

Hartington Town Quarter Parish
Neighbourhood Development Plan
2024-2039

Strategic Environmental Assessment
Screening Report

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report addresses the requirement for a screening assessment to determine if the Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan (HNDP) is likely to have significant environmental effects. This addresses the requirement as set out in Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. This section summarises the key information in the Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan (HNDP) including its vision, objectives, the neighbourhood area covered and draft policies.
- 1.2. HNDP and this SEA Screening Report have been prepared by Hartington Neighbourhood Plan Group of local residents with support and advice from the Peak District National Park Authority.
- 1.3. The HNDP sets out draft local planning policies which will be used to help determine planning applications in the area up to 2039.

2. Vision for the HNDP

- 2.1 To deliver a vibrant, well-balanced community that continues to be a great place to live, be educated, work and visit.
- 2.2 We want to ensure that Hartington continues to be a community of all ages. We want people to be able to start and raise families here and for young people to be able to grow and develop without having to leave the Parish. We also want to ensure that everyone can enjoy fulfilling lives here.
- 2.3 To conserve Hartington Town Quarter's outstanding landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage in order to retain the unique and special character of the Parish.
- 2.4 We want to ensure that development in and around our village protects and enhances the special landscape character of the National Park and the character and historic pattern of Hartington, including its heritage assets, conservation area and important green spaces.
- 2.5 To deliver a viable community which is sustainable in the long term and meets the needs and aspirations of its residents.
- 2.6 We want to ensure that the goods, services and community activities remain relevant and accessible to the community of Hartington. This includes, where possible, providing opportunities for affordable housing, potential development of community facilities and appropriate scale, high quality economic development, within the Development Boundary (DB).

3. Legislative background

- 3.1 The following legislative drivers exist for addressing screening of Neighbourhood Plans for likely significant impacts on the environment.

4. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 4.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC (the Directive) and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).
- 4.2 Article 3(2) of the Directive makes SEA mandatory for plans and programmes ‘which are prepared for . . . town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent for projects . . .’
- 4.3 There are plans for which an SEA is not always required. For plans which ‘determine the use of small areas at local level’ or are ‘minor modifications’ to existing plans, the Directive only requires SEA where they are likely to have significant environmental effects. The expressions ‘small area’ and ‘local level’ are not defined in the Directive and must be interpreted in relation to the nature and scope of a particular plan.
- 4.4 In order to determine whether the HNBP is likely to have significant environmental effects, and therefore require an SEA, and (if so) the level of detail needed, the National Planning Practice Guidance advises that the relevant planning authority should:
 - at an early stage assess the draft neighbourhood plan’s potential scope against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004); and
 - in so doing, should consult the statutory consultation bodies, in this case, English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency; and
 - where a plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects, prepare a statement of its reasons.
- 4.5 Where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment an SEA must be carried out.

5. Determination of the likeliness of significant environmental effects of Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan

Table 1: Comparison of Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan against Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004		
Significance Criteria set out in SEA Directive (Annex ii) and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	Impact of the draft Hartington Neighbourhood Plan	Likeliness of significant environmental effects
(a) 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	Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan (HNDP) would, if adopted, form part of the statutory development plan for the Hartington neighbourhood area. However, the HNDP sits within the wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework, Peak District National Park Authority's (PDNPA) Local Plan policies. The projects and other activities (principally managing land-use and development) for which this Plan helps to set a framework are local in nature and have limited resource implications. The Core Strategy was subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal which included an SEA assessment. This ensured that there were no likely significant effects which would be produced from the implementation of the Core Strategy and if so ensured mitigation measures were in place. An assessment of the	Not likely

	<p>HNDP policies and their conformity to the adopted Core Strategy has been undertaken and can be viewed in the 'Conditions Statement'. This confirms that there is general conformity between the Core Strategy and HNDP and there are no significant changes introduced by the HNDP</p>	
<p>(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>HNDP has been found to be in general conformity with the adopted Local Plan. The issues raised in the HNDP, including the scope for localised policy responses, have been noted and will inform any future review of the Local Plan</p>	<p>Not likely</p>
<p>(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</p>	<p>HNDP is relevant for the integration of environmental considerations at a local (parish) level. One of the 'basic conditions' that the plan in law must meet is that it will contribute to improvements in environmental, economic and social conditions or that consideration has been given to how any potential adverse effects arising from the proposals may be prevented, reduced or offset. Detailed policies in HNDP integrate environmental considerations in the consideration of housing, employment, transport & health and wellbeing. The strategic conformity of the HNDP to the Core Strategy also ensures that Hartington plays its part in the sustainability of the wider strategic planning objectives for the National Park by aiming to conserve and enhance the local environment and addressing the social and economic needs of</p>	<p>Not likely</p>

	the locality in tune with the statutory purposes and duty of the National Park.	
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	HNDP is relevant for the consideration of environmental problems but at a purely local level. The environmental concerns addressed by HNDP are: unique quality of the landscape, connectivity and economic sustainability.	Not likely
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation (for example plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection.)	HNDP is restricted to land use planning and not directly relevant to the implementation of European legislation.	
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular to :		
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	The area to be affected is the village & parish of Hartington. The area is part of the wider 'White Peak' landscape - an elevated limestone plateau dissected by deeply cut dales and gorges. Limestone is the principal walling material for buildings and structures. Hartington developed organically, with many small lanes and footpaths connecting to and curving around the main thoroughfares so that the overall sense is of a haphazard, confusing layout to the settlement. HNDP is likely to have a small, positive effect on the area, by enabling small scale developments	Not likely

	in ways which respect the historic settlement pattern and character of the parish.	
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	Overall, the cumulative nature of the effects is likely to be small scale but positive in terms of their environmental impact.	Not likely
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects	There will be no transboundary effects.	Not likely
(d) the risks to human health or the environment	No risks to human health identified. Risk to the environment is minimised by conformity with National Park Local Plan	Not likely
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects.	HNDP covers the parish of Hartington. Magnitude and spatial extent are small.	Not likely
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage.	The value of the HNDP area in this regard is high, recognised by existing designation as national park. Part of the HNDP area is also a conservation area. The effects of the HNDP in this regard are likely to be small scale and positive.	Not likely

(g) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values	Environmental quality standards or limit values are not relevant to HNBP	Not likely
(h) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to intensive land use	Intensive land use is not proposed by HNBP	Not likely
(i) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	The area of HNBP is within a National Park. The effects of HNBP on this protected status will be small as HNBP conforms to National Park Local Plan	Not likely

6. Conclusion of Screening Process

- 6.1 It is demonstrated, through assessment against the significance criteria in the SEA Directive and Regulations, as set out in Section 3, that the impact of Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan will not result in significant environmental effects.
- 6.2 Historic England confirmed on 12/09/2024 that they have no concerns or comments to raise in respect of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (Appendices 1 & 2).
- 6.3 The Environment Agency state on 18/10/2024 that there are no housing allocations within this proposed neighbourhood plan. They aim to reduce flood risk, while protecting and enhancing the water environment. They have had to focus their detailed engagement to those areas where the environmental risks are greatest.
- 6.4 Based on the environmental constraints within the area, they therefore have no detailed comments to make in relation to HNDP at this stage (Appendix 3).
- 6.5 Natural England confirmed on 24/10/2024 that they agree with the conclusion of the 'Habitat Regulation Screening and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening' that there is likely to be no significant effect of the Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan on European sites (Appendix 4).

7. Appendix 1 Initial response from Historic England 12/09/24

Ms Jane Newman

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6870

Jane Newman Planning

Our ref: PL00796817

12 September 2024

Dear Ms Newman

Neighbourhood Plan for Hartington

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). 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 of information. This can be downloaded from:

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,

R. Thompson

Rose Thompson

Historic Places Adviser

rosemary.thompson@HistoricEngland.org.uk

8. Appendix 2 Second response from Historic England 12/09/2024

From: **Mahmood Chaudhry, Ehssen** <Ehssen.MahmoodChaudhry@historicengland.org.uk>
Date: Thu, 12 Sept 2024 at 13:57
Subject: RE: Historic England advice on case PL00796817
To: Jane Newman <janenewmanplanning@gmail.com>

Good afternoon Jane

Thank you for your email and my apologies for the confusion; our response used our standard letter template and it has been understood by our Inspector that the Plan is fully drafted and will soon be in its final stage.

The intention behind our letter template is to confirm that we have no concerns or comments to raise and to include links to online resources should you wish to seek any further information.

I apologise again for the confusion but if you have any further questions, please get back in touch.

Best wishes,

Ehssen

Ehssen Mahmood, BSc (Hons)
Business Officer
Historic England
The Foundry / 82 Granville Street / Birmingham / B1 2LH
Ehssen.MahmoodChaudhry@historicengland.org.uk

9. Appendix 3 Response by the Environment Agency 18/10/2024

Ms Jane Newman
Policy and Communities Team
Peak District National Park Authority
Aldern House
Baslow Road
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1AE

Our ref: LT/2006/000238/OR-
11/PO1-L01

Your ref:

Date: 18 October 2024

Dear Ms Newman

Hartington Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2039

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on your Draft Neighbourhood Plan. We are a statutory consultee in the planning process providing advice to Local Authorities and developers on pre-application enquiries, planning applications, appeals and strategic plans.

The Environment Agency notes that there are no housing allocations within this proposed neighbourhood plan.

We aim to reduce flood risk, while protecting and enhancing the water environment. We have had to focus our detailed engagement to those areas where the environmental risks are greatest.

Based on the environmental constraints within the area, we therefore have no detailed comments to make in relation to your Plan at this stage. However together with Natural England, English Heritage and Forestry Commission we have published joint advice on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at:

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

Yours sincerely

Ms Lydia Bond
Planning Specialist

Direct dial 0208 4745166

Direct e-mail lydia.bond@environment-agency.gov.uk

10. Appendix 4 Response by Natural England 24/10/2024

From: **SM-NE-Consultations (NE)** <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>
Date: Thu, 24 Oct 2024 at 09:06
Subject: RE: Consultation re HRA Hartington Neighbourhood Plan
To: janenewmanplanning@gmail.com <janenewmanplanning@gmail.com>
Cc: ENQ-WRI2024/10628/CON1@naturalengland.ecase.co.uk <ENQ-WRI2024/10628/CON1@naturalengland.ecase.co.uk>

Dear Jane Newman

Apologies for the delay in getting this response to you. There seems to have been a processing error, and the consultation was closed but this response was not sent. Please see Sandra's original wording below.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Jones

Manager

Natural England

Consultation Service

Natural England, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, U.K., WR5 2NP

Email: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

www.gov.uk/natural-england

Our ref: 487223

Dear Jane

Thank you for your consultation. Natural England agree with the conclusion of the 'Habitat Regulation Screening and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening' that there is likely to be no significant effect of the Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan on European sites.

Kind regards

Sandra

Sandra Close

Sustainable Development Higher Officer

Natural England

East Midlands

HNDP SEA v1.0

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Date: 28th November 2024