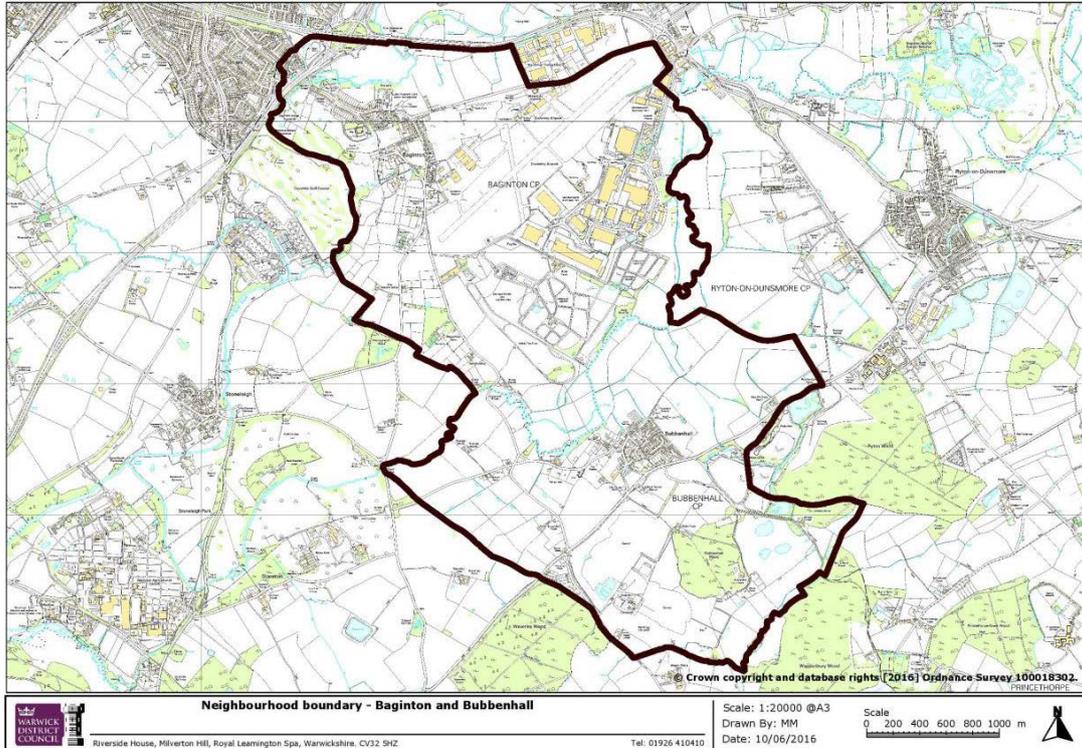


**Baginton and Bubbenhall Joint Neighbourhood
Plan**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment
Screening Opinion**

October 2016

Baginton and Bubbenhall Joint Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report



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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the Baginton and Bubbenhall Joint 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 Baginton and Bubbenhall Joint Neighbourhood Plan is to provide locally derived and agreed guidance which will help inform planning decisions and shape the future of the villages of Baginton and Bubbenhall, 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 Baginton and Bubbenhall 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:

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- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- 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

Details of Neighbourhood Plan	
Name of Neighbourhood Plan	Baginton and Bubbenhall Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2029
Geographic Coverage of Plan	Baginton and Bubbenhall Villages and outlying parish areas.
Key topics / scope of plan	<p>The Baginton and Bubbenhall Neighbourhood Plan intends to ensure that future development is undertaken in a such a way that it enables residents of the Parish to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ensure the Natural Environment is both protected and enhanced to provide a sustainable future for this community within a rural setting - To ensure future development conserves and enhances the historical assets of the locality -Promotes a proportionate level of housing growth and provides future residents with affordable options in the area , recognising its heritage and retaining the areas rural identity.

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	<p>-create an inclusive community, with appropriate community facilities</p> <p>The plan includes chapters / policies that address the following subject matter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and enhancing local landscape character (rural), including use of native species, retaining existing parkland, retaining and reinstating primary hedgerows, taking opportunities to reinstate areas of heathland, conserving tree cover within rural settlements, protecting open spaces and encouraging the recreation of riverside wetland habitats. • Protecting and enhancing local biodiversity, by protecting and enhancing existing habitats including wildlife corridors and stepping stones. • Protection of the greenbelt across the two parishes • Traffic management and transport improvements – policy seeks financial contribution towards highway improvements and traffic calming for the benefit of pedestrians and cyclists, in addition to promoting alternative modes of public transport. It also seeks to discourage/minimise traffic flows through the villages, and requires traffic management schemes for strategic sites. • Commercial development – supports local employment opportunities within Baginton and Bubbenhall. • Baginton housing – policies outline detailed requirements for sites proposed for allocation in the emerging Local Plan. • Baginton – specific policy relating to protecting and enhancing the special interest of the village. It refers to scale and proportion of new development, appropriate materials and detailing, boundary treatments and protecting
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	<p>identified important views, and heritage assets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baginton – protection of identified local green spaces. • Baginton – protection of local community assets and amenities by resisting changes of use except in exceptional circumstances. Also encourages development of new facilities. • Baginton – further traffic management and transport improvement policy • Baginton – further commercial development policy • Bubbenhall – housing policy. New housing to be limited to rural affordable housing, limited infill and conversion/redevelopment of previously developed land. Aims to meet the needs of all sections of the community. • Bubbenhall – protecting and enhancing the village. It refers to scale and proportion of new development, appropriate materials and detailing, boundary treatments and protecting identified important views, and heritage assets. • Bubbenhall – protection of facilities and services • Bubbenhall – encourages new sports facilities
<p>Key issues</p>	<p>Key issues that the plan is seeking to address include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing – provide diverse range of sustainable homes that meet identified needs and are sympathetic to the individual character of each village - History – preserve and enhance the existing Conservation Areas and historic

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	<p>features of Baginton and Bubbenhall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green belt and landscape character and natural environment – retain and protect the Green belt - Services – ensure provision meets local needs and seek ways to improve provision within each parish or across the two parishes. - Assets and amenities – review assets and amenities across the parishes. Propose opportunities to improve existing assets and identify opportunities for sharing existing or creating new assets. - Road traffic – work to progressively reduce adverse impacts of road traffic on residents and the environment. - Commercial/industrial development – ensure that existing businesses are promoted and that new rural enterprises are supported subject to not having an unacceptable impact on residential amenity and natural or historic environment.
Date Screening opinion requested	30 September 2016
Person requesting screening opinion	Stephen Haynes – Baginton and Bubbenhall Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

B: Local Authority Details

Local Authority Details	Warwick District Council
Name and Job Title of officer producing Screening Opinion	Hayley Smith (Senior Planning Officer)
Date of Assessment	05 th October 2016 (updated following receipt of statutory consultation responses in November 2016)
Conclusion of assessment - Is an SEA required Y / N	No
Reason for conclusion	The characteristics of the Baginton and

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	<p>Bubbenhall NP and their likelihood for causing significant effects on the environment have been assessed. It is considered that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The scale and location of housing development allocations proposed in the Baginton and Bubbenhall 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/ revised June 2016). 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. This position is further re-enforced by the revised SA that has been undertaken to assess subsequent modifications to the Local Plan (revised Local Plan SA - June 2016).• 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.• It is considered unlikely that the housing allocations / considerations set out within the Baginton and Bubbenhall NP will have such an influence on other plans and programmes so as to prejudice their sustainability/ cause significant environmental effects.• The Baginton and Bubbenhall NDP makes provisions for a sustainable amount of new development in its area and ensures that any matters pertaining to the natural and historic environment are carefully managed / considered in future
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	<p>decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst identifying perceived local problems (such as through traffic, and traffic speeds), it is not considered that these matters will cause any significant harm to the environment. • 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. • The Baginton and Bubbenhall NP will help inform / shape planning decisions to ensure that there are no significant effects (individually or cumulatively) on the recognised special characteristics of the Baginton and Bubbenhall conservation area and its buildings of historic value. • There is one SSSI in the neighbourhood plan area, as well as several areas of ancient woodland. However, it is not considered that the neighbourhood plan policies are likely to have significant impacts over and above those already assessed as part of the Local Plan process. • To conclude / summarise. <p>it is the opinion of this screening opinion/ report that the Baginton and Bubbenhall Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.</p>
Name and Job Title of officer approving Screening Opinion	David Barber – Development Policy Manager
Date of approval	07.10.16

C: Summary of Consultation

	Summary of Comments
Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree that the NDP does not require a

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Tracey Kempson-Byrne (Planning Advisor)	<p>full SEA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further comments provided in respect of Groundwater and flood risk to ensure that the NDP addresses the environmental issues considered to be of greatest importance • Recommend that a flood risk management policy is included in the NDP • In planning any development, reference should be made to 'Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice (GP3).
<p>Natural England Dated 11 October 2016</p> <p>Tom Amos (Advisor, South Mercia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England notes and concurs with the screening outcome i.e. that no screening opinion is required
<p>Historic England Dated 08 Nov 2016</p> <p>Peter Boland (Historic Places Advisor)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic England concurs that no SEA is required at this time

D: Assessment

Stage	Y / N	Reason
<p>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))</p>	Y	<p>This is a Neighbourhood Plan that is being prepared by a qualifying body (Baginton and Bubbenhall Neighbourhood Plan Group) 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.</p>

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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 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 Baginton and Bubbenhall NP's minimal environmental effects, and general conformity with the Local Plan the HRA screening report - May 2013 (Revised 2016) prepared for the Warwick District Council Local Plan - Publication Draft) is considered relevant. Therefore the Baginton and Bubbenhall NP does not require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive.
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 new sites for Housing use at the local level. 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?	N	N/A

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(Art 3.8, 3.9)		
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	<p>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 Baginton and Bubbenhall Neighbourhood Development Plan. It is unlikely that the Baginton and Bubbenhall NDP will have a significant effect on important Habitat / Biodiversity assets.</p>

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 Baginton and Bubbenhall Neighbourhood Plan that were not covered/ addressed in the Sustainability Appraisal (s) of the Local Plan. As such, it is considered that the Baginton and Bubbenhall Neighbourhood Development Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.