

# Stannington Neighbourhood Plan

## Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report

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Northumberland County Council

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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. 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 legislation<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.05 This report details the assessment undertaken by Northumberland County Council, the Local Planning Authority, of the Stannington 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 bodies<sup>3</sup> of the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England in order to seek their views on its contents<sup>4</sup>. The consultation ran from 06 January 2017 until 30 January 2017. 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 Stannington Neighbourhood Plan. The responses received from the consultation bodies are contained in Appendix 2 to this report.

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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:

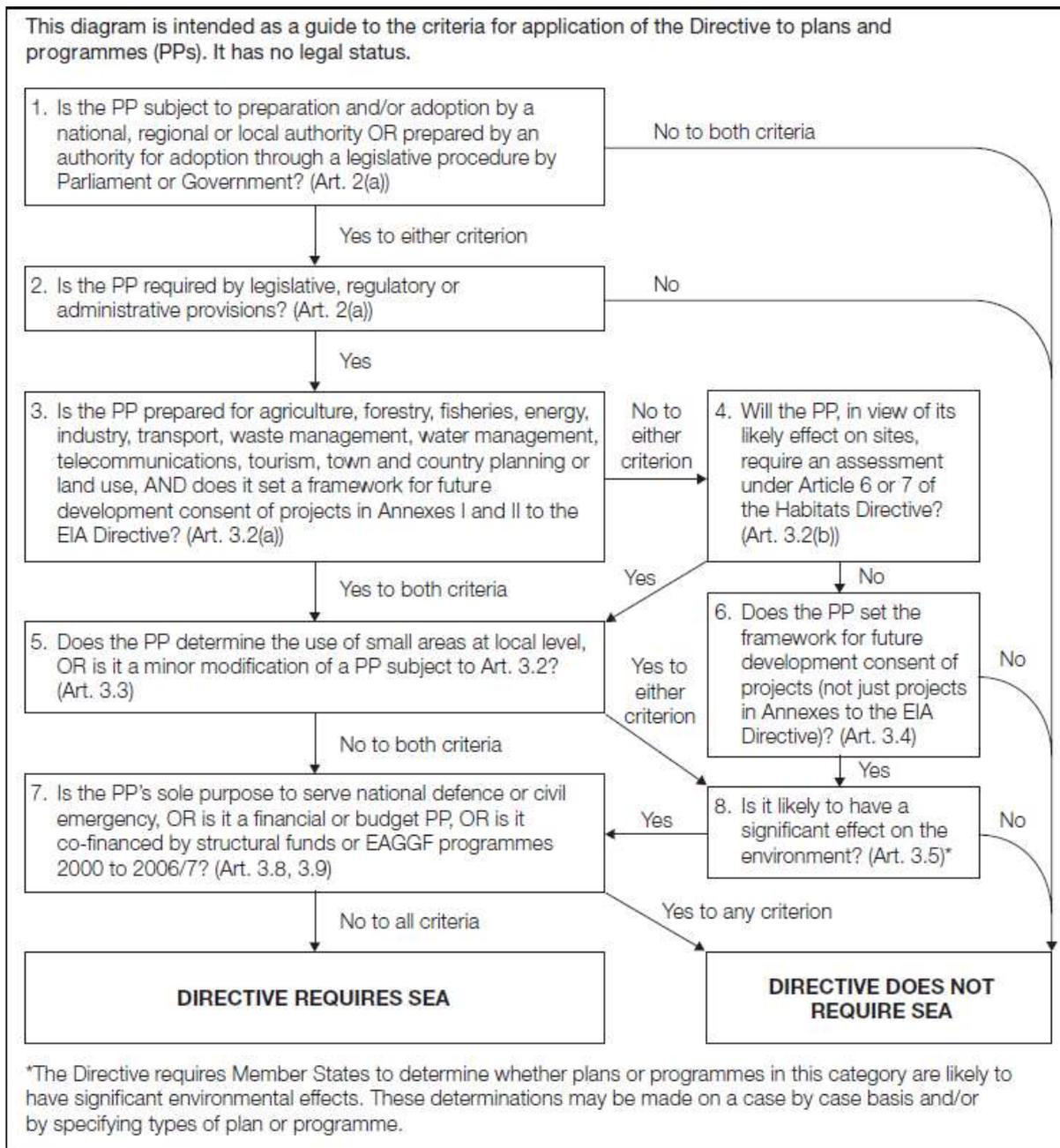
- (a) A map or statement which identifies the area to which the proposed neighbourhood development plan relates;*
- (b) A consultation statement;*
- (c) The proposed neighbourhood development plan;*
- (d) A 'basic conditions statement'; and*
- (e) (i) an environmental report, or  
(ii) a screening opinion 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 Stannington 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 Stannington 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 Stannington 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 Stannington Parish 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 Stannington 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.</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 Stannington 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 Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, which relate to Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.</p>
<p><b>5.</b> 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 Stannington Neighbourhood Plan includes policies relating to the location of sustainable development but does not specifically allocate land for development.</p>
<p><b>6.</b> 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 Stannington 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 Stannington 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.

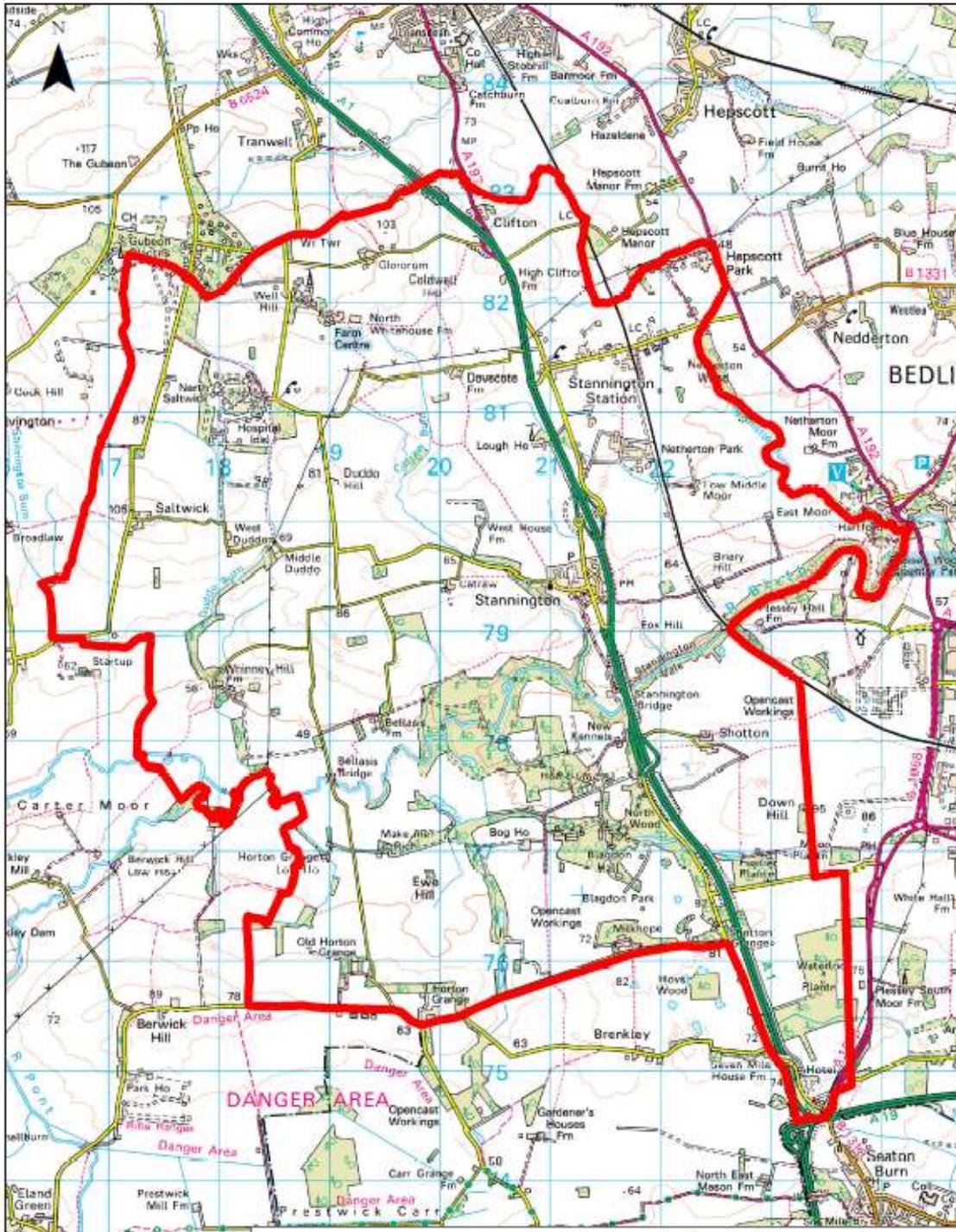
**Figure 2: Criteria for determining likely significance of effects on the environment**

<p><b>1. The characteristics of neighbourhood plans, having regard, in particular, to:</b></p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(b) the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;</p> <p>(c) The relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;</p> <p>(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan;</p> <p>(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)</p> <p><b>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</b></p> <p>(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</p>
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- (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. Stannington Neighbourhood Area**

- 3.01 Stannington Neighbourhood Area comprises the whole of the civil parish of Stannington which is predominantly rural in nature. There are a number of small settlements within the Parish, the main settlement being Stannington Village.
- 3.02 Stannington Station is a linear rural settlement with some limited facilities, but is growing as a result of recent small scale development. Significant residential development is ongoing at the former St Mary's Hospital site; and residential development is planned at Netherton Park and Hepscott Park, both of which comprise former institutional uses. The small settlements of Clifton and Glororum have a small number of dwellings but no local facilities. A number of smaller hamlets and farmsteads are scattered around the Parish. Blagdon Estate has a significant number of dwellings along with business premises at the Milkhope Centre.
- 3.03 The Stannington Neighbourhood Area is shown on Map 1 below:



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## 4. Stannington Neighbourhood Plan

4.01 The Vision and Objectives of the Stannington Neighbourhood Plan are set out below:

### **Vision:**

*"To improve the economic and community sustainability of Stannington Parish for the benefit of residents and businesses, whilst maintaining and enhancing the unique characteristics of the individual settlements within the Plan area."*

### **Objective 1 - Community Sustainability**

*"To identify and protect current community assets, and identify future provision of community facilities within the Plan area."*

### **Objective 2 - Natural Environment**

*"Ensure the countryside, wildlife and important open spaces are maintained to retain the rural feel of the area, whilst recognising that the countryside is a living, working, place."*

### **Objective 3 - Local Economy**

*"Provide a positive framework for local business, agriculture, rural enterprise (including tourism) and local employment."*

### **Objective 4 - Transport**

*"Reduce the detrimental effect that traffic has on residents and businesses in the Plan area, whilst seeking improvements to local networks, non-traffic networks and public transport provision."*

### **Objective 5 - Design and Character**

*"Ensure each settlement in the Plan area seeks to maintain local identity, with a recognition in the Plan of the differences between the settlements, and the need to reflect local character in design."*

4.02 The version of the Draft Plan assessed for the purpose of this screening opinion comprises a set of 8 policies intended to support implementation of the Vision and Objectives. The policies cover the following matters:

- Policy 1: Community Assets - provides support to the protection of community assets;
- Policy 2: Community facilities - provides support for new and expanded community facilities;
- Policy 3: Stannington First School - supports expansion and/or relocation of the First School;
- Policy 4: Stannington Village Playing Fields - designates as Local Green Space;
- Policy 5: Rural Business - provides support for business creation and expansion;
- Policy 6: Broadband - requires inclusion of broadband infrastructure in all new development where viable;
- Policy 7: Highway Safety - supports improvement to the highway network; and
- Policy 8: Design - supports good design reflecting local character

4.03 The policies proposed in the Draft Plan are intended to support decision making that will deliver the five Objectives which are central to the achievement of the Vision. The Plan does not specifically allocate any land or buildings for any particular future use. It does designate playing fields in Stannington Village as Local Green Space which would result in significant protection being afforded to that space.

## 5. SEA Screening Assessment

- 5.01 The policies set out in the Draft Plan have been used to undertake this screening assessment. If significant change to those policies arises as the Plan progresses, or if additional policies are introduced, the Plan should be subject to a further screening assessment.
- 5.02 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment are being carried out alongside the emerging Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy. The reports prepared as a result of that work have been taken into account in undertaking this screening assessment.
- 5.03 The screening assessment is set out in Table 2 below. The criteria used for the assessment are taken from Schedule 1 of the Regulations as described in Figure 2 above. The assessment considers the characteristics of the Plan, and separately considers the characteristics of effects on the environment and the area likely to be affected. Conclusions are reached and recorded along with a commentary about whether significant environmental effects, both positive or negative, are likely as a result of the implementation of policies currently proposed for inclusion in the Plan.

**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>		
<b>(a)</b> 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 strategic planning policy framework will continue to be set through the emerging Local Plan Core Strategy and its predecessor documents which continue to comprise part of the statutory development plan. These are separately subject to SEA as a matter of course. The Stannington Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate land for development. It sets out positive planning policies seeking to support sustainable development.
<b>(b)</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 Stannington Neighbourhood Plan could inform future supplementary guidance in the area. The present draft document does not appear to present any significant conflict with strategic policies contained in the development plan, nor does it conflict with emerging strategic planning policy. It proposes 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 Plan on other plans and programmes will be slight.
<b>(c)</b> the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular	No	The Stannington 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 Stannington Neighbourhood Plan includes policies relating to the

Criteria (Schedule 1)	Significant Environmental Effect likely?	
	Yes/no	Justification
<b>The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
with a view to promoting sustainable development.		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.
<b>(d)</b> environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	No	Due to the scale of development proposed, the environmental impact of the Stannington Neighbourhood Plan is likely to be minimal. Any existing environmental problems could be tackled through the implementation of the Plan.
<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)	No	The Stannington 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). 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. The Stannington 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.
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.	No	The Stannington Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate land for development, although it does seek to designate land as Local Green Space. Accordingly, no significant effects are predicted. Therefore, the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any effects would not be significant. The Neighbourhood Plan is supportive of sustainable development which is at the heart of the Plan's aspirations. Any effects that may arise should therefore be positive in the context of support for sustainable development.
<b>(b)</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

Criteria (Schedule 1)	Significant Environmental Effect likely?	
	Yes/no	Justification
<b>The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
		within the Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan does not seek to facilitate a level of development above that established in the development plan or in evidence regarding objectively assessed need for new housing and employment space associated with the emerging Local Plan Core Strategy. The Neighbourhood Plan does support sustainable development, though it is not anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan would result in significant effects, whether in isolation or cumulatively.
<b>(c)</b> the transboundary nature of the effects	No	The Civil Parish of Stannington is contained wholly within Northumberland although it abuts the boundary of the administrative area of North Tyneside Council at the south-east corner of the Parish. However, it is not anticipated that implementation of the policies in the the Neighbourhood Plan would result in any transboundary effects.
<b>(d)</b> the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	No	It is unlikely that there would be risks to human health or the environment arising from implementation of policies in the Stannington Neighbourhood Plan.
<b>(e)</b> the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	No	The Stannington Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate land for development. The Plan supports sustainable development. Development proposals would need to be determined having regard to this in the wider context of the development plan and national policy and guidance. The Stannington Neighbourhood Plan does seek to designate land as Local Green Space which would prevent development taking place on that space. The magnitude and spatial extent of any effects associated with implementation of the Plan are expected to be minimal or slight.
<b>(f)(i)</b> the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage.	No	There are no designated Conservation Areas within the Neighbourhood Area, nor are there any statutory designations relating to the natural environment. The Castle Morpeth Local Plan identifies an Site of Nature Conservation Importance (now referred to as a Local Wildlife and Geological Site) to the south of Stannington. There are also a number of designated heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Area. However, the Neighbourhood Plan is not anticipated to have significant effects on natural characteristics or culture heritage.
<b>(f)(ii)</b> the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to exceeded environmental	No	This would be unlikely to result from the proposals.

Criteria (Schedule 1)	Significant Environmental Effect likely?	
	Yes/no	Justification
<b>The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
quality standards or limit values.		
<b>(f)(iii)</b> 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.
<b>(g)</b> the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	No	There are no landscapes within or immediately adjoining the Stannington Neighbourhood Area which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status. Implementation of the policies in the Plan would therefore have no effect on any such areas.

## 6. SEA Assessment Conclusion

**5.01 On the basis of the SEA Screening Assessment set out in Table 2 above, the conclusion is that the Stannington 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 Stannington Neighbourhood Plan supports the implementation of saved policies contained in the adopted Castle Morpeth Local Plan;
- The Stannington 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 Stannington 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 Stannington 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;
- The Plan does not allocate any land or buildings for specific new development.

**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 Stannington 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>6</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>6</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



Historic England

NORTH EAST OFFICE

Mr David English  
Northumberland County Council  
County Hall  
Morpeth  
Northumberland  
NE61 2EF

Direct Dial: 0191-2691232

Our ref: PL00058507

20 January 2017

Dear Mr English

### **Stannington Neighbourhood Plan Consultation on Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion**

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above. As the government's champion for the historic environment in England, I am pleased to provide our comments.

Having read the draft plan and the screening opinion, I agree that the plan does not need a strategic environment assessment.

However, I note that the draft plan refers to the existence of a designated conservation area at Stannington. I do not believe a designation has been made there; we have no record of it and, I understand, nor does the County Council. I understand that a proposed conservation area may have been included in a previous Morpeth Borough Council local plan proposals map, but only by meeting the relevant statutory requirements of the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 can a designation be made. Nonetheless, we would welcome inclusion in the neighbourhood plan of a community project to seek designation of a conservation area at Stannington following appropriate assessment. In the meantime, the character appraisal referred to in the plan could be used as informal evidence of policy development.

Yours sincerely

Yours sincerely,

Jules Brown  
Historic Places Adviser  
jules.brown@historicengland.org.uk

cc:



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

Telephone 0191 269 1255  
HistoricEngland.org.uk



*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.*

Date: 26 January 2017  
Our ref: 205253  
Your ref: Stannington Neighbourhood Plan, Consultation on Strategic  
Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion



David English  
Communities & Infrastructure  
Strategic Planning & Housing  
Northumberland County Council  
County Hall  
Morpeth  
Northumberland  
NE61 2EF  
David.English@northumberland.gov.uk

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

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear David English

**Planning consultation:** Stannington Neighbourhood Plan, Consultation on Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion  
**Location:** Stannington, Northumberland

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 06 January 2017 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.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment - Screening**

Where Neighbourhood Plans could have significant environmental effects, they may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance at:

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

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.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

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](mailto: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](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

Ellen Bekker  
Northumbria Area Team

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

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

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 27 January 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

**Stannington Neighbourhood Plan: Consultation of Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion**

Thank you for forwarding the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion for the Stannington Neighbourhood Plan which we received on 6 January 2017.

The Environment Agency agrees that the impact of the 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 the Neighbourhood Plan would not require a SEA.

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)

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