

SEA HRA Screening Report

Fazeley Neighbourhood Plan

Policy & Strategy Team

January 2026

**Strategic environmental assessment &
Habitat regulations assessment
screening report**

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Lichfield
District Council

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Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Introduction and purpose of this report..... | 4 |
| 2. Context and baseline | 5 |
| Strategic environmental assessment..... | 5 |
| Habitat regulation assessment | 5 |
| Brexit and SEA requirements | 5 |
| Strategic planning context – Lichfield district local plan | 6 |
| Description of the plan or programme | 6 |
| 3. Strategic environmental assessment screening | 7 |
| Criteria for Assessing the effects of the Fazeley neighbourhood plan | 7 |
| Assessment | 8 |
| Screening outcome | 13 |
| 4. Habitat regulation assessment screening..... | 14 |
| Relevant Natura 2000 sites | 14 |
| Screening Outcome..... | 22 |
| 5. Conclusions and recommendations of the screening assessments..... | 23 |
| Strategic environmental assessment..... | 23 |
| Habitat regulations assessment..... | 23 |
| Appendix 1: Map of Natura 2000 sites within 15km of neighbourhood area | 24 |
| Appendix 2: HRA review of policies in the draft neighbourhood plan | 25 |
| Appendix 3: SEA & HRA Screening opinion and statutory consultee responses | 26 |
| Appendix 3.1: SEA & HRA screening opinion letter | 27 |
| Appendix 3.2: Historic England response | 28 |
| Appendix 3.3: Natural England response..... | 29 |
| Appendix 3.4: Environment Agency response | 31 |

1. Introduction and purpose of this report

- 1.1 This screening report is an assessment of whether (or not) the contents of the Fazeley neighbourhood development plan review (FNP) require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/ EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. A SEA is required if the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.
- 1.2 This report will also screen to determine whether the neighbourhood plan requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6 (3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. A HRA is required when it is deemed that likely adverse significant effects may occur on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the implementation of a plan/project. As a general 'rule of thumb' it is identified that sites with pathways of 10-15km of the plan/project boundary should be included with an HRA. [Appendix 1](#) shows the plan boundary in relation to the 15km radius of Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.3 This screening assessment has taken place on the draft 'Fazeley Neighbourhood Development Plan 2025-2043 Consultation Draft March 2025)' provided by Fazeley Town Council for the purposes of this screening assessment in March 2025. The purpose of the FNP is to provide a set of statutory planning policies to guide development within the neighbourhood area over the life of the plan. The plan provides a series of policies under several themes/areas which it hopes will guide development.
- 1.4 The legislative background set out in the following section outlines the regulations that require the need for this screening exercise. [Section 3](#) provides a screening assessment of both the likely significant environmental effects of the FNP and the need for SEA. [Section 4](#) provides a screening assessment of both the likely significant effects of the implementation of the FNP and the need for a Habitats Regulation Assessment.
- 1.5 This report will be split into two sections, the first covering the screening for the SEA and the second will cover the screening process for the HRA. A summary of findings and conclusions for both screening processes can be found at [Section 5](#).

2. Context and baseline

Strategic environmental assessment

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, or SEA Regulations for short. Detailed guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005).
- 2.2 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. Planning Practice Guidance makes clear that there is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a Sustainability Appraisal. However, the guidance notes that in 'limited circumstances' where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects then it may require Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken to assess whether the plan is likely to have such effects (Paragraph: 027 Reference ID: 11-027-20190722). To determine whether a plan might have such effects it should be screened at an early stage of its preparation (Paragraph: 028 Reference ID: 11-028-20150209). The purpose of this report is to determine if SEA is required for the review of the Fazeley neighbourhood plan.
- 2.3 The district council is required to consult three statutory consultation bodies designated within the regulations, these are Historic England, Natural England, and Environment Agency on whether a SEA is required. Details of the consultation bodies responses can be found at [Appendix 3](#).

Habitat regulation assessment

- 2.4 It is required by article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive and by regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) that an appropriate assessment is carried out with regard to the conservation objectives of the European sites and with reference to other plans and projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European site.
- 2.5 To fulfil the legal requirements to identify if likely significant effects will occur with the implementation of the FNP upon European sites (Natura 2000 sites) a screening assessment has been undertaken and is set out in [Section 4](#) of this report.
- 2.6 The legislation requires where there is a "risk" of a significant effect on a European Site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects then there will be requirement for the plan to progress from HRA screening to an Appropriate Assessment. This is known as the precautionary principle.

Brexit and SEA requirements

- 2.7 The UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020. Under the UK-EU withdrawal agreement, a transition period ended on 31 December 2020, during which time all EU law continued to apply in the UK. During the transition period the UK needed to continue

following domestic law that implements EU law, or directly applicable EU law that is given effect through the EUWA 2018. Beyond the transition period, the SEA Regulations, which previously implemented the requirements of the SEA Directive in England, will continue to apply as before unless and until new legislation is introduced.

Strategic planning context – Lichfield district local plan

- 2.8 The basic conditions against which a neighbourhood plan is examined require it to be in ‘general conformity’ with the strategic policies contained within the development plan for the area. Through its strategic policies, the local plan effectively defines the parameters within which the neighbourhood plan may operate.
- 2.9 Local plans are subject to SEA (generally incorporated through a sustainability appraisal) and HRA. In screening the Fazeley neighbourhood plan it is therefore relevant to consider the strategic policy context, to enable the identification of environmental effects not already considered and addressed through the plan-making process.
- 2.10 The adopted local plan in the district consists of:
- [Local Plan Strategy](#) (adopted 2015) – sets the overarching spatial strategy for Lichfield district between 2008 and 2029 including the levels of development required and a suite of development management policies to guide development in the district.
 - [Local Plan Allocations](#) (adopted 2019) – is a delivery vehicle for the local plan and identifies non-strategic allocations to meet the requirements established within the Local Plan Strategy.
- 2.11 The council had been progressing a review of its adopted local plan. Following the decision of full council, it was decided to cease work on the Local Plan 2040 and withdraw the plan from examination to prepare a new local plan for the district. At the time of preparing this screening report the new local plan (to be known as the Local Plan 2043) is in preparation with consultation on an [issues and options document](#) having taken place between October and December 2024.

Description of the plan or programme

- 2.12 The review of the FNP has been prepared by a steering group on behalf of Fazeley Town Council (the Qualifying Body) on the town council’s area (the designated neighbourhood area). The FNP was applied to Lichfield District Council for designation on 20th June 2018. The neighbourhood area was designated on 11th July 2018. The FNP will cover up to 2043, in line with the new local plan.
- 2.13 The plan includes 10 policies across several policy themes which are: heritage, public realm, accessibility, flooding, conserving the natural environment and open spaces. The policies relate to the neighbourhood area as a whole. The plan includes policies which seek to two areas of Local Green Space. Other policies seek to protect the character and environment of the neighbourhood area, provide and protect community facilities and infrastructure, improve connections and flooding mitigation.

3. Strategic environmental assessment screening

- 3.1 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental effects of a plan before it is made. The SEA screening determines whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an environmental report must be produced.
- 3.2 In general terms, a neighbourhood plan may require full SEA where its policies and proposals are likely to result in significant environmental effects, particularly where such effects have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

Criteria for Assessing the effects of the Fazeley neighbourhood plan

- 3.3 Criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below:

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.

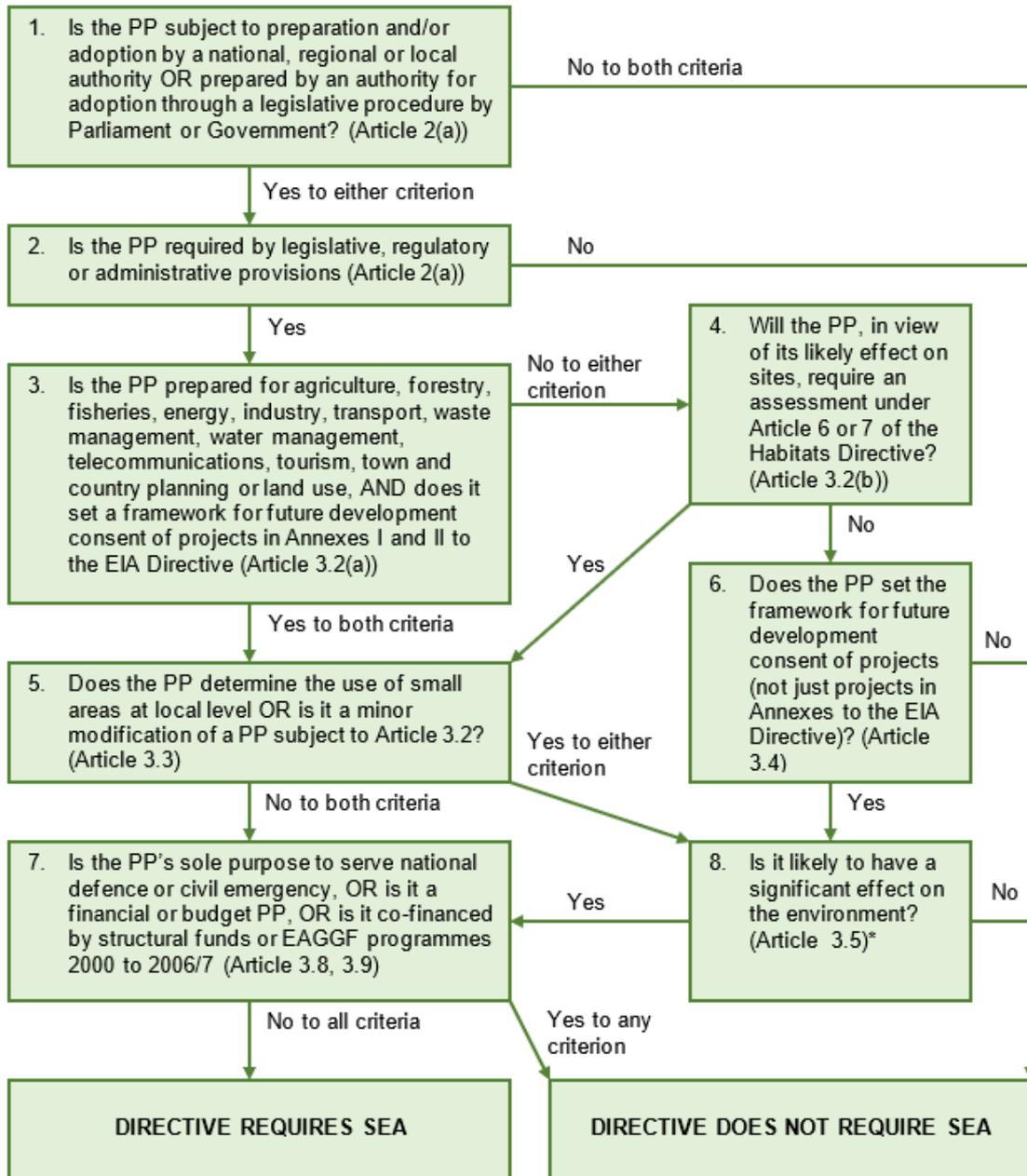
Source: Annex II of SEA Directive

2001/42/EC

Assessment

- 3.4 It is required by the localism act that neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the local plan. The development plan for Lichfield District currently comprises of the adopted [Local Plan Strategy](#) and [Local Plan Allocations](#) documents. Therefore, the neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with both. Both the Local Plan Strategy and Local Plan Allocation documents were subject to full Sustainability Appraisal which included a SEA assessment. This ensured that there were no likely significant effects which would be produced from the implementation of the local plan and if so, ensured mitigation measures were in place.
- 3.5 Guidance upon SEA's written by the Department of the Environment produces a diagram to the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required, see figure 1.

Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes (PPs)



* The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.

3.6 The process in figure 1 has been followed and the findings can be viewed in Table 1. Table 1 shows the assessment of whether the FNP will require a full SEA. The questions in table 1 are drawn from the diagram above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

Table 1: Establishing the need for SEA.

| Stage | Yes/No | Reason |
|--|------------|---|
| 1. Is the PP (plan or programme) 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)) | Yes | This neighbourhood plan is prepared by Fazeley Town Council (as the Qualifying Body) under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Once the plan is 'made' it will be adopted by Lichfield District Council and become part of the statutory development plan for the area. |
| 2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a)) | Yes | Communities have a right to produce a neighbourhood plan; however, communities are not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative purposes to produce a neighbourhood plan. However, once 'made' the FNP would form part of the statutory development plan and will be used when making decisions on planning applications within the neighbourhood area. Therefore, it is considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine further if an SEA is required. |
| 3. Is the PP 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)) | Yes | The FNP is prepared for town and country planning and land use. The plan sets out a framework for future development in the Fazeley neighbourhood area. Once 'made' the FNP would form part of the statutory development plan and will be used when making decisions on planning applications which may include development which may fall under Annex I and II of the EIA directive. |
| 4. Will the PP, 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)) | No | The environmental impact of the FNP on sites is expected to be slight. |
| 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) | Yes | The FNP does identify land for allocation at the local level with the proposed allocation of two areas of Local Green Space. Once 'made' the FNP would form part of the statutory development plan and be used when making decisions on planning applications of small areas at the local level. |
| 6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4) | Yes | The FNP, once the 'made', forms part of the statutory development plan and will be used to determine planning applications within the designated neighbourhood area. Therefore, the neighbourhood plan will set the framework for future developments. |

| Stage | Yes/No | Reason |
|--|------------|---|
| 7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9) | N/A | The FNP does not deal with any of these categories of plan. |
| 8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5) | Yes | The FNP could potentially have a significant effect on the environment not just within the neighbourhood area but also within the district. The FNP is within 15km of the Humber Estuary and River Mease SAC but outside of the River Mease SAC water catchment area. There will be no significant effects from the proposals within the FNP on these European Sites. |

3.7 Several the criteria above suggest that SEA of the Fazeley neighbourhood plan (review) may be required. Criteria 8 of the assessment in Figure 1 and Table 1 considered that the plan may have a significant effect on the environment depending on the proposals within the plan and a case-by-case assessment may be made. The criteria for undertaking such an assessment are drawn from Article 3(5) of the SEA Directive as set out at paragraph 3.3 of this report.

3.8 The following assessment will consider the likelihood of the Fazeley neighbourhood plan (provided for the purposes of this report) to have significant effects on the environment.

Table 2: Assessment of likelihood of significant effects on the environment

| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Summary of Significant effects |
|---|---|
| The characteristics of the plans, having regard 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. | Once 'made; the FNP will set out the framework which will be used to determine proposals for development within the neighbourhood area regarding housing, commercial developments, the protection of valued open spaces and community facilities. The FNP seeks the designation of two Local Green Spaces. There is therefore the potential for an effect on the environment resulting from the proposals in the plan. However, the plan does not propose development in excess of that identified within the adopted local plan nor does it allocate any site(s) for development. |
| The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or | The FNP must be in general conformity with the Lichfield District Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework. The FNP |

| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Summary of Significant effects |
|---|--|
| programmes including those in a hierarchy. | <p>only provides policies for the area it covers, and the Local Plan Strategy and Local Plan Allocations will provide the necessary strategic context when determining planning applications.</p> <p>The adopted local plan identifies Fazeley as a settlement where a proportion of growth will take place. The FNP will help to deliver the overall aims of the Local Plan. Fazeley is identified as a key settlement within the adopted Local Plan which includes an allocation for residential development. The neighbourhood plan does not propose to restrict development which is in broad conformity with the LPS.</p> <p>The new local plan for the district is at an early stage of preparation and has not yet progressed to the stage where it determines where development will be located or make allocations. As such the FNP would not influence other plans and programmes to a significant degree.</p> |
| The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development. | <p>Any neighbourhood plan is required to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and therefore the likelihood of significant effects on the environment is minimised.</p> <p>This plan does not seek to allocate sites for development. As such the impact of the plan on the environment is minimal.</p> |
| Environmental problems relevant to the plan. | <p>Any environmental impacts of the proposals within the FNP are likely to be minimal if they arise at all. The plan does not propose more development than is identified within the adopted local plan and as such the SA/SEA carried out by the district council is considered sufficient. Detail within the plan identifies that development proposals have been assessed to avoid and/or mitigate for any environmental problems which may impact.</p> |
| 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). | <p>The FNP has to be in general conformity with the local plan. The adopted Local Plan Strategy and Local Plan Allocations has had regard to European Community legislation on the environment and therefore this legislation will not be relevant for the neighbourhood plan.</p> |
| 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. | <p>Development is supported within the FNP and therefore an element of environmental change will occur, the impacts of which will depend upon the proposals and will be subject to the policies within the adopted local plan and the FNP. The local plan seeks to guide development to ensure it is delivered to high levels of sustainability. Further the neighbourhood plan seeks to result in positive environmental effects through policies to protect the environment and landscape.</p> |

| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Summary of Significant effects |
|---|--|
| The cumulative nature of the effects. | The cumulative effects of proposals within the FNP are unlikely to be significant on the local environment given the relatively that the level of development proposed does not exceed that identified within the adopted local plan. |
| The trans boundary nature of the effects. | Effects will be local with limited effects on neighbouring areas as the policies within the FNP only apply to the designated area. |
| The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents). | The FNP is not expected to pose any risks to human health or the environment. The effects of the policies may even enhance these elements. |
| The magnitude spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected). | The scale of development proposed through the FNP is small and therefore effects are likely to be localised. It is unlikely that the effects of proposals within the neighbourhood plan will be large scale and extensive. |
| <p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage - exceeded environmental quality standards - intensive land use | <p>The level of development proposed through the FNP is unlikely to lead to intensive land use and as such do not affect the value and vulnerability of the area.</p> <p>Policies within the FNP seeks to protect and enhance local assets, improving the sustainability and quality of the local environment and providing protection to historic assets.</p> |
| The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status. | N/A |

Screening outcome

- 3.9 The FNP does not propose more development than is set out within the adopted local plan, it seeks to maintain the designation of several Local Green Spaces. The suite of policies included within the plan are not considered to restrict development or seek to propose greater development than is set out within the adopted local plan.
- 3.10 The conclusions of the above screening assessment on Fazeley neighbourhood plan review indicate that Strategic Environmental Assessment will not be required.
- 3.11 Following consultation with the statutory consultees, all confirmed that they agreed with the conclusions of this screening assessment.

4. Habitat regulation assessment screening

- 4.1 The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the assessment required for any plan or project to assess the potential impacts against the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 wildlife sites. The assessment must determine whether the plans would adversely affect, or are likely to affect, the integrity of a site(s) in terms of its nature conservation objectives. Where negative effects are identified other options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.
- 4.2 Under Criteria 4 of Figure 1 and Table 1 it was concluded that the neighbourhood plan may have an impact upon internationally designated sites and as such a 'case by case' assessment is required.
- 4.3 The HRA process is generally divided into three stages. The initial stage of the HRA process is called the screening stage and determines if there are any likely significant effects or risk of significant effects possible as a result of the implementation of the plan. If there are significant effects the plan will need to undertake an Appropriate Assessment. The screening process should provide a description of the plan and an identification of the Natura 2000 sites which may be affected by the plan and assess the significance of any possible effects on the identified sites.
- 4.4 The adopted local plan was subject to HRA during its production. This assessment looked at all internationally designated sites which could be impacted by development within Lichfield District. [The Habitat Regulations Assessment: Lichfield District & Tamworth Borough](#) (May 2012) was updated by the [Addendum to Habitat Regulations Assessment](#) (January 2014) which concluded that the Local Plan Strategy (as modified by the proposed Main Modifications) would have no likely significant effects upon European sites. The Local Plan Allocations document has also been supported by HRA during its production and follows from the Local Plan Strategy. The Habitat Regulations Assessment [Habitat Regulations Assessment \(January 2018\)](#) was published alongside the allocations document.
- 4.5 This section of the report provides a "screening" assessment for the Fazeley neighbourhood plan. It looks at the potential impacts of the plan's proposals on European Sites within 15km of the neighbourhood plan area; these sites are illustrated at [Appendix 1](#). The following screening assessment will determine if the FNP has any likely significant effects to determine whether the subsequent stages will be required.

Relevant Natura 2000 sites

- 4.6 As a general 'rule of thumb' it is identified that sites with pathways of 10-15km of the plan/project boundary should be included with an HRA. There are no Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Fazeley neighbourhood plan.
- River Mease SAC – approximately 10km to the north-east.
- 4.7 The River Mease SAC is within a 15km radius of the neighbourhood area boundary. Therefore, the HRA screening assessment needs to identify if any likely significant effects will be caused by the implementation of the plan. This assessment has been undertaken having

regard to the results and information in the HRA prepared for the adopted Local Plan and is set out at Table 3.

Table 3: Sites within 15km of the neighbourhood area¹

| Name of Site | Reason for Designation | Conservation Objectives | Identified Impacts |
|------------------------|---|---|---|
| River Mease SAC | <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i> - Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> - Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> | <p>Maintain the river as a favourable habitat for floating formations of water Crowfoot (<i>Ranunculus</i>), populations of bull head, spined loach and white clawed crayfish and the river and adjoining land as habitat for populations of otter.</p> | <p>The River Mease is an unusually semi-natural system in a largely rural landscape, dominated by intensive agriculture. Water quality and quantity are vital to the European interests, whilst competition for water resources is high. Diffuse pollution and excessive sedimentation are catchment-wide issues which have the potential to affect the site. The SSSI assessment report undertaken in 2007 notes the site's adverse condition and identifies the following issues: drainage, invasive freshwater species, water pollution – agriculture/run-off, water pollution – discharge. Significant new development could take place within the catchment as a result of new housing and employment development in North-West Leicestershire, South Derbyshire and East Staffs which may impact upon water quality and quantity. The continuing creation of the National Forest will lead to further catchment wide changes in land use.</p> |
| Humber Estuary | <p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estuaries. - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. | <p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time - for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> | <p>The Humber Estuary is subject to the impacts of human activities (past and present) as well as ongoing processes such as sea level rise and climate change. Management intervention is therefore necessary to enable the estuary to recover and to secure the ecological resilience required to respond to both natural and anthropogenic change. Key issues include coastal squeeze, impacts on the sediment</p> |

¹ Extracts from the Habitat Regulations Assessment: Lichfield District & Tamworth Borough (May 2012)

| Name of Site | Reason for Designation | Conservation Objectives | Identified Impacts |
|--------------|--|---|--|
| | <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time. - Coastal lagoons * Priority feature. - Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand. - Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>). - Embryonic shifting dunes. - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes'). - Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') * Priority feature. - Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>. <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>. - River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>. <p>Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>.</p> | <p>Estuaries, for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, of which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>Coastal lagoons, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco - Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes, which are considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes"), for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"), for which</p> | <p>budget, and geomorphological structure and function of the estuary (due to sea level rise, flood defence works, dredging, and the construction, operation and maintenance of ports, pipelines, and other infrastructure), changes in water quality and flows, pressure from additional built development, and damage and disturbance arising from access, recreation, and other activities. Coastal squeeze is being addressed through the development and implementation of the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy. All proposals for flood defence, development, dredging, abstractions, and discharges which require consent from any statutory body, and land use plans which may have impacts upon the site are subject to assessment under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (the "Habitats Regulations"). Diffuse pollution will be addressed through a range of measures including implementation of the Wastewater Framework Directive and Catchment Sensitive Farming initiatives.</p> <p>Other issues are addressed via a range of measures including regulation of on-site land management activities and implementation of the Humber Management Scheme, developed by all relevant statutory bodies to assist in the delivery of their duties under the Habitats Regulations.</p> |

| Name of Site | Reason for Designation | Conservation Objectives | Identified Impacts |
|--------------|------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | | <p>the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>, which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p><i>Petromyzon marinus</i>, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p><i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p><i>Halichoerus grypus</i> for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> | |

- 4.8 The likelihood of significant effects has been assessed in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected sites, as could be affected by the FNP, or in combination with other known plans, taking particular account of the site's conservation objectives. As part of establishing what effects are significant, the probability of impact, duration of the impact, frequency of any impact and reversibility of impact have been considered.
- 4.9 Table 4 and 5 sets out the assessment based on the effects of the FNP on the sites detailed above.

Table 4: River Mease SAC

| | Direct habitat loss | Impact on protected species | Air quality | Water quality | Recreational pressures | Water quantity | Change in surrounding land use | Invasive species |
|---|--|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Is FNP likely to impact upon this site | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| Possible effects in combination with other plans | None. The adopted Local Plan includes policy to ensure that development is only permitted where it can be demonstrated that there will not be an adverse effect upon the integrity of the River Mease SAC. | | | | | | | |
| Assessment of effects and why not considered significant | Whilst the neighbourhood area is within 15km of the River Mease SAC, it is outside of the River Mease SAC catchment area. As such no significant effects are likely. | | | | | | | |
| Conclusion: No significant effects | | | | | | | | |

Table 5: Humber Estuary SAC

| | Direct habitat loss | Impact on protected species | Air quality | Water quality | Recreational pressures | Water quantity | Change in surrounding land use | Invasive species |
|---|---|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Is FNP likely to impact upon this site | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| Possible effects in combination | None - The site is currently managed as a National Nature Reserve. It would be vulnerable to on-site physical alterations to the water quality and quantity. There are many plans still being developed along the length of the river system. | | | | | | | |

| | Direct habitat loss | Impact on protected species | Air quality | Water quality | Recreational pressures | Water quantity | Change in surrounding land use | Invasive species |
|---|--|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| with other plans | | | | | | | | |
| Assessment of effects and why not considered significant | Site is over 20km from the FNP boundary. Development proposals within the neighbourhood area will not affect the site physically as any effects would be through discharges into the River Tame and Trent as this eventually flows to the Humber. As the FNP does not propose more growth than the Local Plan it is unlikely this position would change. | | | | | | | |
| Conclusion: No significant effects | | | | | | | | |

Screening Outcome

- 4.10 Tables 4 and 5 do not identify any significant effects upon the identified European sites as a result of the FNP (as published at the date of this report).
- 4.11 [Appendix 2](#) sets out a detailed assessment of the likely significant effects on European sites as a result of each policy within the neighbourhood plan. The assessment concludes that none of the policies within the FNP are likely to have significant impacts upon the European sites identified within the assessment.
- 4.12 The conclusions of the screening assessment above indicate that it is considered that the further stages HRA assessment for the Fazeley neighbourhood plan is not required.
- 4.13 Following consultation with the statutory consultees, all confirmed that they agreed with the conclusions of this screening assessment.

5. Conclusions and recommendations of the screening assessments

- 5.1 This report contains the detail of the assessment of the need for the Fazeley neighbourhood plan review to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment as required by the SEA Directive and Appropriate Assessment as required by the Habitats Directive.
- 5.2 The assessment of both of these requirements has been undertaken on the draft neighbourhood plan review document produced in January 2025 for the purposes of regulation 16 consultation and this screening assessment. As such if the content of the plan is significantly changed there may be the need for a further screening exercise to be undertaken on any revised version of the plan.

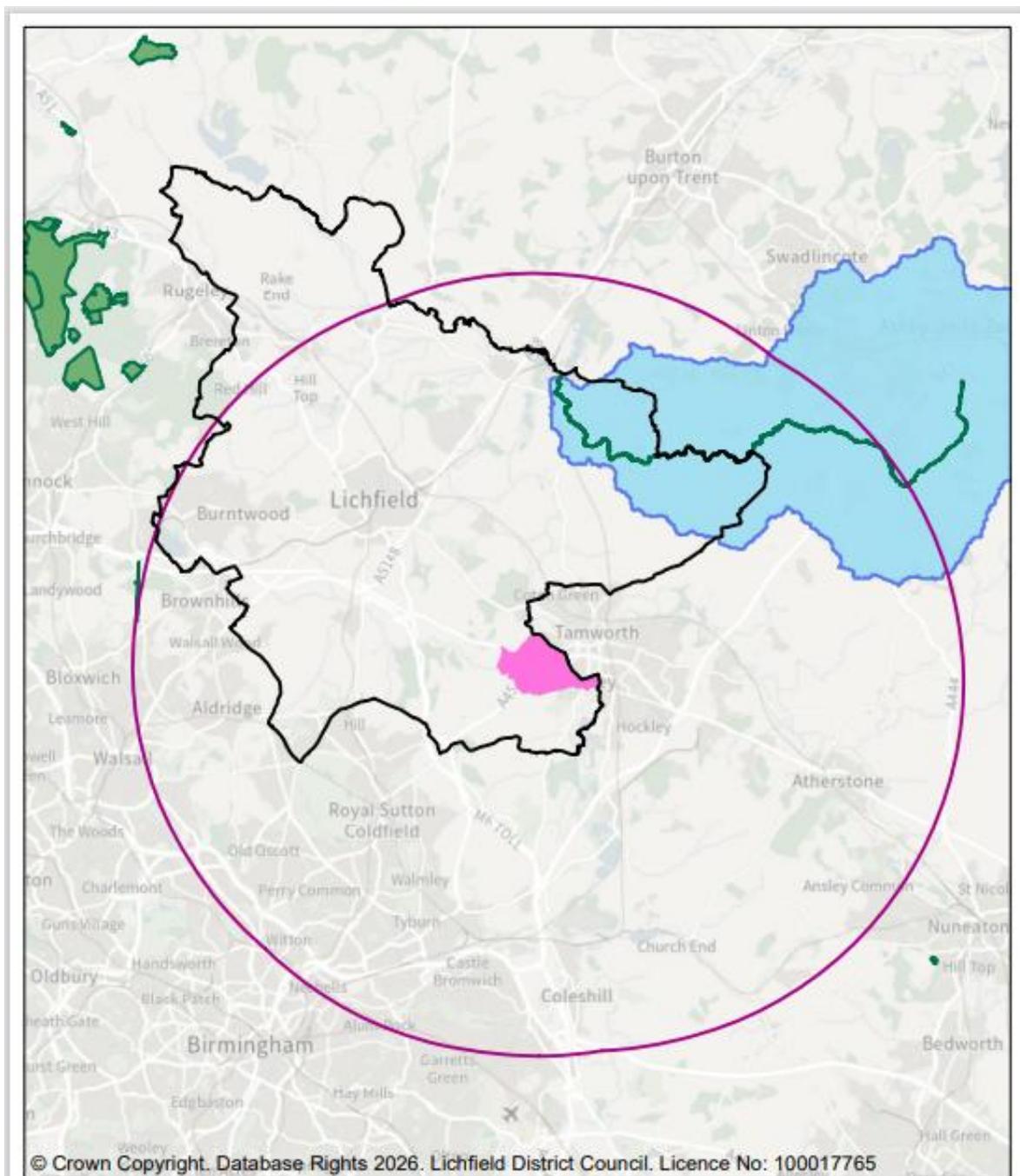
Strategic environmental assessment

- 5.3 In relation to the requirement for the Fazeley neighbourhood plan to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment, the assessment detailed in [Section 3](#) of this report concludes that as the plan in its current form is not likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore SEA will not be required.
- 5.4 The statutory consultees indicated they agreed with the conclusions of this screening report regarding SEA.

Habitat regulations assessment

- 5.5 In relation to the requirement for the Fazeley neighbourhood plan to be subject to Habitat Regulations Assessment, the assessment detailed at [Section 4](#) of this report concluded that there are no potential significant effects upon European Sites and no further work as part of the compliance with the Habitat Regulations will be required.
- 5.6 The statutory consultees indicated they agreed with the conclusions of this screening report regarding HRA.

Appendix 1: Map of Natura 2000 sites within 15km of neighbourhood area



Key

-  Lichfield district boundary
-  Fazeley neighbourhood area
-  Fazeley neighbourhood area 15km radius
-  Special Areas of Conservation
-  River Mease SAC Water Catchment



Lichfield
District Council



Appendix 2: HRA review of policies in the draft neighbourhood plan

| Policy Number | Description of Policy | Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy? |
|---|--|---|
| Policy F1: Design Guidance for Heritage Assets | Development should preserve or enhance the character of Fazeley and Bonehill Conservation Area and other heritage assets. | No – the policy will ensure that development will not be permitted unless it is demonstrated that the development will preserve or enhance the Fazeley and Bonehill Conservation area. |
| F2: Responding to Local Character | Development should demonstrate a high standard of design which responds to the specific site and context to create a locally distinctive sense of place. | No – the policy does not itself propose development. The policy relates to the materials, design and structure of new dwellings to assist in meeting local needs. |
| F3: Sustainable Design | Development proposals should demonstrate how they have incorporated the principles in Design Code Sustainable Design (SD) in Part 4.10 Sustainable Design of Fazeley Civil Parish Design Guidelines & Design Codes. | No – the policy does not itself propose development. Policy allows for residential development in conformity with the adopted local plan and subject to the criteria within the policy. |
| Policy F4: Enhancing the Public Realm in Fazeley Town Centre | Proposals which enhance and improve the public realm within Fazeley Town Centre will be supported. | No – the policy does not itself propose development. |
| Policy F5: Improving Accessibility for All | New development should include linkages to existing footpaths and cycle routes where opportunities exist in order to improve connectivity between existing networks and to enhance the attractiveness of walking and cycling in Fazeley. | No – the policy does not itself propose development. The policy seeks to provide adequate accessibility for any residential development that does occur. |
| Policy F6: Supporting Heritage Led Regeneration and the Visitor Economy | Proposals for heritage-led economic regeneration projects which would contribute to the growing visitor economy in Fazeley will be supported. | No – the policy does not itself propose development. |
| Policy F7: Conserving and Enhancing Fazeley's Natural Environment | Development should ensure that Fazeley's wildlife and landscape character are maintained, restored and enhanced in accordance with | No – the policy does not itself propose development. |

| Policy Number | Description of Policy | Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy? |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| | the Design Codes for Environment and Biodiversity set out in Part 4.8 of Fazeley Civic Parish Design Guidelines & Design Codes | |
| Policy F8: Flooding | Proposals for new development should consider flood risk, where appropriate, and include measures that mitigate and adapt to the anticipated impacts of climate change. All development, where appropriate, should demonstrate that it would not increase flood risk within the neighbourhood area. Proposals which demonstrate an improvement to the overall levels of surface water runoff will be supported | No – the policy does not itself propose development. |
| Policy F9: Open Spaces | Open spaces in Fazeley will be protected and, where possible, enhanced. | No – the policy does not itself propose development. |
| Policy F10: Local Green Spaces | Proposed 2 areas as local green spaces. | No – the policy does not itself propose development. The policy seeks to provide environmental protection. |

Appendix 3: SEA & HRA Screening opinion and statutory consultee responses

The following appendix includes the screening opinion requests from Lichfield District Council to the Statutory Bodies (Natural England, Historic England, and Environment Agency) who have been consulted through the SEA & HRA process and their responses.

- 3.1 SEA & HRA Screening Opinion Letter
- 3.2 Historic England Response
- 3.3 Natural England Response
- 3.4 Environment Agency Response

Appendix 3.1: SEA & HRA screening opinion letter

To whom it may concern

Fazeley neighbourhood plan review – screening option for strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and habitat regulations assessment (HRA)

Fazeley Town Council has requested the district council to undertake screening for SEA & HRA of their review of the Fazeley neighbourhood plan. The council has undertaken a screening process and produced the attached screening report which concludes that SEA will not be required and HRA of the neighbourhood plan will not be required.

Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI No.1633) Lichfield District Council ('the responsible authority') is required to consult with the consultation bodies in determining whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and will therefore require an SEA. The Town Council also requested screening opinion with regards to the need for a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA).

I am therefore requesting that you consider the attached screening report and provide any comments on its conclusions to assist in determining whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and will therefore require an SEA. I would also welcome your comments on the need for an HRA.

If you have any comments, please can they to be sent within the next 21 working days (by 23 February 2026) and if you have any queries, please feel free to contact me. If no reply is received by 5pm on 23 February 2026 it will be assumed that you concur with the conclusions of the screening report.

Yours faithfully

Hannah Powell
Policy & Strategy Officer
Core Services

Appendix 3.2: Historic England response

FAZELEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION CONSULTATION

Thank you for your consultation and the invitation to comment on the SEA Screening Document for the above Neighbourhood Plan.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, “Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?” in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage.

Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request. On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of the ‘SEA’ Directive], Historic England concurs with your view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

Regarding HRA Historic England does not disagree with your conclusions but would defer to the opinions of the other statutory consultees.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at: [Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment | Historic England](#)

I trust the above comments will be of help in taking forward the Neighbourhood Plan.

Appendix 3.3: Natural England response

Lichfield District Council – Fazeley Neighbourhood Plan – SEA and HRA Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 23 January 2026 which was received by Natural England on 23 January 2026

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

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) 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 sites, 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 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.

Appendix 3.4: Environment Agency response

Fazeley Neighbourhood Plan (NP) SEA and HRA Screening Report

I refer to your email of 2nd January 2026 with regard to the Fazeley SEA/HRA Screening Assessment for the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). We have reviewed the submitted documentation and offer the following comments for your consideration at this time.

Strategic Environmental Assessment:

The European Union directive 200142/EC requires a SEA to be undertaken for certain types of plans and programmes that would have 'significant' environmental effect(s).

Paragraph: 046 in the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal Guidance (Reference ID: 11-046-20150209) states "a strategic environmental assessment 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 is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan or other strategic policies for the area".

Having reviewed the Screening Report submitted, and in consideration of the matters within our remit, we concur with the conclusion that, given the lack of specific site allocations within the Neighbourhood Plan, the Fazeley Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental impacts and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not therefore required.

Habitats Regulation Assessment:

Article 6(3) of the European Habitats Directive (1992) requires that any plan (or project), which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site (also known as a "Natura 2000" site), but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an 'appropriate assessment' of its implications for the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

We note that that the report concludes 'whilst the neighbourhood area is within 15km of the River Mease SAC, it is outside of the River Mease SAC catchment area. As such no significant effects are likely.' Therefore, particularly considering the plan does not propose development more than that identified within the adopted local plan, nor does it allocate any site(s) for development; we can concur with the findings in your report.

We welcome that the neighbourhood plan seeks to result in positive environmental effects through policies to protect the environment. This should include the water environment, including helping to meet/deliver Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives.

Local WFD catchment data can be obtained from: [England | Catchment Data Explorer](#)

I trust the above is of assistance at this time.