

Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion

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Northumberland County Council

14 November 2016

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1. Introduction

- 1.01 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required under European legislation¹ 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. Any assessment must consider both positive and negative effects. 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 legislation².
- 1.05 This report details the assessment undertaken by Northumberland County Council, the Local Planning Authority, of the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan against the need for SEA. It concludes that, in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority, an SEA is not required.
- 1.06 This report was sent to the consultation bodies³ of the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England in order to seek their views on its contents⁴. The consultation ran from 13 October 2016 until 03 November 2016. All three 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 not required in relation to the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan. The responses received from the consultation bodies are contained in Appendix 2 to this report.

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

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

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

⁴ 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:

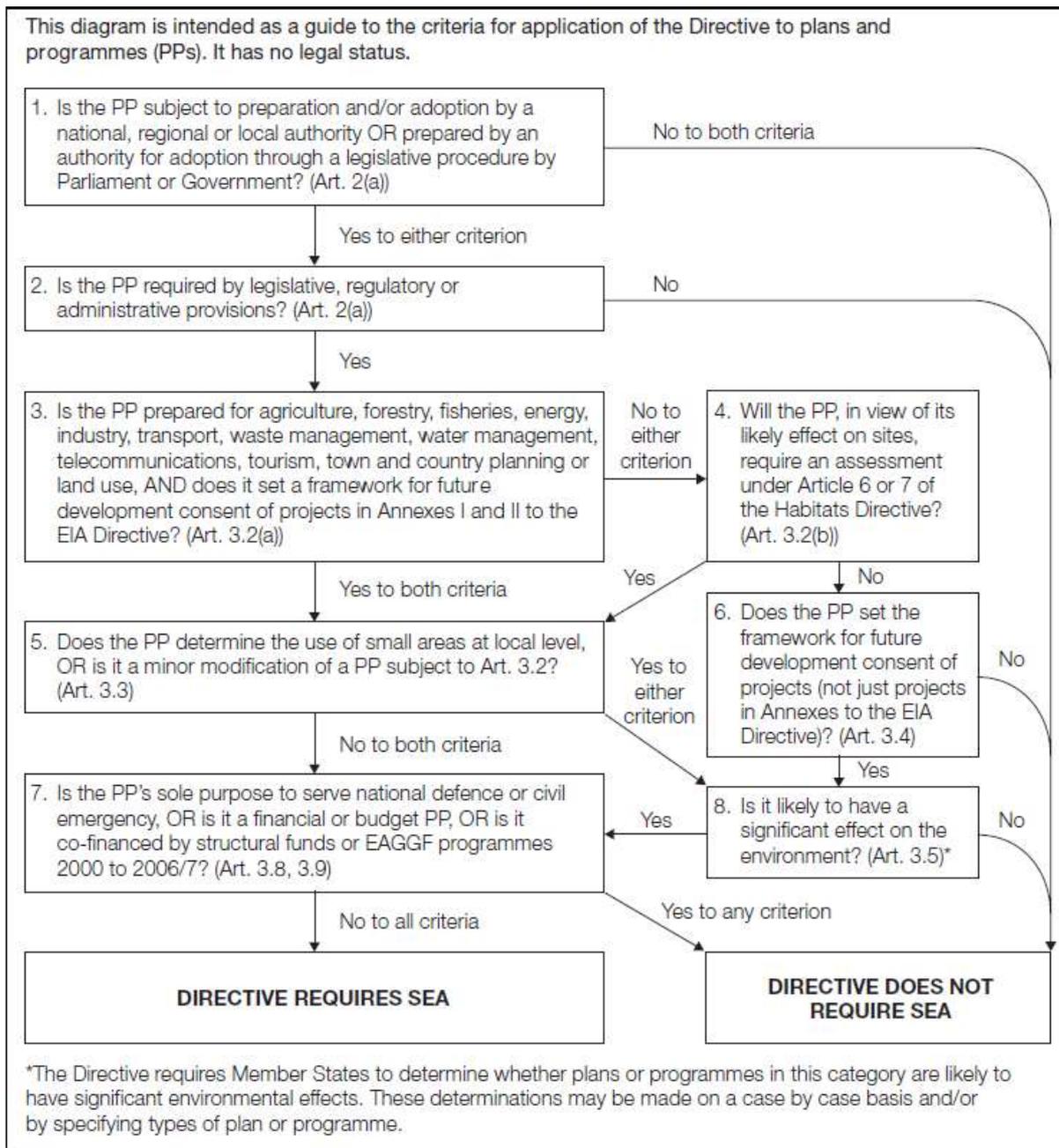
- (a) A map or statement which identifies the area to which the proposed neighbourhood development plan relates;*
- (b) A consultation statement;*
- (c) The proposed neighbourhood development plan;*
- (d) A 'basic conditions statement'; and*
- (e) (i) an environmental report, or*
(ii) a screening opinion 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 Ponteland 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)⁵

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

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

Table 1: Application of the SEA Directive to the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan

Stage	Y/N	Reason
<p>1. 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 Ponteland 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>2. 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 Ponteland 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>3. 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.</p> <p>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 Ponteland 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>4. 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 Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, which relate to Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.</p>
<p>5. Does the Plan determine the use of small areas at local level OR is it a minor modification of a plan or proposal subject to Article 3.2? (Article 3.3)</p>	Yes	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan can determine the use of small areas at a local level. The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan includes policies relating to the location of sustainable development but does not specifically allocate land for development.</p>
<p>6. Does the Plan set the framework for future development consent of</p>	Yes	<p>Once ‘made’, a Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory Development Plan and will be used</p>

projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Article 3.4)		in the determination of planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area. Therefore, it sets the framework for future developments at a local level.
7. Is the Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget plan or proposal, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Article 3.8, 3.9)	No	The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with these issues.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Article 3.5)	No	The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan accords with the strategic policies contained within the statutory development plan. No likely significant effects upon the environment have been identified. No specific development is proposed through the plan, nor is land allocated for development through the plan. It is therefore considered that the plan would not have a significant effect on heritage assets, landscape, biodiversity interests or areas of flood risk.

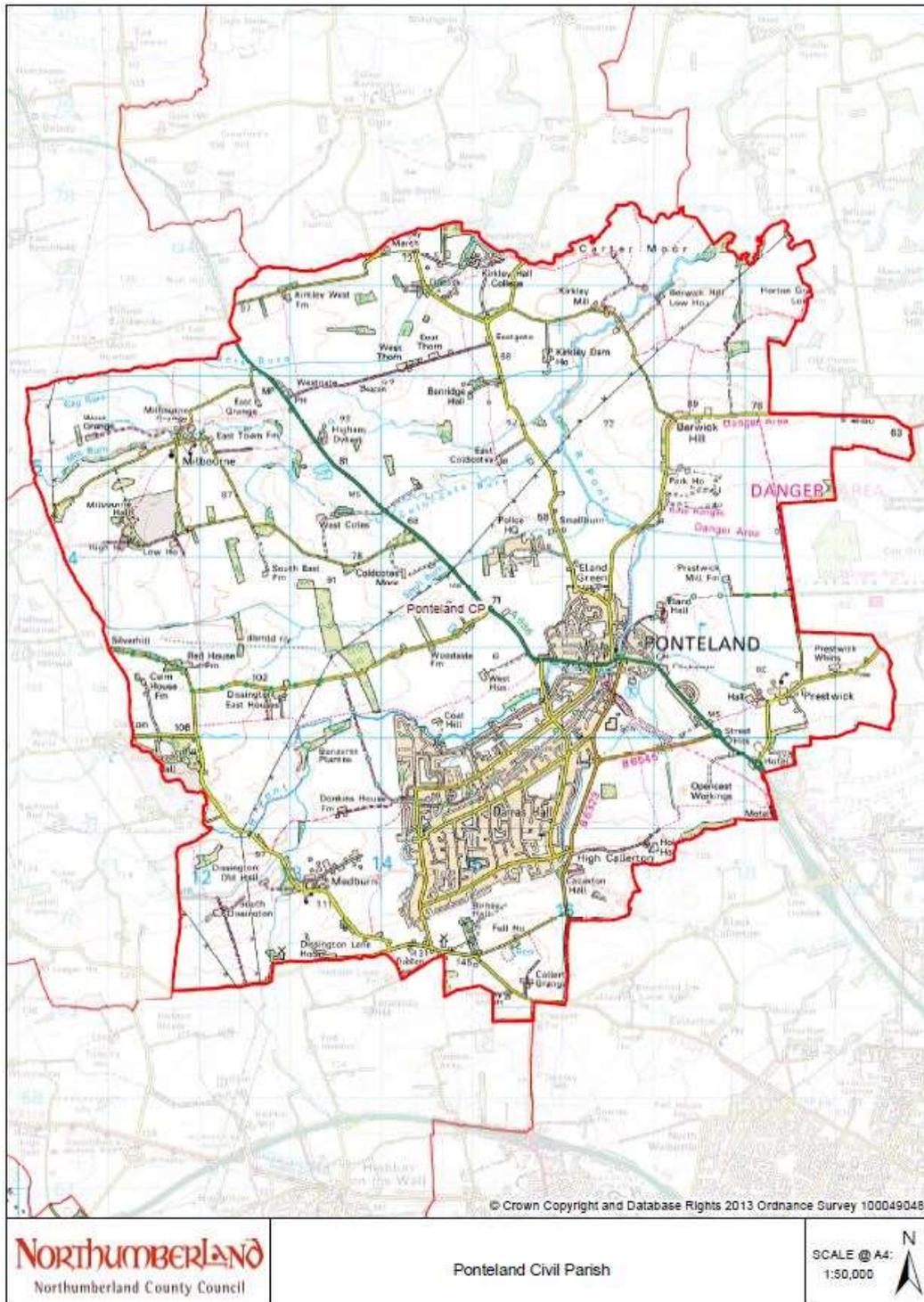
- 2.05 The conclusion of the assessment in Table 1 is that, depending on the content of a Neighbourhood Plan, an SEA may be required. For this reason, a case by case analysis of Neighbourhood Plans will be required to determine any potential significant effects on the environment.
- 2.06 Assessment of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

3.01 Ponteland parish is a large civil parish in Northumberland; the parish includes the settlement of Ponteland and Darras Hall Estate, together with Milbourne, Medburn, Prestwick, Berwick Hill, High Callerton, Smallburn and Kirkley. The Ponteland Neighbourhood Area covers the entire Civil Parish of Ponteland. The Neighbourhood Area is shown on Map 1 below:



3.02 The Vision and Objectives of the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan are set out below:

Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan Vision:

“Ponteland will maintain its identity as a sustainable, thriving community, accessible to people of all ages. A gateway to Northumberland, which values its rural setting, rich heritage, natural environment and open spaces. It will remain visually distinct and separate from the Newcastle/Tyneside conurbation, meeting the needs of the local population, without compromising this distinction. The special identities of Darras Hall, the historic core of Ponteland village and the small settlements in the Plan area will be maintained and enhanced for future generations, making the Civil Parish of Ponteland a desirable place to live, work and visit.”

Objective 1 – The Built Environment

Ensure that new development contributes positively to the built, natural and historic environment of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Objective 2 – The Natural Environment

Plan positively for the creation, protection and enhancement of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Objective 3 – Local Economy

Support the sustainable creation and protection of employment opportunities in the Neighbourhood Plan area, and the vitality and viability of its Village and Local Centres.

Objective 4 - Housing

Create and maintain a balanced and sustainable community by providing a positive policy framework that recognises the types of homes that current and future residents of the Neighbourhood Plan area need.

Objective 5 – Community Wellbeing

Contribute to community wellbeing by ensuring that the Neighbourhood Plan area’s community, especially its older and younger people, have access to the services and facilities they need.

Objective 6 – Flooding and Sustainable Drainage

To reduce the causes and risk of flooding in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Objective 7 – Transport and Movement

Manage the transport network of the Neighbourhood Plan area to be safer, more efficient and more environmentally friendly for all users, whilst ensuring adequate vehicle parking is available to meet the needs of residents, visitors and businesses.

- 3.03 The Plan contains policies which seek to deliver the aims and objectives but it does not identify or propose the allocation of specific development sites.
- 3.04 The Policies contained within the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan are intended to support decision making that deliver the seven objectives which considered central to the achievement of the vision.

4. SEA Screening Assessment

- 4.01 The policies set out in the Pre-submission Consultation Draft Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan have been used to undertake the screening assessment. If the conclusion of the screening exercise is that an SEA is not required, any major changes to the existing policies, or the introduction of new policies, will mean that the Plan should be subject to a further screening assessment to ensure that significant effects are not likely.
- 4.02 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment are being carried out alongside the emerging Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy. These documents have been taken into account in undertaking this screening assessment.

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

Criteria (Schedule 1)	Significant Environmental Effect likely?	
	Yes/no	Justification
The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:		
(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.	No	The main framework will continue to be at the Core Strategy level, which is itself subject to SEA as a matter of course. The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate land for development, and sets out positive planning policies seeking to encourage development which would be sympathetic to the area, in line with specific protective policies elsewhere in the Neighbourhood Plan.
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	No	It is possible that the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan could inform future supplementary guidance in the area. The present draft document is in accordance with existing higher-level plans and programmes and builds upon them through the inclusion of locally-specific policies which seek to protect and enhance the local built and natural environments. Due to the locally-specific nature of the policies, the effects of the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan on other plans and programmes within the wider development plan will be slight.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	No	The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan seeks to promote sustainable development overall and does not seek any relaxations to sustainable development principles set out in higher-level plans. The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan includes a number of specific policies relating to the conservation of designated heritage assets and protection of the natural environment. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to address any significant environmental problems in the area, nor are there significant environmental problems that may be exacerbated by the Neighbourhood Plan.

Criteria (Schedule 1)	Significant Environmental Effect likely?	
	Yes/no	Justification
The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:		
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	No	Due to the scale of development proposed, the environmental impact of the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan is likely to be minimal. Any existing environmental problems could be tackled through the implementation of the Plan.
(e) 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)	No	<p>The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan has to be in conformity with the strategic policies contained within other relevant planning documents. The current adopted local plan for the area consists of the saved policies in the Castle Morpeth Local Plan (2003). Policies in this plan are material planning considerations where they comply with the National Planning Policy Framework (2012).</p> <p>New planning policies are emerging in Northumberland. Northumberland County Council is producing a Core Strategy for the whole of the County. That Plan is at an advanced stage.</p> <p>The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan supports the implementation of higher level policies at the Neighbourhood Area level. It is therefore not considered to have significant influence on other plans and programmes or their effects on the environment.</p>

Criteria (Schedule 1)	Significant Environmental Effect likely?	
	Yes/no	Justification
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.	No	The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate land for development, although it does seek to allocate land as Local Green Space, together with the identification of green approaches, wildlife corridors, and protected open space. The Plan also identifies allotments which are given protection through a policy. No significant effects are predicted. The Neighbourhood Plan is, however, supportive of sustainable development within the overall protective policy context of the development plan in terms of the built and natural environment.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	No	It is unlikely that any significant environmental effects would be observed as a result of the policies contained within the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to facilitate a level of development above that of higher-level documents within the development plan. The Neighbourhood Plan does support sustainable development which would protect and enhance the built and natural environment but it is not anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan would result in significant effects, whether in isolation or cumulatively.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects	No	The Civil Parish of Ponteland is contained wholly within Northumberland although it abuts the boundary of the administrative area of Newcastle City Council. However, it is not anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan would result in transboundary effects.
(d) 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 Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	No	The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate land for development. While the Plan is supportive of sustainable development, this is in the wider context of the development plan, having regard to specific protective policies relating to the environment. The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan does seek to allocate land as Local Green Space, together with the identification of green approaches, wildlife corridors, and protected open space. The Plan also identifies allotments which are given protection through a policy. No significant effects are predicted. Therefore, the Neighbourhood Plan is not anticipated to have significant environmental effects.

Criteria (Schedule 1)	Significant Environmental Effect likely?	
	Yes/no	Justification
(f)(i) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage.	No	The Ponteland Neighbourhood Area contains a number of important designations, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Local Wildlife Sites and designated and non-designated heritage assets. While it is clear that the Neighbourhood Area contains a number of sensitive/potentially vulnerable receptors, it is unlikely that these would be affected by the Neighbourhood Plan, since the policies seek to conserve and enhance the landscape, biodiversity, natural habitats and cultural heritage of the Neighbourhood Area.
(f)(ii) 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.
(f)(iii) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to intensive land use.	No	This would be unlikely to result from the proposals.
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	No	Given the content of the Neighbourhood Plan, its focus on sustainable development which is sympathetic to the qualities of the area and the integration of sustainability criteria early on in the process, significant effects resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan are unlikely. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect the character of the Neighbourhood Area and should result in a neutral or slight positive effect through providing locally-specific detail and protection which is not provided at other levels of the development 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 Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, and therefore does not need to be subject to SEA.** The main reasons for this conclusion are:

- The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan supports the implementation of saved policies contained in the adopted Castle Morpeth Local Plan;
- The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan represents a lower tier in the hierarchy of planning policy documents covering Northumberland, and therefore has no or limited influence on other plans or programmes;
- The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have environmental effects; rather it is specific developments that come forward within the Neighbourhood Area which may result in environmental effects;
- The Ponteland 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 an indirect positive environmental effect by setting out how developers can avoid adverse effects on a number of environmental receptors.

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 not required in relation to the Ponteland 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 Directive⁶

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⁽¹⁾ (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⁽²⁾ with a basic runway length of 2 100 m or more;
- (b) Construction of motorways and express roads⁽³⁾;

⁶ <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 ⁽⁴⁾ 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 ⁽⁵⁾.
14. Extraction of petroleum and natural gas for commercial purposes where the amount extracted exceeds 500 tonnes/day in the case of petroleum and 500 000 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 (CO₂) 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 ⁽⁶⁾.
- 23. Installations for the capture of CO₂ 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 CO₂ 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 CO₂ 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 CO₂ 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

Date: 02/11/2016
Our ref: 198622
Your ref: Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Opinion



Rob Naples
Communities & Infrastructure
Strategic Planning & Housing
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth, Northumberland
NE61 2EF
Rob.Naples@northumberland.gov.uk

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

BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Rob Naples,

Screening consultation: Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan

Location: Ponteland, Northumberland County

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 13 October 2016, which was received by Natural England on the same date.

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), that there are unlikely 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 Guidance¹. 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.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

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 SA/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/SA 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 Ellen Bekker on 0208 225 7091 or ellen.bekker@naturalengland.org.uk. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to 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,

Ellen Bekker

Northumbria Area Team



Historic England

NORTH EAST OFFICE

Mr Rob Naples
Northumberland County Council
Communities & Infrastructure
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Direct Dial: 0191-2691237

Our ref: PL00043906

3 November 2016

Dear Mr Naples

Thank you for your letter of 13 October 2016 consulting Historic England on the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion for the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan.

I have considered the screening opinion in the light of the pre-submission draft of the plan which you provided, and agree with the views of the Council that the plan does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This is on the basis of the plan seen to date and, primarily, our understanding that it does not contain site allocations.

We will provide comments on the pre-submission draft under separate cover in due course.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Hooper
Principal Adviser, Historic Environment Planning
barbara.hooper@historicengland.org.uk



BESSIE SURTEES HOUSE 41-44 SANDHILL NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE1 3JF

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Historic England is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to an information request, unless one of the exemptions in the FOIA or EIR applies.

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

Our ref: NA/2009/103757/SE-
07/DS1-L01

Your ref:

Date: 14 November 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

**Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion**

Thank you for referring the above SEA Screening Opinion. I apologise for the delay in replying, and trust that our comments, as set out below, will still be taken into consideration.

The Environment Agency agrees that the impact of the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan would not result in any significant environmental effects beyond those already assessed as part of the preparation of the Local Plan. On this basis, we consider that Neighbourhood Plan would not require a SEA.

Yours faithfully

**Cameron Sked
Technical Specialist - Sustainable Places Team**

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End