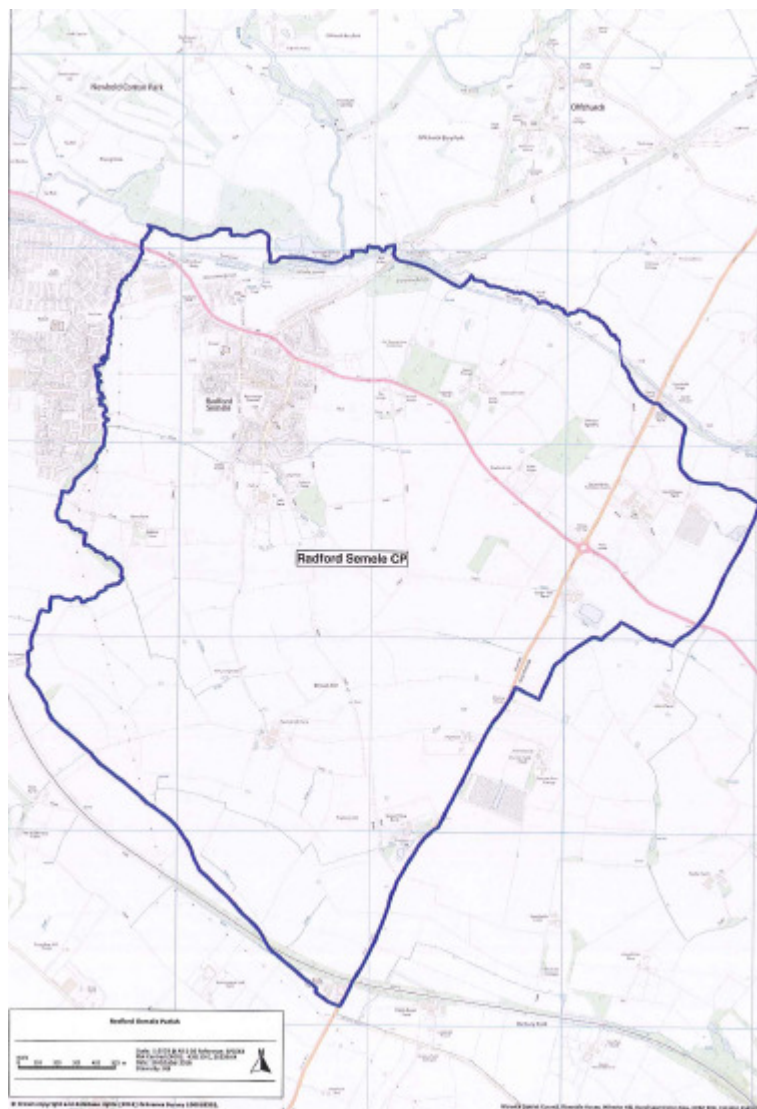


Radford Semele Neighbourhood Plan

**Strategic Environmental Assessment
Screening Opinion**

29 March 2019
Updated 25 June 2019
(following responses from Statutory Consultees)

Radford Semele Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report



Designated Neighbourhood Area - Radford Semele Neighbourhood Plan

**Radford Semele 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 Radford Semele 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 Radford Semele Neighbourhood Plan is to provide locally derived and agreed guidance which will help inform planning decisions and shape the future of Radford Semele, 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 Radford Semele 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

Details of Neighbourhood Plan	
Name of Neighbourhood Plan	Radford Semele Neighbourhood Plan
Geographic Coverage of Plan	The village Radford Semele and the surrounding rural environment of the parish
Key topics / scope of plan	<p>The Radford Semele Neighbourhood Plan intends to ensure that future development is undertaken in a such a way that it enables residents of the Parish to:-</p> <p>The plan includes chapters / policies that address the following subject matter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix of housing types and tenures • Local Green Space designations • Protecting small open spaces • Sport and recreation facilities • Conserving and enhancing landscape character

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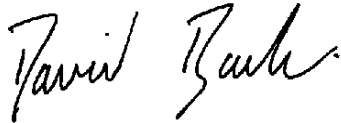
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-designated heritage assets • Footpaths • Cycling • Traffic management and public transport • Community – healthier and more inclusive • Area of Separation (maintaining open land between Radford Semele, Leamington Spa and Whitnash) • Enhancing the village community
<p>Key issues</p>	<p>Key issues and objectives that the plan is seeking to address are stated as:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure new housing developments provide a mix of housetypes and tenures that help meet the future needs of the area • Protect important local green and open spaces • Protect and enhance sport and recreation facilities such as churches, shops, post office and pub • Conserve the parish’s landscape and heritage assets • Identify key areas where traffic problems should be tackled, and key ways in which walking and cycling can be encouraged • Identify ways in which community life and interactions can be supported and enhanced to make a healthier and more inclusive community • Identify an area of open land, an “Area of Separation” that should remain open so that Radford Semele remains distinct separate settlement from Royal Leamington Spa, Sydenham and Whitnash
<p>Date Screening opinion requested</p>	<p>29 March 2019</p>
<p>Person requesting screening opinion</p>	<p>Parish Clerk – Radford Semele Town Council</p>

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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	29 March 2019 (reviewed 25 June 2019)
Conclusion of assessment - Is an SEA required Y / N	No
Reason for conclusion	<p>The characteristics of the Radford Semele 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 Neighbourhood Plan seeks to add an additional level of detail to housing and other land use allocations set out in the Warwick District Local Plan. These allocations have already been set out and subject to the SA of the Local Plan and its updates/addendums. 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, including its addendums. • 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 that have not already been assessed through the Local Plan process. • It is considered unlikely that the housing considerations set out within the Radford Semele NP will have such an influence on other plans and programmes so as to

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	<p>prejudice their sustainability/ cause significant environmental effects. The plan does not make any new allocations, but rather identifies the type of windfall developments which could be supported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Radford Semele NP makes provisions for new development in its area and ensures that any matters pertaining to the natural and historic environment are carefully managed / considered in future decisions. • 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, that haven't been considered through the Local Plan process. • To conclude / summarise. <p>It is the opinion of this screening opinion/ report that the Radford Semele Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.</p>
Name and Job Title of officer approving Screening Opinion	<p>David Barber – Head of Development Services</p> 
Date of approval	29/03/19

C: Summary of Consultation

	Summary of Comments
<p>Environment Agency Dated: 25 June 2019</p>	<p>As requested we have reviewed the Screening Assessment prepared in support of the Radford Semele Neighbourhood Plan. Having reviewed the proposals we do not consider there to be significant environmental impacts as a result of this plan, therefore we concur with the conclusions of the report and do not</p>

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	<p>require a SEA to be undertaken in support of the plan. We advise however the consultation is undertaken with Natural England amongst other statutory bodies prior to making any final decision.</p> <p>We note the presence of floodplain from the River Leam and its tributaries, notably the Radford Brook, within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary. However, as this does not affect the settlement boundary, as shown in Information Map 4 we have no concerns.</p>
<p>Natural England</p> <p>Dated: 07 May 2019</p>	<p>We welcome the production of this SEA Screening report. Natural England notes and concurs with the screening outcome i.e. that 'the Radford Semele Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.'</p> <p>Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Historic England</p> <p>Dated: 09 April 2019</p>	<p>For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage.</p> <p>Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request. On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of the 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with your view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.</p> <p>The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before</p>

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	the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made.
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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 (Radford Semele Town 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 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 Radford Semele NP's minimal environmental effects, and general conformity with the Local Plan the HRA screening report - May 2013

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		(Revised 2016) prepared for the Warwick District Council Local Plan is considered relevant. Therefore the Radford Semele 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 does not identify any new land allocations beyond what is already included in the Local Plan. It simply adds local detail.
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 Radford Semele Neighbourhood Development Plan. It is unlikely that the Radford Semele NDP 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 Radford Semele Neighbourhood Plan that were not covered/ addressed in the Sustainability Appraisal (s) of the Local Plan. As such, it is considered that the Radford Semele Neighbourhood Development Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.