

**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

**Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Development
Plan**

Screening Report for:

**Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats
Regulation Assessment**

V2 July 2024

Contents

1.0 Introduction.....	3
2.0 Requirement for SEA/Legislative Background	4
3.0 Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan	6
4.0 SEA & HRA Screening: Assessment	9
5.0 Conclusions and recommendations of the Screening Assessments.....	14
Appendix A: Assessment against the development plan and the potential likely and significant effects upon SPA/Ramsar sites	15
Appendix B: Draft Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan	22
Appendix C: Map showing distances from Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar site and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site	23
Appendix D: Map of the Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Area.....	24
Appendix E: Responses from Statutory Bodies.....	25

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 To meet the 'basic conditions' which are specified by law a Neighbourhood Development Plan must be compatible with EU obligations. Furthermore as at 9th February 2015 Regulation 15 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations was amended to require that when a plan is submitted to the local planning authority it should include either an environmental report prepared in accordance with the applicable regulations or where it has been determined as unlikely to have significant environmental effects, a statement of reasons for the determination.
- 1.2 This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the draft Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix B) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). Once completed, this screening report will form the basis of seeking advice from the relevant statutory bodies; Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency as to whether the plan requires a full SEA and/or HRA assessment. The final outcome of this assessment will subsequently inform what is submitted under Regulation 15 (1)(e). If it is concluded that no further assessment is required it is considered that this report will fulfil the requirement at 15 (1)(e)(ii).
- 1.3 The report is broken down into the following four sections:
- Section 2 outlines the legislative background to SEA and HRA
 - Section 3 provides some background to the Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan and the wider Development Plan context
 - Section 4 provides a screening assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan for SEA and HRA and also considers 'In combination effects' for HRA

2.0 Requirement for SEA/Legislative Background

- 2.1 A neighbourhood development plan must meet the basic conditions. This includes demonstrating that the plan does not breach and is compatible with EU obligations.
- 2.2 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed guidance of these Regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005).
- 2.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required local authorities to produce sustainability appraisals (SA) for all local development documents to meet the requirement of the EU Directive on SEA. It is considered best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into an SA. This is also discussed in paragraph 32 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 2.4 However, the 2008 Planning Act amended the requirement to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal so that they are only required for Development Plan Documents (DPD's). However, the Act did not remove the requirement to produce a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and, where appropriate, an SEA may need to be undertaken, specifically where a neighbourhood plan could have significant environmental effects.
- 2.5 Whether a neighbourhood plan requires a SEA, and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft neighbourhood plan. A SEA may be required, for example, where:
 - a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development;
 - the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan;
 - the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.
- 2.6 Consequently to establish whether the plan might give rise to significant environmental effects it is necessary to screen the plan against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. This process is carried out in Section 4 of this report.

- 2.7 Article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires that an appropriate assessment of plans and programmes is carried out with regard to the conservation objectives of European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) and that other plans and projects identify any significant effect that is likely for any European Site. In the context of neighbourhood planning, a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required where a neighbourhood plan is deemed likely to result in significant negative effects occurring on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the plan's implementation.
- 2.8 The map in Appendix C, shows that Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Area is 24.7 km from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar site and approximately 46.6 km from Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site. Consequently, the impact on these sites will need to be considered. Further commentary on this is set out in section 4.

3.0 Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1 The Barby and Onley neighbourhood area was designated on 25 July 2013 and covers the whole of Barby and Onley Parish. The Parish is located to the north west of West Northamptonshire on the border with Rugby Borough. A map showing the neighbourhood area is set out in Appendix D.
- 3.2 The Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Plan was made on 30 September 2016 and has been used as part of the development plan to consider planning applications in the neighbourhood area. The Plan was prepared to be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan, which at the time was the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Part 1) and the saved policies of the Daventry District Local Plan.
- 3.3 In 2022 the Parish Council decided to review the Plan to taken into account changes to the local and national strategic planning context. The Settlements and Countryside Local Plan for Daventry (Part 2) (SCLP) was adopted in February 2020 and the NPPF was most recently reviewed in December 2023.
- 3.4 The review has also been informed by a new evidence base which was commissioned by the Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Group on behalf of the Parish Council. This comprises an updated housing needs assessment, a residential site assessment report and a design guide and codes.
- 3.5 Page 15 of the draft Review Plan sets out the vision to 2029 for Barby and Onley which is the same as for the made Plan. This aims to retain and enhance the parish's rural form and character, maintain amenities and services and keep it separate from surrounding villages, whilst allowing organic and sustainable development.
- 3.6 To deliver the vision the Plan outlines an updated set of 12 objectives which will, amongst others, protect and enhance the natural and built environment including delivering biodiversity net gain; ensure that new housing meets local needs and is located in an appropriate location; improve walking and cycling; support home working and local businesses; and ensure that infrastructure is in place to support development.
- 3.7 The delivery of the vision and objectives is achieved through 27 policies, which are summarised:
- Policy H1 Residential site allocation: allocates a site for up to 4 dwellings south of School Close and sets out the desired mix.
 - Policy H2 Village confines: confirms the confines for Barby and sets out how development inside and outside the confines will be considered.
 - Policy H3 Housing mix: sets out expected housing mix based on the housing needs assessment. It seeks to avoid concentrations of any one type of housing.

- Policy H4 Affordable housing: sets out where the expectations for exception sites including where the policy will apply and that it should reflect evidenced local need. An element of market housing is allowed to help with viability and planning obligations will ensure that affordable and local market housing should be available in perpetuity to people with a local connection. Affordable housing should be tenure blind.
- Policy H5 Windfall sites: confirms that these will be infill/redevelopment sites within the confines and sets out criteria against which to consider applications.
- Policy H6 Design: requires all development to be of a high quality and positively contribute to the character of the neighbourhood area, particularly the canal based conservation area. It also refers to sustainable design and the design guide and codes.
- Policy ENV1 Local Green Space: sets out a list of LGSs that have been identified as special to the local community and protects them against loss or adverse effects.
- Policy ENV2 Open space, sport and recreation sites: identifies and protects locally important open spaces and sports/recreation facilities from loss or significant adverse effect, subject to criteria.
- Policy ENV3 Sites and features of natural environment significance: identifies and protects sites of national and local biodiversity significance and requires a minimum of 10% BNG.
- Policy ENV4 Biodiversity across the neighbourhood area: protects and safeguards habitats, species and notable trees and refers to BNG. Specific provision for great crested newts.
- Policy ENV5 Wildlife corridors: protects habitat connectivity across identified corridors.
- Policy ENV6 Sites and features of historic environment significance: protects identified heritage assets with an emphasis on archaeology.
- Policy ENV7 Non-designated heritage assets: protects identified heritage assets of local importance.
- Policy ENV8 Ridge and furrow: protects identified areas of ridge and furrow as non-designated heritage assets.
- Policy ENV9 Landscape character: requires development to respect the neighbourhood area's landscape character and assessment of adverse impact. Sets out what would be regarded as adverse and not supported.
- Policy ENV10 Important views: protects identified important views within the neighbourhood area.
- Policy ENV11 Mitigating the adverse effects of noise on living conditions and the natural environment: development should either avoid or mitigate against noise, during and after construction.
- Policy ENV12 Flood risk from rivers and surface water: aims to reduce the risk of flooding arising from development.
- Policy ENV13 Footpaths and bridleways: protects network of rights of way and bridleways and supports new connections to the network.
- Policy ENV14 Renewable energy generation infrastructure: sets out the scale and type of proposal that would be supported, subject to criteria

regarding amenity, biodiversity and heritage. Requires proposals for solar arrays to be supported by technical assessments.

- Policy CS1 Traffic management: aims to reduce the impact of motorised traffic on the local highway network and supports sustainable modes of travel and infrastructure for electric vehicles.
- Policy CS2 Supporting local employment: protects existing businesses from change to non-employment and supports new business opportunities, both subject to criteria.
- Policy CS3 Protection of community facilities: protects identified community facilities from loss subject to criteria.
- Policy CS4 Farm diversification: supports changes of use of agricultural buildings subject to criteria.
- Policy CS5 Homeworking: supports small scale businesses operating from a dwelling or a conversion, extension or new build with the curtilage.
- Policy CS6 Broadband infrastructure: promotes provision of high speed broadband to serve new development. Necessary above ground installations should be sympathetic to the local landscape.
- Policy CS7 Barby C of E Primary School: supports expansion of the school subject to criteria regarding traffic, school recreation space and amenity of neighbouring uses.

3.8 To fulfil one of the basic conditions these policies are required to be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area. This comprises the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Part 1) which was adopted on 15 December 2014 and the Policies of the Daventry Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2 (SCLP) which was adopted on 20 February 2020.

3.9 Whilst this condition will be examined more thoroughly when the plan reaches the stage of being 'made', it has implications for the screening assessment because the WNJCS and the SCLP have been subject to full SEA/SA and Appropriate Assessment where, subject to some modifications (which have been implemented) it was concluded there would be no significant impact on the environment or on a protected site. Therefore, it is considered that the conformity of the policies set out above with the policies in the WNJCS and the SCLP is a useful starting point for this screening assessment.

3.10 The two assessments have been carried out in detail in the table in Appendix A, which have informed Table 1 on page 15.

4.0 SEA & HRA Screening: Assessment

4.1 The criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3 (5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below (Source Annex II of SEA Directive):

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
 - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
 - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
 - the cumulative nature of the effects,
 - the transboundary nature of the effects,
 - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
 - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
 - intensive land-use,
 - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.

4.2 Figure 2 on page 13 within A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required.

4.3 In the context of the above guidance and considering the findings of the assessment in the table in Appendix A, Table 1 below shows the assessment of whether or not the Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA. Furthermore stage 4 of the assessment also considers the impact on European sites in the context of HRA:

Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the NP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The Barby and Onley Review NDP is being prepared by a steering group with the involvement of Barby and Onley Parish Council and not by a national, regional or local authority. Following examination by an independent examiner and depending on the nature of the modifications, the Council will decide whether or not to "make" the plan or send it to referendum. If the plan receives support from the majority of the votes at referendum it will be 'made' by the Council.
2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	As a qualifying body, Barby and Onley Parish Council has the right to prepare an NDP on behalf of the local community but this is not required by the relevant legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions (The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011). However, if 'made', the NDP would form part of the statutory development plan for West Northamptonshire Council. It is therefore considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine if an SEA is required.
3. Is the NP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	N	The Barby and Onley NDP is prepared for town and country planning and land use, however, as illustrated by the summary of policies set out above it does not set the framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II of the EIA directive.
4. Will the NP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N	The appropriate assessment for the Joint Core Strategy identified that the nearest designated sites (Natura 2000 sites) which could be affected were Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and RAMSAR site. As illustrated on the map at Appendix C, the Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Area is 24.7km from the

Stage	Y/N	Reason
		<p>Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits and 46.6 km from Rutland Water.</p> <p>Through the appropriate assessment for the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy it was concluded that there would be no adverse effect on site integrity for both of these sites as any affect was mitigated through modifications to the plan. The Habitats Regulation Assessment screening for the SCLP concluded that the Plan will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site or Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>A detailed assessment of the policies was carried out as part of this assessment (Appendix A) and has demonstrated that there will be not be a significant effect on either the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site or the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and RAMSAR sites.</p>
5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)		Not applicable because of answer to 4.
6. Does the NP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	The Barby and Onley Review NDP, once adopted ('made'), will be used as part of the development plan for determining planning applications.
7. Is the NP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8,3.9)		Not applicable because of answer to 6.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the	N	The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy was subject to full Sustainability Appraisal which included SEA assessment. This ensured that no

Stage	Y/N	Reason
environment? (Art. 3.5 set out in figure 1 above)		<p>significant effects are expected to arise from the implementation of the JCS.</p> <p>The SCLP was subject to full Sustainability Appraisal which included SEA assessment. This ensured that no significant effects are expected to arise from the implementation of the Part 2 Local Plan.</p> <p>As set out in para 3.7 above, the conformity of the Barby and Onley Review NDP with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy has important implications for its likely significant effect on the environment.</p> <p>Consequently, as demonstrated in the table in Appendix A, as the policies of the Barby and Onley Review NDP are considered to be in general conformity at this stage with the strategic policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the SCLP it is not considered that the plan will have a significant effect on the environment.</p>

Table 1: Assessment of whether the Barby and Onley Review NDP requires a full SEA

Screening Outcome

- 4.4 As a result of the assessment in Table 1 which has been informed by the assessment in Appendix A, it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will occur from the implementation of the Barby and Onley Review NDP that were not considered and dealt with by the Sustainability Appraisal of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the SCLP. As such the Barby and Onley Review NDP does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.
- 4.5 With regards Habitat Regulations Assessment, as set out in the table above, in particular the response to question 4, it is not considered that the implementation of the Barby and Onley Review NDP, by virtue of its scale and distance, will result in any likely significant effects upon the Upper Nene Gravel Pits site or the Rutland Water site. This is demonstrated in the table in Appendix A.

Habitats Regulations Assessment: In combination effects

- 4.6 Existing plans and proposals must be considered when assessing new plans or programmes for likely significant effects as they may create 'in combination' effects.
- 4.7 For reference the relevant plans or programmes which should be considered when reviewing in combination effects are listed below:
- West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Part 1)
 - Northampton Local Plan Part 2
 - Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2) for Daventry District
 - South Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plan
 - Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan
 - Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan
 - North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS)
 - Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough
 - Rugby Borough Local Plan
 - Harborough Local Plan
 - Stratford on Avon Core Strategy
 - Plan MK (Milton Keynes)
 - Cherwell Local Plan
 - Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan
 - National Planning Policy Framework
- 4.8 As the plan is required to be in general conformity and will contribute to delivering the growth identified in the WNJCS rather than exceeding it, it is not considered that it will lead to any significant 'in combination effects'.

5.0 Conclusions and recommendations of the Screening Assessments

SEA

- 5.1 A screening assessment to determine the need for a SEA in line with regulations and guidance was undertaken and can be found in section 4 of this report. The assessment finds that no significant effects will occur as a result of the implementation of the Barby and Onley Review NDP. The assessment also finds many of the policies are in conformity with the policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the SCLP which have been subject to a full SA/SEA where no significant effects were identified.
- 5.2 Consequently from the findings of the screening assessment it is recommended that a full SEA does not need to be undertaken for the Barby and Onley Review NDP.

HRA

- 5.3 A screening assessment to determine the need for HRA in line with regulations and guidance was undertaken and is set out in Appendix A of this report and summarised in response to question 4 in table 1. It has found that many of the policies are in conformity with the policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the SCLP, which were both subject to full HRA which found no significant or in combination effects. It is considered that due to the plan demonstrating conformity with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and SCLP it will not result in any significant effects, alone or in combination, upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/RAMSAR or the Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR sites.

Appendix A: Assessment against the development plan and the potential likely and significant effects upon SPA/Ramsar sites

Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Policy in West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS)	Relevant Policy in Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2 (SCLP)	Conformity/conflict between WNJCS policies and SCLP policies	Conclusions re SEA	Potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (Upper Nene Valley Gravel pits SPA and Ramsar and Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar)	Conclusions re HRA
Policy H1 Residential site allocation	R1 Spatial strategy for the rural areas	RA2 Secondary service villages	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP as it allocates a site within the confines that will meet evidenced local housing need.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy H2 Village confines	S1 The distribution of development R1 Spatial strategy for the rural areas	RA2 Secondary service villages RA3 Other villages RA6 Open countryside	This policy is not considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP Whilst it focusses development within the confines unless it complies with local and national policy, by listing two specific forms of development it does not set out all the types of development supported by RA6.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy H3 Housing mix	H1 Housing density and mix and type of dwellings	HO8 Housing mix and type	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by referring to up to date evidence of local need. It also supports the creation of mixed communities by avoiding concentrations of any one type of housing.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.

Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Policy in West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS)	Relevant Policy in Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2 (SCLP)	Conformity/conflict between WNJCS policies and SCLP policies	Conclusions re SEA	Potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (Upper Nene Valley Gravel pits SPA and Ramsar and Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar)	Conclusions re HRA
Policy H4 Affordable housing	H2 Affordable housing H3 Rural exception sites	RA2 Secondary service villages RA3 Other villages	This policy is not considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP. Under current local policy it is not possible for local market housing to be made available in perpetuity, only on the first sale. Although the HNA evidence is that 50% discounts for First Homes, pilot projects in West Northamptonshire have been at 30% discount, therefore policy should be within 30-50% range.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy H5 Windfall sites	S10 Sustainable development principles RC2 Community needs BN5 The historic environment and landscape R1 Spatial strategy for the rural areas	RA2 Secondary service villages RA3 Other villages	This policy is not currently in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP. Criterion b) states that development should be small scale, however, this would be contrary to RA2 in respect of Barby where Ci) states that it should be "of an appropriate scale to its role as a secondary service village." RA3 Ci) confirms that small scale is appropriate for Onley.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy H6 Design	S10 Sustainable development principles	RA2 Secondary service villages RA3 Other villages	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.

Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Policy in West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS)	Relevant Policy in Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2 (SCLP)	Conformity/conflict between WNJCS policies and SCLP policies	Conclusions re SEA	Potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (Upper Nene Valley Gravel pits SPA and Ramsar and Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar)	Conclusions re HRA
		ENV7 The historic environment ENV10 Design	requiring new development to be of a high standard of design and of sustainable design. It also refers to the new design guide and codes.			
Policy ENV1 Local Green Space	RC2 Community needs	CW1 Health and wellbeing PA1 Local Green Space	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by protecting green spaces that have been identified as being special to the local community and meeting the tests set out in the NPPF.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy ENV2 Open space, sport and recreation sites	RC2 Community needs	CW1 Health and wellbeing	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by protecting open space and recreation grounds.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy ENV3 Sites and features of natural environment significance	BN1 Green infrastructure corridors BN2 Biodiversity	ENV4 Green infrastructure ENV5 Biodiversity	This policy is in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by protecting the natural environment and biodiversity, with appropriate weight according to their status.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy ENV4 Biodiversity across the neighbourhood area	BN1 Green infrastructure corridors BN2 Biodiversity	ENV5 Biodiversity	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by protecting habitats,	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.

Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Policy in West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS)	Relevant Policy in Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2 (SCLP)	Conformity/conflict between WNJCS policies and SCLP policies	Conclusions re SEA	Potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (Upper Nene Valley Gravel pits SPA and Ramsar and Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar)	Conclusions re HRA
			species and notable trees. However, the requirement for a great crested newt survey is not completely accurate unless all parts of the neighbourhood area are within 500m of a pond.			
Policy ENV5 Wildlife corridors	BN1 Green infrastructure corridors BN2 Biodiversity	ENV4 Green infrastructure ENV5 Biodiversity	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by protecting habitat connectivity.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy ENV6 Sites and features of historic environment significance	BN5 The historic environment and landscape	ENV7 Historic environment	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by identifying archaeological assets for consideration in the development process.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy ENV7 Non-designated heritage assets	BN5 The historic environment and landscape	ENV7 Historic environment	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy ENV8 Ridge and furrow	BN5 The historic environment and landscape	ENV7 Historic environment	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy ENV9 Landscape character	BN5 The historic environment and landscape	ENV1 Landscape	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by requiring proposals to respect the landscape character of the neighbourhood area.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.

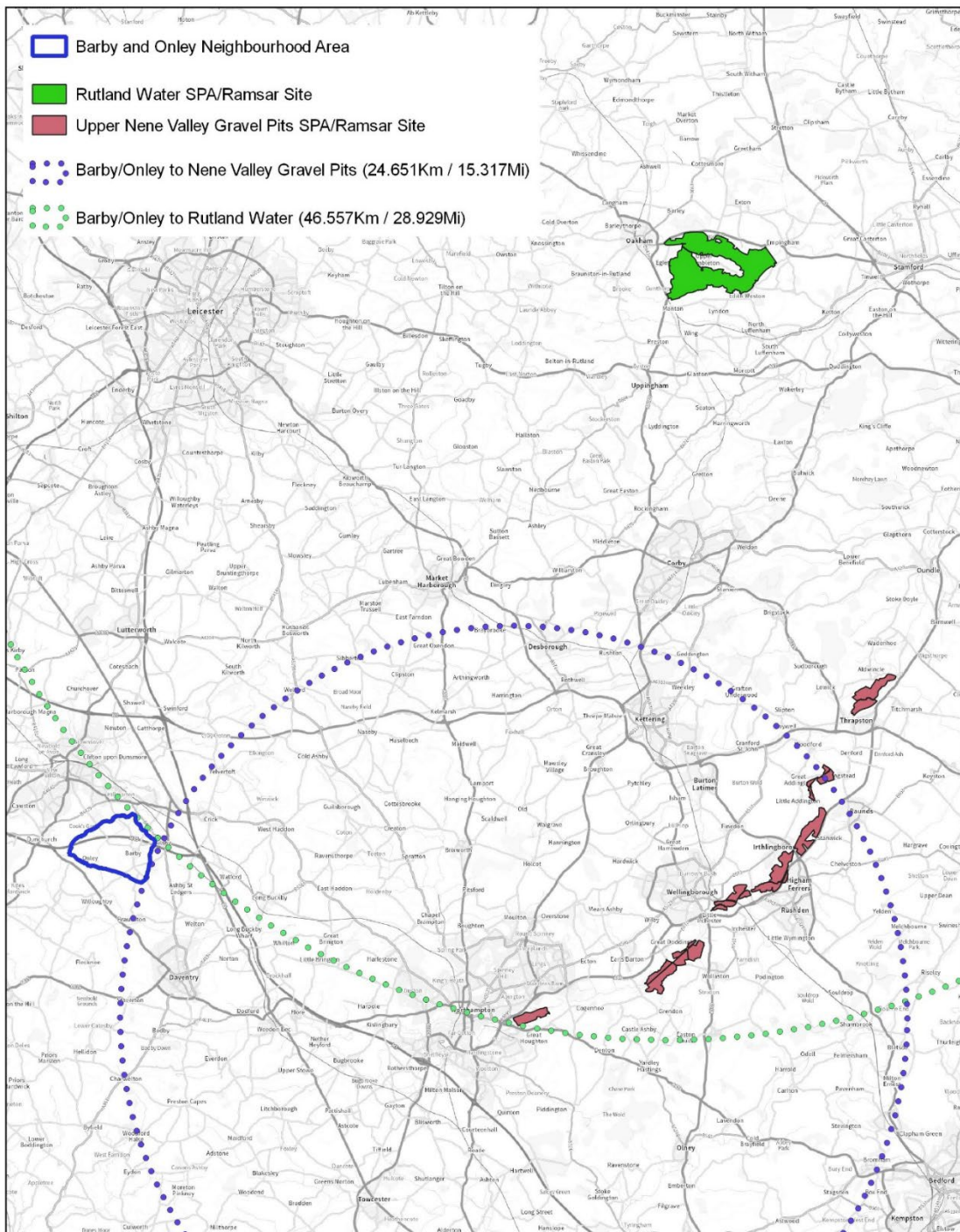
Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Policy in West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS)	Relevant Policy in Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2 (SCLP)	Conformity/conflict between WNJCS policies and SCLP policies	Conclusions re SEA	Potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (Upper Nene Valley Gravel pits SPA and Ramsar and Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar)	Conclusions re HRA
Policy ENV10 Important views	BN5 The historic environment and landscape	ENV1 Landscape	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by identifying and protecting views within the neighbourhood area that are considered to be important.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy ENV11 Mitigating the adverse effects of noise on living conditions and the natural environment	S10 Sustainable development principles BN9 Planning for pollution control	N/A	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by protecting sensitive receptors.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy ENV12 Flood risk from rivers and surface water	BN7 Flood risk	ENV11 Local flood risk management	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by requiring proposals to avoid increasing flood risk.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy ENV13 Footpaths and bridleways	C1 Changing behaviour and achieving modal shift	ST1 Sustainable transport infrastructure	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by protecting rights of way and supporting cycling and walking infrastructure.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy ENV14 Renewable energy generation infrastructure	S11 Low carbon and renewable energy	ENV9 Renewable energy and low carbon development	This policy is not currently considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP. There is no evidence to support the restriction on size and scale of proposals.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.

Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Policy in West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS)	Relevant Policy in Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2 (SCLP)	Conformity/conflict between WNJCS policies and SCLP policies	Conclusions re SEA	Potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (Upper Nene Valley Gravel pits SPA and Ramsar and Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar)	Conclusions re HRA
Policy CS1 Traffic management	C1 Changing behaviour and achieving modal shift R3 A transport strategy for the rural areas	ST1 Sustainable transport infrastructure	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by minimising impact on the local highway network and supporting cycling, walking and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy CS2 Supporting local employment	R2 Rural economy	RA6 Open countryside	This policy is not currently considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP. There is no evidence that loss of employment premises is an issue and therefore no justification for a 12 month marketing period. Policy cannot restrict new businesses to those that complement existing businesses. Policy does not allow development outside the confines beyond re-use of existing buildings or previously developed land.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy CS3 Protection of community facilities	RC2 Community needs	CW1 Health and wellbeing CW3 Protecting local retail services and public houses	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by identifying and protecting community facilities that are	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.

Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Policy in West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS)	Relevant Policy in Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2 (SCLP)	Conformity/conflict between WNJCS policies and SCLP policies	Conclusions re SEA	Potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (Upper Nene Valley Gravel pits SPA and Ramsar and Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar)	Conclusions re HRA
			important to the local community.			
Policy CS4 Farm diversification	R2 Rural economy	RA6 Open countryside	This policy is not currently considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP because it only refers to conversion of existing buildings, it precludes appropriate new build.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy CS5 Home working	R2 Rural economy	RA2 Secondary service villages RA3 Other villages	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by protecting amenity and respecting local character.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy CS6 Broadband infrastructure	INF1 Approach to infrastructure delivery	N/A	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by supporting provision of rural broadband infrastructure and has regard to landscape character.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.
Policy CS7 Barby C of E Primary School	RC2 Community needs	RA2 Secondary service villages RA3 Other villages CW1 Health and wellbeing	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the WNJCS and SCLP by supporting the local primary school whilst protecting amenity of surrounding uses and recreation space.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect arising as a result of this policy.

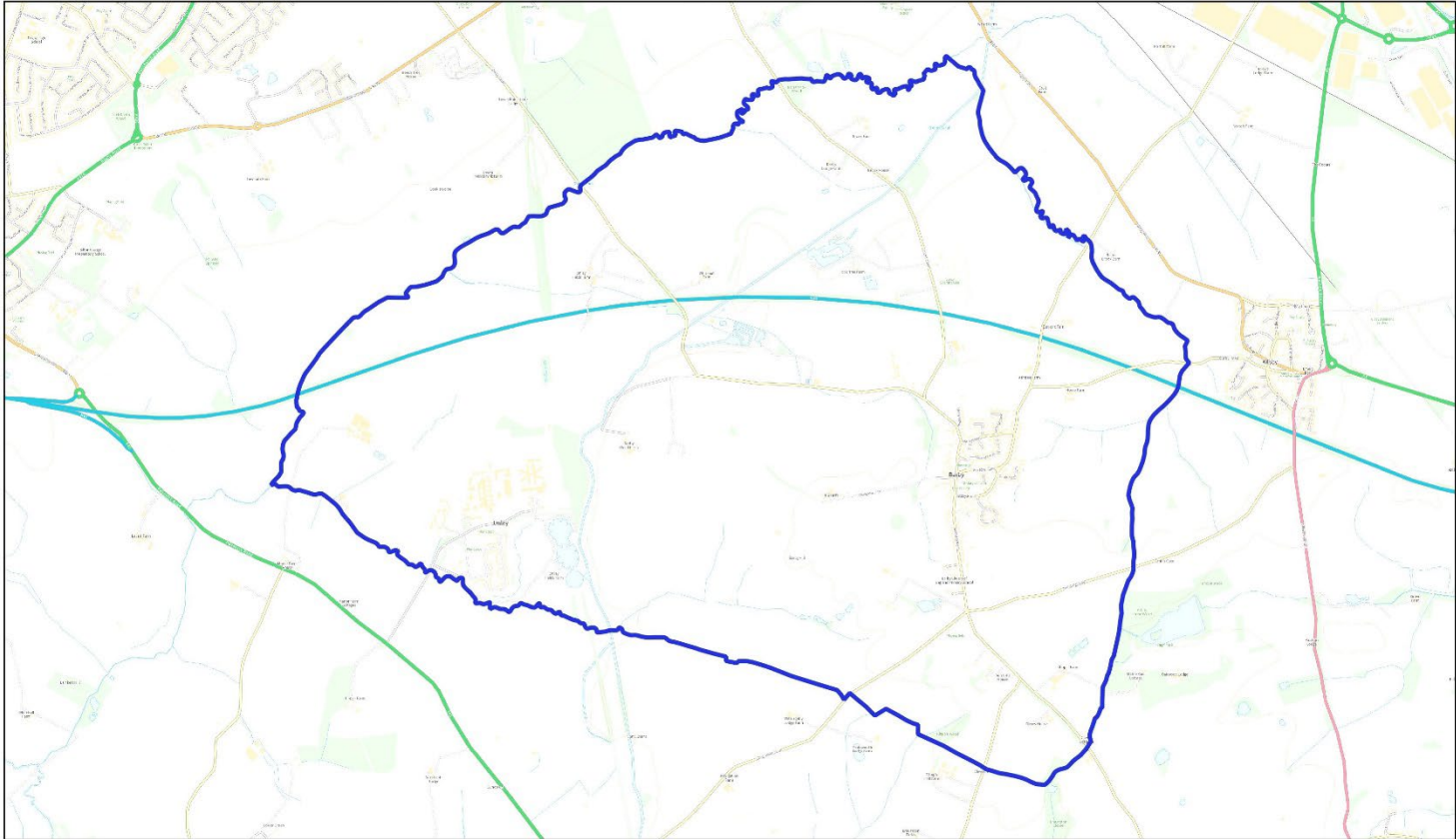
**Appendix B: Draft Barby and Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan
(separate document)**

Appendix C: Map showing distances from Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar site and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site



	<p>Appendix C: Map showing distances from Upper Nene Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar Site and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site.</p>	<p>Date: 03-04-2024 Scale: 1:300,000 @A4 Drawn: Simon Hume</p>
<p>© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey licence no. 100063706</p>		

Appendix D: Map of the Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Area



	<p>Appendix D: Map of Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Area</p> <p>© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey licence no. 100063706</p>	<p>Date: 03-04-2024</p> <p>Scale: 1:30,000 @A4</p> <p>Drawn by: Simon Hume</p>
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Appendix E: Responses from Statutory Bodies



Jane Parry
Senior Planning Policy Officer
Planning and Climate Change
West Northamptonshire Council
The Forum
Moat Lane
Towcester
NN12 6AD

Our ref: AN/2023/134659/PO-01/SB1-L01

Your ref:

Date: 1 May 2024

Dear Jane

DRAFT SCREENING REPORT, BARBY AND ONLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

I refer to your consultation dated 09 April 2024 on the draft screening report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment for the Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Plan.

We aim to reduce flood risk, while protecting and enhancing the water environment. Our comments on this matter are therefore made solely from these points of view.

Environment Agency position.

We note you are specifically asking us if we agree with the conclusions in the submitted documentation that neither a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) nor an Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) needs to be undertaken for the Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Plan.

Having looked at the documentation, and noting the conclusions in it, including that the Plan does not give rise to any issues which are in conflict with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, from the point of view of the topics outlined above that the Environment Agency is commenting on, we agree with the conclusions that neither a SEA nor an HRA is needed.

Notwithstanding this, we do have the following detailed comments on the draft Neighbourhood Plan which accompanied the screening report and we should be grateful if they could be taken into account as this matter progresses:

1. Flood risk.

The flood zone 3 shown in green in Figure 14.3 is associated with non-main rivers and may be based on 2004 modelling which will soon be updated late 2024/ 2025 with the

Environment Agency
Nene House (Pynchley Lodge Industrial Estate),
Pynchley Lodge Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6JQ
Email: LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

*Customer services line: 03708 506 506
Calls to 03 numbers cost the same as calls to standard
geographic numbers (i.e. numbers beginning with 01 or 02).*

Cont/d..

new National Model. You are advised to ensure this Figure is updated to reflect this, if necessary, as the Neighbourhood Plan progresses.

The Neighbourhood Plan should steer all development outside of flood zones 3 and 2 as lots of flood zone 1 land is available. We consider Policy ENV 12 needs to be more forceful on this point.

2. Foul drainage infrastructure

We note the Plan does make comment regarding proposed growth in the neighbourhood area. It needs to be ensured that there will be adequate foul drainage infrastructure to cope with this. With this in mind, we would recommend that you consult the sewage and wastewater undertaker (Severn Trent Water Ltd) on the Plan and consider their Level 3 Drainage and Waste Water Management Plans (DWMPs) for Rugby Newbold and Kilsby Sewage Treatment Works to ensure that available sewage network capacity is available and taken into account for any proposed new building development. These can be found on their website: [Document library | Drainage and wastewater management plan | Our plans | About us | Severn Trent Plc.](#)

3. Water resources and water efficiency

We cannot see anything in the Neighbourhood Plan relating to water resources and efficiency of water use. We would suggest something is included encouraging the use of water efficient fittings in new development.

We also suggest you look at water availability, River Basin Management Plans and Water Resources Management Plans where the Water Companies set out how they plan to achieve a secure supply of water. You should then look if there is a water stress designation for the area, climate change considerations in terms of demand on water and adapting buildings to use water efficiently, the preservation of canals in the area (Grand Union Canal and Oxford Canal - contact Canal River Trust) and BREEAM standards in terms of new developments.

If water efficiency measures are promoted by the Plan, this will help reduce the amount of foul drainage from developments within the Neighbourhood Plan area and lessen any pressure on Sewage Treatment Works.

4. Groundwater and contaminated land

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraph 180 states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution. Government policy also states that planning policies and decisions should also ensure that adequate site investigation information, prepared by a competent person, is presented (NPPF, Paragraph 189).

With this in mind, we recommend considering adding the following to the Neighbourhood Plan:

The Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Plan (BONP) area lies over a small area of geology classified as Secondary A and Secondary undifferentiated aquifers. The secondary A aquifer can support local abstractions and baseflow to streams and rivers whereas the secondary undifferentiated have a minor value due to the variable

characteristics of the rock type. The area within the Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire water management area is characterized by geology sensitive for controlled waters. The use (or potential use) of groundwater in the area makes parts of the area vulnerable to pollution from certain types of development. Best practice to ensure groundwater is protected from pollution and as a resource is contained within guidance document 'The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection' available at [Groundwater protection position statements - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/271200/groundwater-protection-position-statements-2014.pdf). This publication sets out our position for a wide range of activities and developments, including:

- Waste management
- Discharge of liquid effluents
- Land contamination
- Ground source heat pumps
- Cemetery developments
- Drainage

We also recommend inserting:

Land affected by contamination may pose risk to human health, groundwater, surface waters and the wider environment. We recommend that developers should:

- Follow the risk management framework provided in [Land Contamination: Risk Management](#), when dealing with land affected by contamination
- Refer to our [Guiding principles for land contamination](#) for the type of information that we require in order to assess risks to controlled waters from the site - the local authority can advise on risk to other receptors, such as human health
- Consider using the [National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination Management](#) which involves the use of competent persons to ensure that land contamination risks are appropriately managed
- Refer to the [contaminated land](#) pages on gov.uk for more information

Within the neighbourhood plan area there are eight historic landfills, all receiving inert waste. It is worth identifying these in the Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Plan so any risk posed can be appropriately managed. The sites and their grid references are as follows:

Landfill	Location
Barby Hill	SP453700 269400
Onley Fields Farm	SP452000 269700
Onley Prison	SP451800 269800
Onley Road	SP453600 270600
Barby Wood Bridge	SP452600 271000
Barby (Adjacent to M45)	SP454200 271200
Barby Wharf	SP453900 272000
Cleves Farm	SP454600 268700

5. Biodiversity

As a general comment, we welcome the various references in the Neighbourhood Plan, such as in Policies ENV3 and ENV4 to achieving biodiversity net gain.

6. Waste Materials

We wish to offer the following comments as general advice to developers wishing to progress sites in the Parish. The inclusion of these in an appendix to the Plan should perhaps be considered.

Waste permitting

Developers are advised to find out more information about the permit application process online and to send a pre-application enquiry form via the gov.uk website if needed: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permit-pre-application-advice-form>

In circumstances where an activity/operation meets certain criteria, an exemption from permitting may apply. More information on exempt activities can be found here: [Register, renew or change waste exemptions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-renew-or-change-waste-exemptions)

Movement of waste off-site – Duty of Care & Carriers, Brokers and Dealers Regulations

The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991 for dealing with waste materials are applicable to any off-site movements of wastes.

The code of practice applies to you if you produce, carry, keep, dispose of, treat, import or have control of waste in England or Wales.

The law requires anyone dealing with waste to keep it safe and make sure it is dealt with responsibly and only given to businesses authorised to take it. The code of practice can be found here: [Waste duty of care: code of practice \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-duty-of-care-code-of-practice)

If you need to register as a carrier of waste, please follow the instructions here: [Register or renew as a waste carrier, broker or dealer - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-or-renew-as-a-waste-carrier-broker-or-dealer)

Movement of waste off-site – Duty of Care & Carriers, Brokers and Dealers Regulations Characterisation and Classification of Waste

In order to meet the applicant's objectives for the waste hierarchy and obligations under the duty of care, it is important that waste is properly classified. Some waste (e.g. wood and wood-based products) may be either a hazardous or non-hazardous waste dependent upon whether or not they have had preservative treatments.

Proper classification of the waste both ensures compliance and enables the correct onward handling and treatment to be applied. In the case of treated wood, it may require high temperature incineration in a directive compliant facility.

Waste Hierarchy

The developer must apply the waste hierarchy as a priority order of prevention, re-use, recycling before considering other recovery or disposal options. Government guidance on the waste hierarchy in England can be found here:

[Waste hierarchy guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444444/waste-hierarchy-guidance)

Management and Reporting Systems

Where a development involves any significant construction or related activities, we would recommend using a management and reporting system to minimise and track the fate of construction wastes, such as that set out in PAS402: 2013, or an appropriate equivalent assurance methodology. This should ensure that any waste contractors employed are suitably responsible in ensuring waste only goes to legitimate destinations.

Further links which may be of use:

[Pollution prevention for businesses - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pollution-prevention-for-businesses)

Use of waste on-site

If materials that are potentially waste are to be used on-site, the applicant will need to ensure they can comply with the exclusion from the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) (article 2(1) (c)) for the use of, 'uncontaminated soil and other naturally occurring material excavated in the course of construction activities, etc...' in order for the material not to be considered as waste. Meeting these criteria will mean waste permitting requirements do not apply.

Where the applicant cannot meet the criteria, they will be required to obtain the appropriate waste permit or exemption from the Environment Agency.

A deposit of waste to land will either be a disposal or a recovery activity. The legal test for recovery is set out in Article 3(15) of WFD as:

- any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy.
- We have produced guidance on the recovery test which can be viewed at [Waste recovery plans and deposit for recovery permits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-recovery-plans-and-deposit-for-recovery-permits)

You can find more information on the Waste Framework Directive here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-guidance-the-waste-framework-directive>

More information on the use of waste in exempt activities can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/waste-exemptions-using-waste>

Non-waste activities are not regulated by us (i.e. activities carried out under the CL:ARE Code of Practice), however you will need to decide if materials meet End of Waste or By-products criteria (as defined by the Waste Framework Directive).

7. Renewable energy

We note there is a section in the Neighbourhood Plan relating to renewable energy generation. Ground source heat pumps are not mentioned, but it says that the community is keen to explore opportunities for renewable technology. Related to this, please see below for some useful information which you may wish to refer to in the Neighbourhood Plan:

- Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) systems can be used for heating or cooling and are, in principle, energy and CO₂ efficient. However, unless they are managed carefully there is the potential that the ground and groundwater can eventually warm or cool to a point where the system cannot continue to operate efficiently, or at all. Adjacent systems may also interfere with each other. The system operator should also consider potential for loss or damage to third parties. We expect developers to undertake appropriate prior investigations for these systems. This should include environmental risk assessment and method statements for the construction and operation of the systems. These may be provided as part of the planning process.
- Please also note that a GSHP system may require an abstraction licence and a discharge consent from the EA. There is no guarantee that these could be granted.
- More information on the permits required from the EA for both ground source and surface water source systems is available here:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-loop-heat-pump-systems-permits-consents-and-licence>

I hope the above comments are of assistance and should be grateful if they could be taken into account in progressing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Yours sincerely

Mr Wayne Cattell
Planning Advisor

[Redacted contact information]



Historic England

Ms Jane Parry
West Northamptonshire Council
Daventry Office
Lodge Road
Daventry
Northamptonshire
NN11 4FP

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6870

Our ref: PL00795640

25 April 2024

Dear Ms Parry

Neighbourhood Plan for Barby and Onley

Thank you for consulting Historic England about your Neighbourhood Plan.

The area covered by your Neighbourhood Plan includes a number of important designated heritage assets. In line with national planning policy, it will be important that the strategy for this area safeguards those elements which contribute to the significance of these assets so that they can be enjoyed by future generations of the area.

If you have not already done so, we would recommend that you speak to the planning and conservation team at your local planning authority together with the staff at the county council archaeological advisory service who look after the Historic Environment Record. They should be able to provide details of the designated heritage assets in the area together with locally-important buildings, archaeological remains and landscapes. Some Historic Environment Records may also be available on-line via the Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk <<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/>>).

It may also be useful to involve local voluntary groups such as the local Civic Society or local historic groups in the production of your Neighbourhood Plan.

Historic England has produced advice which your community might find helpful in helping to identify what it is about your area which makes it distinctive and how you might go about ensuring that the character of the area is retained. These can be found at:-

<<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/>>

You may also find the advice in "Planning for the Environment at the Neighbourhood Level" useful. This has been produced by Historic England, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission. As well as giving ideas on how you might improve your local environment, it also contains some useful further sources



THE FOUNDRY 82 GRANVILLE STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 2LH

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Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.



Historic England

of information. This can be downloaded from:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_6524_7da381.pdf
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_6524_7da381.pdf>

If you envisage including new housing allocations in your plan, we refer you to our published advice available on our website, "Housing Allocations in Local Plans" as this relates equally to neighbourhood planning. This can be found at
<<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-environment-and-site-allocations-in-local-plans/heag074-he-and-site-allocation-local-plans.pdf/>>

If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Rose Thompson

Rose Thompson
Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas




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Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

Date: 09 May 2024
Our ref: 472365
Your ref: Barby & Onley Review Neighbourhood Plan



Ms Jane Parry
West Northamptonshire Council

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

Jane.Parry@westnorthants.gov.uk

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Ms Parry

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 9 April 2024.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that:

- **significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely; and,**
- **significant effects on Habitats sites¹, either alone or in combination, are unlikely.**

The proposed neighbourhood plan is unlikely to significantly affect any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection areas (SPA), Ramsar wetland or sites in the process of becoming SACs or SPAs ('candidate SACs', 'possible SACs', 'potential SPAs') or a Ramsar wetland. The plan area is unlikely to have a significant effect on a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coast, and is unlikely to impact upon the purposes for which these areas are designated or defined.

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 is contained within the [Planning Practice Guidance](#). This identifies three triggers that may require the production of an SEA:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent

¹ Habitats sites are those referred to in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (Annex 2 - glossary) as "any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites".

as to require an SEA. Further information is included in Natural England's [standing advice](#) on protected species.

Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant an SEA. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission [standing advice](#).

We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a SEA is necessary.

Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If a SEA is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.

Please send any new consultations, or further information on this consultation to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Sally Wintle
Consultations Team



**Wildlife Trust for
Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

**The Wildlife Trust BCN
The Manor House
Broad Street
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Tel: 01604 405285**

Jane Parry
Senior Planning Policy Officer
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The Forum
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NN12 6AD

8th May 2024

Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Development Plan Review 2011-2029: Pre-submission Version 2024

Dear Jane,

Thank you for sending me the Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Plan Review 2011-2029 Pre-submission Version 2024, along with its accompanying Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Report. The Plan includes Objective 5 to “protect wildlife in the parish and to deliver biodiversity net gain” along with three specific biodiversity policies. These provide a good overview of biodiversity within the parish, as well as opportunities to enhance local habitats, species populations and wildlife corridors.

Policy ENV3 concerns sites and features of natural significance which includes all those we are aware of locally. The policy includes good references to the National Planning Policy Framework, 2023, as well as statutory biodiversity net gain. This is complimented by Policy ENV4: Biodiversity Across the Neighbourhood Area, which picks out trees and woodland and Great-crested Newts of particular significance within the plan area. Finally, Policy ENV5 looks at Wildlife Corridors across the Plan area with the two areas highlighted providing existing corridors for a range of species across the landscape, along with opportunities to enhance these routes for wildlife.

I agree with the screening report that this Neighbourhood Plan is in line with the existing local policy. This is covered by a SEA and HRA and so I would suggest that the Barby and Onley Neighbourhood Plan does not require any further work in these areas.

I hope that our comments on this neighbourhood plan are useful. If you or the team preparing the Local Plan for Barby and Onley have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Katharine Banham
Conservation Officer (Northamptonshire)

