

**Bishops Tachbrook Neighbourhood Plan**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment**  
**Screening Opinion**

**November 2014**

The map displays the Bishop's Tachbrook Civil Parish (CP) in red. Surrounding CPs include Whitnash CP to the north, Barford CP to the west, and Wasperton CP to the south. The map shows a network of roads, including the A46, and various landmarks like Bishop's Tachbrook station and the Tachbrook Reservoir. A grid system is overlaid on the map. A key at the bottom left indicates that the black line represents the WDC District Boundary and the red line represents the Neighbourhood Plans. At the bottom right, there is contact information for Warwick District Council, including a phone number, email, and website, along with a small logo for the council.

# **Bishops Tachbrook Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report**

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# **Bishops Tachbrook Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report**

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the Bishops Tachbrook Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Bishops Tachbrook Neighbourhood Plan is to provide locally derived and agreed guidance which will help inform planning decisions and shape the future of the parish and other land and property interests within the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 1.3 The legislative background set out below outlines the regulations that stipulate the need for this screening exercise. Section 3, provides a screening assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan which will be used to determine if there are likely to be any significant environmental effects and a requirement for a full SEA.

## **2. Legislative Background**

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations.
- 2.2 Sustainability appraisal of the type that is required for development plan documents is not required for neighbourhood development plans. This is because they are not 'Local Plans', or development plan documents as defined by the 2004 Planning Act. Neighbourhood development plans have their own designation: they are neighbourhood development plans produced by qualifying bodies under the Localism Act. Even when a neighbourhood development plan is made by a local authority following a successful referendum, and it becomes part of the development plan it does not change its designation into a development plan document (this does not mean it has any less status in terms of decision making though).
- 2.3 Whether a neighbourhood plan requires a strategic environmental assessment, and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft neighbourhood plan. A strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example where:
- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development

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

3.1 When deciding on whether the proposals are likely to have significant effects, the local authority is required to consult English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Where the local planning authority determines that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment) it should prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination.

### **3. Assessment**

#### **Neighbourhood Plan Screening Table/ Report**

##### **A: Summary of Plan**

<b>Details of Neighbourhood Plan</b>	
<b>Name of Neighbourhood Plan</b>	Bishops Tachbrook Draft Neighbourhood Plan and Draft Policy Section
<b>Geographic Coverage of Plan</b>	Bishops Tachbrook Parish area.
<b>Key topics / scope of plan</b>	<p>The Bishops Tachbrook Neighbourhood Plan intends to ensure Bishops Tachbrook is a fantastic place to live in, whatever your age.</p> <p>The Draft Policy Section policies that address the following subject matter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location of New Housing</li> <li>• Settlement Boundary</li> <li>• Mix of House Types</li> <li>• Design of New Housing Development</li> <li>• New Employment Development</li> <li>• Flood Risk</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of land</li> <li>• Protection and enhancement of the natural environment</li> <li>• Protection of local assets of community value</li> <li>• The provision of new Local Assets of Community Value</li> <li>• Enhancement of Bishop's Tachbrook Conservation Area</li> <li>• Pedestrian access to the countryside</li> <li>• Improving transport options</li> <li>• Improving road safety</li> </ul>
<b>Key issues</b>	<p>Key issues/objectives that the plan is seeking to address include:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide the blueprint for the development of the Parish over the next 15 years to 2028.</li> <li>2. To balance the strategic requirements of the district with local needs and the aspirations of our neighbourhood.</li> <li>3. To keep housing development to small scale and designed to a high quality, reflecting the local character and distinctiveness of the area.</li> <li>4. To provide homes for local people of all ages, incomes and housing size.</li> <li>5. To preserve and enhance the Conservation Area ensuring that the historic village heart of the community is an attractive, vibrant and valued focal point.</li> <li>6. To preserve the sustainability of the area by retaining and developing local services and amenities.</li> <li>7. To protect, enhance and give greater access to the natural environment of the area, including its landscape, geological assets, archaeological sites and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>8. To ensure a thriving primary school supported by, and engaging with, parish residents.</li> <li>9. To support local businesses, increasing the opportunity for local employment opportunities.</li> <li>10. To preserve our rural environment and heritage by ensuring that our community is not subsumed into the urban areas as they expand.</li> </ol>
<b>Date Screening opinion requested</b>	October 2014
<b>Person requesting screening opinion</b>	Cllr Ray Bullen – Bishop's Tachbrook Parish Council

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## B: Local Authority Details

Local Authority Details	Warwick District Council
Name and Job Title of officer producing Screening Opinion	David Barber (Planning Policy Manager)
Date of Assessment	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2014
Conclusion of assessment  - Is an SEA required Y / N	<b>No</b>
Reason for conclusion	<p>The characteristics of the Bishops Tachbrook NP and the likelihood for causing significant effects on the environment have been assessed. It is considered that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scale and location of housing development allocation proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan replicate those that have already been set out and subject to the SA of the emerging Local Plan (Warwick District Local Plan – Publication Draft April 2014). Given this, and the scope of other environmental matters/ policies within the neighbourhood plan (also subject to consideration in the Local Plan). It is considered unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan that were not given detailed consideration in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Warwick District Local Plan – Publication Draft April 2014.</li> <li>• The plan sets a framework for the consideration of a range of matters at the local level (see document attached) that due to their size, nature and location will not cause rise to significant environmental effects.</li> <li>• It is considered unlikely that the housing allocations / considerations set out within the Neighbourhood Plan will have such an influence on other plans and programmes so as to prejudice their sustainability/ cause significant environmental effects.</li> <li>• The Neighbourhood Plan makes ensures that any matters pertaining to the natural and historic environment are carefully managed / considered in future decisions.</li> <li>• Whilst identifying perceived local problems (such as through traffic), it is not considered that these matters will cause any significant harm to the environment.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is not considered that the scale of development proposed and issues to be addressed by the plan will have any transboundary environmental effects of a significant nature.</li> <li>The Neighbourhood Plan will help inform / shape planning decisions to ensure that there are no significant effects (individually or cumulatively) on the recognised special characteristics of the conservation area and its buildings of historic value.</li> <li>There are no sensitive sites such as SSSI'S in the Parish</li> </ul> <p>To conclude / summarise: it is the opinion of this screening report that the Bishops Tachbrook Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.</p>
Name and Job Title of officer approving Screening Opinion	Tracy Darke – Head of Development Services
Date of approval	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2014

### C: Summary of Consultation

Internal Consultation	
Officer (name and job title)	Summary of Comments
External Consultation	
Officer (name and job title)	Summary of Comments

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### D: Assessment

Stage	Y / N	Reason
1. Is the plan or programme subject to preparation / adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	This is a Neighbourhood Plan that is being prepared by a qualifying body (Bishops Tachbrook Parish Council) under the Localism Act 2011. Once independently assessed and subjected to a referendum, it will need to be formally adopted by the Local Planning Authority to be brought into force. When adopted, Neighbourhood Plans are statutory planning documents. They will form part of the Local Development Framework and so will have significant weight in planning decisions.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	N	The neighbourhood plan is not a mandatory requirement; it is being prepared voluntarily at the discretion / choice of the local qualifying body (The Parish Council) in line with the provisions of the Localism Act.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	N	The plan is prepared for land use. Proposed use: Annex I- Not applicable (as no significant effects identified) Annex II- See sections 4 and 8 (below) The Plan will inform the determination of planning applications (a form of development consent)
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N	In view of Bishops Tachbrook NP's minimal environmental effects, and general conformity with the Local Plan the HRA screening report (May 2013) prepared for the Warwick District Council Local Plan - Publication Draft) is considered relevant. Therefore the Neighbourhood Plan does not require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive.

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5. Does the PP Determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Y	The Neighbourhood Plan proposes a sites for Housing. However this site has recently been granted planning permission. The allocations set out are in conformity with those included in the Warwick District Local Plan – Publication Draft April 2013.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	When adopted, Neighbourhood Plans will be statutory planning documents. They will form part of the Local Development Framework and so will have significant weight in planning decisions. The responsibility for issuing development consent will remain with the Local Authority.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	N	N/A
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	The Neighbourhood Plan must be prepared in conformity with the Local Plan. The development of the Local Plan is subject to a detailed SA which is considered compliant with European Directive 2001/42/EC the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. A Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of the Local Plan has also been produced and reported on separately that is also considered relevant in the assessment of the environmental effects of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is unlikely that it will have a significant effect on important Habitat / Biodiversity assets.

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## **4 Screening Outcome**

- 4.1 As a result of the screening assessment in section 3, it is considered unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Bishops Tachbrook Neighbourhood Plan that were not covered/ addressed in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan. As such, it is considered that the Bishops Tachbrook Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.