



## **The Wolds Villages Neighbourhood Plan - Published 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

### **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) SCREENING DETERMINATION UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES REGULATIONS 2004**

Charnwood Borough Council undertook a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening (May 2019) to determine the requirement for SEA for the Submission Wolds Villages Neighbourhood Plan.

The relevant statutory bodies (The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) were consulted on the SEA Screening Report as part of the Regulation 16 consultation and no objections were raised. Following this consultation, the Submission Wolds Villages Neighbourhood Plan was examined by an independent examiner who concluded at page 28 of his report that the SEA was proportionate and appropriate. The examiner recommended several changes to the Plan none of which allocated additional land for development or proposed a significant change in policy approach.

Following consultation with the relevant statutory bodies and considering the examiner's recommendations, Charnwood Borough Council has determined that a SEA of the Wolds Villages Neighbourhood Plan is not required as it is not likely to have significant environmental effects. As such, it is the opinion of Charnwood Borough Council that the Wolds Villages Neighbourhood Plan is in accordance with the provisions of European Directive 2001/42/EC as incorporated into United Kingdom law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The reasons for this decision are:

#### **Statement of Reasons**

- The Neighbourhood Plan has been written to be in general conformity with the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy 2011 - 2028 and emerging draft local plan. The environmental credentials of the Core Strategy have been assessed through reports such as Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment. The Neighbourhood Plan does not alter the development strategy set out in the Core Strategy or emerging draft local plan.
- The policies in the Plan are considered to have a generally neutral/ positive environmental impact at a local level, particularly through the inclusion of local design considerations or protective designations.
- The analysis undertaken in the Wolds Villages Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Report (May 2019) supports the conclusion that a SEA is not required and this has been confirmed through consultation with the statutory consultees.
- The examiner's recommendations did not significantly alter the policies of the Plan or allocate additional land for development.

#### **A copy of the SEA Screening Report is available for inspection:**

- Online [https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/the\\_wolds\\_neighbourhood\\_plan](https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/the_wolds_neighbourhood_plan)
- At the Council Offices, Southfield Road, Loughborough (email [localplans@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:localplans@charnwood.gov.uk) to arrange this)