North Somerset Council

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)  
Screening Report  

Long Ashton Neighbourhood Plan  

May 2014
1. Introduction

1.1 This screening report sets out whether or not the contents of the Long Ashton Neighbourhood Plan (NP) 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 Long Ashton NP has been prepared by Long Ashton Parish Council and this screening report has been undertaken by North Somerset Council.

1.3 The Long Ashton NP specifically considers the following:

- Increase village sustainability by encouragement of appropriate renewable energy proposals and sustainable construction of dwellings and sustainable drainage systems
- Protection of the landscape through support for green belt, identification of Local Green Space and Sites of Open space Value, an Area of Separation policy to retain the actual and visual separation between Bristol and Long Ashton and policies protecting trees, woodland and areas of value to nature or landscape.
- Support new employment opportunities
- Identify a local centre where shops and business uses are concentrated and supported to protect vitality and viability of the village centre
- Safeguard community facilities
- Support the provision of cycling and walking routes to services and neighbouring settlements and traffic mitigation and parking strategy
- Supports the provision of affordable housing for local people.

The Vision is:

"Long Ashton develops as a sustainable community retaining its semi-rural, separate, village character while promoting local business, community facilities and sustainable energy. The parish, including Leigh Woods, will continue to contribute to the leisure and recreation of local people and the wider area of Bristol and North Somerset".

The policies within the plan are based on five topic groups which were considered central to the achievement of the vision. These are:

- Sustaining a local community.
- Creating a prosperous local economy.
- Protecting our local environment.
- Transport.
- Meeting local housing needs.
2. Appropriate Assessments

2.1 The draft Long Ashton NP was subject to an HRA screening assessment to ascertain whether an Appropriate Assessment is required under Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, which relate to Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive. Natural England confirmed that no Appropriate Assessment was required as the implementation of the plan is not likely to have any significant adverse effects on protected species or their habitats (appendix 1).

3. SEA requirements

3.1 Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan which in this case is taken to be the North Somerset Core Strategy. The Core Strategy was subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal which included a SEA assessment. This ensured that there were no likely significant effects which would be produced from the implementation of the Core Strategy and if so ensured mitigation measures were in place. The council considers that there is general conformity between the Long Ashton Neighbourhood Plan and the Core Strategy and that there are no significant changes introduced by the Long Ashton Plan. It is therefore concluded that the implementation of the Long Ashton Neighbourhood Plan would not result in any likely significant effects upon the environment.

3.2 This screening report also follows the ODPM guidance on SEA’s on ascertaining whether a full SEA is required. That guidance is set out in a flow diagram which is reproduced in Appendix 4.

3.3 Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out in appendix 2.

3.4 The process followed in completing the assessment accords with the diagram (Figure 2) of the Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (reproduced below). The table which follows sets out the assessment undertaken in accordance with the diagram.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application of SEA Directive to Long Ashton Neighbourhood Plan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stage</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Is the PP (plan or programme) 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))</td>
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2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))

Communities have a right to be able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. However communities are not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative purposes to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. This plan however if adopted would form part of the statutory development plan, therefore it is considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine further if an SEA is required.

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))

The Long Ashton NP is prepared to set out a framework for town and country planning and the future development of a number of land uses within the parish of Long Ashton including industry, employment and retail development, although it does not anticipate being the tool to manage development of the scale and nature envisaged by Annex I and Annex II (see appendix 3 to this report for list).

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))

An HRA screening assessment to ascertain whether an Appropriate Assessment is required under Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, which relate to Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive. English Nature confirmed that no Appropriate Assessment was required as the implementation of the plan is not likely to have any significant adverse effects on protected species or their habitats (Appendix 1).

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)

Determines the use of small areas at a local level including, employment, retail and local green space.

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)

The NP is to be used for determining future planning applications.

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/a

8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)

No likely significant effects upon the environment have been identified. A screening exercise identified that an Appropriate Assessment was not required. No development is proposed outside the settlement boundary or in locations which would have a significant adverse effect on heritage assets or landscape or biodiversity interests, or in areas of flood risk.

### 4. Screening Outcome

4.1 As a result of the assessment above it can be concluded that there are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects arising from the Long Ashton NP. As such the Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.
Appendix 1
HRA Screening Assessment

Date: 07 May 2014
Our ref: 118585
Your ref: -

Claire Courbis
Principal Planning Policy Officer
North Somerset Council
BY EMAIL ONLY
Claire.Courbis@n-somerset.gov.uk

Dear Ms Courbis,

Long Ashton Neighbourhood Development Plan - HRA Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 15 April 2014 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

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.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

We have considered the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) screening paper for the Long Ashton Neighbourhood Development Plan.

We note that the Neighbourhood Plan does not in itself allocate land for development and is described as being in general conformity with the strategic policy approach of the Core Strategy, in terms of the nature and location of development, and therefore complies with the HRA undertaken at that time.

North Somerset Core Strategy

Our understanding is that the outcome of the re-examination of Core Strategy remitted policies CS13 and CS6, CS14, CS19, CS28 and CS30-CS33 is still awaited; however provided the strategic approach set out in the Core Strategy is not subject to further changes, we are content that the HRA provides an appropriately detailed assessment of draft Plan in terms of its likely effects on European Sites within and beyond the plan area, and that the HRA conclusion that the Neighbourhood Plan will not result in significant effects on European designated sites, including the Avon Gorge Woodlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and North Somerset and Mendip Bats SAC, which are the Nature 2000 sites of most relevance to the plan, appears reasonable.

With the above in mind, Natural England concurs with the Council’s view that the Long Ashton Neighbourhood Development Plan can be screened out from further stages of assessment because significant effects on European Sites are unlikely to occur, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but 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 Amanda Grundy on 07900 608 311. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultators@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

Amanda Grundy
Somerset, Avon & Wiltshire Team
Appendix 2
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC

1. The characteristics of neighbourhood plans ("plan"), having regard, in particular, to
   - 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,
   - the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
   - the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
   - environmental problems relevant to the plan,
   - the relevance of the plan 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 trans boundary 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)
Appendix 3  
Annex I and Annex II of EIA Directive

Annex I
1. Crude-oil refineries (excluding undertakings manufacturing only lubricants from crude oil) and installations for the gasification and liquefaction of 500 tonnes or more of coal or bituminous shale per day.
2. Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more and nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors (except research installations for the production and conversion of fissionable and fertile materials, whose maximum power does not exceed 1 kilowatt continuous thermal load).
3. Installations solely designed for the permanent storage or final disposal of radioactive waste.
4. Integrated works for the initial melting of cast-iron and steel.
5. Installations for the extraction of asbestos and for the processing and transformation of asbestos and products containing asbestos: for asbestos-cement products, with an annual production of more than 20 000 tonnes of finished products, for friction material, with an annual production of more than 50 tonnes of finished products, and for other uses of asbestos, utilization of more than 200 tonnes per year.
6. Integrated chemical installations.
7. Construction of motorways, express roads (1) and lines for long-distance railway traffic and of airports (2) with a basic runway length of 2 100 m or more.
8. Trading ports and also inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic which permit the passage of vessels of over 1 350 tonnes.
9. Waste-disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment or land fill of toxic and dangerous wastes.

(1) For the purposes of the Directive, 'express road' means a road which complies with the definition in the European Agreement on main international traffic arteries of 15 November 1975.
(2) For the purposes of this Directive, 'airport' means airports which comply with the definition in the 1944 Chicago Convention setting up the International Civil Aviation Organization (Annex 14).

Annex II
1. Agriculture
(a) Projects for the restructuring of rural land holdings.
(b) Projects for the use of uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agricultural purposes.
(c) Water-management projects for agriculture.
(d) Initial afforestation where this may lead to adverse ecological changes and land reclamation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use.
(e) Poultry-rearing installations.
(f) Pig-rearing installations.
(g) Salmon breeding.
(h) Reclamation of land from the sea.
2. Extractive industry
   (a) Extraction of peat.
   (b) Deep drillings with the exception of drillings for investigating the stability of
       the soil and in particular:
       • geothermal drilling,
       • drilling for the storage of nuclear waste material,
       • drilling for water supplies.
   (c) Extraction of minerals other than metalliferous and energy-producing
       minerals, such as marble, sand, gravel, shale, salt, phosphates and potash.
   (d) Extraction of coal and lignite by underground mining.
   (e) Extraction of coal and lignite by open-cast mining.
   (f) Extraction of petroleum.
   (g) Extraction of natural gas.
   (h) Extraction of ores.
   (i) Extraction of bituminous shale.
   (j) Extraction of minerals other than metalliferous and energy-producing
       minerals by open-cast mining.
   (k) Surface industrial installations for the extraction of coal, petroleum, natural
       gas and ores, as well as bituminous shale.
   (l) Coke ovens (dry coal distillation).
   (m) Installations for the manufacture of cement.

3. Energy industry
   (a) Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water
       (unless included in Annex I).
   (b) Industrial installations for carrying gas, steam and hot water; transmission
       of electrical energy by overhead cables.
   (c) Surface storage of natural gas.
   (d) Underground storage of combustible gases.
   (e) Surface storage of fossil fuels.
   (f) Industrial briquetting of coal and lignite.
   (g) Installations for the production or enrichment of nuclear fuels.
   (h) Installations for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuels.
   (i) Installations for the collection and processing of radioactive waste (unless
       included in Annex I).
   (j) Installations for hydroelectric energy production.

4. Processing of metals
   (a) Iron and steelworks, including foundries, forges, drawing plants and rolling
       mills (unless included in Annex I).
   (b) Installations for the production, including smelting, refining, drawing and
       rolling, of nonferrous metals, excluding precious metals.
   (c) Pressing, drawing and stamping of large castings.
   (d) Surface treatment and coating of metals.
   (e) Boilermaking, manufacture of reservoirs, tanks and other sheet-metal
       containers.
   (f) Manufacture and assembly of motor vehicles and manufacture of motor-
       vehicle engines.
   (g) Shipyards.
   (h) Installations for the construction and repair of aircraft.
   (i) Manufacture of railway equipment.
(j) Swaging by explosives.
(k) Installations for the roasting and sintering of metallic ores.

5. Manufacture of glass

6. Chemical industry
   (a) Treatment of intermediate products and production of chemicals (unless included in Annex I).
   (b) Production of pesticides and pharmaceutical products, paint and varnishes, elastomers and peroxides.
   (c) Storage facilities for petroleum, petrochemical and chemical products.

7. Food industry
   (a) Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats.
   (b) Packing and canning of animal and vegetable products.
   (c) Manufacture of dairy products.
   (d) Brewing and malting.
   (e) Confectionery and syrup manufacture.
   (f) Installations for the slaughter of animals.
   (g) Industrial starch manufacturing installations.
   (h) Fish-meal and fish-oil factories.
   (i) Sugar factories.

8. Textile, leather, wood and paper industries
   (a) Wool scouring, degreasing and bleaching factories.
   (b) Manufacture of fibre board, particle board and plywood.
   (c) Manufacture of pulp, paper and board.
   (d) Fibre-dyeing factories.
   (e) Cellulose-processing and production installations.
   (f) Tannery and leather-dressing factories.

9. Rubber industry
   Manufacture and treatment of elastomer-based products.

10. Infrastructure projects
    (a) Industrial-estate development projects.
    (b) Urban-development projects.
    (c) Ski-lifts and cable-cars.
    (d) Construction of roads, harbours, including fishing harbours, and airfields (projects not listed in Annex I).
    (e) Canalization and flood-relief works.
    (f) Dams and other installations designed to hold water or store it on a long-term basis.
    (g) Tramways, elevated and underground railways, suspended lines or similar lines of a particular type, used exclusively or mainly for passenger transport.
    (h) Oil and gas pipeline installations.
    (i) Installation of long-distance aqueducts.
    (j) Yacht marinas.

11. Other projects
    (a) Holiday villages, hotel complexes.
(b) Permanent racing and test tracks for cars and motor cycles.
(c) Installations for the disposal of industrial and domestic waste (unless included in Annex I).
(d) Waste water treatment plants.
(e) Sludge-deposition sites.
(f) Storage of scrap iron.
(g) Test benches for engines, turbines or reactors.
(h) Manufacture of artificial mineral fibres.
(i) Manufacture, packing, loading or placing in cartridges of gunpowder and explosives.
(j) Knackers’ yards.

12. Modifications to development projects included in Annex I and projects in Annex II undertaken exclusively or mainly for the development and testing of new methods or products and not used for more than one year.
Appendix 4

Figure 2 - Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes

This diagram is intended as a guide to the criteria for application of the Directive to plans and programmes (PPs). It has no legal status.

1. Is the PP 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))

   Yes to either criterion

   ▶ No to both criteria

2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(b))

   Yes

   ▶ No

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))

   No to either criterion

   ▶ Yes to both criteria

4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2(b))

   ▶ Yes to any criterion

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)

   No to both criteria

   ▶ Yes to any criterion

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)

   ▶ No to any criterion

7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve 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? (Art. 3.6, 3.9)

   No to all criteria

8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)*

   ▶ Yes to any criterion

DIRECTIVE REQUIRES SEA

DIRECTIVE DOES NOT REQUIRE SEA

*The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case-by-case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.