

# Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan

## Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report

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Northumberland County Council

**22 February 2016**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.01 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required under European legislation<sup>1</sup> for all plans which may have a significant effect on the environment. This particularly relates to plans which designate sites for development.
- 1.02 The purpose of the SEA is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to integrate considerations of the environment into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development.
- 1.03 The SEA process sets out criteria for assessing the significance of the impact of a plan on the environment. For example, if a plan proposes a housing development it may have an impact on the wildlife of the area or have an impact on landscape. If a significant effect is possible, the assessment requires the consideration of options and for the evaluation of the potential effects on the environment.
- 1.04 To ascertain if SEA is required, a screening exercise is undertaken which looks at the proposals in a Neighbourhood Plan to see if a significant effect is likely. The criteria for this screening are set out in the relevant legislation<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.05 This report details the assessment undertaken by the Local Authority of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan against the need for EA. It concludes that, in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority, an SEA is required.
- 1.06 This report was sent to the consultation bodies<sup>3</sup> in order to seek their views on its contents<sup>4</sup>. The consultation ran from 7<sup>th</sup> January until 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Responses were received from Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The consultation bodies agreed with the conclusions set out in the Screening Opinion produced by the County Council and confirmed that, in their opinion, SEA is required in relation to the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan. The responses received from the consultation bodies are contained in Appendix 2 to this report. The recommendations made within these responses should be taken into account in the preparation of the Plan and also through the ongoing SEA process.

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<sup>1</sup> [European Directive 2001/42/EC \(SEA Directive\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> See footnote above, plus [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 \(SEA Regulations\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> As set out in Regulation 4(1) of the SEA Regulations 2004.

<sup>4</sup> As set out in Regulation 9(2)(b) of the SEA Regulations 2004.

## 2. Strategic Environmental Assessment

2.01 Regulation 15 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, as amended, requires that certain specified information is provided alongside a draft neighbourhood plan when it is submitted to the local planning authority. In summary, this information is:

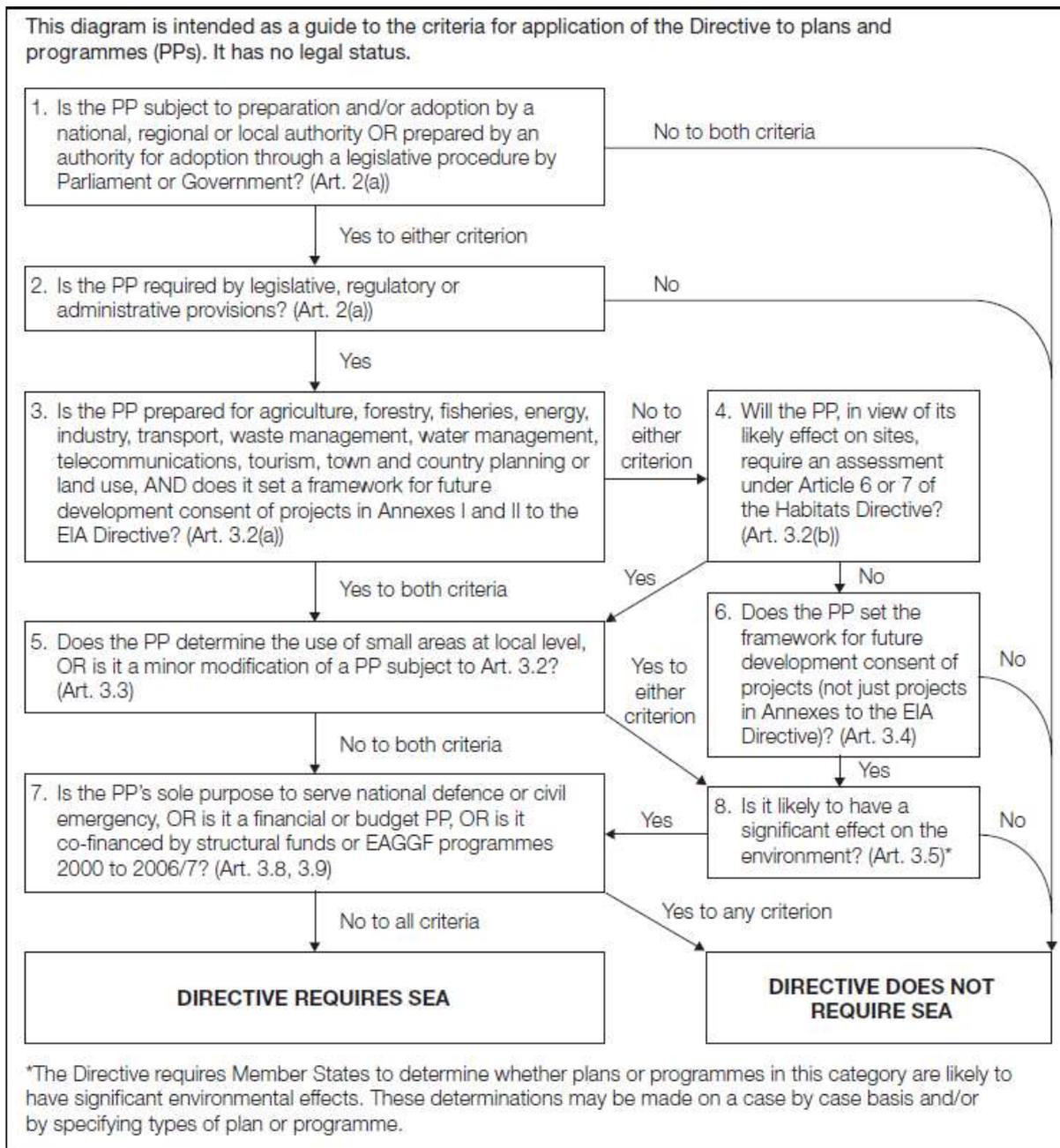
- (a) A map or statement which identifies the area to which the proposed neighbourhood development plan relates;*
- (b) A consultation statement;*
- (c) The proposed neighbourhood development plan;*
- (d) A 'basic conditions statement'; and*
- (e) (i) an environmental report, or  
(ii) a screening opinion indicating that an environmental report is not required.*

2.02 The objective of the SEA Directive is:

“To provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of development plans...with a view to promoting sustainable development” – EU Directive 2001/42/EC (Article 1).

2.03 To establish if a Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA, a screening assessment is required against a series of criteria set out in the SEA Directive. Figure 1 sets out the screening process and how a plan would be assessed against the SEA Directive criteria. An assessment of the characteristics of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan against these criteria is set out in Table 1.

**Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes**



Source: *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive*, ODPM (2005)<sup>5</sup>

2.04 Table 1, below, sets out the eight questions identified in the diagram above and provides an answer with regard to the proposed Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

**Table 1: Application of the SEA Directive to the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan**

Stage	Y/N	Reason
<p><b>1.</b> Is the Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Article 2(a))</p>	Yes	<p>Neighbourhood Plans are prepared by a qualifying body (Parish/Town Councils) under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). This Neighbourhood Plan is prepared by Cramlington Town Council (as the “relevant body”) and will be ‘made’ by Northumberland County Council as the local authority.</p> <p>The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans is subject to The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Is the Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Article 2(a))</p>	No	<p>Communities have a right to be able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. However, communities are not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative purposes to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. However, if adopted, the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan would form part of the statutory development plan; it is therefore considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine further if SEA is required.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> Is the Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste 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? (Article 3.2(a))</p>	Yes	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan can include these policy areas and could provide, at a Neighbourhood Area level, the framework for development that would fall within Annex II of the EIA Directive. Developments that fall within Annex I are ‘excluded’ development for Neighbourhood Plans (as set out in Section 61(k) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)). It is not anticipated that the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan would be the tool to manage development of the scale and nature envisaged by Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive (see Appendix 1 of this report for details).</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Will the Plan, in view of its likely effects on sites, require an assessment of future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Article 3.2(b))</p>	Not known	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have impacts on sites covered by the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>A separate HRA screening assessment to ascertain whether an Appropriate Assessment is required under the Conservation of</p>

		Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, which relate to Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.
<b>5.</b> Does the Plan determine the use of small areas at local OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Article 3.2? (Article 3.3)	Yes	A Neighbourhood Plan can determine the use of small areas at a local level. The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will identify land within the Neighbourhood Area for development.
<b>6.</b> Does the Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Article 3.4)	Yes	Once 'made', a Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory Development Plan and will be used in the determination of planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area. Therefore, it sets the framework for future developments at a local level.
<b>7.</b> Is the Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Article 3.8, 3.9)	No	The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will not deal with these issues.
<b>8.</b> Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Article 3.5)	Yes	The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will accord with the strategic policies contained within the statutory development plan. However, the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will seek to allocate land to the south west of Cramlington for significant development. It is therefore considered that the plan could have a significant effect on heritage assets, landscape, biodiversity interests and/or areas of flood risk; as a result, it is considered that the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA.

2.05 The conclusion of the assessment in Table 1 is that, depending on the content of a Neighbourhood Plan, an SEA may be required. For this reason, a case by case analysis of Neighbourhood Plans will be required to determine any potential significant effects on the environment.

2.06 Assessment of the significance of the effect of a Neighbourhood Plan will depend on the proposals within it. The criteria for assessing the likely significance of effects are set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Regulations. These are shown below in Figure 2.

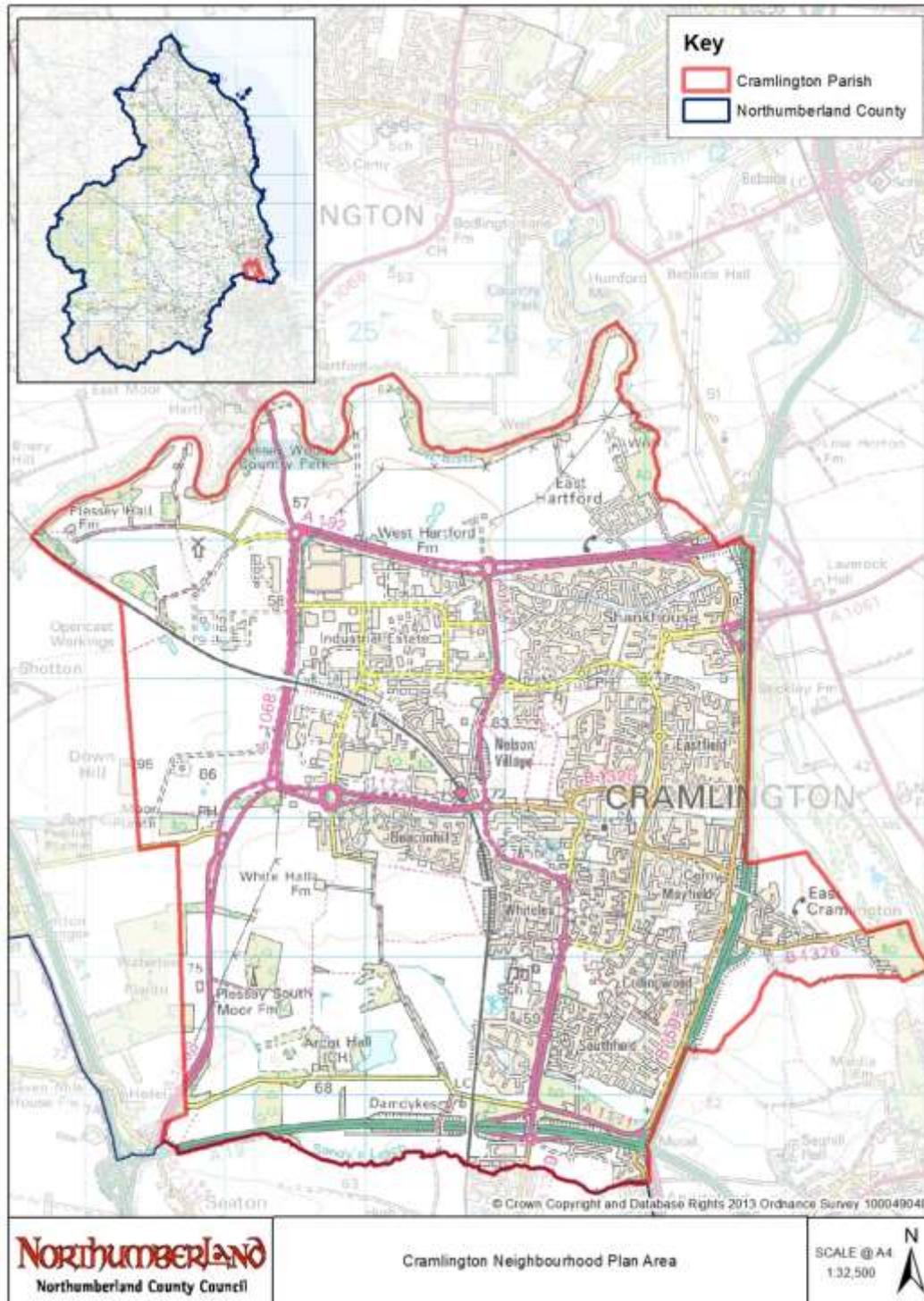
**Figure 2: Criteria for determining likely significance of effects on the environment**

- 1. The characteristics of neighbourhood plans, having regard, in particular, to:**
  - (a) 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;
  - (b) the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
  - (c) The relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
  - (d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan;
  - (e) The relevance of the plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or waste protection)
- 2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:**
  - (a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
  - (b) The cumulative nature of the effects;
  - (c) The transboundary nature of the effects;
  - (d) The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);
  - (e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
  - (f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
    - (i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
    - (ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;
    - (iii) Intensive land use
  - (g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

### 3. Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan

3.01 The Civil Parish of Cramlington is located in the south east of Northumberland. The Cramlington Neighbourhood Area covers the entire Civil Parish of Cramlington. The Neighbourhood Area is shown on Map 1, below:

**Map 1: Cramlington Neighbourhood Area**



- 3.02 Cramlington has been the main focus in Northumberland for housing growth and the development of employment opportunities for many years. Cramlington Town Council is keen to support and encourage the completion of the town in a sustainable manner and generally in accordance with the original plans for the town devised in the 1960s and early 1970s. A major part of the work required to complete the town will involve ensuring that development takes place in the final quarter of the town, the area known as the 'South West Sector'. Work involved in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan will look at how that part of the town should be developed. The Plan will also look at other housing and employment opportunities along with other issues identified through discussion and engagement to date.
- 3.03 Cramlington is Northumberland's second largest town, although in the ten years between 2001 and 2011 its resident population fell by 1,100 to 29,400 people, which is equivalent to a 3% decline in people living in the town. The town has a demonstrably younger population than other towns in the County, with the second-lowest proportion of residents aged 65 or over. Recently, Cramlington has not achieved housing growth in the numbers anticipated to see its completion as a 'new town'. Over the past 4 years only 110 houses have been built: if this level of development is projected forward over the Plan period, it is estimated that the population would decline by around 8%, a potential loss of over 2,400 people.
- 3.04 The Vision and Objectives of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan are set out below:

**A Vision for Cramlington**

Cramlington will continue to grow, becoming a successful sustainable community. It will strive to become the main town in the county and one of its principal gateways. Cramlington will be transformed into Northumberland's Garden Town thereby creating a distinct identity for its residential and business communities and visitors.

**Objective 1 – Investing in our infrastructure**

To renew, reinforce and enhance, the town's physical infrastructure and assets through investment and robust management, thereby improving its setting and attractiveness for sustainable living and modern, competitive business.

**Objective 2 – Protecting our public spaces:**

To protect and improve the range of good quality open spaces and streetscapes which residents appreciate and value, including the provision of a new Town Square.

**Objective 3 – Enhancing our open spaces:**

To enhance the town's network of existing open spaces by seeking additional provision through the development process to meet identified deficiencies.

**Objective 4 – Improving our environment:**

To improve the visual and spatial relationships in and between the town's residential, business and commercial sectors, by implementing a programme of environmental

improvements designed to create areas with a defined character, and attractive and safe routes between them.

**Objective 5 – Promoting sustainable modes of transport:**

To promote access to sustainable modes of transport, which connect people effectively and efficiently to the social, economic, educational, recreational and cultural facilities which they require on a day to day basis.

**Objective 6 – Integrating sustainable transport modes:**

To maintain, add to and further integrate the network of sustainable transport modes and opportunities for safe and active travel by walking and cycling, and connections between places and activities within Cramlington and destinations beyond.

**Objective 7 – Improving our town centre:**

To add to the mix of commercial activity in the town centre, improve its accessibility for residents and visitors, thereby strengthening its competitive offer.

**Objective 8 – Completing our town:**

To effect a step change in the delivery of new homes by promoting the phased completion of the South West Sector, thereby extending choice in the housing market, with the provision of additional local services, and recreational, educational and cultural opportunities, which complement those already present across the town.

**Objective 9 – Extending choice in the housing market:**

To extend choice in the housing market supporting the construction of new homes by facilitating the completion of development at the South West Sector, and development at an appropriate scale elsewhere in the town. This will include the provision of affordable homes suitable for use or adaptation at all stages in peoples' lives and homes for vulnerable people, including the provision of social rented housing.

**Objective 10 – Extending the provision of social, recreational, educational and cultural facilities:**

To maintain and add to the provision of the town's social, recreational, educational and cultural facilities, through the development process, by facilitating sustainable growth in housing and economic development.

**Objective 11- Reinforcing Cramlington's sub-regional employment role:**

To reinforce the town's sub-regional employment role by supporting investment in the provision of modern competitive employment space, thereby retaining jobs and diversifying the local economy into new sectors.

3.03 The Plan will contain policies which will seek to deliver the aims and objectives.

## 4. SEA Screening Assessment

- 4.01 The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan is at an early stage in its preparation and while some draft policies exist, some areas of policy are yet to be drafted. The conclusion of the screening exercise is that an SEA is required. This will allow the SEA process to fully influence policy formulation.
- 4.02 Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out alongside the emerging Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy, which is currently at Pre-Submission Draft stage. This document has been taken into account in undertaking this screening assessment.
- 4.03 The Northumberland Pre-Submission Draft Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal<sup>6</sup> includes, at Appendix V, responses from the Consultation Bodies received in relation to the previous Regulation 18 consultation on the Core Strategy in December 2014. The Sustainability Appraisal recognises that the information regarding the likely effects resulting from the proposed strategic site at Cramlington's South West Sector is limited due to the strategic nature of the Core Strategy document itself as it does not include details of site development which would make forecasting likely effects difficult.

**Table 2: Assessment of the likelihood of significant effects on the environment**

Criteria (Schedule 1)	Significant Environmental Effect likely?	
	Yes/no	Justification
<b>The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
(a) 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.	Yes	The main framework will continue to be at the Core Strategy level, which is itself subject to SEA as a matter of course. The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan seeks to allocate land for development and sets out positive planning policies seeking to encourage development. The Neighbourhood Plan may influence the masterplanning of the development of the South West Sector, forming an urban extension to the town. The SA for the Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy states that, while the Core Strategy identifies the South West Sector of Cramlington as a strategic site, the strategic nature of the Core Strategy means that it is lacking the detail required in order to assess likely effects relating to the development of the site. Since the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan aims to provide a more local focus, with specific reference to the South West Sector, it is considered necessary to carry out SEA of the Neighbourhood Plan.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Core%20strategy/CD07-Sustainability-Appraisal.pdf>

Criteria (Schedule 1)	Significant Environmental Effect likely?	
	Yes/no	Justification
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
<b>(b)</b> the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	Yes	It is possible that the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan could inform future supplementary guidance in the area. The Plan will be in accordance with existing higher-level plans and programmes and will build upon them through the inclusion of locally-specific policies which seek to encourage the development of land within the Neighbourhood Area.
<b>(c)</b> the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	Yes	The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan seeks to promote sustainable development overall and does not seek any relaxations to sustainable development principles set out in higher-level plans. However, the Plan is seeking to support large scale development in the South West Sector of the town, which is identified as a strategic site in the County Council's Core Strategy Pre-Submission Draft (October 2015).
<b>(d)</b> environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	Yes	Due to the scale of development proposed, the environmental impact of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan could be significant.
<b>(e)</b> 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)	N/A	The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan has to be in conformity with the strategic policies contained within other relevant planning documents. The current adopted local plans for the area consist of the Blyth Valley Core Strategy (2007), Blyth Valley Development Control Policies DPD, and saved policies in the Blyth Valley District Local Plan (1999). Policies in these plans are material planning considerations where they comply with the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). New planning policies are emerging from Northumberland County Council in the form of a Core Strategy for the whole of the County. This document is currently at Pre-Submission Draft stage, with a view to submission of the Core Strategy in March 2016. Once 'made', the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory development plan for Northumberland and will be used in the determination of planning applications, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Criteria (Schedule 1)	Significant Environmental Effect likely?	
	Yes/no	Justification
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
<b>(a)</b> the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	Yes	The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan aims to support the development of the South West Sector of the town and is supportive of sustainable development within the overall protective policy context of the development plan in terms of the built and natural environment. However, the scale of development is likely to have significant environmental effects.
<b>(b)</b> the cumulative nature of the effects	Yes	It is likely that significant environmental effects may be observed as a result of the policies contained within the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to facilitate a level of development above that of higher-level documents within the development plan. However, the Neighbourhood Plan contains specific policies relating to the development of a large scale extension to the town. The Neighbourhood Plan does support sustainable development which would protect and enhance the built and natural environment but it is anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan could result in significant effects, whether in isolation or cumulatively.
<b>(c)</b> the transboundary nature of the effects	Yes	Cramlington Neighbourhood Area covers the entire Civil Parish of Cramlington. While wholly contained within Northumberland, the Cramlington Neighbourhood Area borders the administrative area of North Tyneside Council and is also well located for access to Newcastle via the Strategic Road Network. The Neighbourhood Plan could result in transboundary effects through the implementation of policies which would result in large scale development to the South West of Cramlington.
<b>(d)</b> the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	No	At this point, it is thought unlikely that there would be risks to human health or the environment arising from the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan.

Criteria (Schedule 1)	Significant Environmental Effect likely?	
	Yes/no	Justification
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
<b>(e)</b> the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	Yes	The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan seeks to allocate land for development. The Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy identifies a strategic site at the South West Sector of Cramlington, forming a significant urban extension to the settlement. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to ensure that a masterplan for the site is produced in order to guide the sustainable development of the area.
<b>(f)(i)</b> the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage.	Yes	The Cramlington Neighbourhood Area contains a number of important designations, including ancient woodland, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNClS), Local Nature Reserves, as well as designated and non-designated heritage assets. It is clear that the Neighbourhood Area contains a number of sensitive/potentially vulnerable receptors, and it is possible that these would be affected by the Neighbourhood Plan.
<b>(f)(ii)</b> the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values.	No	This would be unlikely to result from the proposals.
<b>(f)(iii)</b> the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to intensive land use.	Yes	This would be likely to result from the proposals, particularly regarding land at the South West Sector of Cramlington.
<b>(g)</b> the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	Yes	The Cramlington Neighbourhood Area contains a number of important designations, including ancient woodland, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNClS), Local Nature Reserves, as well as designated and non-designated heritage assets. It is clear that the Neighbourhood Area contains a number of sensitive/potentially vulnerable receptors, and it is possible that these would be affected by the Neighbourhood Plan.

## 5. SEA Assessment Conclusion

5.01 **On the basis of the SEA Screening Assessment set out in Table 2 above, the conclusion is that the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, and therefore should be subject to SEA.** The main reasons for this conclusion are:

- The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan supports the implementation of policies in the adopted Blyth Valley LDF Core Strategy and saved policies of the Blyth Valley District Local Plan, as well as those policies and proposals contained within the emerging Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy. However, the Neighbourhood Plan does identify the South West Sector as a large scale urban extension to Cramlington in the medium to long term and requires a masterplan for the site, setting out physical and community infrastructure, to be prepared and agreed prior to development taking place.
- The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have environmental effects given the designations which are found within the Neighbourhood Area, including: ancient woodland, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs), Local Nature Reserves, as well as designated and non-designated heritage assets.
- The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan seeks to avoid or minimise negative environmental effects through the provision of guidance on issues which should be considered when making proposals within the Neighbourhood Area. It is, therefore, likely to have indirect environmental effects with potential for cumulative effects across the Neighbourhood Area.
- The Northumberland Pre Submission Draft Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal recognises that information regarding the likely effects resulting from the proposed strategic site at Cramlington's South West Sector is limited. It states that this is due to the strategic nature of the Core Strategy document itself as it does not include details of site development which would make forecasting likely effects difficult. Since the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan aims to provide a more local focus, with specific reference to masterplanning the development of the South West Sector, it is considered necessary to carry out SEA of the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.02 The consultation bodies agreed with the conclusions set out in the Screening Opinion produced by the County Council and confirmed that, in their opinion, SEA is required in relation to the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan. The responses received from the consultation bodies are contained in Appendix 2 to this report.

## Appendix 1: Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive<sup>7</sup>

### Annex I

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. (a) Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more;
- (b) Nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors including the dismantling or decommissioning of such power stations or reactors<sup>(1)</sup> (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:
  - (i) for the production or enrichment of nuclear fuel;
  - (ii) for the processing of irradiated nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste;
  - (iii) for the final disposal of irradiated nuclear fuel;
  - (iv) solely for the final disposal of radioactive waste;
  - (v) 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, utilisation 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:
  - (a) for the production of basic organic chemicals;
  - (b) for the production of basic inorganic chemicals;
  - (c) for the production of phosphorous-, nitrogen- or potassium-based fertilisers (simple or compound fertilisers);
  - (d) for the production of basic plant health products and of biocides;
  - (e) for the production of basic pharmaceutical products using a chemical or biological process;
  - (f) for the production of explosives.
7. (a) Construction of lines for long-distance railway traffic and of airports<sup>(2)</sup> with a basic runway length of 2 100 m or more;
- (b) Construction of motorways and express roads<sup>(3)</sup>;

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<sup>7</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011L0092>

- (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 I to Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste <sup>(4)</sup> under heading D9, or landfill of hazardous waste, as defined in point 2 of Article 3 of that Directive.
10. Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment as defined in Annex I to Directive 2008/98/EC 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 that 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 that 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 point 6 of Article 2 of Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste-water treatment <sup>(5)</sup>.
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 cubic metres/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 with a diameter of more than 800 mm and a length of more than 40 km:
- (a) for the transport of gas, oil, chemicals;
- (b) for the transport of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) streams for the purposes of geological storage, including associated booster stations.
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 production of:
- (a) pulp from timber or similar fibrous materials;

- (b) 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.
- 22. Storage sites pursuant to Directive 2009/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the geological storage of carbon dioxide <sup>(6)</sup>.
- 23. Installations for the capture of CO<sub>2</sub> streams for the purposes of geological storage pursuant to Directive 2009/31/EC from installations covered by this Annex, or where the total yearly capture of CO<sub>2</sub> is 1,5 megatonnes or more.
- 24. Any change to or extension of projects listed in this Annex where such a change or extension in itself meets the thresholds, if any, set out in this Annex.

## Annex II

### 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:
  - (i) geothermal drilling;
  - (ii) drilling for the storage of nuclear waste material;
  - (iii) drilling for water supplies;
 with the exception of drillings for investigating the stability of the soil;
- (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);
- (j) Installations for the capture of CO<sub>2</sub> streams for the purposes of geological storage pursuant to Directive 2009/31/EC from installations not covered by Annex I to this Directive.

#### **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) smitheries 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, mercerisation) 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 transshipment 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 and pipelines for the transport of CO<sub>2</sub> streams for the purposes of geological storage (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 campsites and caravan sites;
  - (e) Theme parks.
13. (a) Any change or extension of projects listed in Annex I or this Annex, already authorised, executed or in the process of being executed, which may have significant adverse effects on the environment (change or extension not included in Annex I);
- (b) 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.

## Appendix 2: Screening Opinion Consultation Responses from Consultation Bodies

The SEA Screening Opinion was sent to the consultation bodies<sup>8</sup> in order to seek their views on its contents<sup>9</sup>. The consultation ran from 7<sup>th</sup> January until 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Responses were received from Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The consultation bodies agreed with the conclusions set out in the Screening Opinion produced by the County Council and confirmed that, in their opinion, SEA is required in relation to the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan. The responses received from the consultation bodies are contained below. The information provided and recommendations made within these responses should be taken into account in the preparation of the Plan and also through the ongoing SEA process.

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<sup>8</sup> As set out in Regulation 4(1) of the SEA Regulations 2004.

<sup>9</sup> As set out in Regulation 9(2)(b) of the SEA Regulations 2004.



Historic England

Rob Naples  
Planning Officer  
Communities and Infrastructure  
Strategic Planning and Housing  
Northumberland County Council  
County Hall  
Morpeth  
Northumberland NE61 2EF

Our ref:  
Your ref:

Telephone 0191 269 1237  
Mobile 07775 003532

Date 26 January 2016

Sent by email to: [rob.naples@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:rob.naples@northumberland.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Naples

**re: Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan: SEA Screening Opinion**

Further to your email of 7 January, thank you very much for consulting Historic England over the SEA Screening Opinion for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan. We have noted that the SEA Screening Report comments on the plan area containing a number of designated and undesignated heritage assets. These include a number of listed buildings, as well as the Cramlington Conservation Area, and for this reason we are pleased to be given the opportunity to comment.

The Screening Report sets out the draft vision and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan. It also notes that the Plan is at an early stage in its preparation, and areas of policy are yet to be drafted, including those relating to the large scale extension to the South West Sector of the plan area. The assessment notes that, depending upon the proposals contained within the plan, there may be significant environmental effects upon the environment, including heritage assets. While we appreciate that it is not possible at present to determine the extent or nature of those effects, we agree with the Council's conclusion that, due to the likelihood of direct and indirect environmental effects, a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Plan should be carried out.

Historic England will be pleased to comment on the content of the draft plan in due course. However, in the meantime there are a number of steps that the Plan Steering Group might wish to consider to ensure that the Plan gives full consideration to the protection and conservation of the historic environment. Heritage assets can often contribute enormously to making an area special and unique, and can be a powerful tool for delivering regeneration. We would therefore suggest that the Steering Group considers gathering more information on



Historic England, Bessie Surtees House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 3JF  
Telephone 0191 269 1255 [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Please note that Historic England operates an access to Information policy.  
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.

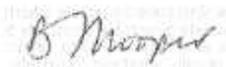


the historic environment to support its plan, in order to ensure that the plan is based upon a sound evidence base (as required by the NPPF). The group could then use this information to develop a clear vision for the historic environment, and consider the opportunities to enhance and conserve the area's heritage. Historic England has produced guidance on Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment (attached), and the 'Placecheck' website, [www.placecheck.info](http://www.placecheck.info) provides very useful information on how to identify what is good about a place and what can be improved.

In addition, the Steering Group might wish to consider using the Neighbourhood Plan as an opportunity to review the Conservation Area, and produce an up-to-date Conservation Area Appraisal. Doing this early in the Neighbourhood Plan process might be very beneficial, to both identify the special significance of the area, and to establish the appropriate management which would help to conserve and enhance the area. A detailed Conservation Area Appraisal could then provide the basis for some of the key policies and proposals for the Neighbourhood Plan.

I hope that these comments are of value. Thank you again for consulting Historic England, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours faithfully



Barbara Hooper  
Local Historic Environment Planner



Historic England, Bessie Surtees House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 3JF  
Telephone 0191 269 1255 [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.  
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.



Date: 11 January 2016  
Our ref: 175621  
Your ref: Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening



Mr R. Naples  
Planning Officer  
Planning, Housing and Economy  
Northumberland County Council  
County Hall  
Morpeth  
NE61 2EF

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business  
Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr Naples

**Screening consultation:** Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 7 January 2016 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

**Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment**

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils), there are likely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance<sup>1</sup>. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development;
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan;
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-neighbourhood-plans/>

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals/ allocations contained within the plan will have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect. As we have no evidence of these effects having been assessed within a Local Plan, we consider that there should now be an assessment in order to determine the potential impact on these sensitive sites and what possibilities exist for the avoidance/ mitigation of the effects.

The following sites have been identified as being potentially significantly affected by the plan policies/ allocations/ proposals:

- Arcot Hall Grassland and Ponds Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact me on 0208 0265533 or [andrew.whitehead@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:andrew.whitehead@naturalengland.org.uk). For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Whitehead  
Northumbria Area Team

Northumberland County Council  
Planning Strategy  
County Hall  
Morpeth  
Northumberland  
NE61 2EF

**Our ref:** NA/2009/103757/OT-  
10/IS1-L01

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 11 February 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan – Screening Opinion**

Thank you for referring the above enquiry that was received on 07 January 2016. I apologise for the delay in replying, and trust that the Environment Agency's comments, as set out below, will still be taken into consideration.

Having considered the submitted information, the Environment Agency supports the proposals within the plan. We do however wish to offer you the following advice/information:

#### **Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan Checklist**

This checklist is for Neighbourhood Plans covering Cramlington. Due to the high volume of neighbourhood plans across the county we have had to focus our detailed engagement to those areas where the environmental risks are greatest.

Together with Natural England, English Heritage and Forestry Commission we have published joint advice on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at:

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/lit\\_6524\\_7da381.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/lit_6524_7da381.pdf)

The below checklist takes you through the issues we would consider in reviewing your Plan. We aim to reduce flood risk, while protecting and enhancing the water environment.

We recommend completing this to check whether we are likely to have any concerns with your Neighbourhood Plan at later stages.

Environment Agency  
Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR.  
Customer services line: 03708 506 506  
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)  
End

## Flood Risk

Your Neighbourhood Plan should conform to national and local policies on flood risk: National Planning Policy Framework – para.100

'Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere.'

If your Neighbourhood Plan is proposing sites for development check whether there are any areas of Flood Zones 2 or 3 within the proposed site allocations.

---

How? Input postcodes or place names at:  
<http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=357683.0&y=355134.0&scale=1&layerGroups=default&ep=map&textonly=off&lang=e&to pic=floodmap>

If there are no areas of Flood Zones 2 or 3: We are pleased to see that all development proposed through your Neighbourhood Plan has been directed to areas of lowest risk of flooding. This is consistent with the aims of national planning policy and the emerging policies in the Northumberland County Local Plan.

If you are aware that any of the sites have previously suffered flooding or are at risk of other sources of flood risk such as surface water or groundwater flooding we recommend you seek the advice of Northumberland County Council.

If sites proposed include areas at risk of flooding: In accordance with national planning policy the Sequential Test should be undertaken to ensure development is directed to the areas of lowest flood risk. This should be informed by the Environment Agency's flood map for planning and Northumberland County Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). We recommend you contact Northumberland County Council to discuss this requirement further.

We would have concerns if development is allocated in this high risk flood zone without the Sequential Test being undertaken.

It is important that your Plan also considers whether the flood risk issues associated with these sites can be safely managed to ensure development can come forward.

Next steps Please contact us (see details below) for further advice if any sites include areas of Flood Zone 3, which is defined as having a high probability of flooding, as we may have concerns with your Plan.

---

## Wastewater Treatment

The Northumberland Water Cycle Study 2015 outlines that further investigation and possible infrastructure upgrades to the sewer treatment works may be required in these areas before development can commence in this area. On this basis, we would recommend you consult Northumbrian Water Limited (NWL) once you have further information regarding location and numbers of housing proposed.

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One means freeing up headroom at existing Sewerage Treatment Works (STWs) served by combined sewers is to separate the wastewater and surface water flows, so that only the wastewater goes into the combined sewer.

Where brownfield land served by combined sewers is re-developed, Northumbrian Water is seeking to have the wastewater and surface water flows separated where possible.

Surface water comprises the greatest proportion of volume in the combined sewer, therefore removing it can have the beneficial effect of reduce the flow arriving at the STW, freeing up headroom within the sewer system. Surface water can be managed on sites with Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) instead of being directed to a public sewer. We would recommend that any proposed housing sites should be designed to mimic natural catchment processes using a sustainable drainage approach i.e. SUDS. Mimicking natural catchment processes will help to limit surface water on the site and increase the sewer capacity.

**Community Infrastructure Levy**

We would recommend that environmental infrastructure, including habitat enhancements, water storage areas, and green space, is taken into account when looking to fund local infrastructure.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided below.

Yours faithfully

**Susan Davison**  
**Planning Officer - Sustainable Places Team**

Direct dial 0191 203 4263  
Direct fax 0191 2034199  
Direct e-mail [susan.davison@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:susan.davison@environment-agency.gov.uk)

End

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