



**NEWARK &  
SHERWOOD**  
*DISTRICT COUNCIL*

**Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan  
The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes  
Regulations 2004  
SEA Screening Statement**

**January 2018**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken on development plans and programmes that may have a significant environmental effect is outlined in European Union Directive 2001/42/EC. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) state that this is determined by a screening process, utilising a specified set of criteria which is outlined in Schedule 1 of the Regulations. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 are commonly referred to as the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations'. The results of this process must be set out in an SEA Screening Statement, which must be publicly available. Newark & Sherwood District Council are the responsible authority under Regulation 9 of the Regulations to carry out this screening.
- 1.2 Newark & Sherwood District Council has produced this Draft Screening Assessment to seek the views of the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England on our initial conclusion that the emerging Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan (NP) will not have any significant negative effects on the environment and therefore that a full environmental assessment is not necessary. This determination has been reached by assessing the contents of the emerging submission NP against criteria provided in Schedule 1 of the 2004 Regulations.
- 1.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 also requires that a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is prepared for all spatial plans. It is considered best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into an SA. The Government has stated that Sustainability Appraisal is not needed for NPs, but has said that it must be demonstrated how the NP contributes to the achievement of sustainable development in the area.
- 1.4 Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 refers to the Habitats Directive. The Directive requires that any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a European site must be subject to an appropriate assessment. Paragraphs 2 – 5 of Schedule 2 amend the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 so that its provisions apply to NPs. The regulations do state that the making of an NP is not likely to have a significant effect on a site designated at European level for its biodiversity, however, this needs to be ascertained and this can be done at the time the screening opinion is being sought.

## **2.0 The scope of the Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan**

- 2.1 The NP sets out the local planning policy framework for the parish of Epperstone. When the plan is 'made' by the Local Planning Authority it will become part of the Development Plan for the area and will be used to help determine planning applications in Epperstone. The plan has the following vision:

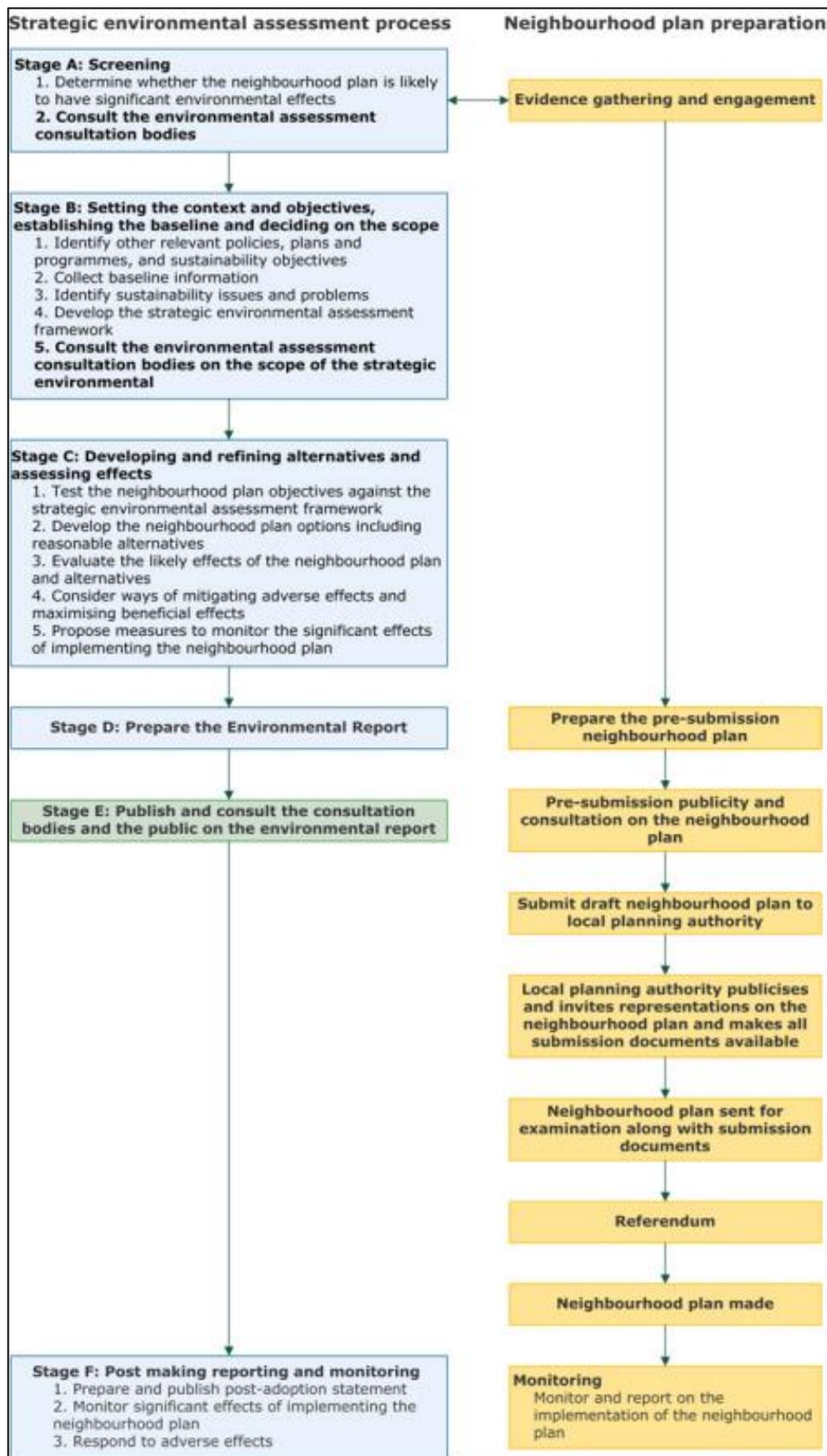
"To sustain and enhance Epperstone Parish as a proud, distinctive and thriving community and an excellent place to live and visit. The attractive built and natural environment as well as its rural setting will continue to be protected whilst meeting the changing needs of the community".

- 2.2 The following objectives have been identified to help realise the vision for Epperstone:
  - To protect the distinctive identity of the Parish and the settlements to be found within it.

- To promote stronger, cohesive and balanced communities having regard to changes in demographics and need, for example influencing the type of housing provision.
- To protect the surrounding countryside and open space that is important to the community and/or wildlife.
- To conserve and enhance the high quality built, historic and natural environment within the Green Belt.
- To ensure high quality design which fits well with the location and, wherever possible, enhances the distinctive and high quality built environment.
- To protect and, wherever possible, enhance important community facilities and services.
- To maintain and enhance the range of ecological sites, habitats and species found in the Parish.
- To ensure a safe and pleasant environment for pedestrians, cyclists and traffic on roads.
- To reduce contributions to climate change and to promote prudent use of resources through better design and patterns of development.

### **3.0 Assessment**

- 3.1 National Planning Policy Guidance states that, in some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This process is commonly referred to as a “screening” assessment and the requirements are set out in Regulation 9 of the Regulations.
- 3.2 If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of the Regulations. One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the making of the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European Union obligations (including under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive).
- 3.3 This document will be submitted to the organisations with environmental responsibilities as consultation bodies to ensure that they agree with its conclusions. The relevant organisations are: Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency.
- 3.4 Figure 1, below, is a flowchart depicting the Strategic Environmental Assessment process in relation to Neighbourhood Plans.



**Figure 1:** Strategic Environmental Assessment in relation to Neighbourhood Plans process flowchart (National Planning Policy Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>)

3.5 Table 1, below, seeks to establish whether the Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore requires a full Strategic Environmental Assessment.

**Table 1: Does the Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan require a full Strategic Assessment?**

Question	Answer
1) Is the plan or programme (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. The emerging Pre-submission Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan is prepared by a qualifying body – namely Epperstone Parish Council with support and advice from the local planning authority. The legislative procedure is set out in ‘The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012’.
2) Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Communities are encouraged rather than required to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. If a community chooses to develop a neighbourhood plan, there are ‘provisions’ in place that require the neighbourhood plan to be prepared in a formal way.
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 PP is prepared for town and country planning or land use, but it does not set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II of the EIA Directive.
4) Will the PP, in view of its likely effects on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2(b))	The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development, and it is not within 15km of the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC. A part of the Parish is, however, within the 5km buffer from Woodlark and Nightjar breeding areas (see section 5). Although this does not mean that an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive is required, a precautionary approach has been taken.
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)	Yes - The Neighbourhood Plan sets out land use planning policies, and specifically policies which support well designed sustainable development within the village.
8) Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	No – See Table 2 and Appendix 1 for details.

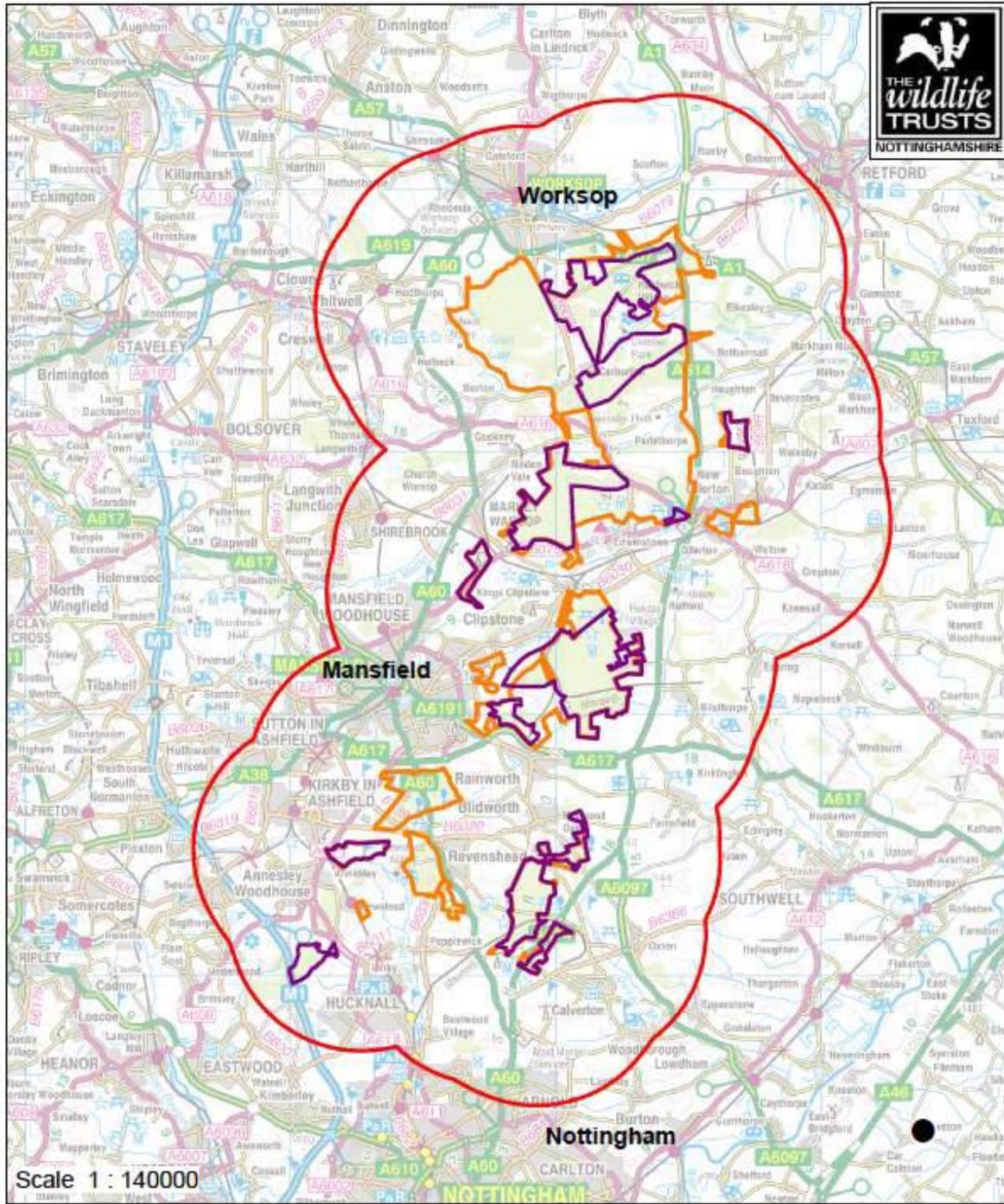
#### 4.0 Assessment conclusions

4.1 The results of the assessment contained in Table 1 in section 3, indicate that there are no clear significant negative impacts on the environment resulting from the policies and proposals contained in the Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore it is the opinion of Newark & Sherwood District Council that there is no requirement to conduct an SEA on the NP.

- 4.2 Given that the NP has been prepared within the framework of the existing Development Plans for the District, the Newark & Sherwood Core Strategy, the Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document (Adopted July 2013) and the emerging Amended Core Strategy (submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017), which were subject to Sustainability Appraisal, the District Council does not consider that the NP needs to be subject to the process of Sustainability Appraisal.
- 4.3 Epperstone Parish is more than 15 kilometres away from the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC and any other Natura 2000 site. There is therefore no legal requirement to carry out a Habitats Regulations Screening. Part of the site is, however, within the five kilometre buffer zone of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA described below, so a Habitats Regulations Screening has been carried out in line with the risk-based approach proposed by Natural England.

## **5.0 Sherwood Forest ppSPA**

- 5.1 The UK government has identified that the populations of nightjar and woodlark in Sherwood Forest may warrant protection as a SPA. A final decision has not been made and it remains under consideration as part of a UK-wide SPA Review Programme being led by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.
- 5.2 In 2011, following a Public Inquiry, the Secretary of State decided to refuse to grant planning permission for an Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) on land at the former Rufford Colliery site at Rainworth. The likely effect on the breeding populations of woodlark and nightjar was a key consideration in the Secretary of State's decision. The Secretary of State agreed that whilst the application site was not within an area currently identified as a Special Protection Area (SPA), there was merit in following the formal approach required for SPAs.
- 5.3 In their Advice Note dated March 2014 Natural England proposed a risk-based approach to be followed to help futureproof decision-making on plans and projects in case the site is designated in the future. This approach should ideally cover the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts which may include, but may not be limited to, the following:
- disturbance to breeding birds from people, their pets and traffic;
  - loss, fragmentation and/or damage to breeding and/or feeding habitat;
  - bird mortality arising from domestic pets and/or predatory mammals and birds; and
  - bird mortality arising from road traffic and/or wind turbines.
- 5.4 No set boundaries have been defined for the possible potential SPA (ppSPA). Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust have produced a map using available evidence to identify current breeding areas and a 5 kilometre buffer zone around them. This is reproduced as Figure 2 on the following page.
- 5.5 Part of Epperstone Parish is within the 5 kilometre buffer zone of the ppSPA. Therefore, in order to take account of the risk-based approach proposed by Natural England, a Habitats Regulations Screening will be carried out to evaluate the impacts of the policies contained in the Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA.



- Key**
- RSPB IBA Boundary with 5Km buffer
  - NE Indicative Core Area
  - RSPB IBA Boundary

Plan 1 v2

(The use of original data regarding the IBA boundary provided by the RSPB is acknowledged. However, use of this data does not necessarily mean that the RSPB endorses the views expressed here.)

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**Figure 2:** Map illustrating Important Bird Areas of Sherwood Forest ppSPA with a 5km buffer zone, submitted as evidence to the Rufford ERF Public Inquiry 2010.

## 6.0 Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment

- 6.1 This Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment, while not a legal requirement, has been carried out because part of Epperstone Parish is within the 5 kilometre buffer zone of the ppSPA (see section 5). This is in line with the risk-based approach proposed by Natural England.
- 6.2 The Screening Assessment in Table 2 below has considered the main possible sources of effects on the ppSPA arising from the proposed policies of the Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan, possible pathways to the ppSPA and the effects on possible sensitive receptors in the site – woodlarks and nightjars. The assessment considers the impacts of the policies in the Plan directly on the ppSPA as these are land use policies which may have some direct or indirect impact on the local environment.
- 6.3 Text that has been inserted into proposed policies of the Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan as part of this assessment appears in italics within square brackets, as in Policy EP 6.

**Table 2: An assessment of the impact of proposed policies in the Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA**

<b>Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan policy</b>	<b>Is a significant effect on the ppSPA likely?</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<p><b>POLICY EP 1: HOUSING MIX</b> Housing development proposals should provide for the existing and future needs of the Parish. The provision of smaller homes (3 bedrooms or less), especially suitable for young people, young families and older people, including those who wish to downsize, will be encouraged.</p>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; rather it seeks to encourage the provision of certain types of housing.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING</b> The Plan acknowledges and accepts district planning policies that require certain housing developments to provide affordable housing. In legal agreements connected to planning consents that deliver affordable housing, nomination rights will normally be expected to give priority to applicants with a local connection to Epperstone Parish.</p>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it seeks to direct the provision of affordable housing to people with a local connection.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 3: PROTECTING COMMUNITY FACILITIES</b> Development proposals that would result in either the loss of, or have a significant adverse effect on, an identified community facility will not be supported, except where:</p> <p>a) it can be clearly demonstrated that its continued use as a community facility is no longer viable or it is no longer required by the community;</p>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it concerns the protection of community facilities.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>

<p>or b) equivalent or better alternative provision in terms of quantity and quality and in an equally suitable location in the Parish can be provided. The following facilities have been identified as being especially important to the community:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Holy Cross Church.</li> <li>2.The Cross Keys Public House.</li> <li>3.Epperstone Village Hall.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>POLICY EP 4: SUPPORTING NEW AND ENHANCED COMMUNITY FACILITIES</b> Small scale development proposals for new or enhanced community facilities to meet a local need will be viewed positively where in accordance with other relevant planning policies, including Green Belt policies.</p>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it concerns the provision of community facilities.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 5: ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE</b> The Plan supports the listing and retention of Assets of Community Value. Once listed, development proposals that support their longevity will be viewed positively where in accordance with other relevant planning policies, including Green Belt.</p>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it concerns assets of community value.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 6: LOCAL GREEN SPACES</b> Development proposals that would result in the complete or partial loss of a Local Green Space (as shown on Figure 3 [<i>within the Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan, not this document</i>] and identified below) will not be supported other than in very special circumstances.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allotment Site off Chapel Lane.</li> <li>2. Land around Church of the Holy Cross.</li> <li>3. Area of meadow land, including Dovecote, opposite the “Cottage”.</li> <li>4. Playing fields surrounding the Village Hall, including Bourne Wood.</li> <li>5. The green spaces and associated tree canopy on both sides of Main Street from West Manor Park to the mini roundabout on the A6097.</li> <li>6. Epperstone Manor meadow land.</li> </ol>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it seeks to protect identified green spaces.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 7: TREES AND HEDGEROWS</b> The Plan supports the planting and management of trees and hedgerows. Trees and hedgerows of good arboricultural,</p>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it seeks to protect existing trees and hedgerows and</p>

<p>biodiversity and amenity value should be protected from loss or damage as a result of development. Where possible, they should be integrated into the design of development proposals. Development proposals should demonstrate how they have taken into account the need to protect trees and hedgerows of good value. Where hedges or trees form part of a development proposal they should be native species common to the Parish.</p>		<p>promote the planting of new trees and hedgerows. This is likely to be beneficial to local wildlife including birds in terms of habitat and possible foraging opportunities, although it is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 8: BIODIVERSITY</b> Development proposals which conserve, enhance and incorporate biodiversity in and around them will be supported, particularly when the biodiversity forms part of a wider network, Local Wildlife Site or significant habitat type.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it seeks to conserve and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 9: IMPORTANT VIEWS AND VISTAS</b> Development proposals should respect and, wherever possible, enhance significant views and vistas by ensuring that their visual impact on these views is carefully and sympathetically controlled. The following views (accessible to the public) have been identified as especially important:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Looking south-east from the most northern point of Epperstone Park towards Epperstone village across open fields and mature trees.</li> <li>2. Looking from the bridleway between Cottage Farm and Norwood Farm next to the woodlands offering a long and largely unbroken view towards Epperstone village across open countryside and mature trees.</li> <li>3. Views south and south-west from the high point on Hagg Lane near to Eastwood Farm looking down towards Epperstone village across open fields.</li> <li>4. Standing on the public footpath the view from the end of Parr Lane offers a panoramic 180-degree vista across beautiful open countryside and towards the Dover Beck and Ploughman’s wood beyond.</li> <li>5. Standing on Main Street between the Cottage and the Laurels immediately in front of the Pinfold (a Listed Building) and from the footpath, there is an extensive vista to the north across the mature lawned garden</li> </ol>	<p>No.</p>	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it concerns the protection and enhancement of identified views.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>

<p>towards open fields with mature trees and woodlands dotted amongst fields.</p> <p>6. Standing on Main Street between Meadowside and Dovecote House the view starts with the Dovecote (a Listed Building) in the immediate foreground beyond which is a long and largely unbroken view of attractive open countryside.</p> <p>7. Standing at the ancient Wash Bridge off Lowdham Road the view west towards the Dover Beck and associated meadowlands as well as the view north towards the Epperstone village.</p>		
<p><b>POLICY EP 10: RENEWABLE ENERGY AND LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES</b></p> <p>The Plan does not identify any areas suitable for the development of renewable energy installations due to the special nature of its landscape. However, suitably located and designed proposals that promote and encourage the development of renewable and low carbon energy resources will be viewed sympathetically where, following consultation with concerned residents, the Parish Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed. The potential impacts (either in isolation or cumulatively) of the development proposal, as follows, should be addressed. Development proposals will be supported, which:</p> <p>a) do not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity of local residents (such as noise, visual impact, shadow flicker, water pollution, odour, air quality, emissions).</p> <p>b) do not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the location, in relation to visual impact and impact on the character and sensitivity of the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>c) do not have a significant adverse effect on any Site of Special Scientific Interest, regionally or locally important geological site, site of ecological value, Special Landscape Area; Local Green Space or Conservation Area or their settings.</p> <p>d) do not have an unacceptable adverse impact on Listed Building or heritage assets or their settings.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development or identify areas suitable for renewable energy development; it seeks to minimise or avoid adverse impacts from renewable energy development and low carbon technologies.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>

<p>e) in the case of wind turbines, it can be demonstrated that the development would not result in an unacceptable adverse effect (either in isolation or cumulatively) on protected bird species, including important sites and migration routes.</p> <p>f) in order to address community concerns and in the interests of residential amenity and safety, there should be a minimum separation of one kilometre between wind turbines and residential properties with no financial interest.</p> <p>g) in the case of ground mounted solar panels, it can be demonstrated that they do not result in the loss of good quality agricultural land.</p> <p>h) have addressed operational requirements addressed (including accessibility and suitability of road network, ability to connect to the grid underground, proximity of any relevant feedstock).</p> <p>i) have measures included for the removal of structures and the restoration of sites, should sites become non-operational.</p> <p>j) It can be clearly demonstrated that there has been full and meaningful consultation with the local community, Parish Council and the District Council and the planning impacts have been fully addressed.</p> <p>k) where appropriate the Parish Council should organise a meeting to outline the proposals to all residents who should have the opportunity to express their views.</p>		
<p><b>POLICY EP 11: DESIGN PRINCIPLES</b>  Development proposals must respond positively to their context and complement and, where possible, reinforce the local attractive and historic character and sense of place. The Plan will require development proposals to meet the following design principles, where appropriate:</p> <p>a) they should respect and enhance (but not necessarily replicate) the local character, having regard to scale, density, massing, height, landscape, layout, materials, access arrangements and detail (e.g. size and shape of windows and doors).</p> <p>b) the amenity of neighbouring occupiers or uses should not be adversely affected through overlooking, privacy, overshadowing, loss of</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it concerns design.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>

<p>outlook, over dominance or disturbance.</p> <p>c) the height of new development (including extensions) ought to be restricted to two storeys. This still permits loft extensions, provided they do not increase the height of the existing property.</p> <p>d) extensions to properties should be of subordinate scale to the original buildings and the resulting building should be in keeping with, and not adversely affect, the form, scale, appearance and the general character, design of the original building and its setting.</p> <p>e) extensions to properties should use the same type of materials as the original building, but where UPVC windows or doors are to be used, they should reflect as far as possible the original design and character of the original buildings and the surrounding area.</p> <p>f) the enclosure of plots should be of native hedging, wooden fencing (such as post and rail fencing), or brick or stone wall of sympathetic design.</p> <p>g) retain existing natural boundaries such as trees, hedges, walls and streams which either contribute to visual amenity or are important for their ecological value.</p> <p>h) does not reduce garden/green space to an extent where it would significantly adversely affect the special character of the area or the amenity of the proposed occupiers of the new dwelling or adjacent occupiers/uses.</p> <p>i) the use of external lighting is discouraged and where necessary its size and luminosity should be restricted to that proportionate and necessary for reasons of safety and security of the property and its curtilage.</p> <p>j) where it involves the introduction of a solar panel system on a residential property, no part of the system should be located on a wall or roof that immediately faces the highway except where it can be demonstrated that it would not adversely affect the character of the building and surrounding area.</p> <p>k) reduce their impact upon and be resilient to the effects of climate change by encouraging higher environmental standards in accordance with relevant Newark and Sherwood district planning policies including Core Policy 9.</p> <p>i) the use of external lighting is discouraged</p>		
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<p>and where necessary its size and luminosity should be restricted to that proportionate and necessary for reasons of safety and security of the property and its curtilage.</p> <p>j) where it involves the introduction of a solar panel system on a residential property, no part of the system should be located on a wall or roof that immediately faces the highway except where it can be demonstrated that it would not adversely affect the character of the building and surrounding area.</p> <p>k) reduce their impact upon and be resilient to the effects of climate change by encouraging higher environmental standards in accordance with relevant Newark and Sherwood district planning policies including Core Policy 9.</p>		
<p><b>POLICY EP 12: STATUTORY UTILITIES</b> Development proposals by statutory utility bodies should respect, and where possible, enhance the special and distinctive character and heritage of the Parish including through well-designed and carefully sited developments that are in keeping with and sympathetic to their surroundings. Wherever possible, they should be installed below ground level, with the minimum number of junction boxes carefully sited.</p>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it seeks to promote good design in projects carried out by statutory undertakers.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 13: BROADBAND PROVISION</b> Development proposals and actions that support and/or provide enhanced broadband provision in the Parish will be encouraged.</p>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it seeks to promote the provision or enhancement of broadband.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 14: LISTED BUILDINGS</b> Development proposals requiring planning permission that conserve and enhance the character, longevity and appreciation of a Listed Building and its setting will be supported.</p>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it seeks to conserve listed buildings and their settings.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 15: BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES OF LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST ('NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS')</b> The Plan identifies the buildings, walls and structures listed below (and shown in Figure 7) as non-designated heritage assets.</p>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it seeks to conserve non-designated heritage assets and their settings.</p>

<p>Development proposals will be required to take into account the character, context and setting of the local non-designated heritage asset including important views towards and from the assets. Development will be required to be designed appropriately, taking account of local styles, materials and detail. The loss of, or substantial harm to, a locally important asset will be resisted, unless exceptional circumstance can be demonstrated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Epperstone House.</li> <li>2. The Old School.</li> <li>3. The Old Methodist Church (formerly the Primitive Methodist Chapel).</li> <li>4. Dovecote at Grove Farm.</li> <li>5. Boundary walls to the north of Main Street from junction with Hagg Lane to the Cross Keys.</li> <li>6. Boundary walls to the south of Main Street from junction with Lowdham Road to Bland Lane.</li> <li>7. Churchyard retaining wall, Main Street.</li> <li>8. The wall surrounding 'The Manor' both on Main Street and Chapel Lane.</li> <li>9. The stone walls bordering Epperstone House on Main Street and Bland Lane.</li> <li>10. Boundary wall to Orchard Cottages, Chapel Lane.</li> </ol>		<p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 16: EPPERSTONE CONSERVATION AREA</b>  Development proposals within or affecting the setting of Epperstone Conservation Area, should conserve and, where possible, enhance its special and distinctive character through high quality design proposals that have regard to the principle</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it seeks to conserve and, where possible, enhance the character of the Conservation Area.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 17: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN EPPERSTONE VILLAGE</b>  Traffic management measures that improve vehicular and pedestrian safety and movement, especially in the village, will be encouraged. Development proposals should be able to demonstrate that any traffic generation created by the proposal does not result in severe, direct or cumulative, impact on congestion, or road and pedestrian safety, especially in the village.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it concerns traffic management.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>

<p><b>POLICY EP 18: CAR PARKING IN EPPERSTONE VILLAGE</b></p> <p>Development proposals that result in a reduction in car parking provision in Epperstone village will be not be supported except where:</p> <p>(a) it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Newark and Sherwood District Council in consultation with the Parish Council and the Highway Authority that the loss of parking will not have a severe adverse impact on parking provision and/or road safety in the village;</p> <p>or (b) adequate and suitable replacement car parking provision is provided on or adjacent to the site or a nearby suitable location in the village.</p>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it concerns parking.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 19: FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS</b></p> <p>The improvement or expansion in the existing network of footpaths and bridleways will be supported. Priority will be given to those that extend and join the existing network in the Parish. Development proposals should protect and, wherever possible, enhance footpaths and bridleways.</p>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it concerns footpaths and bridleways.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>
<p><b>POLICY EP 20: DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS</b></p> <p>The Parish Council will seek to prioritise the use of financial contributions, whether from Community Infrastructure Levy or negotiated obligations, for improvements and enhancement of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community and recreational facilities.</li> <li>2. Local Green Spaces.</li> <li>3. Footpaths and bridleways and their maintenance.</li> <li>4. Traffic management in Epperstone village</li> </ol>	No.	<p>This Policy does not directly allocate land for development; it concerns developer contributions.</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have any significant impacts upon the ppSPA.</p>

## 7.0 In combination effects

- 7.1 Existing plans and proposals must be considered when assessing new plans or programmes for likely significant effects as they may create ‘in combination’ effects. For the Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan the existing plans to be considered are NSDC Core Strategy (2011) Allocations and Development Management (2013) and the emerging Amended Core Strategy (submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017), which have both been through rigorous assessment with regards to their impact on the Birklands & Bilhaugh SAC and the Sherwood Forest ppSPA. The Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan has been produced to be in strategic conformity with these documents. In addition to this, no additional sites above those identified by NSDC are directly

allocated for development within the Plan. Therefore it is considered there is likely to be no in combination effects as a result of the Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan.

- 7.2 The Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan is also required to be in general conformity with existing strategic policies in NSDC Local Development Framework which has been assessed at a higher level to determine effects on the identified Birklands & Bilhaugh SAC, it is concluded that no significant in-combination likely effects will occur due to the Neighbourhood Plan's implementation.
- 7.3 It is concluded as a result of the above, that the Plan will not lead to a significant effect on the integrity of the Birklands & Bilhaugh SAC or on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and therefore does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

**Appendix 1 Assessment of the Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan in relation to the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment**

Schedule 1 Criteria for determining the likely significant effects of the Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan	Will the NP have significant environmental effects?	Summary of any effects
<b>The characteristics of the Epperstone NP having regard to:</b>		
(1a) 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;	No	The NP would, if 'made', form part of the Statutory Development Plan and as such does contribute towards the framework for future development consent of projects. However this plan sits within the wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework and the adopted Core Strategy DPD (March 2011) and the adopted Allocations & Development Management DPD (July 2013) and the projects that this plan helps set a framework for are local in nature and have limited resource implications.
(1b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	No	The NP operates in within the policy hierarchy set out in 1a; it is therefore unlikely to influence the other elements of the development plan. The NP does however provide other policy makers with an indication of potential issues that the community in Epperstone considers important.
(1c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	No	The NP operates in within the policy hierarchy set out in 1a; therefore its policies seek to secure sustainable development including protecting and mitigating the impact of such development on the natural and built environment.
(1d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	No	As the Plan is a land use document, the environmental problems of relevance are those that are related to land use in the Plan area. The Epperstone NP seeks to conserve and enhance the environment while facilitating sustainable development in line with local and national policy.

(1e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	No	The NP is not directly relevant to any of these.
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular to</b>		
(2a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	No	The NP is likely to have modest but enduring positive environmental effects. The effects are not likely to be reversible as they relate to development. However they will be of a local scale.
(2b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	No	It is intended that the positive effects will have positive cumulative benefits for the area.
(2c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects;	No	The NP identifies policies for the Civil Parish of Epperstone; trans-boundary effects will be minimal.
(2d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	No	There are not significant risks to human health or the environment, indeed the plan seeks to secure sustainable development.
(2e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	No	The NP relates to the Civil Parish of Epperstone which had a population of 589 in 2011. It is likely that the effects of the plan will be related to this area.
(2f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	No	The NP is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to its natural and cultural heritage. If anything it will provide greater support to and enhance the setting and identity of the area by supporting the enhancement of its existing environmental and community assets.  The NP does not provide specific policies in relation to intensive land uses.

<p>(2g)The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>There are no areas or landscapes with recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>
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