



Charnwood Borough Council

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report
&
Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report

Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Version

DRAFT

September 2018

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report seeks to determine whether the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and will require a strategic environmental assessment (SEA). It will also assess the likelihood of the proposals within the Plan having an adverse impact upon internationally designated wildlife sites, as required by the European Habitats Directive.
- 1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Assessment requirements are prescribed by the European Directive 2001/42/EC. The requirements have been introduced into the planning system by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations).
- 1.3 As regards the Habitats Regulations, Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 requires, as a basic condition, that the making of a neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect upon a European site.

2. The Quorn Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1 The Quorn Neighbourhood Plan 2018 – 2036 Pre-Submission Version (June 2018) has been produced by the Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Committee for pre-submission consultation. The advisory committee was established by Quorn Parish Council in early 2017 and comprises parish councillors and a number of volunteers from the community; additional support has been provided by YourLocale consultancy.
- 2.2 The entire parish was designated as the neighbourhood area to be covered by the plan on 21st December 2016. Initial public consultation drop-in sessions were held on 19th August 2017 which identified a clear picture of the main issues, priorities and ideas for the future. A Questionnaire was circulated in late 2017, along with a separate Young Person's Questionnaire, both of which attracted a significant response. A second public consultation drop-in event was then held on the 24th March 2018.
- 2.3 The responses received from these consultations have been used to determine the emerging vision and objectives which have formed the basis of the draft plan. The vision for the Neighbourhood Plan is:

“Our vision for Quorn is that it continues to be an attractive, thriving and sustainable place for people to live and work, while keeping its character as a beautiful rural village of historic significance, with a strong sense of community spirit and cohesion, making the most of its special qualities to attract visitors from further afield.

It will have a balanced and diverse community, to provide wellbeing through a healthy, creative, equitable and sustainable life for all, regardless of age, lifestyle or status. Attractive streets, green spaces and thriving natural environment will

provide safe and enjoyable movement on foot and bicycle. It will be socially inclusive with shops, pubs and restaurants as well as the facility for lifelong learning, sports and recreation.

Growth will be managed, sustainable and in keeping with the village character, retaining its independent rural identity, distinct from adjoining urban areas. New development will be located on sites which minimise negative impacts on traffic, parking or community resources, and enable new arrivals to contribute positively to the social and commercial life of the village. It will also provide opportunities for existing residents to find accommodation suitable to their circumstances with easy access to community resources including health care, schools and youth organisations.”

2.4 To help deliver this vision, a number of objectives were identified in five areas to provide a framework for the policies contained in the plan.

Housing

- Future growth will be managed and sustainable in keeping with Quorn’s village character; and*
- Any new housing developments will be located on sites that minimise negative impact on existing traffic, parking, community resources and amenities, and meet a locally demonstrated housing need including homes for older people and for young couples.*

The Natural and Built Environment

- To maintain Quorn as an independent and distinctly separate settlement and to protect and, where possible, enhance the open spaces within and surrounding the village, and:*
- To protect the most valued and special local green spaces;*
- To preserve the character of Quorn by retaining important views and areas of separation; and*
- To improve access to countryside and thus promote recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages to enjoy.*

Community facilities and amenities

- Valued existing facilities will be protected and where possible enhanced;*
- New facilities will be welcomed where they are needed by the community; and*
- Efforts will be made to ensure that the Schools and Medical Centre are enabled to grow in line with increased demand without negative impacts on the community.*

Employment

- To support employment in Quorn where there is no detrimental impact on local amenities.*

Transport

- To manage growth in a way that minimises the impact on the existing transport system and addresses the acute car parking problem in Quorn centre.*

2.5 To achieve the above objectives, the Neighbourhood Plan contains a series of specific policies and proposals maps. The policies which have been included in the plan to address these areas are:

POLICY S1: SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY - Development proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area will be supported on sites wholly within the settlement boundary as shown in Figure 2 (above) where the proposal fully complies with all of the policies in this Neighbourhood Plan.

Land outside the settlement boundary is treated as open countryside, where development will be carefully controlled in line with the provisions of this Neighbourhood Plan, local and National strategic planning policies. There is a general presumption against development in the countryside. Only in exceptional circumstances and if in full accordance with other relevant policies in this Neighbourhood Plan and fully meeting the requirements of relevant Charnwood Borough Council and National planning policy will development in the countryside be supported.

Appropriate development in the countryside includes;

- Farm diversification for the viability of agriculture – (in principle)
- The provision of affordable housing, where the local need has been proven.
- The provision of a formal recreation, community or sport use.

Development outside the defined Limits to Development on the Reserve Site identified in Policy H3 will be acceptable subject to complying with the terms of that policy.

POLICY S2: DESIGN GUIDANCE - New development will be required to reflect the guidance in the Quorn Village Design Statement (Appendix E).

POLICY H1: RESIDENTIAL SITE ALLOCATION - Land is allocated for residential development at the location shown below at figure 3 (a), within the new LTD boundary.

Development at this site will be supported subject to the following criteria:

- a) The development will provide for up to 105 dwellings;
- b) Priority should be given to dwellings of 3 bedrooms or fewer in line with policy H3;
- c) Flooding concerns are addressed through the provision of a pumping station within the development and open channels provided to enhance drainage, with appropriate landscaping incorporated and 3 soak-away areas provided;
- d) The badgers' set is retained and harm mitigated;
- e) A single access point is provided from the A6 near the football pitch;
- f) A play area is provided, located away from the main access point;
- g) Off-road car parking is to be provided in line with Highways authority requirements, with additional spaces for visitors.

POLICY H2: RESERVE SITE - An allocation for up to 45 dwellings as shown in figure 3 (b) below, will be supported for housing development if:

- a) It is required to remediate a shortfall in the supply of housing land due to the failure of the allocated housing site in Quorn to deliver the anticipated scale of development required; or
- b) It becomes necessary to provide for additional homes in the parish in accordance with any new development plan document that replaces the Charnwood Local Plan 2011.

Development will be subject to:

- a) The existing bridleway can be accommodated within the site at its existing location;
- b) The setting of the Grade II listed building is not adversely affected;
- c) Access to the site will not be from Budden Lane;
- d) A play area is incorporated into the site;
- e) The site layout and property design takes into account the setting of the railway line and leaves the boundary to the railway line unaffected.

POLICY H3: HOUSING MIX – Any new housing development proposals should provide a mixture of housing types specifically to meet identified local needs in Quorn. Support will be given to dwellings of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms and to homes suitable for older people and those with restricted mobility. 4-plus bedroom units may be included in the mix of dwellings but will be expected to comprise a clear minority.

POLICY H4: AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROVISION - Development proposals for new housing where there is a net gain of ten or more dwellings should provide at least 40% affordable housing.

The affordable housing stock should be made available as an integral part of the development, should be visually indistinguishable from the equivalent market housing on the site and should be provided as individual units dispersed throughout the development, subject to a registered provider being prepared to take the dwellings on if applicable.

If it is not possible to provide affordable housing on site, in exceptional circumstances it will be acceptable to provide funding in lieu of affordable housing on-site if this leads to the provision of additional affordable housing in the Parish.

The tenure mix should meet an identified local need as follows:

- One third of units will be for social or affordable rent.
- One third of units will be for shared ownership provision.
- One third of units will be for low cost starter homes for sale

The provision of affordable homes for people with a local connection to Quorn will be supported. If there are no households with a Quorn connection, then the properties will be made available to other applicants on the Council's waiting list.

POLICY H5: WINDFALL DEVELOPMENT - Small residential development proposals within the Settlement Boundary will be supported subject to proposals being well designed and meeting the relevant requirements set out in other policies in the Development Plan and where such development:

- a) Comprises a restricted gap in the continuity of existing frontage buildings or on other sites within the built-up area of Quorn or where the site is closely surrounded by existing buildings;
- b) Retains existing important natural boundaries such as trees, hedges and streams;
- c) Does not reduce garden space to an extent where it adversely impacts on the character of the area, or the amenity of neighbours and the occupiers of the dwelling;
- d) It provides for a safe vehicular and pedestrian access to the site.
- e) Does not result in an unacceptable loss of amenity for neighbouring occupiers by reason of loss of privacy, loss of daylight, visual intrusion or noise.

POLICY ENV 1: AREAS OF SEPARATION – To retain the physical and visual separation between Quorn and Mountsorrel, and between Quorn and Loughborough and Woodthorpe, two Areas of Separation are designated (figure 6).

Development within these areas should be located and designed to maintain and where possible enhance the separation of the villages.

POLICY ENV 2: LOCAL GREEN SPACE – The following sites are designated as Local Green Space (see figure 7), where development is ruled out other than in very special circumstances:

- Churchyard of St. Bartholomew's Church (inventory site 995) (also CBC OSSR site (ref)
- Barrow Slabs (101)
- Tom Long's Meadow (108/109/110)

POLICY ENV 3: SITES OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SIGNIFICANCE - Development proposals that affect sites of natural environment significance shown in Figure 9 will be expected to protect the identified habitats and/or species, according to their status, and to give appropriate weight to the contribution they make to the wider ecological network. Developers will be required to demonstrate that unless the need for and benefits arising from development in that location clearly outweigh the ecological loss.

POLICY ENV 4: TREES, WOODLAND AND HEDGES – Development proposals that adversely affect trees, woodland and hedges of environmental (biodiversity, historical, arboricultural) significance, or of landscape or amenity value, will be resisted. New development should be designed to retain such trees and hedges wherever possible. Where destruction cannot be avoided, developers will be required to plant replacement trees and/or hedges on site or to provide compensatory planting elsewhere in the Parish.

Hedgerows should be retained and protected. Where minor loss is unavoidable, it should be minimised and loss compensated for with replacement planting of locally-

appropriate native species. Development providing a net gain in length and quality of hedgerows will be encouraged.

POLICY ENV 5: SITES OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SIGNIFICANCE –

Development proposals that affect the sites of historic environment significance shown in Figure 11 will be expected to protect the identified features, according to their legislative status, and to give appropriate weight to the contribution they make to the wider coherent historical record. Planning permission will normally be refused unless the need for and benefits arising from development in that location clearly outweigh the loss.

POLICY ENV 6: BIODIVERSITY - Development proposals should not damage or adversely affect sites designated for their nature conservation importance (SSSI, RIGS, LWS), or Priority Habitats, Species of Principal Importance (species of conservation concern) or their key habitats, or other statutorily protected species.

The creation, maintenance and enhancement of local biodiversity will be supported. Development proposals should not only avoid biodiversity loss but seek to provide a net gain in local biodiversity.

POLICY ENV 7: WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND HABITAT CONNECTIVITY –

Development in the Plan Area will be expected to protect and enhance the identified wildlife corridors (fig. 12) and other potential habitat links. It should not create barriers to the permeability of the landscape for wildlife in general, or fragment populations of species of conservation concern.

POLICY ENV 8: PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT VIEWS – Development that adversely impacts in a significant way on the identified locally important and valued views (figure 13) will be strongly resisted.

POLICY ENV 9: RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE –

1. Renewable energy generation infrastructure will be supported if the proposal demonstrates that it:

- a) will not have an adverse impact (including, inter alia, noise, visual impact, reflection, glare, shadow flicker, water pollution, smell, air quality, gaseous or particulate emissions) on the health, wellbeing or amenity of residents and visitors.
- b) will not have an adverse impact on the Plan Area in relation to the identified important views (Policy ENV 8) or the character of the surrounding landscape, including areas identified for environmental protection or enhancement in Charnwood Borough Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy,
- c) will not have an adverse impact on biodiversity (species and Priority Habitats),
- d) will not have an adverse impact on statutory or locally identified historic environment sites and features,
- e) is supported by appropriate and relevant assessments and documentation in respect of, inter alia, transport, heritage, archaeology, landscape (visual impact), environment and flood risk.

2. Wind turbine developments will be supported if:

- a) turbine tip height is less than 25 metres
- b) the proposal is for no more than one turbine

3. Large scale solar energy generation proposals will be supported unless:

- a) the ground area covered by the panels exceeds 25 hectares (500mx500m)
- b) the array is visible from any valued and accessible viewpoint 250m metres or more from the proposal site, or from any private or residential property,
- c) reflection (glare) is evident from any viewpoint.

POLICY CF1: RETENTION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND AMENITIES - Proposals that would result in the loss of any of the community facilities or amenities listed above will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that any of the below apply:

- a) there is no longer a need or a demand for the community facility concerned; or
- b) the existing community facility can be demonstrated no longer to be economically viable; or
- c) the proposal makes alternative provision for the facility that would otherwise be lost, in an appropriate and convenient location elsewhere in the Plan area, and the proposed alternative provision complies with other policies in this Plan.

POLICY CF2: NEW OR IMPROVED COMMUNITY FACILITIES - Proposals that improve the quality and/or range of community facilities will be supported where the development:

- a) will not result in unacceptable traffic movements or other disturbance to residential properties;
- b) will not result in unacceptable traffic movements that generate increased levels of noise, fumes, smell or other harmful disturbance to residential properties including the need for additional parking which cannot be catered for within the curtilage of the property;
- c) will not generate a need for parking that cannot be adequately catered for;
- d) is of a scale appropriate to the needs of the locality and conveniently accessible for residents of the village wishing to walk or cycle; and
- e) takes into account the needs of people with disabilities.

POLICY CF3: SCHOOLS - Proposals for the expansion of existing schools in the Parish will be supported where it can be demonstrated that:

- a) expansion would not exacerbate existing access-related or traffic circulation problems, or that suitable mitigation measures are brought forward as part of a proposal;
- b) there is no loss of land already used for recreation by the community unless outweighed by benefits to the community;
- c) the development will not result in the significant loss of amenity to residents or other adjacent users.

POLICY CF4: QUORN MEDICAL CENTRE - Proposals for alternative premises that increase the accessibility of health care for residents living in the Plan Area will be supported providing that the development:

- a) will not result in unacceptable traffic movements, noise, fumes, smell or other disturbance to residential properties, or generate a need for parking that cannot be adequately catered for;
- b) Will include ample designated parking provision for essential medical personnel.

POLICY E1: EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT - Development proposals that result in the loss of, or have a significant adverse effect on, an existing employment use will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the site or building is no longer suitable for employment use.

Proposals for employment-related development (for new and/or expansion of employment uses) will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the development will not generate unacceptable disturbance, noise, fumes, smell or traffic; has appropriate off-road parking; that it will respect and be compatible with the local character and surrounding uses; and that it will, where appropriate, protect residential amenity.

POLICY E2: QUORN VILLAGE CENTRE - The Local Shopping Centre is indicated in Figure 15 below. Within frontage in this area, proposals for new retail (A1) development in new or existing frontages will be supported.

Other appropriate village centre uses will be supported where they could contribute to the role of the Local Centre. Proposals for the change of use of an existing retail (A1) premises to any other use where that change of use results in either a cluster of non-retail uses or retail (A1) use no longer being predominant will be resisted.

Development proposals to alter or replace existing shop frontage, create new shop frontage or to alter the frontages within the Local Shopping Centre will be supported where they conserve and enhance the special qualities and significance of the building and area; and relate well to their context in terms of design, scale and material and colour.

Development proposals that remove, replace or substantially harm shop fronts or the frontages of buildings by poor, inappropriate or indifferent design will not be supported.

All signage must be designed to fit sympathetically with the local character. Internally illuminated box signs that are fixed externally to a building are not in keeping and will not normally be supported.

POLICY E3: HOME WORKING - Proposals for the use of part of a dwelling for office and/or light industrial uses, and for small scale free standing buildings within its curtilage, extensions to the dwelling or conversion of outbuildings for those uses, will be supported where:

- a) Such development will not result in unacceptable traffic movements and that appropriate parking provision is made;
- b) No significant and adverse impact arises to nearby residents or other sensitive land uses from noise, fumes, light pollution, or other nuisance associated with the work activity; and
- c) Any extension or free-standing building shall be designed having regard to policies in this Plan and should not detract from the quality and character of the building to which they are subservient by reason of height, scale, massing, location or the facing materials used in their construction.

POLICY E4: FARM DIVERSIFICATION - The re-use, conversion and adaptation of rural buildings and well-designed new buildings for commercial use will be supported where:

- a) The use proposed is appropriate to the rural location;
- b) The conversion/adaptation works respect the local character of the surrounding area;
- c) The development will not have an adverse impact on any archaeological, architectural, historic or environmental features;
- d) The local road system is capable of accommodating the traffic generated by the proposed new use and adequate parking can be accommodated within the site;
- e) There is no significant adverse impact on neighbours through noise, light or other pollution, increased traffic levels or increased flood risk.

POLICY E5: TOURISM - Tourism and visitor economy development proposals will be supported where they do not have adverse residential or visual amenity impacts.

The loss of tourism and leisure facilities will not be supported unless they are no longer viable or alternative provision is made available.

POLICY E6: BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE - Proposals to provide increased access to a super-fast broadband service (including future developments at present unforeseen) and improve the mobile telecommunication network that will serve businesses and other properties within the parish will be supported. This may require above ground network installations, which must be sympathetically located and designed to integrate into the landscape and not be located in or near to open landscapes.

All new developments should have access to superfast broadband (of at least 30Mbps) Developers should take active steps to incorporate superfast broadband at the pre-planning phase and should engage with telecoms providers to ensure superfast broadband is available as soon as build on the development is complete.

POLICY TT1: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - With particular regard to the rural highway network of the Parish and the need to minimise any increase in vehicular traffic all development must:

- a) Be designed to minimise additional traffic generation and movement;
- b) Incorporate sufficient off-road parking;

- c) *Provide for accessible and efficient public transport routes within the development site, with site-specific travel plans to be provided for all developments of six or more dwellings;*
- d) *Provide any necessary improvements to site access and the highway network either directly or by financial contributions.*

Traffic management measures such as traffic calming, improved signage, restriction of on-road parking and other improvements, all of which should be of a design appropriate to the character of the Parish, will be supported.

POLICY T2: PUBLIC CAR PARKING - *Development proposals that would result in the loss of off-street car parking in the village of Quorn will not be supported unless:*

- a) *It can be clearly demonstrated that the loss of parking will not have an adverse impact on existing parking issues in the nearby area; or*
- b) *Adequate and convenient replacement car parking spaces will be provided nearby.*

The Neighbourhood Plan will support proposals to:

- a) *Develop a new car park at a suitable location in the village centre;*
- b) *Enhance the management of on-street vehicle parking provision and signage in the village centre.*

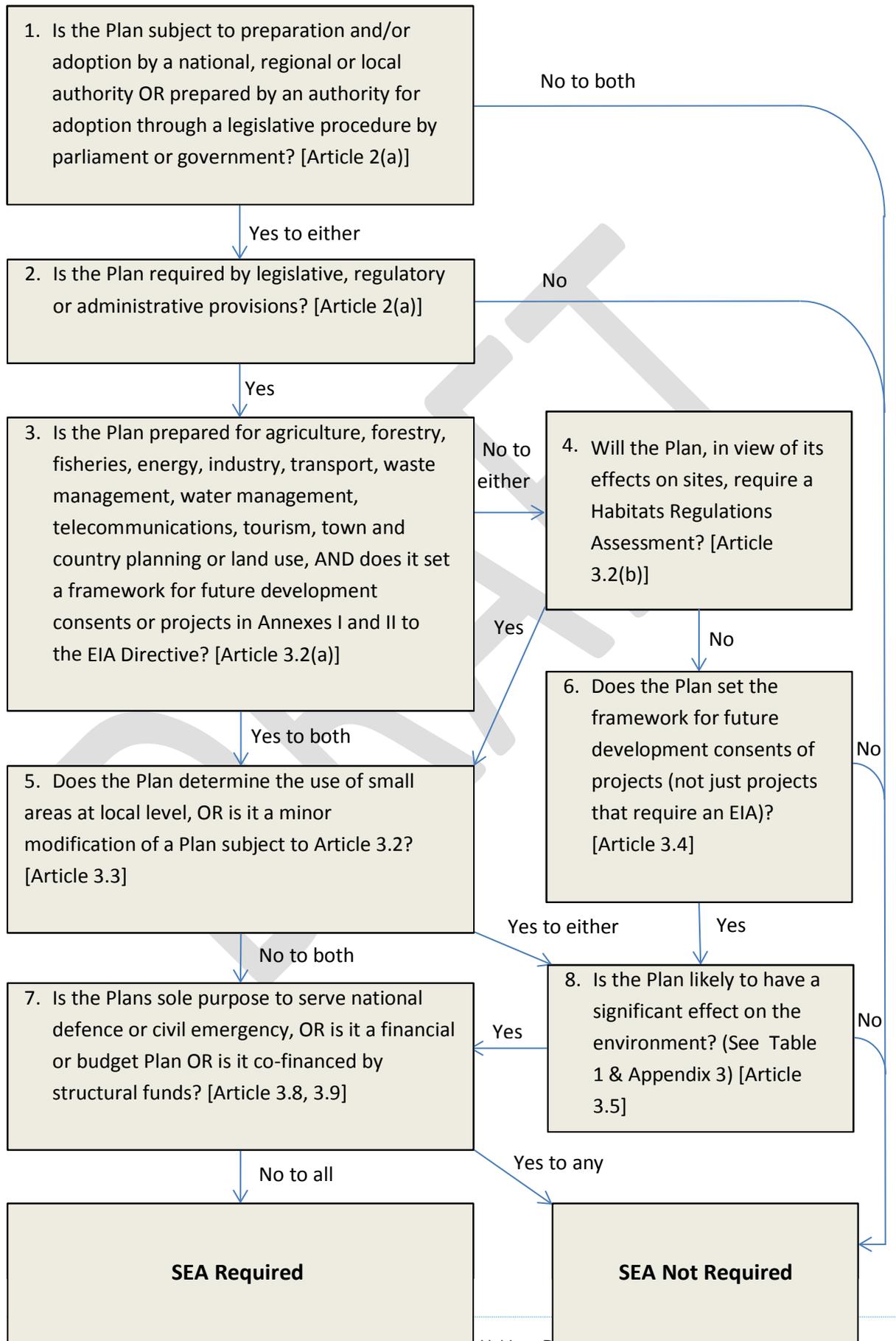
POLICY T3: FOOTPATHS - *Development proposals that result in the loss of, or have a significant adverse effect on, the existing network of footpaths, bridleways and cycleways will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the public benefit of the development clearly outweighs the harm.*

Development proposals must consider, where appropriate, the improvement and where possible the creation of footpaths and cycleways to key village services.

3. Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.1. The SEA Directive aims to ensure a high level of protection for the environment and to integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of plans. The Directive seeks to promote sustainable development by ensuring that an SEA is undertaken for any plans which may have a significant effect on the environment.
- 3.2 To establish if a plan needs to be accompanied by a full SEA, a “screening” assessment is undertaken against a series of criteria set out in the SEA Directive. Figure 1 which follows, shows this screening process and how a plan can be assessed against the SEA Directive criteria.

Figure 1
Application of criteria of the SEA Directive to Plans



3.3 The assessment provided in Table 1, below, has provided answers to the questions posed in the flow diagram in Figure 1. If the steps shown in Figure 1 are followed then the requirement for an SEA can be determined.

Table 1
Assessment of the characteristics of the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan

	Assessment Criteria	Y/N	Assessment
1	Is the Neighbourhood Plan 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 Neighbourhood Plan is provided for by The Town and Country Planning Act 1990, (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. The Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared by Quorn Parish Council (as the relevant body) and will be made by Charnwood Borough Council as the local authority. The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans is subject to the following regulations: i. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and, ii. The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012.
2	Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The Neighbourhood Plan is optional under the provisions of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Localism Act 2011; however, if “made” it will form part of the development plan for the Borough and must meet statutory requirements. Therefore, it is important that the screening process considers whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and thus if an SEA is required under the Directive. On that basis, a Yes answer is provided to the question.
3	Is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared for agriculture,	Y	The Neighbourhood Plan is prepared for town planning and

	Assessment Criteria	Y/N	Assessment
	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 (see Appendix 1) to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a))		<p>could potentially set the framework for future development consent of projects in the EIA Directive, notably through the location of housing and employment which may fall under 10(b) of Annex II of the Directive. (See Appendix 1).</p> <p>A definition of what is covered by the term 'urban development' is provided in planning practice guidance.</p>
4	Will the Neighbourhood Plan, 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(a))	N	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect upon any European (Natura 2000) site. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report was undertaken as part of the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy preparation process. The final report, published in March 2013, concluded that the Core Strategy <i>"is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site, including River Mease SAC and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required."</i></p> <p>Charnwood Borough does not have any European sites within its boundaries; however, two sites are examined further in the Screening Report. The River Mease SAC lies to the west of the Borough and the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site lies to the east.</p> <p>The HRA Screening Report found the Core Strategy unlikely to have a significant effect upon these</p>

	Assessment Criteria	Y/N	Assessment
			<p>sites due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) A lack of pathway for effects arising from development in Charnwood to reach and affect the River Mease SAC; and ii) The level of management measures implemented by Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust in partnership with Anglian Water for the Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site. <p>The HRA Screening Report concluded that the Core Strategy is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.</p> <p>It is considered that the Neighbourhood Plan would not affect any European site, including the two identified, beyond those impacts already identified in the HRA Screening Report undertaken in 2013 for the Core Strategy. Therefore, it is considered that an Appropriate Assessment is not required.</p> <p>The Charnwood Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report can be viewed at Appendix 2.</p>
5	Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a Plan subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Y	The Neighbourhood Plan involves the determination of the use of small sites at a local level.
6	Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just in	Y	The Neighbourhood Plan will be used in the determination of planning applications.

	Assessment Criteria	Y/N	Assessment
	annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)		
7	Is the Neighbourhood Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget Plan OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 3.8, 3.9)	N	The Neighbourhood Plan does not have a sole purpose which falls within any of these categories.
8	Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	<p>The Quorn Neighbourhood Plan will cover a relatively self-contained area.</p> <p>A residential site allocation is made, along with a reserve site. These have been subject to a Strategic Sustainability Assessment, along with the other available housing sites to allow comparison. This has ensured that the most appropriate site in environmental and sustainability terms are prioritised for potential residential development.</p> <p>No ecological concerns have been identified from the local scale of development; therefore, it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan offers an opportunity to protect and enhance the natural environment and heritage assets within the area through the policies it contains.</p> <p>See more detailed Assessment of Significance of Effects on the Environment in Appendix 3.</p>

3.4 Following the flow diagram in Figure 1, with the responses to the questions outlined in Table 1 results in the screening decision that an SEA is not necessary in this instance. The answers and subsequent following question are as follows:

1: Yes → 2: Yes → 3: Yes → 5: Yes → 8: No → SEA Not Required

Question 4, 6 and 7 are missed as the response given in the previous question does not trigger a requirement to answer them. Whilst, for the purposes of the flow chart, they are avoided, answers have been given in Table 1 as this is helpful in providing context for the decision making process. As a result of the assessment above, our initial view is that it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Version.

3.5 The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) will now be consulted on this Screening Report and the responses to this consultation will be made available. Once responses have been received from this consultation, a formal determination will be made as to whether a full environmental assessment is required. This determination will be accompanied by a statement of reasons.

4. Habitats Regulations Assessment

4.1 Alongside the SEA screening process there is also a need to assess whether the Neighbourhood Plan would have an adverse impact upon internationally designated wildlife sites, as required by the European Habitats Directive.

4.2 The Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy was accompanied by a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report to examine whether the plan would have a significant effect upon any European (Natura 2000) site. The final report, published in March 2013, concluded that the Core Strategy “*is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site, including River Mease SAC and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.*”

4.3 There are no European sites within the boundaries of Charnwood Borough; however, the Screening Report did examine the River Mease SAC, which lies to the west of the Borough, and the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, which lies to the east.

4.4 The HRA Screening Report considered that the Core Strategy would be unlikely to have a significant effect upon these sites due to:

- i) A lack of pathway for effects arising from development in Charnwood to reach and affect the River Mease SAC; and

ii) The level of management measures implemented by Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust in partnership with Anglian Water for the Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site.

4.5 The HRA Screening Report concluded that, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, the Core Strategy is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site.

4.6 The Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in conformity with the Core Strategy. Given this requirement and the limited scale of development proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan, it is not considered that the Neighbourhood Plan will further affect any European site in addition to the impacts identified in the HRA Screening Report undertaken in 2013 for the Core Strategy. Therefore, it is considered that an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

4.7 The Charnwood Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report can be viewed as Appendix 2.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The Quorn Neighbourhood Plan has been considered against the European requirements for both environmental and habitat assessments as is required by the relevant legislation.

5.2 The Strategic Environmental Assessment screening process will determine whether there is likely (or not) to be any significant environmental effects arising from the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan 2018 – 2036 Pre-Submission Version. Once the consultation bodies have been formally consulted, a determination will then be made as to whether a full SEA will need to be undertaken.

5.3 An HRA Screening Report was undertaken for the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy which concluded that, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects; it would not be likely to have a significant effect upon any European site. As the scale of development proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan is small scale, it is not considered that there will be any further affect upon any European site; therefore, it is considered that an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

Appendix 1

Annex I Projects

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. (a) Installations for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuel
(b) Installations designed:-
 - for the production or enrichment of nuclear fuel,
 - for the processing of irradiated nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste,
 - for the final disposal of irradiated nuclear fuel,
 - solely for the final disposal of radioactive waste,
 - solely for the storage (planned for more than 10 years) of irradiated nuclear fuels or radioactive waste in a different site than the production site.
4. (a) Integrated works for the initial smelting of cast-iron and steel
(b) Installations for the production of non-ferrous crude metals from ore, concentrates or secondary raw materials by metallurgical, chemical or electrolytic processes.
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, i.e. those installations for the manufacture on an industrial scale of substances using chemical conversion processes, in which several units are juxtaposed and are functionally linked to one another and which are:
 - i) for the production of basic organic chemicals;
 - ii) for the production of basic inorganic chemicals;
 - iii) for the production of phosphorous-, nitrogen- or potassium-based fertilizers (simple or compound fertilizers);
 - iv) for the production of basic plant health products and of biocides;
 - v) for the production of basic pharmaceutical products using a chemical or biological process;
 - vi) for the production of explosives.
7. (a) Construction of lines for long-distance railway traffic and of airports with a basic runway length 2,100 m or more;
(b) Construction of motorways and express roads
(c) Construction of a new road of four or more lanes, or realignment and/or widening of an existing road of two lanes or less so as to provide four or more lanes, where such new road, or realigned and/or widened section of road would be 10 km or more in a continuous length.
8. (a) Inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic which permit the passage of vessels of over 1 350 tonnes;
(b) Trading ports, piers for loading and unloading connected to land and outside ports (excluding ferry piers) which can take vessels of over 1 350 tonnes.

9. Waste disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment as defined in Annex IIA to Directive 75/442/EEC (3) under heading D9, or landfill of hazardous waste (i.e. waste to which Directive 91/689/EEC (4) applies).
10. Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment as defined in Annex IIA to Directive 75/442/EEC under heading D9 of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 tonnes per day.
11. Groundwater abstraction or artificial groundwater recharge schemes where the annual volume of water abstracted or recharged is equivalent to or exceeds 10 million cubic metres.
12. (a) Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where this transfer aims at preventing possible shortages of water and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 100 million cubic metres/year;
(b) In all other cases, works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where the multi-annual average flow of the basin of abstraction exceeds 2 000 million cubic metres/year and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 5 % of this flow.
In both cases transfers of piped drinking water are excluded.
13. Waste water treatment plants with a capacity exceeding 150 000 population equivalent as defined in Article 2 point (6) of Directive 91/271/EEC (5).
14. Extraction of petroleum and natural gas for commercial purposes where the amount extracted exceeds 500 tonnes/day in the case of petroleum and 500 000 m³/day in the case of gas.
15. Dams and other installations designed for the holding back or permanent storage of water, where a new or additional amount of water held back or stored exceeds 10 million cubic metres.
16. Pipelines for the transport of gas, oil or chemicals with a diameter of more than 800 mm and a length of more than 40 km.
17. Installations for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs with more than:
 - (a) 85 000 places for broilers, 60 000 places for hens;
 - (b) 3 000 places for production pigs (over 30 kg); or
 - (c) 900 places for sows.
18. Industrial plants for the
 - (a) production of pulp from timber or similar fibrous materials;
 - (b) production of paper and board with a production capacity exceeding 200 tonnes per day.
19. Quarries and open-cast mining where the surface of the site exceeds 25 hectares, or peat extraction, where the surface of the site exceeds 150 hectares.
20. Construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kV or more and a length of more than 15 km.
21. Installations for storage of petroleum, petrochemical, or chemical products with a capacity of 200,000 tonnes or more.

Annex II Projects

1. Agriculture, silviculture and aquaculture
 - (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, including irrigation and land drainage projects;

- (d) Initial afforestation and deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use;
 - (e) Intensive livestock installations (projects not included in Annex I);
 - (f) Intensive fish farming;
 - (g) Reclamation of land from the sea.
2. Extractive industry
- (a) Quarries, open-cast mining and peat extraction (projects not included in Annex I);
 - (b) Underground mining;
 - (c) Extraction of minerals by marine or fluvial dredging;
 - (d) Deep drillings, in particular:
 - geothermal drilling,
 - drilling for the storage of nuclear waste material,
 - drilling for water supplies;
 - (e) Surface industrial installations for the extraction of coal, petroleum, natural gas and ores, as well as bituminous shale.
3. Energy industry
- (a) Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water (projects not included in Annex I);
 - (b) Industrial installations for carrying gas, steam and hot water; transmission of electrical energy by overhead cables (projects not included in Annex I);
 - (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 processing and storage of radioactive waste (unless included in Annex I);
 - (h) Installations for hydroelectric energy production;
 - (i) Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms).
4. Production and processing of metals
- (a) Installations for the production of pig iron or steel (primary or secondary fusion) including continuous casting;
 - (b) Installations for the processing of ferrous metals:
 - (i) hot-rolling mills;
 - (ii) smithies with hammers;
 - (iii) application of protective fused metal coats;
 - (c) Ferrous metal foundries;
 - (d) Installations for the smelting, including the alloyage, of non-ferrous metals, excluding precious metals, including recovered products (refining, foundry casting, etc.);
 - (e) Installations for surface treatment of metals and plastic materials using an electrolytic or chemical process;
 - (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. Mineral industry
- (a) Coke ovens (dry coal distillation);
 - (b) Installations for the manufacture of cement;
 - (c) Installations for the production of asbestos and the manufacture of asbestos-products (projects not included in Annex I);
 - (d) Installations for the manufacture of glass including glass fibre;
 - (e) Installations for smelting mineral substances including the production of mineral fibres;
 - (f) Manufacture of ceramic products by burning, in particular roofing tiles, bricks, refractory bricks, tiles, stoneware or porcelain.

6. Chemical industry (Projects not included in Annex I)
 - (a) Treatment of intermediate products and production of chemicals;
 - (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) Industrial plants for the production of paper and board (projects not included in Annex I);
 - (b) Plants for the pre-treatment (operations such as washing, bleaching, mercerization) or dyeing of fibres or textiles;
 - (c) Plants for the tanning of hides and skins;
 - (d) Cellulose-processing and production installations.
9. Rubber industry - Manufacture and treatment of elastomer-based products.
10. Infrastructure projects
 - (a) Industrial estate development projects;
 - (b) Urban development projects, including the construction of shopping centres and car parks;
 - (c) Construction of railways and intermodal trans-shipment facilities, and of intermodal terminals (projects not included in Annex I);
 - (d) Construction of airfields (projects not included in Annex I);
 - (e) Construction of roads, harbours and port installations, including fishing harbours (projects not included in Annex I);
 - (f) Inland-waterway construction not included in Annex I, canalisation and flood-relief works;
 - (g) Dams and other installations designed to hold water or store it on a long-term basis (projects not included in Annex I);
 - (h) Tramways, elevated and underground railways, suspended lines or similar lines of a particular type, used exclusively or mainly for passenger transport;
 - (i) Oil and gas pipeline installations (projects not included in Annex I);
 - (j) Installations of long-distance aqueducts;
 - (k) Coastal work to combat erosion and maritime works capable of altering the coast through the construction, for example, of dykes, moles, jetties and other sea defence works, excluding the maintenance and reconstruction of such works;
 - (l) Groundwater abstraction and artificial groundwater recharge schemes not included in Annex I;
 - (m) Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins not included in Annex I.
11. Other projects
 - (a) Permanent racing and test tracks for motorised vehicles;
 - (b) Installations for the disposal of waste (projects not included in Annex I);
 - (c) Waste-water treatment plants (projects not included in Annex I);
 - (d) Sludge-deposition sites;
 - (e) Storage of scrap iron, including scrap vehicles;
 - (f) Test benches for engines, turbines or reactors;
 - (g) Installations for the manufacture of artificial mineral fibres;
 - (h) Installations for the recovery or destruction of explosive substances;
 - (i) Knackers' yards.

12. Tourism and leisure

- (a) Ski-runs, ski-lifts and cable-cars and associated developments;
- (b) Marinas;
- (c) Holiday villages and hotel complexes outside urban areas and associated developments;
- (d) Permanent camp sites and caravan sites;
- (e) Theme parks.

13. Any change or extension of projects listed in Annex I or Annex II, already authorised, executed or in the process of being executed, which may have significant adverse effects on the environment; Projects in Annex I, undertaken exclusively or mainly for the development and testing of new methods or products and not used for more than two years

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Appendix 2

Web link to the Draft Charnwood Core Strategy: Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Record (2013) [here](#).

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Appendix 3

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 Schedule 1 – Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
The characteristics of the plans, having regard to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 Quorn Neighbourhood Plan, if made, would form part of the statutory development plan; therefore, it would contribute to the future development consent of projects. However, the Neighbourhood Plan sits within a wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the adopted Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy. The Neighbourhood Plan helps to set a framework for projects which are local in nature and must conform to the wider framework set at a strategic level.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy; 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will be in conformity with the NPPF and the policies will conform to the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to influence other plans or programmes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development; 	<p>The Quorn Neighbourhood Plan takes a positive approach to sustainable development setting out local considerations for shaping, directing and delivering sustainable development across Quorn parish. Sustainable development is central to the Neighbourhood Plan's Vision for Quorn in 2036.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies which relate to environmental considerations regarding the natural and historic environment. These policies follow national and local policies as required by the Basic Conditions. The</p>

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
	<p>Neighbourhood Plan is also required to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development to enable it to be approved at Examination and “made” by the Borough Council. Development would also be subject to the policies in the Charnwood Local Plan; therefore, all environmental considerations will be taken into account.</p>
<p>- environmental problems relevant to the plan; and</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan has identified local issues and addresses these through the plan including landscape, green infrastructure, ecology, and heritage assets.</p> <p>The Parish has a variety of ecological assets, including the River Soar and Buddon Wood and Swithland reservoir SSSI, which are protected through Policy ENV3: Sites of Natural Environment Significance and Policy ENV6: Biodiversity.</p> <p>Policy ENV7: Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Connectivity identifies a number of wildlife corridors in the parish which it seeks to protect and enhance.</p> <p>The area contains no national landscape designations but the plan has identified a number of Important Views through Policy ENV8: Protection of Important Views which seeks to protect locally important and valued views. To prevent settlement coalescence Policy ENV1: Areas of Separation has identified two areas where development should ensure physical and visual separation is maintained.</p> <p>An analysis of Local Green Spaces has also been undertaken and Policy ENV2: Local Green Space which proposes a number of these designations which have notable environmental (natural,</p>

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
	<p>historical and/or community) features.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan has identified a number of sites which are of significance to the historic environment and Policy ENV5: Sites of Historic Environment Significance seeks to ensure that development proposals will protect the features identified.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the relevance of the plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection). 	<p>The Quorn Neighbourhood Plan is not directly relevant to any of these. The Neighbourhood Plan has to be in conformity with the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has had regard to European Community legislation on the environment and therefore this legislation will not be relevant for the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects; 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to provide for future housing need to 2036 on sites adjacent to the identified settlement boundary for Quorn. This reflects the Local Plan which makes provision for development to meet local housing or employment need adjoining the Service Centres, of which Quorn is one. A Strategic Sustainability Assessment of all the housing supply site options has been undertaken and no significant effects have been identified arising from the residential site allocation or the reserve site.</p> <p>There is also the potential for development to take place within the settlement boundary which will be of a local scale resulting in limited effect.</p> <p>Development within the countryside will be limited, in accordance with the NPPF and Local Plan policies relating to the countryside.</p>

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
	<p>No environmental concerns have been identified from the development proposed and the Neighbourhood Plan includes policies to ensure that should any potential issues arise that they are addressed. Therefore, it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the plan.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the cumulative nature of the effects; 	<p>The cumulative effects of potential development which may occur will be limited due to their local nature. Housing development will seek to meet the identified local housing need for Quorn</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the transboundary nature of the effects; 	<p>Any development which occurred through the Plan would be located within or adjacent to the village of Quorn, with limited exceptions. The scale of any development would have extremely limited impact upon surrounding parishes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents); 	<p>There are no significant risks to human health or the environment. The Plan may improve human health by protecting areas which are important to the local community for recreation, along with providing suitable homes to meet local needs.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected); 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan relates to the parish of Quorn, with small-scale development concentrated within or adjacent to the redefined settlement boundary. Therefore, the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects are likely to be small.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; ▪ exceeded environmental quality 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan offers an opportunity to enhance the natural environment and cultural heritage of the area through the policies it contains.</p>

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
<p>standards or limit values;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intensive land-use; and 	<p>There are ecological sites within the parish which the Plan seeks to safeguard. Potential development will be focussed within or adjacent to the settlement boundary for Quorn with no impact upon these sites. A number of policies in the Plan aim to protect the natural environment, habitats and associated biodiversity.</p> <p>There are Listed Buildings and a Conservation Area within the parish. The Neighbourhood Plan contains a policy which seeks to preserve heritage assets and development would be required to take these assets into account.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status. 	<p>There are no national designations within the Parish boundary.</p>

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