>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</b>	<b>Likely effects if proposal implemented</b>	<b>European site(s) potentially affected</b>	<b>Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?</b>
Policy 13: Development of buildings opposite Solent, Top Street (NP36)	Residential development.  Increase in vehicular traffic.	Physical loss and damage.  Air pollution.  Disturbance from recreation.	Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)	Physical loss and damage is not possible as the European sites do not lie within the Neighbourhood Area. The ppSPA is at least 10 km away, with intervening infrastructure and settlements. It would not be expected for birds to be dependent on the habitat within the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area. This policy alone would not be expected to cause a significant increase in traffic and air pollution in the area, and should help to deliver development in the most sustainable locations.
Policy 14a: Development of Land between Roses Farm and Four Paws, Station Road (NP02)	Residential development.  Increase in vehicular traffic.	Physical loss and damage.  Air pollution.  Disturbance from recreation.	Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)	Physical loss and damage is not possible as the European sites do not lie within the Neighbourhood Area. The ppSPA is at least 10 km away, with intervening infrastructure and settlements. It would not

Policy	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				be expected for birds to be dependent on the habitat within the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area. This policy alone would not be expected to cause a significant increase in traffic and air pollution in the area, and should help to deliver development in the most sustainable locations.
Policy 14b: Development of land north of The Barn, Cross Street (NP05)	Residential development.  Increase in vehicular traffic.	Physical loss and damage.  Air pollution.  Disturbance from recreation.	Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)	Physical loss and damage is not possible as the European sites do not lie within the Neighbourhood Area. The ppSPA is at least 10 km away, with intervening infrastructure and settlements. It would not be expected for birds to be dependent on the habitat within the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area. This policy alone would not be expected to cause a significant increase in traffic and air pollution in the area, and

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</b>	<b>Likely effects if proposal implemented</b>	<b>European site(s) potentially affected</b>	<b>Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?</b>
				should help to deliver development in the most sustainable locations.
Policy 14c: Development of land east of Woodcotes, Freemans Lane (NP08)	Residential development.  Increase in vehicular traffic.	Physical loss and damage.  Air pollution.  Disturbance from recreation.	Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)	Physical loss and damage is not possible as the European sites do not lie within the Neighbourhood Area. The ppSPA is at least 10 km away, with intervening infrastructure and settlements. It would not be expected for birds to be dependent on the habitat within the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area. This policy alone would not be expected to cause a significant increase in traffic and air pollution in the area, and should help to deliver development in the most sustainable locations.
Policy 15a: Development of land north of Mill Close, Manor Grove and Main Street (NP18)	Residential development.  Increase in vehicular traffic.	Physical loss and damage.  Air pollution.	Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)	Physical loss and damage is not possible as the European sites do not lie within the Neighbourhood Area. The ppSPA is at least 10 km

Policy	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
		Disturbance from recreation.		away, with intervening infrastructure and settlements. It would not be expected for birds to be dependent on the habitat within the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area. This policy alone would not be expected to cause a significant increase in traffic and air pollution in the area, and should help to deliver development in the most sustainable locations.
Policy 15b: Development of the Old Shop, south of Main Street (NP31)	Residential development.  Increase in vehicular traffic.	Physical loss and damage.  Air pollution.  Disturbance from recreation.	Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)	Physical loss and damage is not possible as the European sites do not lie within the Neighbourhood Area. The ppSPA is at least 10 km away, with intervening infrastructure and settlements. It would not be expected for birds to be dependent on the habitat within the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area. This policy alone would not be expected to

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</b>	<b>Likely effects if proposal implemented</b>	<b>European site(s) potentially affected</b>	<b>Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?</b>
				cause a significant increase in traffic and air pollution in the area, and should help to deliver development in the most sustainable locations.

## 5 In-combination effects

- 5.1 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 Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review) is proposing to allocate a range of sites for residential development, the in-combination effects of this development along with any development outlined in Bassetlaw District Councils Local Development Framework must be considered. However, the Site Allocations Document proposed by BDC was withdrawn in December 2014, therefore any development to take place in the area will be that defined within the Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore there are no in-combination effects as a result of these proposed residential development allocations.
- 5.2 The Neighbourhood Plan is also required to be in general conformity with existing strategic policies in Bassetlaw District Councils Development Plan, which has been assessed at a higher level to determine its effects on the identified SAC and ppSPA. It is concluded that no significant in-combination effects are likely as a result of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.3 The individual policies of the Plan have been assessed above, and it is deemed that, individually, they will not result in any significant effects on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA. With regards to the Plan as a whole, it is also determined that no significant effects are likely to occur as a consequence of the implementation of the Plan.
- 5.4 As set out in Section 7 of this document, it is concluded as a result of the above, that the Plan will not lead to a significant effect on the integrity of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and therefore does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

## 6 Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest

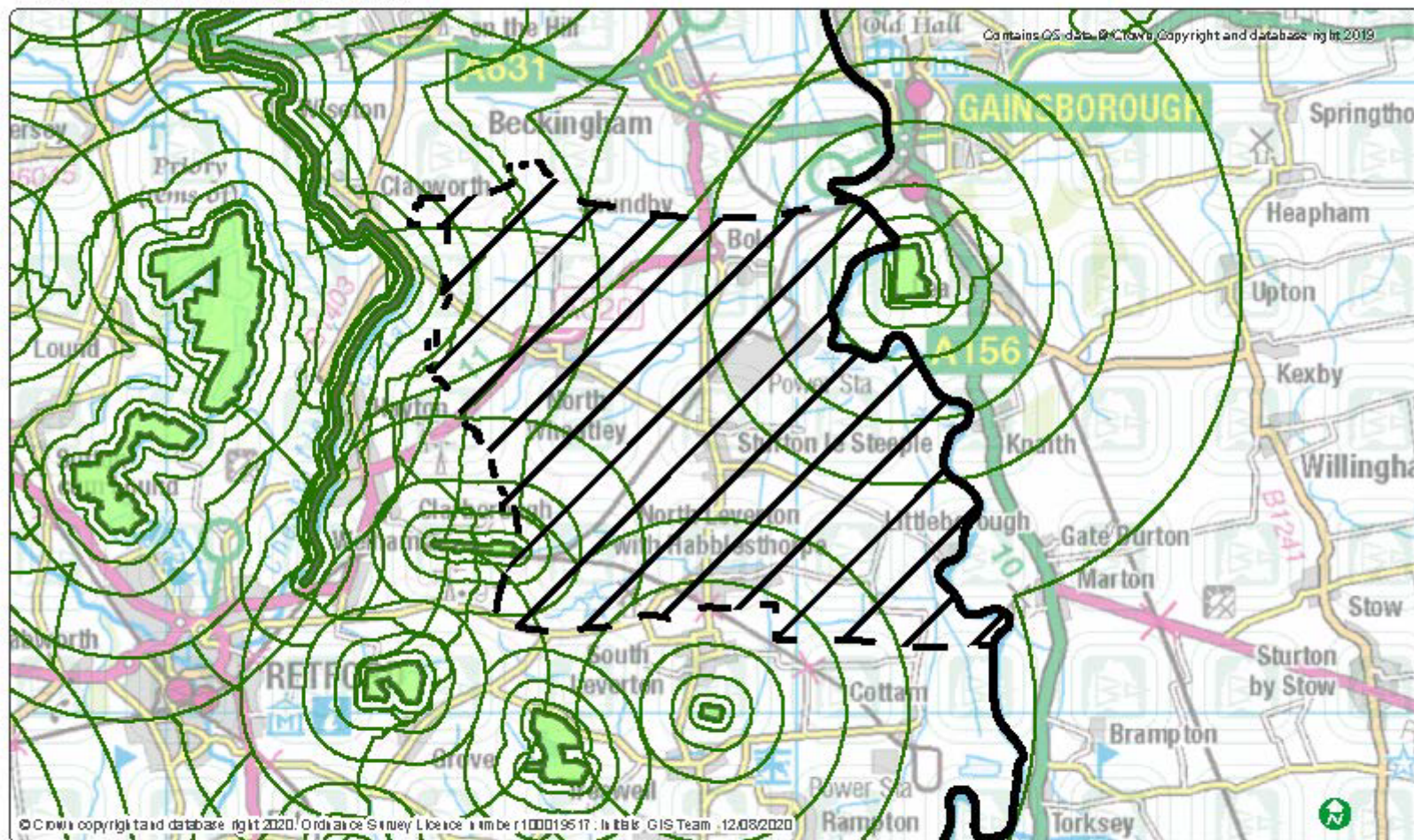
- 6.1 Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) conserve and protect the best of our wildlife, geological and physiographical heritage for the benefit of present and future generations, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- 6.2 Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) are a GIS tool developed by Natural England to make a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks to SSSIs posed by development proposals. They define zones around each SSSI which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts, generally decreasing in sensitivity with distance from the site.
- 6.3 There are no SSSIs located within the Plan area itself, although there are four sites located in neighbouring areas. The sites are listed below, and depicted in **Figure 6** on the following page:
- [Lea Marsh SSSI](#)
  - [Ashton’s Meadow SSSI](#)
  - [Clarborough Tunnel SSSI](#)

- [Chesterfield Canal SSSI](#)

- 6.4 The sites proposed for allocation within policies 13, 14, and 15 of the Plan have been assessed to determine if they fall within any SSSI Impact Risk Zones. Following this, it is possible to determine whether a proposed development is likely to affect a SSSI using criteria provided by Natural England.
- 6.5 It has been identified that the entire Plan area is covered by Impact Risk Zones associated with the neighbouring SSSI, as listed above. This includes all of the sites proposed for allocation in Policies 13, 14 and 15. However, because of the distant nature of the SSSI in question, the Risk Zones in question are all of the lower order type, and are not triggered by the type and scale of development allocated in the Plan. As a consequence, it is deemed that the impact of developing these sites will not negatively impact upon any of the SSSI. Natural England are invited to comment on this position.



**Figure 6: SSSI and Impact Risk Zones**



Scale 1:79,927

**Legend**

- SSSI Impact Risk Zones
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Ward Boundary
- Bassetlaw Boundary



## 7 Conclusions

### SEA Screening

- 7.1 On the basis of the SEA Screening Assessment set out in this document, the conclusion is that the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review) 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

- 7.2 The HRA Screening Assessment concludes that no significant effects are likely to occur with regards to the integrity of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a consequence of the implementation of the Plan. As such the Plan **does not require a full HRA to be undertaken**.
- 7.3 The main reason for these conclusions are:
- The development that is supported in the Plan is deemed to be of a scale and nature and located on sites that will not result in any significant effects on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA.

### Consultation

- 7.4 It is noted that this is the second SEA / HRA Screening Assessment undertaken of the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review), the first undertaken in August 2020 in respect to the Pre-Submission Draft. At that time, the provisional conclusion reached was that no significant effects were likely and that further assessment was not required. During the subsequent consultation, Natural England agreed with the District Council's assessment, but Historic England voiced significant concerns in respect to the potential impacts on heritage of five of the proposed housing allocations (NP16, NP32, NP07, NP19, and NP23). The Environment Agency did not make comment. These responses, alongside those expressed during the Regulation 14 consultation, and an updated Local Plan context, have assisted in shaping the Submission version of the Plan. Crucially, the five identified sites have been removed from the Plan, along with 12 other proposed allocations.
- 7.5 Further to the above, the consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) were consulted during the preparation of this updated Screening Assessment. Their responses are summarised below:
- Historic England: subject to the removal of the five sites previously identified as concerning (as has been undertaken), it is considered that there are no historic environment reasons that would trigger the need for SEA.
  - Environment Agency: agrees with the District Council's conclusion that no further assessment is required, but recommends seeking the comments of Natural England in respect to the SSSI proximate to the Neighbourhood Area.
  - Natural England: agrees with the District Council's conclusions; no further assessment is required (as per the original assessment).

- 7.6 Copies of the responses received are detailed in full in Appendix 1.

### **Consultation**

- 7.7 Following consideration of the anticipated scope of the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review), the relevant environmental issues locally, and following consultation with Historic England, the Environment Agency, and Natural England, it is concluded that the potential for significant effects to arise as a result of the Plan is unlikely. Consequently, it is considered that a formal SEA is not required.
- 7.8 It is also concluded that the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review) would not be likely to have significant effects on European sites either alone or in-combination with any other plan or project and, therefore, Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2 of the Habitat Regulation Assessment process) is not required.
- 7.9 This determination is based upon the Submission (Pre-Release) version of the Neighbourhood Plan (published February 2021). The District Council reserves the right, pending future iterations of the Neighbourhood Plan, to undertake further screening determinations as required.

## **Appendix 1: Consultation Responses**

(See overleaf)

**From:** [Wakefield, Nick](#)  
**To:** [Will Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): SEA / HRA Screening  
**Date:** 19 February 2021 17:55:00  
**Attachments:**

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External Message - Be aware that the sender of this email originates from outside of the Council. Please be cautious when opening links or attachments in email

Hello Will,

Thank you for your email.

From the perspective of the remit of the Environment Agency we do not disagree with the conclusion that no further assessment is required. We note that there are at least a couple of SSSI's within a reasonable distance from the Plan Area (notably Lea Marsh SSSI and Clarborough Tunnel SSSI); and for this reason we advise you seek the views of Natural England.

Regards  
Nick

**Nick Wakefield**

Planning Specialist, Sustainable Places Team

**Environment Agency** | Trentside Offices, Scarrington Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5BR

☎ Direct 020302 53354

☎ Mobile 07584 527016

[nick.wakefield@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:nick.wakefield@environment-agency.gov.uk)

---

**From:** [Fletcher, Clive](#)  
**To:** [Will Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): SEA / HRA Screening  
**Date:** 16 February 2021 10:44:45

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External Message - Be aware that the sender of this email originates from outside of the Council. Please be cautious when opening links or attachments in email

Dear Will,

Thank you for your message. If the housing allocations in question have been removed and no additional ones added, I can confirm that in our view there are no historic environment reasons that would trigger the need for SEA.

Yours sincerely,  
Clive Fletcher

We are the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment, from beaches and battlefields to parks and pie shops.

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**From:** [Close, Sandra](#)  
**To:** [Will Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan - Draft SEA / HRA Screening - Bassetlaw DC  
**Date:** 18 March 2021 15:17:39

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External Message - Be aware that the sender of this email originates from outside of the Council. Please be cautious when opening links or attachments in email

Dear Will

My apologies for overlooking to reply to your e mail.

I can confirm that our response of 7 September still stands.

Kind regards

Sandra

Sandra Close  
Planning Adviser  
East Midlands Area Team  
Apex Court  
City Link  
Nottingham  
NG2 4LA

Tel : 020 8026 0676  
Mob : 0791191 45254  
email: [sandra.close@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:sandra.close@naturalengland.org.uk)

Follow the East Midlands on Twitter - **@NEEastMidlands**

[www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england)

**We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.**

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.

Date: 07 September 2020  
Our ref: 325063  
Your ref: None



Will Wilson  
<mailto:Will.Wilson@bassetlaw.gov.uk>

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Crewe  
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T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Will

**Planning consultation:** Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan - Draft SEA / HRA Screening - Bassetlaw DC

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 12 August 2020 which was received by Natural England on 13 August 2020

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.

Natural England welcomes the draft screening report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan.

We can confirm that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Natural England also agrees with the report's conclusions that the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work under the Habitats Regulations would be required.

As a point of clarity, I notice the draft document refers to the 'SAC' when discussing 'Sherwood Forest ppSPA'.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Sandra Close on 020 8026 0676. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

**SANDRA CLOSE**

Planning Adviser  
East Midlands Team