



The Draft Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Development Plan

**Strategic Environmental Assessment
Screening Report and Habitats Regulations
Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion**

November 2022

**Draft Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report and Habitats
Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion**

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1. Introduction

1.1 This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the contents of the Draft Woodplumpton 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 or the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA).

1.2 The Vision of the Draft Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Plan is for a Parish that better meets the needs of existing and new residents whilst maintaining and enhancing its distinctive character and appearance. We believe in, and strongly defend the principles that Safety & Security are key elements for the wellbeing of the Parish as a whole. We are committed to protecting, maintaining and enhancing our open / green spaces for the benefit of all the community, now, and in the future. We want to maintain and develop a strong and inclusive community spirit and greater cohesion.

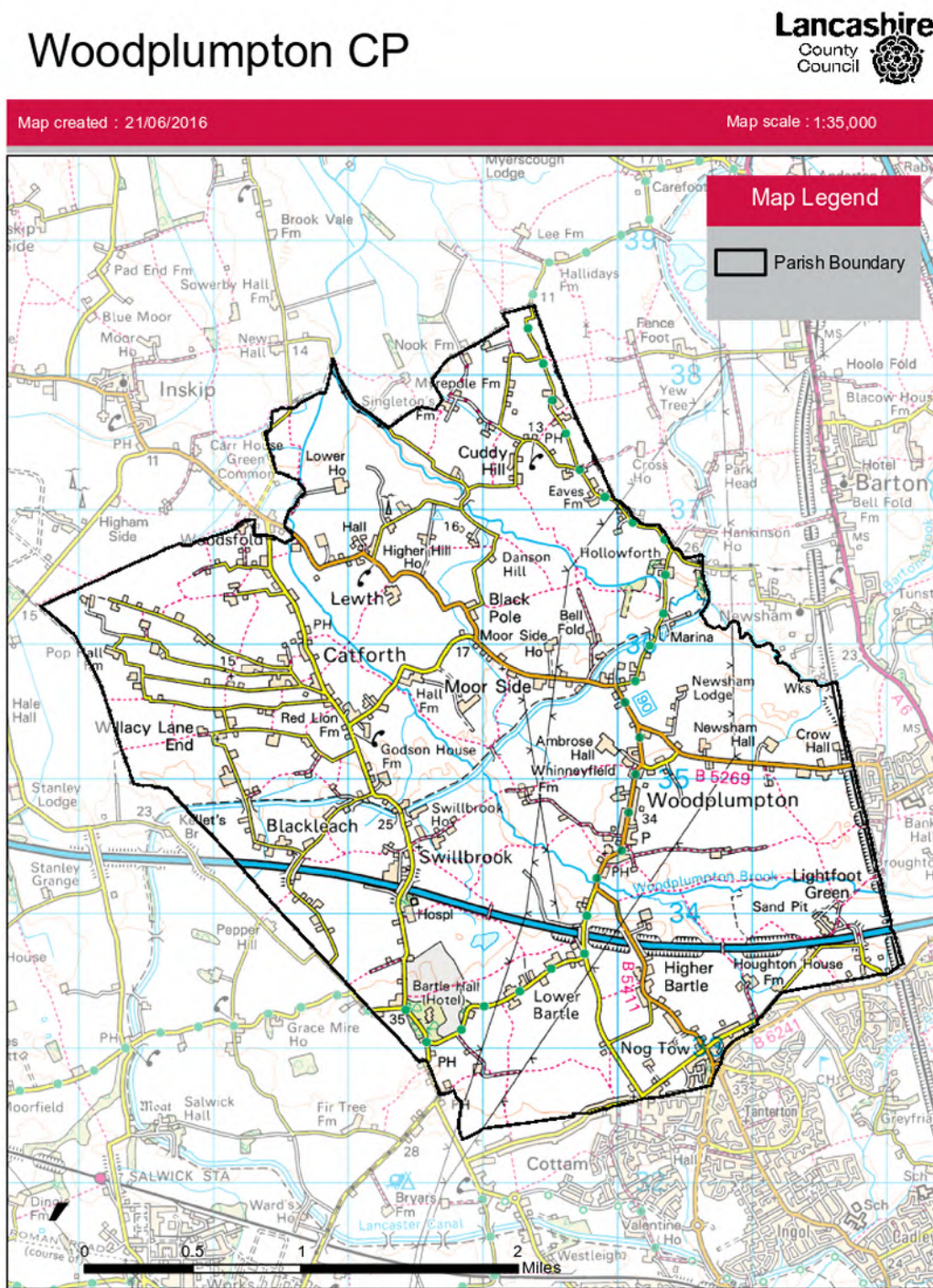
1.3 The Objectives of the Draft Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Plan are to:

- Actively support, promote & develop (where appropriate) local amenities / facilities for the benefit of all residents
- Develop & enhance the individual character of both villages
- Develop & enhance existing (& new where appropriate) open / green spaces
- Promote, maintain & improve policing & security in the Parish including the provision of appropriate resources / facilities
- Actively seek & support improvements to highways, pavements & footpaths to promote the safe & efficient movement through & around the Parish
- Identify & improve appropriate methods of communication & inclusion for the benefit of the community (e.g. broadband access, literature, notice boards, community & social events)
- Identify, promote & support community involvement projects & schemes

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- Promote & actively support the need for a diverse range of housing types (e.g. affordable) without losing the character of the Parish
- Promote & actively support existing & new businesses without losing the character of the Parish
- Publicise & promote the use of public rights of way, bridleways & green / open spaces
- Actively maintain & improve public rights of way, bridleways & green / open spaces

1.4 The Neighbourhood Plan Area is:



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1.5 Draft Neighbourhood Plan Policies:

Policy Number	Policy Name
COM 1	New and Improved Community Facilities
COM 2	Protecting Existing Community Facilities
HOU 1	Layout and Design of New Housing
HOU 2:	Conversion of Agricultural Buildings (falling out of use) within Woodplumpton parish to residential use
ECON 1	Protection of Rural Economy
ECON 2	Support for Rural Economy
MOV 1	Improvements to Footpaths, Cycle-paths and Bridleways
MOV 2	Promoting Walking and Cycling in New Development
ENV 1	Land Use in Rural Woodplumpton
ENV 2	Open Landscape Views
ENV 3	Nature Conservation And Biodiversity

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1.6 The legislative background set out below outlines the regulations that require the need for this screening exercise. Section 4, provides a screening assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Neighbourhood Plan and the need for a full SEA and HRA.

2. SEA 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. Detailed Guidance on these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005)

2.2 .The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required Local Authorities to produce Sustainability Appraisals (SA) for all local development documents to meet the requirement of the EU Directive on SEA. It is considered best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into an SA.

2.3 This report focuses on screening for SEA and the criteria for establishing whether a full assessment is needed.

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3. Screening process

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

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to

- the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
- the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
- the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
- environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
- the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to

- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
- the cumulative nature of the effects,
- the transboundary nature of the effects,
- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
 - intensive land-use,
- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Source: Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

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Summary	
Name of Neighbourhood Plan	Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Plan
Geographic Coverage of the plan	The Parish of Woodplumpton
Key topics/scope of Plan	<p>The <u>vision</u> for Woodplumpton is:</p> <p>A Parish that better meets the needs of existing and new residents while maintaining and enhancing its distinctive character and appearance. We believe in, and strongly defend the principles that Safety & Security are key elements for the well-being of the Parish as a whole. We are committed to protecting, maintaining and enhancing our open / green spaces for the benefit of all the community, now and in the future. We want to maintain and develop a strong and inclusive community spirit and greater cohesion.'</p> <p>The NP <u>objectives</u> include improvements to:</p> <p>Local amenities / facilities; character of the area; existing open spaces; policing & security; highways, pavements & footpaths; methods of communication & inclusion; community involvement; house types (e.g. affordable); existing & new businesses; public rights of way, bridleways & green / open spaces; and, public rights of way, bridleways & green / open spaces</p> <p>The Plan policies address the following <u>topics</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and Improved Community Facilities • Protecting Existing Community Facilities • Layout and Design of New Housing • Conversion of Agricultural Buildings (falling out of use) within Woodplumpton parish to residential use • Protection of Rural Economy • Support for Rural Economy • Improvements to Footpaths, Cycle-paths and Bridleways • Promoting Walking and Cycling in New Development

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Key Issues	Impact on the environment
Summary of Screening opinion	
Name and job title of officer undertaking screening opinion	Christina Marginson, Senior Planning Officer
Date of assessment	November 2019
Conclusion of assessment	SEA is not required
Reason for conclusion	<p>The NP promotes criteria based policies that seek to shape future development proposals, on a small scale basis, that reduces and manages impacts on the environment (both natural and built).</p> <p>There are no European designated sites within the neighbourhood area, or any within close proximity to the neighbourhood area that would be likely to be affected.</p> <p>As a lower tier plan all development proposals have been subject to assessment against higher tier policies, plans and legislation that seek to protect locally, nationally and internationally designated sites. This includes the adopted Central Lancashire Core Strategy (2012) and the adopted Preston Local Plan (2015) that are specifically relevant to heritage and natural assets within the neighbourhood area and beyond. The Local Plan had a full sustainability appraisal undertaken and the NP would not have any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered via the sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan. Given the existing designated assets within the neighbourhood area are given additional protection in the neighbourhood plan and the presence of mitigating policies not only in the NP but also within the wider development plan for Preston, the content and broad approach of the plan is not considered to have a significant effect on the environment, or a significant adverse effect on designated sites. Therefore an SEA is not required.</p>
Statutory Consultee	Comments
English Heritage	Conclude that the draft Neighbourhood Plan would have no significant environmental impacts on the historic environment.

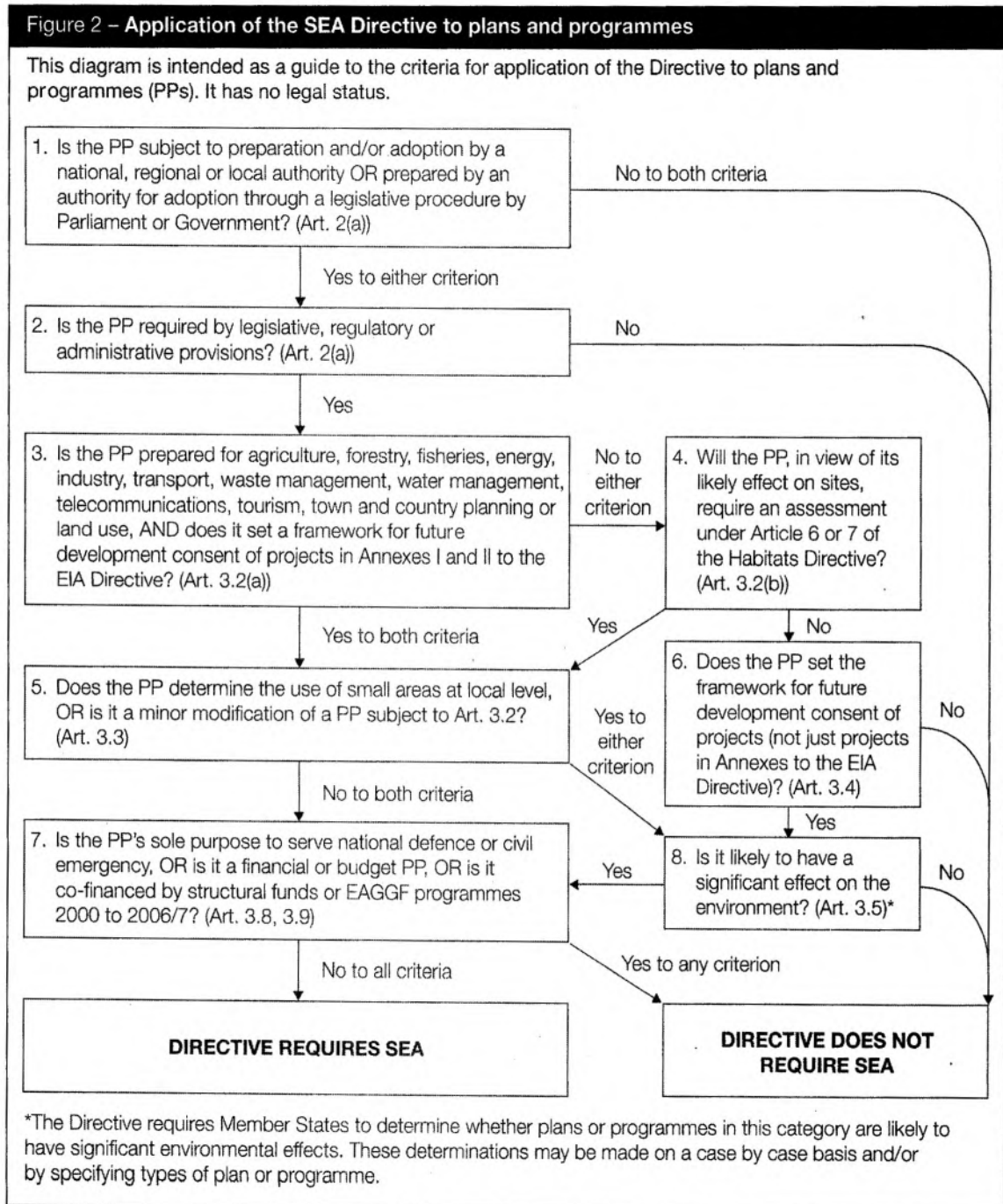
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Environment Agency	Agree with the views of the Council that an SEA is not required.
Natural England	Natural England agrees with the report's conclusions that the Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.

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4. Assessment

4.1 The diagram below illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required.



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4.2 The table below shows the assessment of whether the Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA. The criteria below is taken from the Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations for each of the SEA issues:

Assessment 1: Does the Neighbourhood Plan require a SEA?

Establishing the Need for SEA		
Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority, OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The preparation and adoption of the NP is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The NP will be prepared by Woodplumpton Parish Council (as the 'relevant body') and will be 'made' by Preston City Council as the local authority. The preparation of NPs is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012.
		GO TO STAGE 2
2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	Whilst the NP is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it will if 'made', form part of the Development Plan for the Borough. It is therefore important that the screening process considers whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive.
		GO TO STAGE 3
3. Is the NP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste 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))	Y	The NP is being prepared for town and country planning, local transport and land use as it makes proposals to manage the development of land for housing and employment uses. As such, the NP contains a framework for future development consent of urban development projects (listed as 10(b) in Annex II of the EIA Directive). The NP does not specifically allocate any land for development purposes.
		GO TO STAGE 5
4. Will the NP, 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	The neighbourhood plan does not propose additional levels of growth of a scale that would likely impact designated sites.
5. Does the NP determine the use of small areas at local level OR is it a minor modification of a plan or programme subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	N	The NP is expected to determine the use of small areas at a local level enabling the provision of an unquantified level of housing across the plan period to 2026.
		GO TO STAGE 8
6. Does the NP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)	N/A	NOT APPLICABLE
7. Is the NP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget plan or programme, OR is it co- financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 3.8, 3.9)	N	The NP does not fall into any of the criteria listed.

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8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art 3.5)	N	See below: Assessment 2
	N	GO TO STAGE 7

Assessment 1: Conclusion

The assessment concludes that the Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Plan will not require a SEA. Assessment 2 establishes that no significant effect on the environment is likely to arise from the implementation of the neighbourhood plan.

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*Assessment 2: Is the Neighbourhood Plan likely to have a Significant Effect on
the Environment?*

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004. Characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan, having regard to:	Preston City Council assessment	Likely significant environmental effect?
The degree to which the Plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	<p>The NP would, if made, form part of the statutory Development Plan and as such does contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects. The NP sits within the wider framework of the National Planning Policy Framework, the adopted Central Lancashire Core Strategy (2012) and the adopted Preston Local Plan (2015), therefore the projects for which this NP helps to set a framework are localised in nature but may have resource implications.</p> <p>The draft NP does not identify a high level of growth, and any new development would only be small scale. Other than sites that are already allocated for housing in the Local Plan, the NP only permits new housing development where it is small scale and adjoining the existing village settlement boundary, and subject to strict criteria. No specific sites are allocated for development.</p>	N
The degree to which the Plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The NP must be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework. The general policies within the NP are in general conformity with the adopted Central Lancashire Core Strategy (2012) and the adopted Preston Local Plan (2015). Within the Woodplumpton designated area there is an existing strategic location identified which first allocated by the Core Strategy, then defined by the Local Plan and detailed within a Supplementary Planning Document (North West Master Plan, 2017).	N

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<p>The relevance of the Plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>The NP is expected to work to protect and enhance the natural and built environment of the area within a wider policy framework including, but not limited to the NPPF, and Preston Local Plan.</p> <p>In combination with other plans and legislation, it is considered that the NP will integrate environmental considerations and promote sustainable development and sustainable travel, but may also give rise to an effect on the environment through small scale development.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Environmental problems relevant to the Plan.</p>	<p>There are no environmental problems relevant to the plan. Where relevant, future development proposals will need to consider the impact of the plan on flood risk, designated sites and other primary and secondary impacts on the environment. The NP has a strong emphasis on protecting, conserving, and enhancing the character and quality of the environment, thus reducing environmental problems.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>The relevance of the Plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).</p>	<p>The NP is not directly relevant to the implementation of European legislation, although it will need to take the impact of the Water Framework Directive into account.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects of the Plan.</p>	<p>The NP aims to have a positive impact on the area and supports sustainable development. It is likely to have short-term effects resulting from activity associated with the development of small scale sites within the settlement boundary of Woodplumpton and may also have a longer term impact arising from the small scale growth.</p> <p>Where proposals are received to develop small scale sites in accordance with NP policies, such proposals will also be subject to national and local policies in regard to environmental protection and mitigation of impacts.</p>	<p>N</p>

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<p>The cumulative nature of the effects of the Plan.</p>	<p>As Northwest Preston Strategic site falls within the NP area which has been through many tests on the highway networks, school and health care places and its own detailed strategic Environmental assessments.</p> <p>The NP does not seek to allocate any further specific sites within the plan. There would be limiting effect arising from this small scale growth.</p> <p>The Local Plan sustainability appraisal considered the impact of development in the parish, alongside development in other settlements and parishes within the Preston area. Development in the NP is likely to be generally consistent to the amount proposed in the Local Plan.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>The trans-boundary nature of the effects of the Plan.</p>	<p>There are not expected to be any significant trans-boundary effects.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).</p>	<p>There are no significant risks to human health. Indeed, the NP is likely to improve human health through positive assertions on protection of natural assets and sustainable transport and proposed improvements to footpaths, cycle-paths and bridleways.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected) by the Plan.</p>	<p>The NP covers the parish of Woodplumpton. As such it is likely to affect the resident population of Woodplumpton (approximately 2,154 residents (2011 census) over the life of the Plan across a parish located in a mainly rural area, and on the urban fringe of Preston. Its impacts are unlikely to be extensive.</p>	<p>N</p>

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<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected by the Plan due to: Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or intensive land use</p>	<p>The neighbourhood area contains a number of natural and environmental assets both within and adjacent to the plan area. The NP sets out to deliver new development within the area within the identified NW Preston housing allocation in the Local Plan, and through infill development within the existing Woodplumpton village settlement boundary. Policies are included in the NP specifically regarding the design and layout of new houses. Given that the parish is predominantly a rural parish with a wealth of biodiversity and natural habitats, any development could have a limited impact on the environment. However, higher tier policies exist to offer adequate protection to the existing natural, cultural and environmental assets within and adjacent to the plan area and the NP re-emphasises the importance of these principles. The NP seeks to safeguard the existing character and identity of the open countryside within the parish.</p> <p>The draft NP does not exceed environmental quality standards or limit values. It is expected that development proposals will continue to make the best and most efficient use of land, and not to intensively use the land for development. Future development proposals will be assessed against policies in the NP and other policies within the Development Plan (which should mitigate against the over-development of land). As such, the plan is unlikely to lead to a significant intensification of land use nor is it felt that its provisions are likely to harm natural and cultural characteristics.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>The effects of the Plan on areas or landscapes which have recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	<p>There are no Local Wildlife Sites, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Sites of Biological Importance, within or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan Area.</p> <p>The plan seeks to protect valued landscapes and has a policy 'Open Landscape Views' which aims to protect key public views from adverse impacts of development.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Assessment 2 Conclusion</p>	<p>The Draft Woodplumpton NP is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.</p>	<p>Directive does not require SEA</p>

Assessment 2: Conclusion

The assessment concludes that the Draft Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment and therefore no further assessment is required. An assessment of the draft neighbourhood plan policies and their potential effect on the environment is included at Appendix A.

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5. Screening Outcome for the SEA

5.1 As a result of the assessment, it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Draft Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Plan that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Preston Local Plan. As such, the Draft Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

6. Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Legislation

6.1 The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the assessment required for any plan or project to assess the potential implications for European wildlife sites. The HRA therefore looks at whether the implementation of the plan or project would harm the habitats or species for which European wildlife sites are designated. The relevant European wildlife site designations are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), which together form part of the Natura 2000 network.

6.2 In addition to SPAs and SACs, Ramsar sites are also designated areas which, as a matter of government policy, are to be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites (although they are not covered by the Habitats Regulations). European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as internationally designated wildlife sites.

6.3 The legislation sets out a process to assess the potential implications of a plan on internationally designated wildlife sites. The first stage of this process is a screening exercise where the details of nearby internationally designated sites are assessed to see if there is the potential for the implementation of the plan to have an impact.

7. HRA Screening Assessment

7.1 There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Area. For the purposes of this screening assessment, sites that fall within a 10km radius are also considered. To clarify there are no international designated wildlife sites within 10km of the NDP.

8. HRA SCREENING OPINION

8.1 As a result of the above assessment, it is considered that the policies of the draft Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with those contained in Preston's Local Plan. It is therefore concluded that the draft Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a negative impact on any internationally

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designated wildlife sites and as such, the recommendation is made that a full AA is not required.

9. CONCLUSIONS

9.1 The preceding assessment exercises have examined whether the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan is likely to require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment or a Habitats Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment.

9.2 The SEA screening exercise concludes that the draft Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken. The HRA screening exercise concludes that the draft Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full Habitats Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken. There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Area.