

Eastington Parish Council

Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan

2015-2031

Basic Conditions Statement



January 2016

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been produced to explain how the proposed Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan (ENDP) has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2015 (As Amended) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been considered to have been met.
- 1.2 The Statement addresses each of the four 'basic conditions' required of the Regulations and explains how the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act.
- 1.3 The Regulations state that a Neighbourhood Plan will be considered to have met the basic conditions if:
- having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan;
 - the making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - the making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area); and
 - the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.

Supporting documents and evidence

- 1.4 The ENDP is supported by a Consultation Statement and this Basic Conditions Statement. The ENDP is also supported by a Character Assessment and other evidence prepared or commissioned by the Steering Group¹

Key statements

- 1.5 Eastington Parish Council is a qualifying body and entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Plan for its own parish. The ENDP expresses policies that relate to the development and use of land only within the neighbourhood area.
- 1.6 The neighbourhood area is contiguous with the parish boundary, as shown in the map accompanying the neighbourhood area designation application included at Appendix A.
- 1.7 The ENDP covers the period from 2015 to 2031.
- 1.8 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.9 It is not considered that the ENDP will have any effect to weaken the statutory protection for Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings within the neighbourhood area (see also Section 5).
- 1.10 The ENDP does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. It is solely related to the area of Eastington as designated by Stroud District Council in September 2013.
- 1.11 There are no other Neighbourhood Development Plans in place for the Eastington neighbourhood area.

¹ <http://www.eastingtonndp.co.uk/evidence-base/>

2 CONFORMITY WITH NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

2.1 It is required that the Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan (ENDP) has appropriate regard to national planning policy. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

National Planning Policy Framework

2.2 The NPPF in sections 183-185 refers to Neighbourhood Development Plans and seeks that those plans have regard to the policies in the NPPF and to be in 'general conformity' with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. This phrasing is explained more clearly by the Localism Act which refers to the 'adopted Development Plan'.

2.3 This section demonstrates that the ENDP has regard to relevant policies within the NPPF in relation to:

- Building a strong, competitive economy
- Ensuring the vitality of town centres
- Supporting a prosperous rural economy
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes
- Requiring good design
- Promoting healthy communities
- Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

2.4 The ENDP has 18 principal objectives. These are split between the headings of "Environment", "Housing", "Employment" and "Infrastructure (incorporating roads and transport, Public Rights of Way and renewable energy)". We summarise them in Table 2.1 below and which NPPF goals each objective seeks to address.

2.5 Table 2.2 then provides a summary of how each policy in the ENDP conforms specifically to the NPPF.

Table 2.1: Assessment of ENDP objectives against NPPF goals

ENDP Objective	Relevant NPPF goal
Environment	
Conserve and enhance the distinctive heritage of the area	Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment
Protect the identity of Eastington and prevent any further coalescence of the village and the hamlets with each other and with neighbouring Stonehouse	Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment
Protected important open spaces within the parish	Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

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ENDP Objective	Relevant NPPF goal
Ensuring well-designed development which reflects the heritage and distinctive character of Eastington	Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment Requiring good design
Protect and enhance the high quality and sensitive landscape within the parish and its contribution to the setting of the village and each hamlet	Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment
Maintain distinctive views and visual connectivity with the surrounding countryside from public places within built-up areas	Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment
Protect and enhance biodiversity	Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment
Encourage the restoration of the canal and support sensitive development and activities which complement the functions and users of the canal	Promoting healthy communities Promoting a prosperous rural economy Promoting sustainable transport
Housing	
A mix of housing from starter homes through to larger family homes and bungalow will be provided for through the “West of Stonehouse” strategic Local Plan allocation and supported by a range of shops and services	Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes
Employment	
Provide for support to the activities of those working from home	Building a strong, competitive economy Supporting a prosperous rural economy
Provide specific support for small scale employment initiatives that create opportunities for local residents	Building a strong, competitive economy
Infrastructure	
Ensure all those living within and passing through the Parish to recognise Eastington as a home for its residents	Promoting sustainable transport
Encourage all those living within and passing through the Parish to recognise and take responsibility for ensuring the priority of road safety	Promoting sustainable transport Promoting healthy communities
Encourage close work with Gloucestershire County Council Highways to identify and agree a variety of way to address transport infrastructure issues	Promoting sustainable transport Ensuring high quality design

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ENDP Objective	Relevant NPPF goal
Establish and improve safe and suitable routes for walking and cycling accessible for the needs of all users	Promoting sustainable transport
Ensure new development is connected to the village by safe and sustainable road, cycle and pedestrian routes	Promoting sustainable transport Ensuring the vitality of town centres
Respect the route, character, function and recreational value of the Public Right of Way network and support proposals which conserve or enhance these assets	Promoting sustainable transport Promoting healthy communities
Ensure adequate provision for car and cycle parking in all new development	Promoting sustainable transport Ensuring high quality design
Provide support and encouragement for all forms of renewable energy provision	Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

Table 2.2: Assessment of how each policy in the ENDP conforms to the NPPF

No.	Policy title and reference	NPPF ref. (para.)	Commentary
1	POLICY EP1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	14, 17, 19, 47, 55, 70, 111, 162	Sets out the broad spatial approach in the NDP to positively support a range of residential, economic and infrastructure development at locations identified as appropriate for such schemes – principally within the Settlement Development Limits at Alkerton - and consistent with other policies in the NDP. The policy recognises that residential development may contribute towards the strategic housing needs of the District where it can be demonstrated that this will support and maintain the sustainability and viability of communities across the Parish.
2	POLICY EP2: PROTECT AND ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	103, 109, 113, 114, 117, 118	<p>The policy seeks to identify and protect features in the natural environment consistent with their contribution to the hierarchy of biodiversity assets, local amenity and to ensure sustainable outcomes through provision of Rural Sustainable Drainage Solutions (RSuDS). The policy aims to avoid negative impacts on existing designated sites and legally protected and priority species as well as locally identified wildlife corridors and orchards.</p> <p>Net gains in biodiversity are sought through appropriate mitigation, enhancement or recreating habitats and the policy sets out a requirement for a Biodiversity Action Plan to demonstrate measures to achieve this.</p>
3	POLICY EP3: DESIGNATION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES	74, 76, 77	Makes use of the provision for making a designation and applies the site selection criteria. The justification and evidence used to support the designations of three areas of Local Green Space is included within the Policy text to reflect their importance – including contribution towards recreation and the setting of heritage assets.
4	POLICY EP4: RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CANAL CORRIDOR	28, 30, 75	Encourages the continued restoration of the canal and provides support for proposals for a new leisure facility to provide for tourist and recreational uses and development of marina or mooring facilities and related service. The policy makes provisions for any proposals to provide safe and satisfactory vehicle access and adequate parking, incorporate green infrastructure and landscaping and ensure footpath links to the village of a scale and appearance compatible with surrounding development and well-related to the canal.

No.	Policy title and reference	NPPF ref. (para.)	Commentary
5	POLICY EP5: CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF VILLAGE CHARACTER	17, 55, 58, 61, 126	Seeks to recognise the role and character of different places and manage the pattern of development consistent with the characteristics of the existing settlement pattern and recognising contribution the surrounding landscape and open countryside makes to the identity of individual locations. The policy is to be applied outside of the main settlement at Alkerton considered under Policy EP1. The policy sets out the types of development appropriate in the open countryside and allows limited development in the other hamlets consistent with relevant criteria including design which reflects a character, scale and appearance within the form of the hamlet.
6	POLICY EP6: EXCEPTION SITES	47, 54	Provides a projection based on evidence base for the level of additional affordable housing considered appropriate to meet anticipated need in future years and seeks to provide support for small-scale affordable housing applications well-related to the main settlement at Alkerton and consistent with Local Plan Policy HC4 to provide local nomination rights.
7	POLICY EP7: SITING AND DESIGN OF NEW DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION	58, 61, 126, 132, 137	Seeks to ensure that housing development is not out of keeping with the design of surrounding housing, without stifling good or innovative design and protecting the amenities of surrounding occupiers. The policy requires regard be had to the historic and natural environment in terms of local features from the existing landscape and natural spaces and character within Conservation Areas and the setting of heritage assets including Listed Buildings.
8	POLICY EP8: BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT	19, 21, 28	Strongly supports proposals in scale with the rural nature of the village that will generally help to create, expand and develop business initiatives subject to avoiding adverse impacts upon neighbours or the locality. The policy is consistent with the aims of supporting a prosperous rural economy in terms of supporting a wide range of economic activities including those that may be appropriate in existing or redundant agricultural buildings. The policy seeks to protect commercial land and premises that is valuable in maintaining the vitality of the local economy and conversion and adaptation of existing dwellings to support home-working.
9	POLICY EP9: WORKING FROM HOME	21, 58, 109	The policy contributes to ensuring a prosperous rural economy and reducing the need to travel as well as supporting land and property to optimise the potential for development whilst providing safeguards for the amenities of surrounding occupiers and land uses and to ensure any related works contribute to local character and good design.

No.	Policy title and reference	NPPF ref. (para.)	Commentary
10	POLICY EP10: TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT	28, 30, 34, 35, 39	This broad policy looks to protect and enhance the current levels of parking for facilities in Eastington in order to help ensure the continuing vitality of the retail and service offer and provide for appropriate levels of car parking in new developments. It also seeks to ensure that developments do not have a cumulative severe impact on the highway network and permit safe access by pedestrians improve access to key facilities within Eastington and ensure that non-car users have alternative routes to the existing road network. The policy provides criteria for how this might be achieved through directing development to locations within 800m of key features of the main settlement in Alkerton and requiring submission of a Transport Statement in response to these issues.
11	POLICY EP11: PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS	75, 109, 114	Seeks to protect existing PROWs identified in the Plan, ensuring that any re-provision addresses key criteria in terms of its accessibility, function and value to the community and contributes towards green infrastructure. Views which complement the enjoyment of locally valued landscape character are also recognised and protected.
12	POLICY EP12: SMALL SCALE RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY SCHEMES	28, 93, 97	Seeks to promote the generation of renewable energy to meet local needs in the village and at appropriate locations within the Parish which protect the amenities of surrounding occupiers and natural environment and subject to public engagement.

3 CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 The NPPF states in paragraph 14 that a presumption in favour of sustainable development is at the heart of the NPPF and ‘should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking.’
- 3.2 Table 3.1 below summarises how the objectives and policies in the ENDP contribute towards sustainable development, as defined in the NPPF.

Table 3.1: Assessment of ENDP objectives and policies against sustainable development

Deliver Economic Sustainability	
NPPF Definition – ‘Contribute to building a strong, responsive economy’	
ENDP Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the restoration of the canal and support sensitive development and activities which complement the functions and users of the canal • A mix of housing from starter homes through to larger family homes and bungalow will be provided for through the “West of Stonehouse” strategic Local Plan allocation and supported by a range of shops and services • Provide for support to the activities of those working from home • Provide specific support for small scale employment initiatives that create opportunities for local residents • Ensure new development is connected to the village by safe and sustainable road, cycle and pedestrian routes • Provide support and encouragement for all forms of renewable energy provision
ENDP Policies	<p>POLICY EP1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>POLICY EP4: RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CANAL CORRIDOR</p> <p>POLICY EP8: BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT</p> <p>POLICY EP9: WORKING FROM HOME</p> <p>POLICY EP10: TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT</p> <p>POLICY EP12: SMALL SCALE RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY SCHEMES</p>
ENDP Comments	<p>The ENDP recognises the rural setting providing an underlying context for the Parish whilst recognising the role of the main settlement at Alkerton as providing a range of services and facilities to benefit the local economy which should be sustained, the economic benefits of local employment and the relationship to the surrounding settlement pattern including the proposed strategic allocation “West of Stonehouse”. The economic benefit of new development (including at the strategic allocation) is recognised as supporting services and facilities. The continued appropriate growth and development of business initiatives is supported across the Parish and the ENDP provides support for adaptation to modern working patterns through home-working. The ENDP also recognises the economic potential of encouraging tourism and recreation through restoration of the canal to support a prosperous rural economy and expresses local support for renewable energy, partly in response to its associated economic benefits.</p>

Deliver Social Sustainability	
NPPF Definition – ‘Support strong vibrant and healthy communities’	
ENDP Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain distinctive views and visual connectivity with the surrounding countryside from public places within built-up areas • Encourage the restoration of the canal and support sensitive development and activities which complement the functions and users of the canal • A mix of housing from starter homes through to larger family homes and bungalow will be provided for through the “West of Stonehouse” strategic Local Plan allocation and supported by a range of shops and services • Ensure all those living within and passing through the Parish to recognise Eastington as a home for its residents • Encourage all those living within and passing through the Parish to recognise and take responsibility for ensuring the priority of road safety • Encourage close work with Gloucestershire County Council Highways to identify and agree a variety of way to address transport infrastructure issues • Establish and improve safe and suitable routes for walking and cycling accessible for the needs of all users • Ensure new development is connected to the village by safe and sustainable road, cycle and pedestrian routes • Ensure adequate provision for car and cycle parking in all new development
ENDP Policies	<p>POLICY EP1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>POLICY EP3: DESIGNATION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES</p> <p>POLICY EP4: RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CANAL CORRIDOR</p> <p>POLICY EP6: EXCEPTION SITES</p> <p>POLICY EP8: BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT</p> <p>POLICY EP9: WORKING FROM HOME</p> <p>POLICY EP10: TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT</p> <p>POLICY EP11: PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS</p>
ENDP Comments	<p>The ENDP seeks to maintain a thriving community across the Parish and focused on the main settlement at Alkerton. The ENDP’s objectives recognise that this can best be achieved by supporting and sustaining the viability of local services and facilities and providing for any additional development in close proximity to these. This includes promoting the most effective use of sustainable transport methods and offering encouragement for proposals that demonstrate how these can be enhanced. Meeting the housing needs of all is recognised as a priority, and opportunities to provide the affordable housing needed for those with a direct association to the Parish are encouraged.</p> <p>Objectives to maintain the character and vitality of the Parish recognise the important contribution of the open space and green infrastructure makes towards leisure, recreation and well-being and there is a specific intention to use restoration of the canal to further enhance this.</p>

Deliver Environmental Sustainability	
NPPF Definition – ‘Contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment and mitigate and adapt to climate change’	
ENDP Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the distinctive heritage of the area • Protect the identity of Eastington and prevent any further coalescence of the village and the hamlets with each other and with neighbouring Stonehouse • Protected important open spaces within the parish • Ensuring well-designed development which reflects the heritage and distinctive character of Eastington • Protect and enhance the high quality and sensitive landscape within the parish and its contribution to the setting of the village and each hamlet • Maintain distinctive views and visual connectivity with the surrounding countryside from public places within built-up areas • Protect and enhance biodiversity • Encourage the restoration of the canal and support sensitive development and activities which complement the functions and users of the canal • Establish and improve safe and suitable routes for walking and cycling accessible for the needs of all users • Ensure new development is connected to the village by safe and sustainable road, cycle and pedestrian routes • Respect the route, character, function and recreational value of the Public Right of Way network and support proposals which conserve or enhance these assets • Provide support and encouragement for all forms of renewable energy provision
ENDP Policies	<p>POLICY EP1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>POLICY EP2: PROTECT AND ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>POLICY EP3: DESIGNATION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES</p> <p>POLICY EP4: RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CANAL CORRIDOR</p> <p>POLICY EP5: CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF VILLAGE CHARACTER</p> <p>POLICY EP7: SITING AND DESIGN OF NEW DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION</p> <p>POLICY EP10: TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT</p> <p>POLICY EP11: PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS</p> <p>POLICY EP12: SMALL SCALE RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY SCHEMES</p>
ENDP Comments	<p>The ENDP recognises the role and function of different locations across the Parish as key to the character and identity of the Parish as a whole and important for the environmental domain of sustainable development. The ENDP requires good design of new development, including to reflect local distinctiveness and the area’s heritage assets, and this is enhanced by designating certain spaces as local green spaces of importance to the local community. Across the Parish, this is</p>

	<p>complemented by policy direction to concentrate development at the main settlement in Alkerton and set out appropriate development uses for the open countryside and surrounding hamlets within them.</p> <p>The ENDP seeks to conserve and enhance biodiversity, particularly with regard designated sites and protected species. It seeks to minimise the impacts of flooding and places a focus on reducing traffic congestion and travel by the private car to reduce carbon emissions and support for renewable energy schemes looks to combat and prevent climate change.</p>
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- 3.3 As demonstrated in Table 3.1, the strategic objectives of the Neighbourhood Development Plan are considered to comprise a balance of social, economic and environmental goals.
- 3.4 Eastington Parish Council has considered that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was not required because the ENDP is not likely to have a significant impact upon the environment.

4 GENERAL CONFORMITY WITH THE STRATEGIC POLICIES OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 4.1 The development plan currently consists of the following:
- Stroud District Local Plan (2015)
 - Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan 2002-2012 'saved' policies
 - Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy (2012)
 - Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan 1997- 2006 'saved' policies
- 4.2 The policies of relevance are shown in Table 4.1 below, along with a consideration of whether they represent the strategic policies of the development plan. Where they do, consideration is made of whether the ENDP is in general conformity with them.
- 4.3 There are no additional emerging developing plan documents for Stroud District which it is necessary for the ENDP to take into account.
- 4.4 Any policy that is not identified in Table 4.1 is not considered to be relevant to the ENDP because the ENDP does not have any policies that directly relate to it.
- 4.5 It is confirmed that there are no 'saved' policies in either the 'Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan 2002-2012' or 'Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan 1997-2006' nor policies in the Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy (2012) the ENDP policies have any relevance to.

Table 4.1: Relevant strategic policies in the Stroud District Council Development Plan Documents

Local Plan Policy	ENDP policy
Stroud District Local Plan (2015)	
CP2: Strategic Growth and Development Locations	<p>Policy EP1 recognises that the main settlement at Alkerton has an identified Settlement Development Limits boundary where residential development is to be encouraged and that this location is identified within the settlement hierarchy of the SDLP.</p> <p>Policy EP5 sets out the strategic allocation for “Land West of Stonehouse” listed as a specific location in CP2 comprises an exception where development is supported by the ENDP; set against the land uses typically sought in open countryside locations outside the main settlement in Alkerton.</p> <p>The ENDP as a whole recognises that this policy identifies other limited development may take place outside such designated areas and in accordance with the other policies of the SDLP. Relevant circumstances where the ENDP potentially supports additional development on this basis are set out against specific other policies from the SDLP listed below.</p>
CP3: Settlement Hierarchy	<p>Policy EP1 recognises that Eastington [Alkerton] is defined as a Third Tier settlement within the SDLP settlement hierarchy. As a location expected to provide for lesser levels of development, Policy EP1 also sets out that any proposals (including those that may contribute to the strategic housing needs of the District) sustain its role, support and maintain the viability of the Parish and provide evidence to demonstrate this to attain support.</p> <p>It is important to note that in considering “appropriate development” the SDLP Inspector’s Report understood that this should be read with specific policies and the Plan as a whole (including SDLP Policies CP3, HC1 and HC4) (paragraph 141). These policies focus development within Settlement Development Limits, whilst the Plan as a whole provides relevant exceptions.</p> <p>Policy EP6 reflect SDLP Policy CP3 and the support for Third Tier Settlements to deliver affordable housing to meet local needs as a priority for development.</p>

Local Plan Policy	ENDP policy
CP4: Place Making	<p>Policies EP1 and EP5 collectively represent the essence of this policy (and the associated 'mini-vision' for the Stonehouse Cluster) to recognise character and distinctiveness and focus development in the most sustainable locations. Policy EP5 recognises the need to integrate the strategic allocation "West of Stonehouse" within this context.</p> <p>Policy EP7 looks to protect or enhance a locally defined sense of place through local design considerations and characteristics of the built and natural environment. The ENDP is supported by a Character Assessment to assist with the direction of this policy</p> <p>Policy EP10 seeks to reduce the dominance of the car by encouraging sustainable alternatives and improving safety.</p>
Site Allocations Policy SA2 – 'West of Stonehouse' (and associated requirements at CP5 'principles for strategic sites')	<p>Policy EP5 recognises the location of the strategic allocation primarily situated within the Parish and therefore as an exception to the development and land uses sought in areas outside the main settlement at Alkerton. Nevertheless, Policy EP5 also recognises that SDLP Policy SA2 contains relevant provisions to achieve acceptable outcomes (such as structural landscaping around Nastend and Nupend) and proposals should therefore reflect the principles of Policy EP5 as a result.</p>
Policy CP7: Sustainable Communities	<p>Policy EP1 recognises the need for any development proposals to demonstrate their contribution towards sustainable communities.</p> <p>Policy EP6 sets out a priority to provide for locally arising needs for affordable housing and provide nomination rights to those with a long-standing connection to the area.</p>
Policy CP8: New Housing Development	<p>Policy EP1 sets out support in principle for any proposals for residential development to meet the strategic housing needs of the District subject to demonstrating that this will support and maintain sustainability and viability across the Parish and also considering how they meet the local housing needs of the Parish.</p>
Policy HC1: Meeting Small Scale Housing Need Within Defined Settlements	<p>Policy EP1 reflects the identified Settlement Development Limits boundary for Alkerton within which proposals for residential development will be supported.</p> <p>Policy EP7 provides for a high standard of design locally in broad accordance with the criteria of SDLP Policy HC1.</p> <p>Policy EP3 sets out Local Green Spaces provides additional support to protecting open space important to the character of the settlement.</p> <p>Policy EP2 sets out locally identified wildlife corridors and existing orchards where negative impacts upon biodiversity are to be avoided.</p>

Local Plan Policy	ENDP policy
Policy HC4: Local Housing Need (exception sites)	Policy EP6 provides an indication of need and expresses support for providing additional affordable housing with nomination rights for those with a connection to the area as a specific priority, along with criteria for where any such sites may be most appropriately located in order to ensure sustainable development outcomes.
Policy HC5: Replacement Dwellings	Policy EP5 provides support for providing replacement dwellings across the Parish (subject to relevant criteria) as appropriate development for the 'Conservation and Preservation of Village Character'
Policy HC8: Extensions to Dwellings	Policy HC8 of the SDLP may not be considered a strategic policy. However, Policy EP9 of the ENDP does relate in its support for adaptations and extensions to dwellings to support employment and home-working whilst seeking to ensure a high quality design and protect local character and neighbours' amenities. This support the viability of home-working and flexible use of accommodation.
Policy CP11: New Employment Development	<p>Policy EP8 offers local support for economic development in-keeping with rural character and recognises specific support for this as an element in rural regeneration, including the conversion and re-use of disused agricultural buildings for small scale enterprise. The ENDP recognises that many business premises also provide a community service and their loss should be specifically resisted. Delivery Policy E16 of the SDLP (although non-strategic) is also relevant with respect to proposals affecting community uses in the context of ENDP Policy EP8.</p> <p>Policy EP9 sets out how economic development can be achieved as part of conversion of existing dwellings</p>
Policy CP13: Demand Management and Sustainable Transport Measures	<p>Policy EP1 of the ENDP contributes to the intentions of SDLP Policy CP13, setting out a Travel Plan as a suggested requirement for proposals to demonstrate how they will maintain and support sustainability across the Parish.</p> <p>Policy EP10 provides additional direction to support and encourage sustainable transport patterns, including ensuring access to sustainable transport modes, setting criteria for the most sustainable locations to achieve this and identifying key parking facilities in the village which should be considered.</p>

Local Plan Policy	ENDP policy
<p>Policy EI10: Provision of New Tourism Opportunities And Policy EI11: Promoting Sport, Leisure and Recreation</p>	<p>Policy EP4 identifies an 'exceptional case' in the context of SDLP Policy EI10 seeking to support the development of tourist-related facilities as part of canal restoration and in-keeping with local character. Opportunities to increase recreation as a part of development around the canal as an asset are also recognised.</p> <p>Policy EP2 makes provision of Biodiversity Action Plans to demonstrate and encourage positive effects of any future development on the natural environment to add local recreational and amenity value</p>
<p>Policy EI12: Promoting Transport Choice and Accessibility</p>	<p>Policy EP10 sets out the requirement for proposal to connect with and enhance existing infrastructure and seeks to direct any growth to the most sustainable areas of the Parish. The policy also makes clear the appropriate parking standards for the Parish.</p> <p>Policy EP1 sets out that proposals in the main settlement at Alkerton should provide a Travel Plan as appropriate.</p>
<p>Policy CP14: High Quality Sustainable Development</p>	<p>This is an over-arching policy to which a significant number of the ENDP policies reinforce or have regard whilst also having a more specific relationship with other elements of the SDLP.</p> <p>Of particular note are the local biodiversity features in the natural environment set out in Policy EP2 and direction on specific local character in Policy EP7.</p>
<p>Policy CP15: A Quality Living and Working Countryside</p>	<p>Policy EP5 provides clarity on key features of local identity and historic character that reinforce the need for appropriate uses in the countryside beyond settlement development limits within the Parish. The policy also sets out the types of development considered appropriate within this context, including having regard to conserving and enhancing character in outlying hamlets.</p> <p>It is also important to highlight that SDLP Policy CP15 serves as the corollary to other policies directing growth referred to above and that the SDLP Inspector's Report highlights that settlement development limits are an important means of directing growth to the most sustainable locations (Paragraph 194) and that "to allow unrestricted development outside existing settlement limits could undermine the established strategy of managing growth in the district." (Paragraph 66).</p> <p>Policy EP6 promotes rural exception sites consistent with the forms of development also supported in this policy</p>
<p>Policy ES2: Renewable or Low Carbon Energy Generation</p>	<p>Policy EP12 provides additional local support for low carbon and renewable energy generation particularly where it can serve the needs of the community.</p>
<p>Policy ES4: Water Resources, Quality and Flood Risk</p>	<p>Policy EP2 provides direction of Rural Sustainable Drainage Solutions and seeks to give effect to relevant byelaws for Stroud District (adopted 2002) regarding development in proximity to watercourses.</p>

Local Plan Policy	ENDP policy
Policy ES6: Providing for Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Policy EP2 takes forward the approach of SDLP Policy ES6, having regard to locally and nationally designated sites and protected species but also directing to undesignated but locally important assets including existing orchards and wildlife corridors. The policy encourages an appropriate response and seeks positive outcomes through a Biodiversity Action Plan.
Policy ES7: Landscape Character	Policy EP3 provides for the designation of Local Green Spaces, some of which reinforce special features and diversity of local landscape character. Policy EP5 recognises the contribution of landscape and character to the setting and identity of locations across the Parish.
Policy ES8: Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands	Policy EP2 identifies additional biodiversity assets to be considered in the context of this policy, including community orchards Policy EP11 notes that any provision or relocation of rights of way will be supported where they contribute to wildlife corridors.
Policy ES10: Valuing Our Historic Environment and Assets	Policy EP7 identifies key heritage assets to be considered as part of any development proposals.
Policy ES11: Maintaining, Restoring and Regenerating the District's Canals	Policy EP4 is consistent with the objective of this policy and also seeks to provide appropriate access and development compatible with surrounding character whilst recognising that provision of recreational and mooring facilities may most effectively achieve restoration.
Policy ES13: Protection of Existing Open Space	Policy EP3 identifies appropriate Local Green Spaces (and highlights other key areas of open space) that accord with SDLP Policy ES13 in terms of their role such as providing focal points or contributing to distinctiveness and local character Policy EP11 recognises that existing public rights of way provide positive existing access to views and for leisure and recreation and that these should not be harmed; also setting out that where realignment is necessary landscaped wildlife corridors should be provided as part of alternatives.

5 DOES NOT BREACH, AND IS COMPATIBLE WITH, EU OBLIGATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS

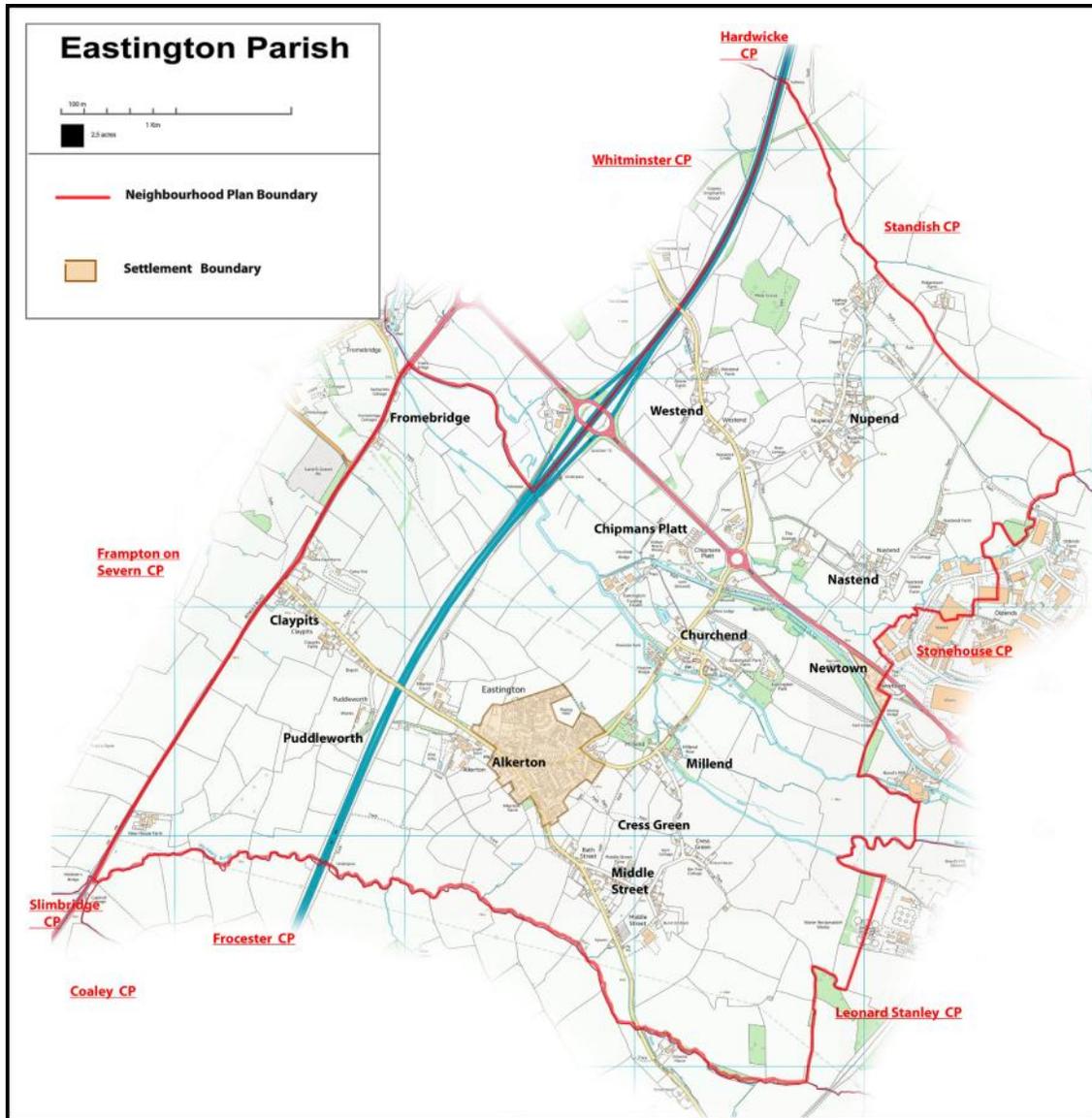
- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Development Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act.
- 5.2 In April 2015 the ENDP Steering Group commissioned independent consultant Alison Williamson to undertake a formal screening request regarding the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and an Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Regulations of the draft ENDP. This service was engaged on account of the Local Planning Authority, Stroud District Council, having not yet commenced an offer to screen emerging NDPs for relevant qualifying bodies. On 5th May 2015 the screening report concluded that full SEA of the emerging ENDP was not required. The recommended next steps provided for submission of the screening report for consideration alongside the emerging ENDP, as well as submission to the statutory consultees.
- 5.3 The formal opinion is included as part of the ENDP submission along with the consultation responses and further comments of statutory consultees Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency² (included as Appendix 2 to this document).
- 5.4 Responses from the statutory consultees have been considered alongside the screening report. Two of the consultees (Natural England and the Environment Agency) confirmed the opinion that a full SEA of the ENDP would not be required. Historic England has confirmed that following the removal of proposed allocations between consultation on the Regulation 14 Draft of the ENDP and the proposed submission version it no longer considers there to be insufficient information to potential impacts on Listed Buildings, previously preventing conclusions being reached on whether a full SEA was required. The Parish Council has proceeded to issue its determination that the ENDP will not give rise to significant environmental effects or have significant effects on European Designated Sites regarding consideration under the Habitats Directive. The determination of the Parish Council is also included as part of the ENDP submission and at Appendix 2.
- 5.5 Preparation of the ENDP has been supported by extensive efforts at community engagement as detailed in the Consultation Statement (December 2015). It is considered significant that this takes forward earlier means of public participation such as Parish surveys. The Consultation Statement also details the wide range of media used to distribute information and that face-to-face consultation activities were provided as part of consultation of the Draft Plan. There is therefore significant confidence that all sections of the community, including hard-to-reach' groups have been offered the opportunity to engage with the Neighbourhood Plan process.

² <http://www.eastingtonndp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/NDP-Screening-Opinion-Dec-2015.pdf>

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the TCPA 1990 are considered to be met by the Eastington Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Eastington Neighbourhood Plan complies with Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

APPENDIX 1 – NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA APPLICATION AND PARISH BOUNDARY MAP





Eastington Parish Council

Please reply to:

Anita Sach
Acting Clerk to Eastington Parish Council
c/o Lower Wick Cottage, Lower Wick, Dursley GL11 6DD

22 March 2013

Mr. Barry Wyatt
Strategic Head of Development Services
Planning Policy Team
Stroud District Council
Ebley Mill
Stroud, GL5 4UB

Dear Mr Wyatt,

Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area:- Eastington Parish

Eastington Parish Council, being a 'relevant body' as required by legislation under Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, formally applies for the Parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area, with the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and/or Neighbourhood Development Order. A resolution to make this application was passed by the parish council on 12/3/2013.

We confirm that as a Parish Council, accountable to the community that it serves, Eastington Parish Council is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (inserted by paragraph 2 of Schedule 9 to the Localism Act 2011).

The Neighbourhood Area defined by the Parish Council is the whole of the civil parish of Eastington. We consider the defined area to be an appropriate area for designation as a Neighbourhood Area for the following reasons:

1. The area defined is covered by Eastington Parish Council in its entirety. The Neighbourhood Area will sit comfortably with the electorate, also, the existing sense of community that currently exists can continue to be built upon as the Plan is created.
2. The area defined has been the subject of a recent community-led planning exercise, involving local consultation, namely the Parish Plan (currently draft - to be published in June 2013). The parish plan consultations demonstrated an appetite for the community to shape growth and development in the parish and issues raised by this parish plan will be used and developed in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
3. The Parish Council works actively to include residents and stakeholders from all parts of the Parish. The extensive community consultation already undertaken through previous plans and ongoing community work will

be of great use in developing the Neighbourhood Plan.

We envisage that the NDP will address economic issues such as employment opportunities, housing need plus infrastructure requirements (facilities and services) to meet the future needs of the community. Design and character of development and its relationship with landscape character and setting will also feature in the NDP.

We understand that Stroud District Council will contact us immediately with any queries about this application and that the application will be advertised by Stroud District Council for 6 weeks prior to the approval decision. Please address any communication to myself and copy to Andrew Niblett.

Yours sincerely,

Anita Sach
Clerk to the Council

CC Philip Skill, Head of Planning, SDC
Conrad Moore, Principal Planner, SDC

APPENDIX 2 – SEA SCREENING REPORT, STATUTORY CONSULTEE RESPONSES AND DETERMINATION



Eastington Parish Council

c/o Mrs J Shirley – Parish Clerk

60 Hawk Close

Abbeydale

Gloucester

GL4 4WE

eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com

01453 799616

9th December 2015

Dear Colleague,

Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan – SEA and HRA Determination

To assist production of the Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan, Eastington Parish Council has undertaken a Strategic Environmental Assessment screening exercise. This is to determine whether or not the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) would require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

Eastington Parish Council is the “responsible authority” as defined in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations Act 2004 to carry out the screening exercise:

“responsible authority”, in relation to a plan or programme, means— (a) the authority by which or on whose behalf it is prepared

SEA Screening Opinion – EIA Project Management, Ecology, Recreation and Rights of Way Consultancy Services

Eastington Parish Council appointed EIA Project Management, Ecology, Recreation and Rights of Way Consultancy Services on 2nd April 2015 to carry out the screening exercise. A pre-submission version of the NDP was used to consider the likely environmental effects. To ensure legal compliance and a robust screening opinion EIA Project Management considered the likely effects of the NDP against the criteria in Schedule I, of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The consideration of likely effects against the Schedule I criteria are available to view in **appendix 1**.

Following analysis of likely significant effects, Eastington Parish Council considers that the NDP is unlikely to have any significant effects on the environment. Therefore, the Council determines that Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan is not required.

As required by Regulation 9(2)(a) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 the Council's screening opinion was sent to Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency, to arrive at a determination in consultation with the statutory consultees.

SEA Screening Opinion

Two of the three statutory consultees agreed with Eastington Parish Council's screening opinion, that the Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan was unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects and therefore would not require Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The third statutory consultee, Historic England, indicated they could not conclude an SEA was not required as they did not have enough information provided on impact on historic buildings from the proposed site allocations within the Neighbourhood Development Plan. However, due to other deliverability issues of the proposed site allocations, these allocations have been removed from the final version of the Neighbourhood Development Plan and Historic England has confirmed this resolves their concerns.



Eastington Parish Council

c/o Mrs J Shirley – Parish Clerk

60 Hawk Close

Abbeydale

Gloucester

GL4 4WE

eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com

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The responses of Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency can be viewed in **appendix 2**.

Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Opinion

Eastington Parish Council has also used the analysis of likely significant effects to consider whether the NDP would be likely to give rise to significant environmental effects on European Designated Sites. Following this analysis, Eastington Parish Council considers that the NDP is unlikely to have any significant effects on European Designated Sites. Therefore the NDP can be screened out from any requirement for further assessment under the Habitat Regulations.

Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Opinion

Natural England utilised the information within the analysis of likely significant effects to also determine that the NDP would be unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects on European Designated Sites. Natural England's determination is also available to view in **Appendix 2**.

Determination

The Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects which would require Strategic Environmental Assessment, or have significant effects on European Designated Sites that would require consideration under the Habitats Directive. This determination has been arrived at in agreement with relevant statutory consultees.

For the purpose of demonstrating that the NDP is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment; as required by regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015), pages 3 to 23 of this document could be considered to form the statement of reasons.

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Shirley
Clerk to Eastington Parish Council

Encs.

APPENDIX 1

Eastington NDP Screening for SEA and HRA

1 Introduction, Instruction and Scope of Work

- 1.1 Alison Williamson *BSc., MSc., MCIEEM., MIPROW., CEnv.* (Freelance Consultant) was instructed on 2nd April 2015 to undertake Screening of Eastington Parish Council's draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the potential requirement to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA).
- 1.2 It is understood that Stroud District Council (SDC), Gloucestershire, will offer to screen NDPs for Parish Councils (PCs). However, this process has not yet started, and as Eastington have completed their NDP, they wish to submit it to SDC without delay, so that their plan can then be approved and implemented, and used to determine future planning applications.
- 1.3 It should be noted that the assessment conducted in this report in no way seeks to assess compliance or otherwise of the Eastington NDP with SDC's existing or emerging plan. It is the role of those producing the NDP to ensure its policies are consistent with national policies and existing and emerging local policies within the relevant development plan documents. This screening assessment simply reviews the proposals within the draft NDP for any potential significant effects which may trigger the need for SEA or HRA.
- 1.4 The remainder of this report is set out as follows:-
- (i) Habitat Regulations Assessment
 - Definition of European Sites;
 - Stages for Screening;
 - European Sites within/ adjacent to Eastington NDP;
 - The Severn Estuary European Site;
 - (ii) SEA Screening
 - SEA Screening (initial screening) - Stage 1;
 - SEA Screening (Article 3(5) Annex II) - Stage 2;
 - (iii) Next Steps.

2 Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 2.1 Every NDP requires screening to determine whether either SEA or HRA is required. If HRA is required, then an SEA will automatically become a requirement, and so it is logical to first screen to establish if a HRA is required.

Definition of European Sites

2.2 Any proposed plan or project which may have a significant effect on the integrity of a European Site – either alone or in combination with another plan or project - should be subject to screening to determine if HRA is required¹. European Sites are defined as:-

- (i) Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);
- (ii) Special Protection Areas (SPAs);
- (iii) RAMSAR Sites (related to the ecological function of wetlands).

2.3 If initial screening indicates that there might be a potential for an effect, then the particular features the European Site is designated for will need to be examined in connection with the policies to establish if their integrity will be affected.

Stages for Screening

2.4 The stages for screening are summarised in Gloucestershire County Council's own HRA Baseline Report for their Minerals Local Plan (Feb 2015) as follows:-

- (i) Identify European Sites in and around the plan area;
- (ii) Examine conservation objectives;
- (iii) Identify potential effects on European Sites;
- (iv) Take account of the potential 'in-combination' effects of other plans and projects;
- (v) If there are no likely significant effects on a European Site then progression to an Appropriate Assessment is not required for the NDP;
- (vi) If significant effects are judged likely or some uncertainty exists – the precautionary principle applies and an Appropriate Assessment is required, unless the NDP is abandoned or modified so that significant effects would not be likely to occur.

European Sites within or adjacent to Eastington NDP

2.5 Appendix 6 of SDC's Adopted Local Plan from 2005 revealed no European Sites exist within Eastington Parish (two Key Wildlife Sites are listed at entries 75 and 76). To determine whether any European Sites exist in proximity to Eastington, a search was also undertaken on the Government's MAGIC website resource. Utilising Natural England's (NE's) Impact Risk Zones (IRZS) for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), it is now possible to interrogate the data sets on MAGIC to establish any likely impacts on SSSIs, SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites. The IRZ Assessment Tool has been specifically designed for use by LPAs in assessing planning applications.

¹ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (SI 2010 No 490), as amended

2.6 Points selected from the NDP area for interrogation of the dataset included:-

- (i) The centre of Eastington;
- (ii) The most northerly point of the parish;
- (iii) The most north-easterly point of the parish adjacent to Stonehouse;
- (iv) The most easterly point of the parish along the A419;
- (v) The most south-easterly point of the parish near the pylon and railway line;
- (vi) The most south-westerly point of the parish adjacent to the A38;
- (vii) The most north-westerly point of the parish adjacent to the A38;
- (viii) The central point of the area identified as a Future Development Site;
- (ix) A point just west of the M5 motorway in an area identified as For Community Use (which might include, *inter alia*, housing).

2.7 The site check on MAGIC for all of the above points within Eastington NDP confirmed that no part of the NDP fell within a SAC, SPA or Ramsar site. However, all the points above fall within SSSI IRZs.

2.8 With reference to the Adopted Local Plan from 2005, section 8.5, as well as more recent reference material, the European Sites within SDC's Administrative Area are identified as The Severn Estuary, Rodborough Common and Cotswolds Beechwoods. In preparation of the Minerals Local Plan, Gloucestershire County Council has conducted a HRA and produced a Baseline Report (2015) identifying all the potentially relevant plans and policies which may apply to the three European Sites as noted in the following table.

Area	Designation(s)	Designating interest	Relevant Plans*	Relevant Projects*
The Severn Estuary	Ramsar	Estuaries, assemblage of migratory fish species, internationally important populations & assemblage of waterfowl. ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Plans within the Forest of Dean District including Adopted Forest of Dean Core Strategy and Area Action Plans. • Development Plans within Stroud District including Adopted Stroud District Local Plan. • Development Plans within South Gloucestershire including 	Stroud <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotswolds Canal Restoration Project. • Housing at Hunts Grove. • Development /activity at Sharpness Docks. • Waste Facilities at Javelin Park (proposed) & Moreton Valence (consented).
	SAC	Estuaries, sub-tidal sandbanks, intertidal mudflats and sandflats, Atlantic salt meadows and reefs and three species of migratory fish, hard		

2

http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CCEQFiAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.severnestuary.net%2Fasera%2Fdocs%2FRegulation%252033%2520Advice.pdf&ei=VBkxVabyENHlat-RgdAM&usg=AFQjCNH22rKoly40jLqvG7P_YWJnSLa0sQ&sig2=uypU8knCCr00_Dq9XkThng

Area	Designation(s)	Designating interest	Relevant Plans*	Relevant Projects*
		substrate habitats, assemblage of fish species, and assemblage of waterfowl species (notable estuarine assemblages). ³	Adopted South Gloucestershire Local Plan and Minerals & Waste Local Plan.	Forest of Dean • Lydney Docks Regeneration Project.
	SPA	Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 species. Internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species, and internationally important assemblage of waterfowl. ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy Adopted 2012. • Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan Adopted 2003. • Development Plans within Bristol City including Adopted Bristol City Local Plan. • Development Plans within North Somerset including Adopted North Somerset Local Plan. • Any relevant plans (including the Joint Waste Core Strategy) produced by the West of England Partnership. • Monmouthshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP). • Newport City UDP. • Cardiff City UDP. • The Vale of Glamorgan UDP. • The Shoreline Management Plan. • Relevant Catchment Flood Management Plans & Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (EA). • Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy (EA). • Severn Estuary River Basin Management Strategy. • Gloucestershire Flood Risk Management Strategy. • Gloucester, Churchdown & Innsforth Surface Water Management Plan. • Tewkesbury Surface water Management Plan. • Severn Estuary (European Marine Site) Management Scheme. • Devon & Severn IFCA Business Plan. • Rights of Way Improvement Plans. • Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP3). • Wales Transport Strategy plus Wales National Transport Plan. • Severn Estuary Partnership plans and strategies. • Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates (South Wales RAWP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing at East Lydney. Other – outside Glos – English / E. side of Estuary • Development associated with the decommissioning of Berkeley power station. • Development proposals at Oldbury power station. • Development at Avonmouth Docks. • EA flood defence proposals for Avonmouth. • Wind turbine proposals in South Gloucestershire and around Avonmouth. • Development proposals at Hinkley Point B power station. Other – outside Glos – Welsh / W. side of Estuary • Development projects / activity at Chepstow Docks. • Development projects / activity at Newport Docks. • Development projects / activity at Cardiff Bay (Docks). • Development projects / activity at Newport Docks. • Development projects / activity at Barry Docks. • EA flood defence proposals for Caldicot. • HRA Baseline / Evidence Report for Minerals Local Plan Page 47. Other – • The Crown Estate licences for sand and gravel dredging in English & Welsh water. • Any Severn Tidal Power Scheme that is confirmed in the future.

³ See footnote above for reference

⁴ See footnote above for reference

Area	Designation(s)	Designating interest	Relevant Plans*	Relevant Projects*
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wales Regional Waste Plans. 	
Rodborough Common	SAC	Unimproved limestone grassland – dependent on the maintenance of grazing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Plans within Stroud District Council including Adopted Stroud Local Plan & potentially other Districts within Gloucestershire. Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy Adopted 2012. Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan Adopted 2003. Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP3). Gloucestershire Flood Risk Management Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cotswolds Canal Restoration Project. Housing at Hunts Grove. Development at Aston Down. Housing at Lister Petter. Housing at Brockworth. Waste Facilities at Javelin Park (proposed) & Moreton Valence (consented). Any other major development identified in Development plans (or elsewhere) with the potential to have a significant effect on Rodborough Common SAC, including increases in traffic flows near or over the common.
Cotswold Beechwoods	SAC	Beech woodland - The woodland is being maintained by a variety of silvicultural practices including selective forestry, group fellings and small areas of coppicing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Plans within Stroud District including Adopted Stroud Local Plan. Development Plans within Tewkesbury Borough including Adopted Tewkesbury Local Plan. Development Plans within Cotswold District including Adopted Cotswold Local Plan. Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy Adopted 2012. Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan Adopted 2003. Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP3). Gloucestershire Flood Risk Management Strategy. Cheltenham Surface Water Management Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cotswolds Canal Restoration Project. Housing at Hunts Grove/Whaddon. Housing at Brockworth/Brockworth District. Development at Aston Down. Housing at Lister Petter. Proposed Elmbridge Park & Ride. Housing north of Gloucester. Housing north west of Cheltenham and associated infrastructure and employment. Housing at Leckhampton. Housing at M and G Sports. Housing at Southam. Various waste disposal and management operations at Wingmoor Farm. Housing at Kingshill North and South. Housing at Bourton on the Water. Waste Facilities at Javelin Park (proposed) & Moreton Valence (consented). Any other major development identified in Development Plans (or elsewhere) with the potential to have a significant effect on the Cotswold Beechwoods (SAC).
*Source GCC HRA for the Minerals Local Plan 2015 ⁵				

5

<http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=6&ved=0CD8QFjAF&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gloucestershire.gov.uk%2Fextra%2FCHttpHandler.ashx%3Fid%3D62789%26p%3D0&ei=VBkxVabyENHIat-RgdAM&usg=AFQjCNH2v1qkbXCIOHSEOsNdhtJI7rk0aw&sig2=I4YDEbeGSX72YsxiOPzICg>

- 2.9 Through review of the Adopted Local Plan map (with all layers removed except for International Wildlife Sites), it is considered that, in the context of their designated interest, both Rodborough Common and the Cotswolds Beechwoods are too distant in the context of Eastington for the latter to exert recreational pressure on these sites.
- 2.10 This conclusion is supported within the HRA of SDC's emerging LP. The latest version available on SDC's website, December 2013⁶ notes at page 47 that a local visitor survey conducted on Rodborough Common found that *"Of the 159 people or groups interviewed 59% lived in Stroud town itself, 7% lived in Nailsworth and 5% lived in Gloucester. Three percent of visitors lived in Chalford or Stonehouse. Only 2% of visitors came from Rodborough and 1% from Brimscombe, despite the close proximity of those settlements to the European site, probably reflecting their small size. Approximately 73% of visitors to the SAC live within 3km of the site, with over 60% living within 2km of the site (mainly in Stroud town). Beyond 3km, visitor origin becomes dispersed."* For the Cotswold Beechwoods, it concluded on page 58 that *"It is therefore highly considered unlikely [sic] that development within Stroud district will make a significant contribution to increased recreational visits to the SAC compared to that in surrounding authorities. Therefore it is considered that development set out in the Local Plan would not result in an adverse effect on the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC as a result of recreational pressure"*.

The Severn Estuary European Site

- 2.11 With regard to The Severn Estuary European Site, NE has devised a list of categories within IRZs to assist in identification of those potential developments which might affect the integrity of nearby European Sites. It is necessary to examine those categories in the context of the proposed policies of the Eastington NDP.

Category	Additional criteria	Potentially Applicable Eastington Policies (EP)	Commentary in connection with NE IRZ criteria
All Planning Applications	All planning applications outside/extending outside existing settlements/urban areas affecting greenspace, farmland, semi natural habitats or features such as trees, hedges, streams, rural buildings/structures EXCEPT HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATIONS.	All, but esp. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	<p>The Eastington NDP accommodates 100-120 dwellings over the period 2015 to 2030 (equivalent to approximately eight dwellings per annum). This growth figure is based on the Parish Survey of 2012 and the Housing Needs Survey of 2013. It states <i>"This Neighbourhood Development Plan will assess any site offered for development against this set of criteria to establish a priority preference for groups of 10 to 15 houses to be built in stages over the next 15 years"</i>, and also confirms it will <i>"...oppose any infringement of built development [outside the allocated sites] on rural landholdings of the Parish."</i></p> <p>EP1 allocates a Future Development Site on the northern edge of Eastington, with a further site within the existing built area of Eastington. Development will not be permitted outside the settlement boundary of Eastington unless it is infill or accords with other policies of the NDP (this includes a reserve area at Claypits). Development proposals are required to protect ecological features such as woodlands and hedgerows, and mitigate, enhance and re-create habitat to ensure net gains for wildlife (EP2).</p>

⁶ http://www.stroud.gov.uk/info/plan_strat/Habitat_regulations_assessment_2013.pdf

Category	Additional criteria	Potentially Applicable Eastington Policies (EP)	Commentary in connection with NE IRZ criteria
			Development proposals for employment and small business use are limited to new build within settlement boundaries and the conversion of disused buildings – and thus do not conflict with the criteria.
Infra-structure	Pipelines, pylons and overhead cables. Any transport proposal including road, rail and by water (excluding routine maintenance). Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.	1, 2 & 11	There are no policies within the NDP related to any significant new infrastructure. EP11 is concerned primarily with local sustainable transport and travel within the village settlement.
Wind & Solar Energy	Solar schemes with footprint > 0.5ha, all wind turbines.	1, 2 & 12	The NDP allows for small-scale renewable energy projects, provided this is not in conflict with EP1 & 2. It requires the energy-generating infrastructure to be as close as practicable and in proportion to the scale and extent of existing buildings.
Quarry	Planning applications for quarries, including: new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc.	N/A	There are no policies in the NDP relating to quarries.
Rural Non Residential	Large non-residential developments outside existing settlements/urban areas where footprint exceeds 1ha.	1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10	See under 'All Planning Applications' above.
Residential, Rural Residential	Any residential development of 50 or more houses outside existing settlements/urban areas.	All, but esp. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	See under 'All Planning Applications' above.
Air Pollution	Pig & Poultry Units. Any other development/ industrial or commercial process that could cause AIR POLLUTION.	10	There are no specific NDP policies related to poultry and pig units. Policy EP10 references home working, noting that light industrial uses will be permitted provided they have regard to other policies in the NDP and do not generate any significant adverse effect related to noise, fumes, odour or other nuisance.
Combustion	General combustion processes >50MW energy input. Incl: energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis/gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration/ combustion	N/A	There are no specific NDP policies related to combustion.
Waste	Landfill. Incl: inert landfill, non-hazardous landfill, hazardous landfill.	N/A	There are no specific NDP policies related to landfill and inert waste.
Composting Discharges	Any discharge of water or liquid waste that is more than 5,000 litres/day. The water needs to either be discharged to ground (<i>i.e.</i> to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream. Discharges to	N/A	There are no specific NDP policies related to composting discharges.

Category	Additional criteria	Potentially Applicable Eastington Policies (EP)	Commentary in connection with NE IRZ criteria
	mains sewer are excluded.		

2.12 Under Section 5 of the HRA⁷ for the Emerging SDC LP, advice is provided on those operations and activities which may harm the attributes for which the Severn Estuary SAC/SPA and Ramsar is designated. These include:-

- (i) Physical loss;
- (ii) Physical damage;
- (iii) Non-physical disturbance;
- (iv) Toxic contamination;
- (v) Non-toxic contamination;
- (vi) Biological disturbance.

2.13 In connection with the SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar designation of the River Severn, a number of operations are considered including:-

- (i) Physical loss:-
 - Removal/ substratum loss;
 - Smothering;
- (ii) Physical damage:-
 - Changes in suspended sediment;
 - Desiccation & changes in emergence regime;
 - Changes in water flow rate;
 - Changes in wave exposure;
 - Abrasion/ physical disturbance (of habitats);
 - Changes in grazing management;
- (iii) Non-physical disturbance:-
 - Noise & visual presence;
- (iv) Toxic contamination:-
 - Introduction of synthetic compounds;
 - Introduction of non-synthetic compounds;
 - Introduction of radionuclides;

⁷ http://www.stroud.gov.uk/info/plan_strat/Stroud_HRA.pdf

- (v) Non-toxic contamination:-
- Changes in nutrient loading;
 - Changes in thermal regime;
 - Changes in turbidity (light penetration);
 - Changes in salinity;
 - Changes in oxygenation;
- (vi) Biological disturbance:-
- Introduction of microbial pathogens;
 - Introduction of non-native species;
 - Selective extraction of species.

2.14 The centre of Eastington, which is the focus for the majority of the policies related to development, lies over 4km from The River Severn and its associated mudflats. The western edge of the NDP area lies 2.7km from The River Severn and its associated mudflats. The closest SSSI units are those within the Upper Severn Estuary, and include Ryalls Farm (Unit 1 – favourable), Intertidal 2 (Unit 2 – favourable), Slimbridge Goose Pastures (Unit 10 – favourable) and Slimbridge 100 Acres (Unit 11 – favourable).

2.15 As there would be no direct effects on the SAC as a result of habitat loss, it is considered the primary consideration would be potential noise and visual disturbance to the SPA interests of the River Severn for the internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 species (Bewick's swan) and internationally important waterfowl. Due to the small-scale nature of development proposed within the NDP policies, and the distance from the River Severn SPA interests to the NDP allocation zones (primarily east of both the M5 and A38 - both major transport corridors), it is not considered that any of the policies of the Eastington NDP, at this distance from the designated interest features, are likely to generate any of the above listed significant effects to the integrity of the River Severn European Site.

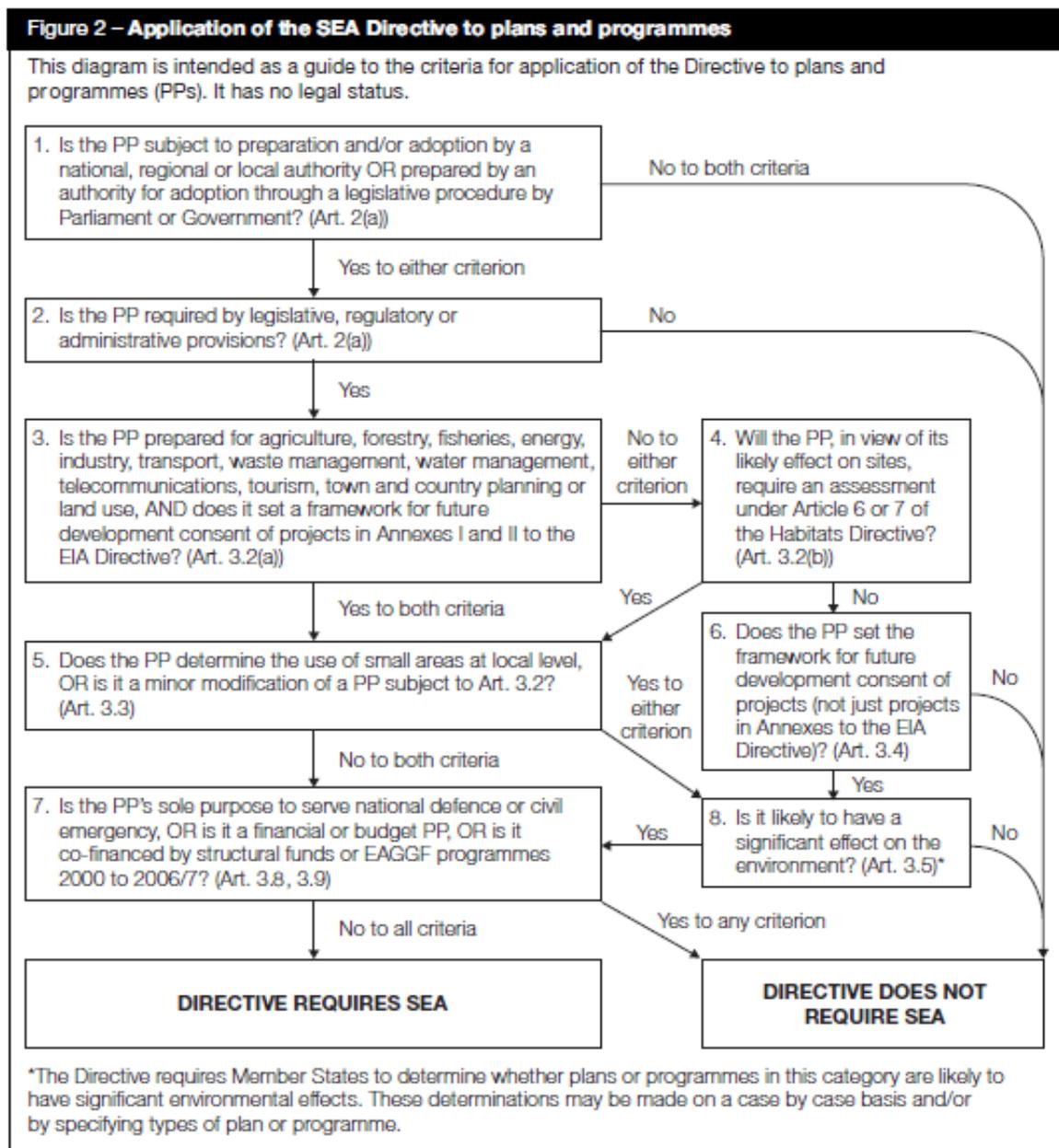
2.16 This conclusion is supported within the HRA of SDC's emerging LP (page 32, see reference above). Studies on visits to the Solent on the South Coast found that 70% of trips came from residents living within 4km of the estuaries. Whilst not directly comparable, when this study data is transferred to the Severn Estuary, *"Conveniently, in Stroud district the route of the M5 marks a line roughly 4km from the boundary of the Severn Estuary SPA/Ramsar site. It can fairly be said therefore that residents of settlements west of the M5 in Stroud are likely to make a significantly greater contribution to visits to the SPA than those living east of the M5."*

3 SEA Screening

3.1 Since 2004, there has been a legal requirement for development plan documents to be assessed against the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)), transposed via SI 2004 No 1633 (The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004). The Government has published guidance, 'A Practical

Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM, 2005⁸). This explains the process of screening for SEA. Screening assesses whether or not SEA is required in the case of a NDP. Importantly, at Appendix 1 of the Guidance, it notes *“Plans and programmes in this list which determine the use of small areas at local level, or which are minor modifications to plans and programmes within this list, only require SEA if they are judged likely to have significant environmental effects.”* Many NDPs, being small scale and local, are considered unlikely to require SEA.

3.2 Within the government guidance, a generic flowchart is provided to assist in screening plans to determine if SEA is required as follows: -



3.3 The criteria in this diagram have been used to determine if SEA is required of Eastington NDP as set out in the following table.

SEA Screening (initial screening) - Stage 1

Stage	Applicable to Eastington NDP?	Comments
1. Is the NDP 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?	Yes	There is no requirement for an area to make a NDP. However, a LPA has a statutory obligation to adopt a NDP once it has successfully completed the relevant statutory preparation stages. It then becomes part of the development plan for the relevant LPA area. In proceeding through to adoption, it therefore has to fulfil and conform to statutory procedures.
2. Is the NDP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Yes	See above comments.
3. Is the NDP 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?	Yes	The NDP relates to town and country, and spatial land use planning. Once made, it will be used to determination local planning applications. With regards to the second part, its sets a framework for development consents which could potentially trigger the need for EIA in Annexe II of the EIA Directive. Whether a development proposal triggers the need for EIA will depend on the nature, size and location of the individual application. Therefore, Q 4, 5 and 6 are considered below.
4. Will the NDP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?	No – see above section	The NDP has been screened for HRA, specifically in connection with The River Severn SPA/ SAC/ Ramsar.
5. Does the NDP determine the use of small areas at a local level, OR is it a minor modification of an existing NDP?	Yes	The NDP identifies a ‘Future Development Site’, and four further ‘Future Community Use’ areas. The latter could include housing development(s). There is an overall aspiration to deliver 100-120 houses in 15 years from 2015 – 2030.
6. Does the NDP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)?	Yes	See above comments.
8. Is the NDP likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	Further investigation req.	The relevant criteria for determining whether NDPs are likely to have a significant environmental effect are set out in Article 3(5) Annex II of the SEA Directive (see Stage 2 below).

SEA Screening (Article 3(5) Annex II) - Stage 2

Ref	SEA (Article 3(5) Annex II)	Comments	Significant Effect(s)?
1.	Characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to—		
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.	The NDP, if adopted, will be the lowest tier of planning document. It does not set a framework for other plans or policies outside the Eastington NDP. It will be used to help inform parish decisions related to development until 2030. The aspirations for development within the plan are small scale (Policy EP1) - 100 to 120 houses over the next 15 years – an average of eight dwellings per annum based on the higher figure.	No
B	The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in the hierarchy.	As noted above, NDPs are the lowest tier of planning document and do not set a framework for other plans or policies. They are, by their very nature, locally driven and focused, providing detailed land use direction at the smallest scale. They must have regard to, and be in general conformity with,	No

Ref	SEA (Article 3(5) Annex II	Comments	Significant Effect(s)?
		higher tier policies and documents, which have themselves already been subject to both SEA and HRA.	
C	The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	The NDP, as directed by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), must have regard to sustainable development for it to be deemed sound.	No
D	Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	<p>The NDP has a strong emphasis on protecting and conserving the character and quality of the environment.</p> <p>The NDP requires a sustainable growth of housing based on the recent housing needs survey (EP1 & 8). This development must include a significant proportion of social housing for young people and the elderly, to offer alternatives to outward migration from the village (EP1 & 7). The housing must be limited to the settlement boundary (EP1), and must protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment (EP2). This includes the protection and enhancement of designated and undesignated ecological and heritage features, the use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS), and specifically, not permit development within, or in the vicinity of, the flood plain or associated river corridors (EP2). It must preserve the character of the village (EP3 & 5), including the protection of green spaces and sensitive areas (EP4 & 5). Proposals which promote local employment opportunities will be encouraged where they do not conflict with other sustainable principles within the NDP (EP 9). Provision for increasing home working opportunities will be encouraged (EP10). Transport proposals should be sustainable (EP11), and protect and promote public rights of way (EP12). The NDP encourages small-scale renewable energy projects (EP14).</p>	No
E	The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	Strategies relating to waste disposal or water protection, and other community legislation on the environment, are dealt with in higher tier plans.	N/A
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 NDP guides development in Eastington until 2030, with the aim of having a positive impact on the parish and by promoting sustainable development. However, no significant effects are envisaged due to the scope and duration of the NDP.	N/A
B	The cumulative nature of the effects.	See above (A).	N/A
C	The transboundary nature of the effects.	See above (A). Transboundary effects are strategic matters outside the scope of an NDP.	N/A
D	The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents).	See above (A). SDC LP has policies dealing with waste collection and environmental protection. However, no significant risks to human health or the environment are envisaged.	N/A
E	The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	<p>The NDP for Eastington covers an area of approximately 3km (E-W) by 4km (N-S). In 2014, it contained c. 675 dwellings. At the last census in 2011, there were 1,565 residents.</p> <p>NDPs cover small geographical areas, and as required by the NPPF (paragraphs 184-185), are specific non-strategic development plan policies to address specific local issues. Development which falls within the requirements of the SEA Directive (by virtue of its scale and extent) would not concern an NDP.</p>	N/A

F	<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to—</p> <p>(i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</p> <p>(ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or</p> <p>(iii) Intensive land-use.</p> <p>And:-</p> <p>(G) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>The presence of a statutory natural or built environmental designation in or adjacent to an NDP could potentially result in a significant effect. The designations within the NDP, and the NDP policies to protect these sites, have been briefly considered below.</p> <p>Eastington has:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52 Listed buildings, of which four are Grade II* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Summerhouse at Alkerton Grange; ➤ Alkerton Farmhouse; ➤ Nastend House; ➤ Church of St.Michael & All Angels. • There are two other ‘notable’ Grade II buildings:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Millend Mill; ➤ Eastington House. • Approx. 18 Traditional Orchards; • Approx. 5 woodlands on the national inventory of woodland; • Numerous small areas of deciduous woods; • An area of wood pasture and parkland BAP habitat at Eastington Park; • Two key wildlife sites at:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mole Grove (SO70/010); ➤ River Frome (SO70/015). • Small areas of CROW Access land:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ West of Eastington; ➤ In Nastend; ➤ North of Westend. • Two protected play spaces at:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Owen Harris Memorial Ground; ➤ Eastington Primary School. • An extensive swathe of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh surrounding the R. Frome; • Adjacent to the coastal floodplain, additional areas of ‘Priority Habitat’, noted as not main habitat, but ‘additional habitat exists’ on MAGIC; • Stroud Industrial Heritage Conservation Area (Eastington Extension) along the line of the Stroudwater Canal; • There are 13 recognised hamlets within the Eastington NDP, of which there is an outstanding application/ intention to apply for Nastend as a Conservation Area. <p>Within the NDP area there are no known:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International or national conservation designations (or adjacent to it), including SSSIs or other ecological or wildlife designations outside those noted above; • National landscape designations such as AONBs etc.; • World or national heritage sites; • Scheduled Monuments; • Registered Historic Park and Gardens; • Conservation Areas (other than Stroud IH CA and the outstanding application noted for Nastend above); • RIGS. <p>The Eastington NDP protects the above as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no development permitted outside the settlement boundary of Eastington and its associated development site allocations (small-exceptions such as infill etc.) – EP1, 3 & 8; • The NDP has a number of ‘Protection Zones’ and each hamlet is surrounded by a Historic Hamlet Green Zone of 100m to protect its integrity and setting. Development will not be permitted unless in very 	No
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		<p>special circumstances as specified in the NDP – EP1 & 3;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development will have to accord with the Design Guide for Eastington (in progress) - EP1; • Developments must be of a high design standard, incorporate natural features, incorporate greenspace, respect privacy and amenity, respect current & future Conservation Areas (EP5 & 8); • Developments must (EP2):- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Protect designated sites, protected species, woodlands and hedgerows, ecological corridors, historic orchards and existing ponds; ➢ Adopt SUDS; ➢ Mitigate or enhance where appropriate. • Development will not be permitted (EP2):- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Within 50m of all watercourses or within the R. Frome floodplain and 'Active Watercourse Protection Zone'. • Development will not be permitted:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ In designated greenspace/ amenity areas; ➢ Within 30m of a right of way. • Development is located away from the zone of High Visual Impact Land; • Development of canal-side corridor will be permitted, provided that:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Development is within the Canal Zone; ➢ Development is of scale and appearance as existing; ➢ Is compliant with EP1 & EP2; ➢ Includes provision for greenspace. • Development must aspire to reduce reliance on private transport (EP10 & 11) by:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Enhancing pedestrian and cycle routes; ➢ Be located in accordance with EP1 close to existing village facilities (shops, public transport <i>etc.</i>); ➢ Provide cycle storage; ➢ Promote home and locally based working. • Encourage small scale renewable energy projects (EP14) provided they do not conflict with the principles in EP1 & EP2 or other relevant NDP policies. <p>From the above it is not considered that the NDP for Eastington is likely to have any significant effects on local heritage assets or nature conservation interests. It avoids development in areas of High Visual Impact Land and will not alter flood risk, and therefore SEA of this plan is not deemed necessary.</p>	
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3.4 It is concluded that the emerging NDP for Eastington will not require a full SEA.

4 Next Steps

4.1 The draft Eastington NDP will be submitted to SDC for consideration. This Screening Report should be submitted alongside the Eastington NDP, both for consideration by SDC, as well as for submission to the statutory consultees (Natural England, The Environment Agency and English Heritage) for consideration.

Alison Williamson *BSc., MSc., MIEEM., MIPROW., CEnv*, 5th May 2015
EIA Project Management, Ecology, Recreation and Rights of Way Consultancy Services
alisonjwilliamson@btinternet.com, 01285 851850)

APPENDIX 2

Cllr Peter Edis-Bates
Chairman of the Eastington
Neighbourhood Plan
Eastington Parish Council
C/o GRCC
Community House
15 College Green
Gloucester
GL1 2LZ

Our ref: SV/2010/104083/SE-
03/DS1-L01

Your ref:

Date: 10 June 2015

Dear Cllr Edis-Bates

CONSULTATION ON EASTINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCREENING REPORT, FOR SEA AND HRA.

Thank you for referring the above consultation together with the Draft Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) 2015-2031, both of which were received on 1 May 2015.

We have reviewed the Eastington NDP Screening Report for SEA and HRA and would offer the following opinion at this time:

Strategic Environmental Assessment:

Once adopted, the NDP will have the status of being part of the statutory development plan for the area. We therefore acknowledge that screening is required to be undertaken by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Regulation 9, for certain types of plans and programmes that could have 'significant' environmental effect(s). To assist your Council's determination of the SEA Screening opinion, we advise that based on the Screening Report Submitted (Ref 140415), and in consideration of those matters within our remit, we feel the NDP is considered unlikely to have significant environmental impacts.

We therefore agree with the conclusions presented within the report that a SEA is not required in this instance.

Yours sincerely

Environment Agency
Newtown Industrial Estate (Riversmeet House) Northway Lane, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 8JG.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Cont/d..

Mrs Anita Bolton
Planning Advisor

Direct dial 01684 864529

Direct e-mail anita.bolton@environment-agency.gov.uk

Date: 04 June 2015
Our ref: 152907
Your ref: none



Cllr Peter Edis-Bates
Chairman of The Eastington Neighbourhood Plan,

eastingtonndp@gmail.com

BY EMAIL ONLY

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

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr Edis-Bates

Planning consultation: Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA Screening Opinion

Thank you for your consultation on the above document which was received by Natural England on 01 May 2015

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

Natural England welcomes the Screening Report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment HRA for the Eastington Development Neighbourhood Plan.

I can confirm that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Eastington Neighbourhood Plan that were not considered and dealt with by the Sustainability Appraisal of the Stroud Local Plan.

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

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

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Roslyn Deeming on 0300 060 1524. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely



Roslyn Deeming
Lead Adviser
Sustainable Development Team
East Midlands Area



Eastington Parish Council

From: "Stuart, David" <David.Stuart@HistoricEngland.org.uk>
Date: Tuesday, 17 November, 2015 2:39 PM
To: "Eastington Parish Council" <eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com>
Cc: <ricardo.rios@stroud.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Eastington NDP consultation & Screening report

Dear Julie

It was good to talk to you and thanks for following up with this email.

I can confirm that our concerns over the SEA Screening exercise focussed on the need for greater evidence to substantiate the assertion that the allocation in the Plan of sites for development would not cause significant environmental effects, namely potential impact on heritage assets. The removal of those sites from the Plan does then in turn remove those concerns.

We are not the arbiters or decision makers in the Screening exercise so I am not in a position to pass judgement on whether an SEA is not required. All I can state is that we have no objection to any conclusion by the appropriate body that an SEA is not required.

I hope that clarifies the situation and provides you with sufficient comfort to proceed.

Kind regards

David

David Stuart | Historic Places Adviser South West
 Direct Line: 0117 975 0680 | Mobile: 0797 924 0316

Historic England | 29 Queen Square | Bristol | BS1 4ND

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From: Eastington Parish Council [mailto:eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com]
 Sent: 16 November 2015 19:27
 To: Stuart, David
 Subject: Re: Eastington NDP consultation & Screening report

Dear Mr Stuart

As per our telephone conversation I can confirm that Eastington NDP will not be allocating any sites. Please could you confirm that the removal of site allocations resolves HE's concerns about the impact to historic assets and that we do not need a SEA?

with thanks
 Julie

Mrs J Shirley BSc(Hons) FILCM
 Parish Clerk - Eastington Parish Council
 Tel: 01453 799616

All correspondence with the Clerk is in the public domain and may be disclosed

From: Eastington Parish Council
 Sent: Friday, 30 October, 2015 3:03 PM
 To: David.Stuart@HistoricEngland.org.uk
 Subject: Fw: Eastington NDP consultation & Screening report

Dear Mr Stuart

I have recently joined Eastington's NDP team and am following up the screening report. Would it be possible to talk to you about your email below please? We are currently looking at removing site allocations for new housing in our NDP and would like to clarify if this would resolve HE's concerns about the historic assets?

with thanks
 Julie

Julie Shirley
 Parish Clerk - Eastington Parish Council
 Tel: 01453 799616

All correspondence with the Clerk is in the public domain and may be disclosed

From: Stuart, David [mailto:David.Stuart@HistoricEngland.org.uk]
 Sent: 26 June 2015 00:11
 To: peter.edisbates@icloud.com
 Cc: Rios, Ricardo
 Subject: Eastington NDP consultation & Screening report

Dear Mr Edis-Bates

Thank you for your consultations on the Eastington draft Neighbourhood development Plan and SEA Screening Report.

My apologies for not getting this response to you before now. I hope the contents will still prove useful to you.

We are impressed by the degree to which the heritage of the Plan area is recognised for its value and reflected in the aspirations and policies proposed for its preservation and enhancement.

We note that the Plan advocates the allocation of land for up to around 120 houses with three sites identified accordingly. However, it is not clear from the Plan how an understanding of the heritage significance of the area has been used to inform these selections to ensure that their allocation in

principle will not cause harm to relevant heritage assets. It is also not clear how it has been determined that the quanta of development identified for each site can then be accommodated without causing harm.

An illustration is the reference made in Policy EP8 to the need for an area of open space on Site A: Land to the north of Alkerton to protect the setting of the neighbouring Grade II gazebo. The setting of this heritage asset will need to be determined in order to be able to conclude that the site allocation, its development with 60 dwellings and the provision of an open space will collectively still ensure that the significance of this asset will not be harmed, in accordance with the statutory provisions in the National Planning Policy Framework.

I am sure that sufficient analysis of such matters has been undertaken and that it exists as evidence but it would be desirable to demonstrate this more explicitly in the substantiation of the proposals.

Equally, we note from section F in Stage 2 of the SEA Screening report that it is concluded that these policies/proposals will not have any significant effects on local heritage assets and that as a consequence an SEA will not be necessary. But while the information cited usefully identifies the range of heritage assets in the Plan area and identifies how the Plan will protect them it doesn't assess the potential for impact on heritage assets which might arise from site allocations in policy EP8.

It may well be that the assertion that there will be no significant effects on heritage assets is accurate but we do not feel that the manner in which the Screening Report has addressed this consideration allows for such a conclusion to be drawn. We would therefore again encourage a more explicit reference to the evidence base which has been used to substantiate this outcome.

Addressing the points identified above by referencing already gathered material should hopefully mean that it is not an overly onerous task and we would be happy to be consulted on any additional information. While in the meantime we are as a consequence regrettably unable to agree that an SEA is not required, this should not be interpreted as an automatic implication that one is.

Kind regards

David Stuart

David Stuart | Historic Places Adviser South West
Direct Line: 0117 975 0680 | Mobile: 0797 924 0316

Historic England | 29 Queen Square | Bristol | BS1 4ND

From: Peter Edis-Bates <peter.edisbates@icloud.com>

Subject: Eastington NDP consultation, screening report

Date: 2 May 2015 11:26:20 am BST

To: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk, shwgplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk, ashley.maltman@environment-agency.gov.uk, southwest@english-heritage.org.uk

Cc: Muriel Bullock <murielbullock@gmail.com>, Jennifer Corrie <jennifercorrie@yahoo.co.uk>, Daniel James <richard.pidgemore@yahoo.co.uk>, Mark Campbell <mark@geode.uk.com>, Alison Loverage <aliloveridge@outlook.com>, Tom Low <Tom@hazelcottage.eu>, Andrew Cozens <andrew.cozens@farmlife.com>, Andrew Niblett <niblett.parish@talktalk.net>, Mike Evans <captainbeaky@mac.com>, Russell Warner <Russell.Warner@anixter.com>, Ian Stuart <ris@walkerstuart.co.uk>, Pauline Allen <allen.pauline@hotmail.co.uk>, Elin Tattersall <elint@grcc.org.uk>

Dear Sir/Madam,

Consultation bodies: Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Further to my consultation invitation below, sent yesterday, I now attach the screening report for SEA and HRA, in accordance with regulation 4 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans Programmes Regulations 2004.

While the response consultation period is the same six weeks, I would very much appreciate your earliest feedback if that is at all possible.

Regards,

Clr Peter Edis-Bates
Chairman of The Eastington Neighbourhood Plan,
For and on behalf of Eastington Parish Council,

01453 791 235

www.eastingtonndp.co.uk
eastingtonndp@gmail.com

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Consultation on Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan

Eastington Parish Council has prepared and approved for consultation a Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan which is available at www.eastingtonndp.co.uk.

It can be downloaded as a pdf from the tab marked 'The Plan'.

The period for submission of representations will run for six weeks from **Friday 1st May 2015** until **Friday 12th June 2015**. Representations should be made on the consultation response form via the website and received no later than **5.00pm on 12th June 2015**. Anonymous comments or comments received outside these dates will not be accepted.

Completed electronic response forms should be emailed to eastingtonndp@gmail.com or paper copies sent to: Eastington Parish Council c/o GRCC, Community House, 15 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LZ

Alternatively you can look at hard copies of the documentation at the following locations:

Eastington Community Centre
St. Michael's & All Angels Church, Eastington
The King's Head Public House, Eastington
The Badger Public House, Eastington

If you are not now the appropriate contact for this e-mail, I would be most grateful if you would forward this to the relevant person in your organisation or neighbourhood. Thank you.

If you have any further questions please contact me on tel. no. 01453 791235

Regards,
Cllr Peter Edis-Bates
Chairman of The Eastington Neighbourhood Plan,
For and on behalf of Eastington Parish Council,

01453 791 235
www.eastingtonndp.co.uk
eastingtonndp@gmail.com

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