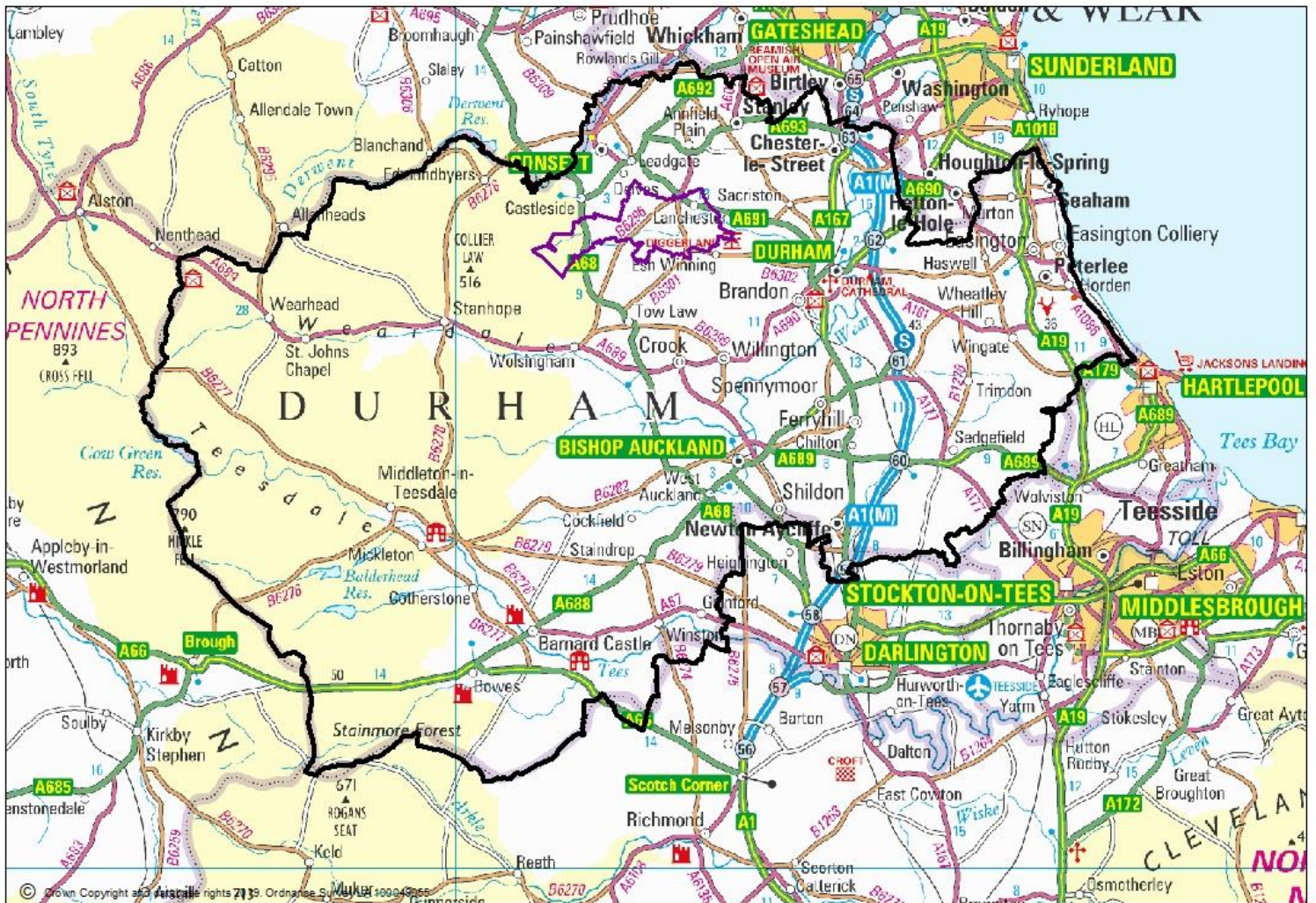


Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report



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Screening Summary

Table 1 Summary of Neighbourhood Plan

Details of Neighbourhood Plan	
Name of Neighbourhood Plan	Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2034
Geographic Coverage of the Plan	Lanchester Parish (approximately 4,052 hectares)
Key topics / scope of Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a restrictive approach to the development of land outside the settlement boundary Establishes design criteria for new development Identifies and provides protection for non designated and locally valued heritage assets Supports the protection and improvement of green infrastructure and extension of walking/cycling routes Supports development which makes a positive contribution to the enhancement of local landscape and protects landscape features and locally valued viewpoints Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity

Table 2 Summary of SEA Screening Opinion

Local Authority Details	
Name and job title of officer undertaking screening opinion	Nadia Wetherell: Sustainability and Climate Change Officer
Contact	03000 265543
Date of assessment	January 2019
Conclusion of assessment	SEA is not required
Reason for conclusion	The draft Plan does not allocate land for development and its policies seek to provide better protection and enhancement of local character, locally valued heritage, landscapes and biodiversity . Therefore, the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan is not considered likely to have a significant (adverse) effect on the environment.
Name and job title of officer approving screening opinion	Stephen McDonald: Principal Officer - Low Carbon Economy Team
Date of approval	29th January 2019
Date of Submission Draft Screening Document	30th October 2019

Table 3 Summary of HRA Screening Opinion

Local Authority Details	
Name and job title of officer undertaking screening opinion	Nadia Wetherell: Sustainability and Climate Change Officer
Contact	03000 265543
Date of assessment	January 2019
Conclusion of assessment	No Likely Significant Effects to Natura 2000 sites. Appropriate Assessment is not required
Reason for conclusion	The Neighbourhood Plan policies will not lead to built development, rather they aim to control development and ensure that the natural and built environment is protected and enhanced. Measures will either have no conceivable effect on Natura 2000 sites or will be complimentary to conservation objectives.
Name and job title of officer approving screening opinion	Tammara Morris Hale, Senior Ecologist
Date of approval	29th January 2019
Date of Submission Draft Screening Document	30th October 2019

Table 4 Summary of Pre-Submission Consultation

Statutory Consultee	Summary of Comments
Historic England	<p>Based on the analysis set out in the Screening Opinion, and within the areas of interest to Historic England, we agree that the emerging plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects and, therefore, it does not need SEA. In coming to this view we have taken the following factors into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The plan area contains many heritage assets including a conservation area, scheduled monuments, listed buildings and non-designated heritage assets. · Heritage assets are fragile and irreplaceable and can be damaged by change through development both directly and indirectly by development in their setting. · The plan is not expected to allocate sites for development. <p>As such, from the perspective of our area of interest, the need for SEA of the draft plan can be screened out as it is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects.</p>

Statutory Consultee	Summary of Comments
Environment Agency	Within matters within our remit, we consider the neighbourhood plan will not result in significant environmental impact and as a result an SEA is not required
Natural England	No comments made

1 Introduction

Background

1.1 The Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan Area replicates the Lanchester Parish boundary and is situated to the north of County Durham, 8 miles to the north west of Durham City and covers an area of approximately 4,052 hectares. The Neighbourhood area is predominantly rural in nature, with Lanchester village being the main centre of population, comprising a resident population of 4,054 persons (ONS, 2011).

1.2 Lanchester is believed to have been first occupied with the arrival of Roman rule in Britain, with evidence of a Roman fort (Longovicium) and associated civil settlement. The fort was connected by Dere Street, a Roman route between York and Hadrian's Wall which in addition to Longovicium connected the forts at Piercebridge, Binchester, Ebchester, Corbridge, Chew Green and the forts along Hadrian's Wall.

1.3 In addition to roman heritage and associated scheduled ancient monuments, the Neighbourhood area also contains 36 designated heritage assets, which are predominantly Grade II listed with the exception of All Saints church (Grade I) and Burnhopeside Hall, Farmhouse and buildings and Hamsteels Hall Farmhouse which are all Grade II*. The core of Lanchester village is also designated as a Conservation Area and is subject to an Article 4 Direction to retain distinctive features.

1.4 The Neighbourhood area is situated within the Durham Coalfield Pennine Fringe National Character Area, key characteristics of which include:

- Transitional landscape with pastoral farming on higher ground in the west giving way to arable and mixed farming in the valleys to the east;
- A landscape which is heavily influenced by the mining industries with restored open cast giving a manmade feel to parts of the landscape;
- Numerous small plantations of conifers of mixed woodland as blocks or shelterbelts, fragments of ancient woodland remain; and
- Wide, open, windswept ridges

1.5 Part of the Neighbourhood area, to the west of the A68 is also situated within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Five local wildlife sites are designated within the area and the River Browney transects the southern extent. A number of tributaries to the River Browney are also located within the neighbourhood area and parts of Lanchester village are situated within floodzone 3 which has been subject to flood events.

1.6 The objectives of the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan (hereafter known as 'LNP') are:

1. **Housing** - to meet the housing needs of the Parish in order to contribute to a strong and flourishing community, whilst protecting the essential qualities and attributes of the area;
2. **Design of New Development** - to ensure that any new development in the Parish, whether it is new-build housing, conversion of existing buildings or other built

development is carefully designed to protect the essential qualities and attributes of the area;

3. **Historic Environment** - To ensure that the diverse heritage assets of the Parish are identified, protected and enhanced, and their significance is understood, recognising the positive role they can have in learning for present and future generations and the economic, social and leisure value they provide to those who live, work in and visit the area;
4. **Green Spaces and the Rural Environment** - To protect and enhance the attractive rural setting of Lanchester, the open green spaces within it and the quality of the wider countryside;
5. **Business and Employment** - To support local employment opportunities within Lanchester and the provision of shops and services to meet the needs of those who live, work in and visit the area. To support a strong and diverse rural economy, including farming, tourism and other land-based rural businesses which respect the special qualities and character of the countryside.
6. **Transport and Travel** - To reduce the detrimental effects of traffic and parking pressures, whilst seeking to cater for a range of modes of transport and travel to better meet the needs of those living, working in and visiting the Parish; and
7. **Community Assets** - To identify and protect community assets in the Parish in order to sustain and promote a strong and flourishing community

Purpose of this Report

This screening report is designed to determine whether the draft LNP requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

1.7 This report will also determine whether the LNP requires an Appropriate Assessment as part of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with the European Union's Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). An Appropriate Assessment is required when likely significant effects to European protected wildlife sites, known as Natura 2000 sites are predicted to occur as a result of implementing a plan or project either on its own or in combination with other plans, projects or existing activities.

1.8 The following section of this report provides further detail on the legislative background, whereas section 3 provides the screening opinion for SEA and section 4 provides the screening opinion for appropriate assessment as part of HRA.

2 Legislative Background

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

2.1 SEA is required for plans and programmes which are likely to have significant environmental effects by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. This Directive is transposed into English legislation by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations). SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of plans and programmes and aims to:

Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)

2.2 In some limited circumstances, neighbourhood plans may have significant environmental effects and may therefore require strategic environmental assessment. In order to determine whether a plan is likely to have significant environmental effects a 'screening' assessment is undertaken, the requirements for which are set out in regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations.

2.3 In the event that SEA is required it can be undertaken in conjunction with a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which takes account of social and economic effects in addition to environmental effects. There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a SA as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, a qualifying body must demonstrate how its plan or order will contribute to achieving sustainable development, which a SA will usefully provide.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

2.4 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations' implement in Great Britain the requirements of the European Union's Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC). The regulations aim to protect a network of sites known as Natura 2000 that have rare or important habitats and species threatened at a pan European level in order to safeguard biodiversity. The regulations require that:

A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which:

- A) Is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and
- B) Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,

Must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives.

Habitat Regulations (Regulation 63 (1))

2.5 In addition, amendments made to the regulations which came into force on the 28th December 2018, also clarify that neighbourhood plans and development orders in areas where there could be likely significant effects on a Natura 2000 site should be subject to an Appropriate Assessment to demonstrate how impacts will be mitigated. ⁽ⁱ⁾

2.6 Therefore, as the LNP is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of Natura 2000 sites it will be subject to HRA to determine in the first instance (through a screening process) whether the Plan is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site(s). If likely significant effects cannot be screened out then an Appropriate Assessment will need to be undertaken. In these cases, the parish council or neighbourhood forum will need to provide such information as the Council may reasonably require in order to undertake the assessment.

2.7 In the event that the appropriate assessment concludes that adverse effects upon the integrity of a Natura 2000 site cannot be objectively ruled out or mitigated, the Neighbourhood Plan should not be made unless:

- the absence of alternatives solutions can be demonstrated;
- Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest can be demonstrated; and
- Compensatory measures can be secured.

i Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018.

3 SEA Screening

3.1 The neighbourhood forum for the LNP has requested a SEA screening opinion of its Neighbourhood Plan. It is Durham County Council's responsibility to assess whether the draft policies and proposals in the LNP are likely to have 'significant environmental effects'.

3.2 The screening opinion assessment is undertaken in two parts: the first part will assess whether the plan requires SEA (as per the flow chart which follows); and the second part of the assessment will consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, using criteria drawn from Schedule 1 of the EU SEA Directive and the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#)

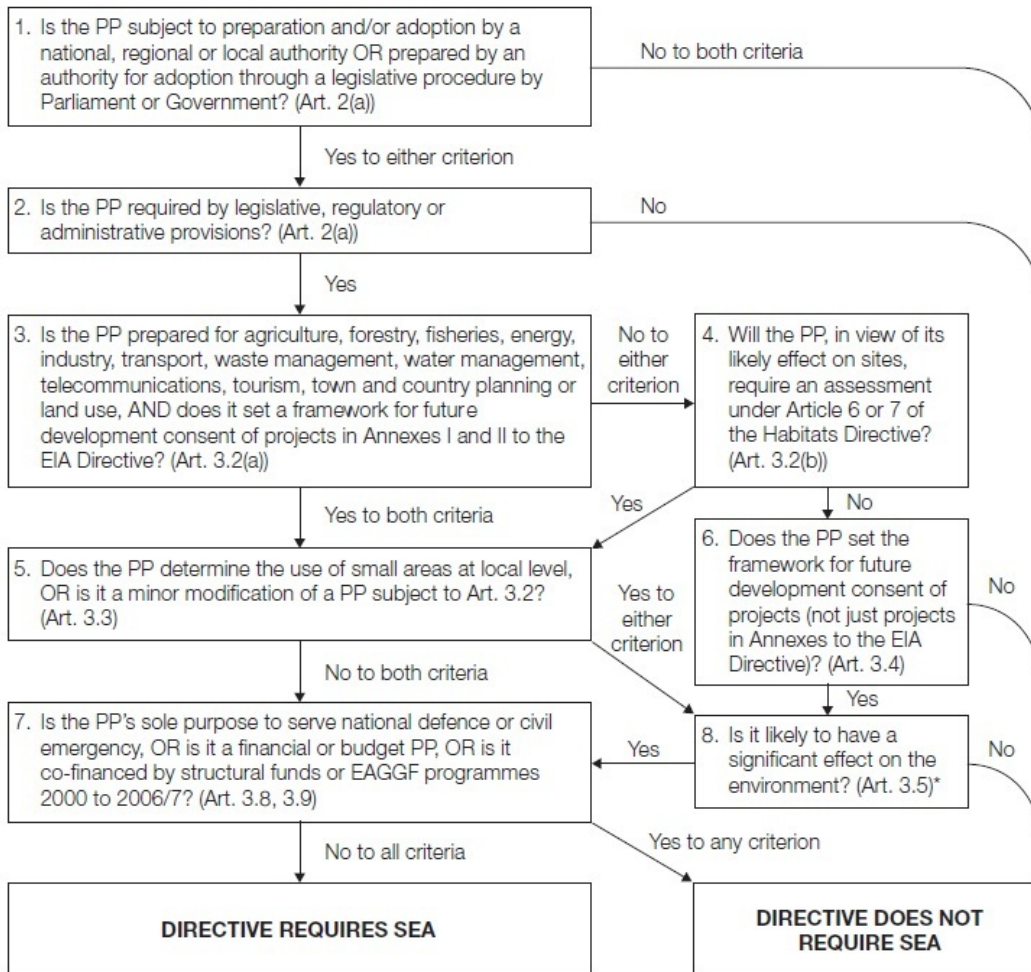
3.3 The statutory consultation bodies (Historic England, Environment Agency and Natural England) will be consulted to determine whether they agree with the conclusion of this screening opinion. The neighbourhood forum will need to make arrangements for undertaking SEA of the LNP and its alternatives in the event that the screening opinion concludes that it is required which is then further qualified by the statutory consultees.

3.4 The following flowchart outlines the criteria to be taken into account and process to follow when formulating a pre-consultation screening opinion for SEA: ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

ii Source: former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005) [A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#)

Figure 1 Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes

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



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

3.5 The process in figure 1 has been undertaken and the findings can be viewed in Table 5. The questions in table 5 are drawn from the diagram above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied. Table 6 provides specific detail on question 8 in relation to the criteria for determining likely significant effects referred to in Article 3(5) of the SEA Directive and regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations.

Table 5 Assessment 1: Establishing the need for SEA

Stage	Answer	Reason
1. Is the PP subject to preparation and / or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2 (a))	Y	LNP is not a Development Plan Document, however if the document receives 50% or more 'yes' votes through a referendum it will be adopted by Durham County Council.

Stage	Answer	Reason
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2 (a))	N	Communities have a right to be able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, however communities are not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. This plan however is subject to 'provisions' that require it to be prepared in a formal way and if adopted would form part of the statutory development plan. Therefore it is considered necessary to answer the following questions to further establish if an SEA is required.
3. Is the PP required 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))	N	The LNP 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 to the EIA Directive
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art.3.2(b))	N	See HRA screening assessment in section 4 of this report
5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	N/A	Not applicable - As the answer to question 4 is 'no', the next applicable question following the flowchart is question 6.
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)	Y	The LNP sets policies which planning applications within the neighbourhood area must adhere to.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7 (Art. 3.8, 3.9)	N/A	Not applicable - As the answer to question 6 is 'yes', the next applicable question following the flowchart is question 8.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art 3.5)	N	Please see Table 2 for further information
Conclusion	The LNP does NOT require SEA	

Table 6 Assessment 2: Likely Significant Effects on the Environment

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment Commentary
The characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan, having regard to:	

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment Commentary
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	The LNP would, if made form part of the statutory Development Plan and as such does contribute to the framework for future consent of projects, albeit these will be localised in nature and are likely to have limited resource implications.
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The LNP will need to be in general conformity with the relevant Development Plan. Therefore the LNP should not significantly influence other plans and programmes
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	<p>It is a condition of Neighbourhood Planning that Neighbourhood Plans are to demonstrably contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development. The LNP aims to promote sustainable development through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledging that the development of suitable sites within Lanchester village are preferable to those outside of the settlement boundary, thereby contributing towards directing new development to locations which are likely to have better access to existing services and facilities; • Establishing design criteria which should ensure that new development responds positively to the local vernacular with regard to materials, scale, density and green spaces. New development is also required to be accessible, integrated with footpaths and cycleways and increase housing options for older persons; • Identifying and providing protection for non designated and locally valued heritage assets; • Supporting the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure and walking, cycling and horse riding routes; • Requiring the protection of valued landscape features and locally valued viewpoints; • Establishing policy criteria which aims to protect and enhance biodiversity.
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lanchester's Roman fort (Longvicium) which is designated as a Scheduled Monument is included on Historic England's 2018 Heritage at Risk Register. The overall condition is described as generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems - the principal vulnerability is arable ploughing. ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

iii 2018 Register: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2018-registers/ne-har-register2018/>

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lanchester village has historically been prone to flooding and is partially situated within flood zone 3a (high probability) and 3b (functional floodplain) • Approximately one third of the neighbourhood area has been identified by the County Durham Landscape Strategy as a Landscape Improvement Priority Area in order to enhance landscapes that have been degraded in the past by coal mining. • Historically poor but improving water quality within the The River Wear catchment and its tributaries due to the legacy of coal mining.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	The LNP is not directly connected to the implementation of European legislation
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	<p>Once made the LNP and its policies will be in effect until 2035 i.e. a period of 16 years. However the LNP does not allocate any land for development and will therefore not have any direct, permanent effects. Rather, the LNP establishes, through its policies, general criteria for testing purposes which seek to restrict urban sprawl and better protect and enhance local distinctiveness, landscape, heritage and biodiversity. The LNP is therefore highly unlikely to result in either temporary or permanent significant adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>However, in order to ensure that the LNP policies do deliver the desired outcomes for the sustainability and environmental protection/enhancement of the neighbourhood area it is recommended that they are subject to monitoring to ensure a review of the Plan can be triggered in the event of non-delivery of outcomes or undesired or unintended consequences. Monitoring indicators could be usefully identified against each policy.</p>
The cumulative nature of the effects	<p>Policies in the Plan that consider the design of new development, protection of heritage, landscape features and views have the potential to have positive cumulative and in combination effects alongside actions within the</p> <p>North Pennines AONB Management Plan and associated guidance documents. ^(iv)</p>

iv North Pennines AONB Planning Guidelines (2011): <http://www.northpennines.org.uk/publications/north-pennines-aonb-planning-guidelines/>

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment Commentary
	No other cumulative effects are anticipated, albeit as recommended above, the Plan will benefit from monitoring over time.
The trans boundary nature of the effects	There are not expected to be any significant trans boundary effects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan. Any effects would be localised to the neighbourhood area.
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	The provisions within the Plan do not provide unacceptable risks to human health or the environment.
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The LNP area covers approximately 4,052 hectares, with a population of 4,054 persons which predominantly reside within the settlement of Lanchester village. Any effects would be localised in nature and limited to the neighbourhood plan area.
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, - intensive land-use, 	<p>The neighbourhood plan area is assessed as being of moderate- high environmental value predominantly in relation to heritage and landscape value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 Scheduled Monument (Longvicium Roman Fort) ● 36 designated heritage assets (1 Grade I, 3 Grade II*, 32 Grade II) ● Lanchester Conservation Area ● 6 registered parks and gardens of local interest ● Approximately 19% of the area is within the North Pennines AONB ● 5 local wildlife sites ● 2 small areas of ancient woodland <p>There have been no known exceedances of national air quality objectives within the NP area and water quality (River Browney) is likely to be poor but improving. The LNP is not expected to exceed environmental limits</p> <p>The LNP does not allocate any land for development. Proposals will be expected to make the most efficient use of land in conformity with the relevant Development Plan.</p>
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	As discussed against 'cumulative effects,' provisions within the LNP are considered likely to have a positive effect upon the North Pennines AONB.
Assessment 2 Conclusion	The draft LNP does not allocate land for development and its policies seek to provide better protection and enhancement of local character, locally valued heritage, landscapes and biodiversity . Therefore, the LNP is not considered likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

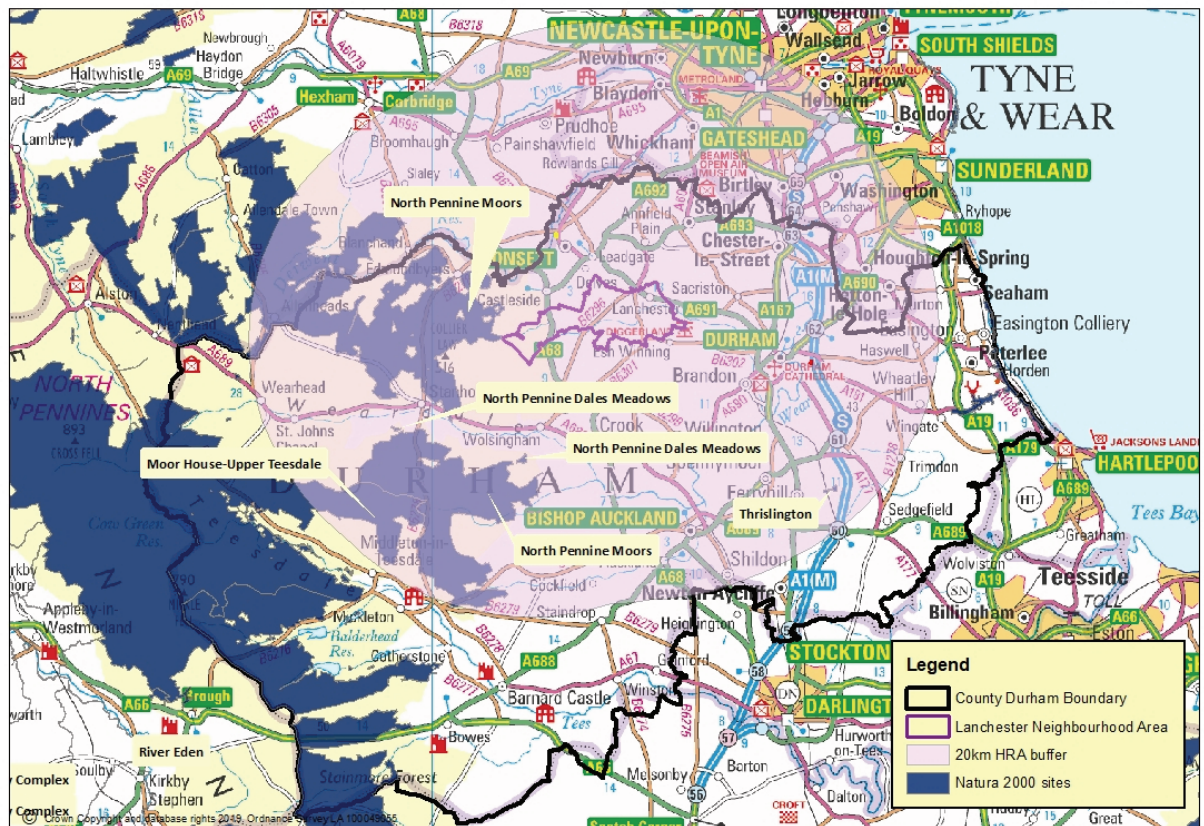
4 HRA Screening

4.1 HRA Screening is fundamentally a risk assessment to determine whether a subsequent more detailed stage of assessment, known as 'appropriate assessment' is required. The screening assessment involves an assessment of relevant Natura 2000 sites that could be affected directly or indirectly by the Neighbourhood Plan and its proposals.

Relevant Natura 2000 sites

4.2 In line with the agreed methodology of the HRA of the County Durham Plan, all sites within 20km of the plan area (in this case the neighbourhood plan area) should be included within the HRA screening exercise, in addition to those outwith the 20km buffer that are ecologically / hydrologically linked or are likely to be subject to increased recreational pressure. The following map shows the sites falling within the buffer including:

- Moor House Upper Teesdale Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC
- North Pennine Moors SAC
- North Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Thrislington SAC



4.3 There are not considered to be any ecological, hydrological or other links / impact pathways which could potentially affect other Natura 2000 sites falling outside the buffer. Therefore, only those shown on the map are included within the screening exercise. The following table provides an overview of each site.

Table 7 Overview of Natura 2000 Sites

Site	Description	Qualifying Features	Reported Threats/Pressures	Key Environmental Conditions
Moor House Upper Teesdale SAC	Moor House Upper Teesdale has the most extensive area of Alpine and Boreal Heaths south of Scotland and has the most extensive area of juniper scrub in the UK. The summit of Cross Fell has the best developed and most extensive area of Siliceous alpine and boreal grassland in England. The site includes the least damaged and most extensive tracts of typical blanket mire in England and shows this community type up to its highest altitude in England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp; Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes, lochs and pools. European dry heaths Alpine and Boreal heaths; Alpine and subalpine heaths <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>; Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands; Montane acid grasslands Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>); Dry grasslands and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low breeding success / poor recruitment Managed rotational burning Inappropriate grazing Change in land management Disease Hydrological changes Game management: grouse moors Direct land take from development Air pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition Fertiliser use Inappropriate cutting / mowing Invasive species Agricultural management practices Vehicles Vehicles: Illicit Public access / disturbance Deer Feature location / extent / condition unknown Climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No loss in extent through afforestation or human activities No planting of conifers within the hydrological unit of blanket bog No significant erosion associated with human impacts (e.g. Drainage, fires, peat extraction, livestock grazing, recreational activities or military training) Limited air pollution Limited burning Adequate supply of water-limited drainage of wet areas Control of grazing pressures

Site	Description	Qualifying Features	Reported Threats/Pressures	Key Environmental Conditions
		<p>scrublands on chalk or limestone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>); Purple moor-grass meadows ● Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels ● Mountain hay meadows ● Blanket bogs ● Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>); ● Hard-water springs depositing lime ● Alkaline fens; Base rich fens ● Alpine pioneer formations of the <i>Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae</i>; ● High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage ● Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i>) 		

Site	Description	Qualifying Features	Reported Threats/Pressures	Key Environmental Conditions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>and Galeopsietalia ladani</i>); Acidic scree • Calcareous and calcshist scree of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>); Base rich scree • Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks • Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices on acid rocks • Limestone pavements • <i>Vertigo genesii</i>; Round-mouthed whorl snail • <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>; Marsh saxifrage 		
North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	The series of isolated fields that comprise this SAC encompass the range of variation exhibited by Mountain hay meadows in the UK and contains the major part of the remaining UK resources of this habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>); Purple moor-grass meadows • Mountain hay meadows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertiliser use • Change in land management • Air pollution • Inappropriate cutting/mowing • Changes in species distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reduction in area and any consequent fragmentation • Appropriate management (grasslands are dependent upon

Site	Description	Qualifying Features	Reported Threats/Pressures	Key Environmental Conditions
	type. The grasslands included within the SAC exhibit very limited effects of agricultural improvement and show good conservation of structure and function. A wide range of rare and local meadow species are contained within the meadows.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate timing of grazing • Overgrazing/Undergrazing • Hydrological changes • Inappropriate weed control • Invasive species • Direct impacts from third party 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traditional agricultural management, with hay cutting) • No exposure to inorganic fertilisers and pesticides • Limited air pollution
North Pennine Moors SAC	The North Pennine Moors (along with the North York Moors) hold much of the upland heathland of northern England. At higher altitudes and to the wetter west and north of the site complex, the heaths grade into extensive areas of blanket bogs. The site is considered as supporting the major area of blanket bog in England. A significant proportion remains active with accumulating peat, although these areas are often bounded by sizeable zones of currently non-active bog, albeit on deep peat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath • European dry heaths • <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands • Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>; Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals • Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands; Montane acid grasslands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As for Moor House • Upper Teesdale SAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of grazing • Appropriate moorland management including scrub/tree/bracken encroachment • Limited air pollution • No drainage of wet areas - maintenance of wet areas • Maintenance of water quality - organics/silt form physical disturbance • Limited erosion by human impacts (e.g. Recreation) • Very little peat extraction (no mechanised extraction)

Site	Description	Qualifying Features	Reported Threats/Pressures	Key Environmental Conditions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone ● Blanket bogs ● Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>); Hard-water springs depositing lime ● Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens ● Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galepsietalia ladani</i>); Acidic scree ● Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks ● Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices on acid rocks ● Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in 		

Site	Description	Qualifying Features	Reported Threats/Pressures	Key Environmental Conditions
North Pennine Moors SPA	The habitat of the North Pennine Moors SAC support the qualifying bird species listed in the next column	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the British Isles; Western acidic oak woodland <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>; Marsh saxifrage <i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen harrier (Re-producing) <i>Falco columbarius</i>; Merlin (Re-producing) <i>Falco peregrinus</i>; Peregrine falcon (Re-producing) <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Re-producing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and fire suppression Grazing Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions Hunting and collection of wild animals including damage caused by game (excessive density) and taking / removal of wild animals Reduced fecundity / genetic depression 	As for North Pennine Moors SAC
Thrislington SAC	Thrislington SAC is a small site but nonetheless contains the largest of the few surviving stands of CG8 <i>Sesleria albicans</i> - <i>Scabiosa columbaria</i> grassland. This form of calcareous grassland is confined to the Magnesian Limestone of County Durham and Tyne and Wear. It now	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air pollution Climate change Changes to site conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reduction in extent Continuous management by seasonally-adjusted grazing and no overgrazing No fertiliser input Control of invasive species Limited air pollution

Site	Description	Qualifying Features	Reported Threats/Pressures	Key Environmental Conditions
	covers less than 200 hectares and is found mainly as small scattered stands.			

Assessment of Effects

4.4 Following the identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites to the neighbourhood area, it is then necessary to determine whether any or all of the proposals in the LNP can be eliminated on the basis that they cannot have any conceivable effect on the relevant Natura 2000 sites, e.g. if it is a general policy statement. The following preliminary assessment categories have therefore been assigned to the LNP policies.

Table 8 Preliminary Assessment Categories

Category	Sub Category	Description
1. No negative effect	A	Policy or measure will not lead to built development. For example it relates to green infrastructure, design or other qualitative criteria, or it is not a land-use planning policy
	B	Policy or measure may encourage new development but due to development type, distance from Natura 2000 Sites and / or absence of connected impact pathways no negative effect is likely to occur.
	C	Policy or measure supports or may encourage new development that has the potential for adverse effects. However, additional wording can be added to the draft to safeguard against such and enable policy or measure to be screened out.
	D	Policy intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures may have a positive effect on a Natura 2000 Site.
	E	Policy intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a Natura 2000 Site.
	F	Policy would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on Natura 2000 sites and associated sensitive areas
	G	Policy is similar to existing Development Plan policy which has already been assessed as having no likely significant effects
2. No significant effect	-	No significant effect either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, because effects are trivial or minimal.
3. Likely significant effect alone	-	Policy could impact upon a Natura 2000 site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected. Alternatively, it may increase disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressure
4. Likely significant effect in combination	-	The policy would have no significant effect alone but the cumulative effects when combined with those of other policies or projects are likely to be significant

4.5 An assessment of likely significant effects has been undertaken for all measures of the LNP resulting in the following categories and sub categories being assigned.

Table 9 Categorisation of LNP Policies

Policy / Measure	Moor House Upper Teesdale SAC	North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	North Pennine Moors SAC	North Pennine Moors SPA	Thrislington SAC
LNP1: The boundary and setting of Lanchester Village	1A	1A	1A	1A	1A
LNP2: Design of New Development	1A	1A	1A	1A	1A
LNP3: Historic Environment	1E	1E	1E	1E	1E
LNP4A: Green Infrastructure	1E	1E	1E	1E	1E
LNP4B: Landscape Improvement	1E	1E	1E	1E	1E
LNP4C: Landscape Features	1E	1E	1E	1E	1E
LNP4D: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	1D	1D	1D	1D	1D
LNP4E: Views	1E	1E	1E	1E	1E

Conclusion

4.6 Following the preliminary screening assessment it can be concluded that all policies within the LNP can be eliminated from further Likely Significant Effects screening and Appropriate Assessment as they will have no negative effects on the relevant Natura 2000 sites and the policies as drafted seek to protect the natural and built environment.

5 Recommendations and Conclusion

5.1 The conclusions of the SEA and HRA screening assessments are that the LNP will not require Strategic Environmental Assessment under the provisions of the SEA Regulations or Appropriate Assessment under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations.

5.2 However, in order to ensure that the LNP policies do deliver the desired outcomes for the sustainability and environmental protection/enhancement of the neighbourhood area it is recommended that they are subject to monitoring to ensure a review of the Plan can be triggered in the event of non-delivery of outcomes or undesired or unintended consequences. Monitoring indicators could be usefully identified against each policy.