

# SEA Screening Guidance

**A document to guide NDP  
groups through the SEA  
screening process**

December 2017



**LEPUS** CONSULTING

LANDSCAPE, ECOLOGY, PLANNING & URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

# SEA Screening Wheel

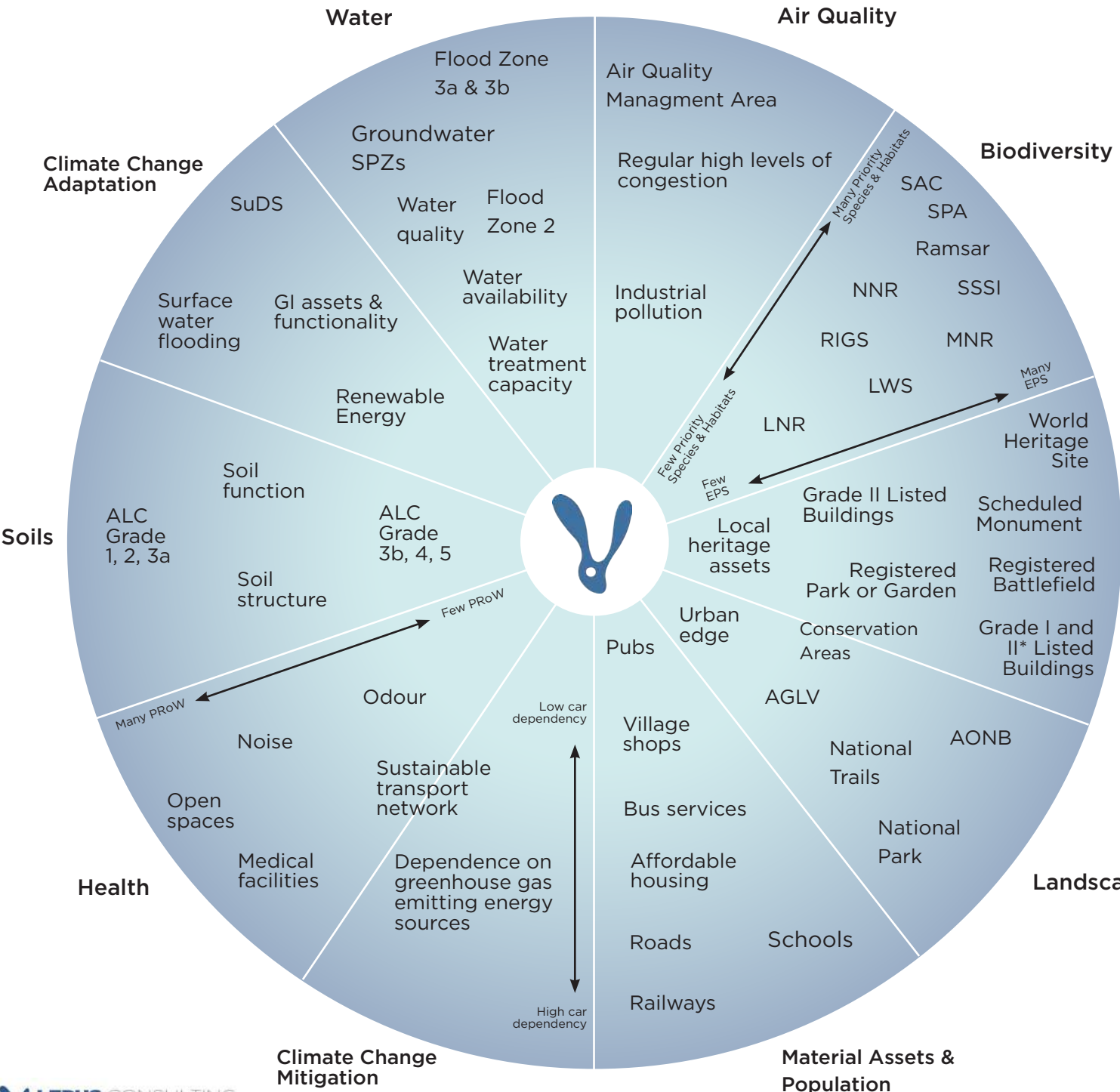
This tool is designed to help NDP groups determine the possibility of their plan leading to likely significant effects on the environment. The wheel cannot be used alone to prepare diagnostic SEA screening decisions.

It identifies environmental receptors that should be considered as part of the SEA screening process.

The value and vulnerabilities, or sensitivity, of each receptor must be carefully considered in proportion to the size, nature and location of the plan. Readers should be aware that value varies and the process to determine value is potentially complex, usually determined by a range of variables. Where designations are available, these can help provide an initial indication of value.

The wheel is used to indicate approximate values, with supposed lower value receptors being near the centre of the wheel, whilst higher sensitivity receptors are located towards the outside of the wheel. In general, low value receptors are less vulnerable, or sensitive, to change caused by environmental impacts associated with plan proposals.

When undertaking screening of an NDP, the screening team must explore the range of receptors in and around the plan's zone of influence. They must identify and evaluate receptors of value, and justify the rationale behind deciding if likely significant effects will occur because of the plan.



## Legend

Lower sensitivity  Higher sensitivity

## Acronyms & Terminology

- AGLV Area of Greater Landscape Value
- ALC Agricultural Land Classification
- AONB Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- EPS European Protected Species
- GI Green Infrastructure
- LCA Landscape Character Area
- LNR Local Nature Reserve
- LWS Local Wildlife Site
- MNR Marine Nature Reserve
- NDP Neighbourhood Development Plan
- NNR National Nature Reserve
- PDL Previously Developed Land
- PRoW Public Rights of Way
- RIGS Regionally Important Geological Site
- SAC Special Area of Conservation
- SPA Special Protection Area
- SPZ Source Protection Zone
- SSSI Site of Special Scientific Interest
- SuDS Sustainable Drainage Systems
- Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance
- WWT Wastewater and Treatment Works

# Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document has been prepared in response to numerous queries we have received from Neighbourhood Planning Groups in connection with the SEA process and plan making.
- 1.1.2 It accompanies the enclosed Lepus Consulting Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Wheel (2017). This document provides introductory, non-technical guidance on the SEA screening process. It should help neighbourhood development plan (NDP) groups to determine whether a Neighbourhood Plan is likely to cause significant environmental effects. If a plan is determined to have likely significant environment effects, it should be screened into the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process. A flowchart depicting the SEA process for Neighbourhood Plans can be found at the end of this document.
- 1.1.3 Planning Practice Guidance (2015) states that:
- “In some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This process is commonly referred to as a “screening” assessment and the requirements are set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of those Regulations. One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the making of the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European Union obligations (including under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive).”*
- 1.1.4 Please note this document does not constitute a legal document. The Screening Wheel is not a definitive tool and judgement should be applied throughout the decision making process.

## 1.2 The Screening Wheel

- 1.2.1 The Screening Wheel is a visual representation of a simplified guide to environmental impacts and their potential significance. Environmental receptors are the physical and cultural attributes of an area which could be affected by proposals in the plan. For example biodiversity receptors include statutory and non-statutory wildlife designations, ecological networks, habitats, species and natural resources.

- 1.2.2 Receptors are grouped into ten themes, which have been derived from the SEA topics as presented in Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive (2004). These topics include: Air Quality, Biodiversity, Cultural Heritage, Landscape, Material Assets, Population, Health, Natural Resources, Climate Change and Water.
- 1.2.3 Readers are advised that there may be a degree of interchangeability between topics. For example, Conservation Areas are a receptor that may be relevant to both Cultural Heritage and Landscape themes. For the purpose of this guidance, receptors are presented under a single theme. Professional judgement is required to determine whether a receptor should be considered under multiple themes on a plan by plan basis.
- 1.2.4 The Screening Wheel indicates the relative level of sensitivity, although the degree to which receptors are sensitive is often highly contextual and dependent on local circumstances.
- 1.2.5 Annex II of the SEA Directive provides specific legislative information on criteria for determining likely significant effects, including the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.

### 1.3 **How to use this document**

- 1.3.1 This document provides guidance on how to interpret and apply the Screening Wheel. The following sections are presented by SEA topic as defined in Annex 1(f) of the Directive. The same structure applies to each section and includes:
- Scope of the topic and how this relates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
  - Background on each topic;
  - Common impacts of development on each topic; and
  - Questions to guide decision making on whether a full SEA is required, which are by no means exhaustive.
- 1.3.2 The Precautionary Principle should be applied throughout the screening process. The precautionary principle advises that if it is not reasonably certain that the plan will not have negative implications, it should be screened into the SEA process. This principle errs on the side of caution to prevent environmental damage.
- 1.3.3 A comprehensive list of useful websites is available at the end of this document.

# Air

- 1.3.4 Air Quality is an important aspect of sustainability, as it has implications for both human health and the condition of the environment. Air quality is primarily measured by levels of airborne pollutants in the area.
- 1.3.5 The **NPPF** paragraph 109 states that plans should prevent development from contributing to, or being put at risk by, air pollution. Paragraph 124 emphasises that plans should consider the presence of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas.
- 1.3.6 Habitats and residents within the 200 metre zone of influence of a busy road are likely to be influenced by road transport emissions<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.3.7 The Screening Wheel refers to main roads and quiet roads. As a general rule, busy roads include motorways, trunk roads and dual carriageways. It can also include A roads and busy B roads. Traffic count data from the Department for Transport are informative in this respect.
- 1.3.8 Examples of industrial uses that may impact air quality include power stations and gasification plants.
- 1.3.9 It is useful and may be necessary to commission road transport and air quality modelling. Outputs will help (a) identify any roads affected by NDP proposals and (b) determine the likely significant effects of air quality impacts.



## Decision making questions (include but are not limited to)

- Are there any busy roads within 200 metres of proposed development sites?
- Is there evidence of a high mortality rate associated with air quality amongst the local population<sup>2</sup>?
- Is the plan likely to increase congestion?
- Is the new development near to industrial estates which operate under an environmental permit issued by the Environment Agency?
- Are biodiversity hotspots likely to be vulnerable to air pollution impacts?

<sup>1</sup> Highways Agency (2007) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Environmental Assessment, Section 3, Part 1 HA 207/07 Annex C: Development of Screening Method

<sup>2</sup> See Public Health Outcomes Framework data (Public Health England, 2015)

# Biodiversity & Geodiversity

- 1.3.10 The **NPPF** paragraphs 117 and 118 state that plans should identify important biological and geological features and work to protect and enhance these. Such features include statutory and non-statutory nature conservation sites and European protected species.
- 1.3.11 Biodiversity and geodiversity is planned and protected through designated and non-designated means. NDP groups must consider the impacts of the plan on important biodiversity and geodiversity assets. Designated sites include SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites, NNRs, SSSIs and LNRs. Section 41 of the NERC Act identifies priority habitats and species. This list should be consulted upon and used to inform the biodiversity baseline as it can include habitats and species found outside of designated sites.
- 1.3.12 Impacts on biodiversity from plans can include: habitat fragmentation; loss of connectivity; air, light and noise pollution; recreational disturbance; predation from domestic animals; and, water abstraction. Impacts of geodiversity is usually loss of an existing geological exposure.
- 1.3.13 If an HRA has been undertaken of the local plan, this may provide useful information on the potential for development to impact SPAs and SACs.
- 1.3.14 It is useful and may be necessary to commission habitat surveys of the plan area. Outputs will help (a) identify the presence and conservation status of priority habitats and species (b) help identify likely significant effects of development.



## Decision making questions (include but are not limited to)

- Are there any statutory designated sites in or adjacent to your plan area?
- Are there Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) in your plan area?
- Is there a high assemblage and diversity of European protected species in your plan area?
- Will proposals lead to habitat fragmentation?
- Are there any areas of ancient woodland within your plan area?
- Are there any Local Wildlife Sites in or adjacent to your plan area?

# Cultural Heritage

1.3.15

Chapter 12 of the **NPPF** states that heritage assets should be protected and enhanced. Historic assets considered to be more significant should be given greater protection. Paragraph 132 identifies the following assets as being of the highest significance;



- Scheduled Monuments;
- Protected Wreck Sites;
- Battlefields;
- Grade I and II\* Listed Buildings;
- Grade I and II\* Parks and Gardens; and
- World Heritage Sites.

1.3.16

Cultural Heritage encompasses all historic and archaeological features as well as other key cultural characteristics. Many cultural features can form an important part of the townscape and built environment; both the features themselves as well as their setting should be considered. Receptors can include both designated and non-designated sites and features.

1.3.17

When considering significant effects arising through the NDP, it is equally important to consider any physical impacts on the receptor as well as the setting of the receptor.

## Decision making questions (include but are not limited to)

Are there any statutorily designated heritage assets in the plan area?

Are there any buildings in your area on the Heritage at Risk register?

Is any part of your plan area covered by a Conservation Area?

Are there any local archaeological sites within the plan area?

Are there any locally designated sites within the plan area?

# Landscape

- 1.3.18 Paragraphs 60 and 61 of the **NPPF** state that development should seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness, connections between people and places should be considered.
- 1.3.19 Paragraphs 109 and 115 promote the protection and enhancement of valued landscapes, giving greatest weight to National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- 1.3.20 Landscape includes the character and visual amenity of the countryside and urban realm. Any Landscape Character Assessments or Village Design Documents associated with the plan area should be considered when assessing impacts on the landscape.
- 1.3.21 Landscape can change from place to place and impacts on receptors in one plan area may not apply to another. Local distinctiveness should be considered throughout the decision making process.
- 1.3.22 Impacts can include inappropriate design and massing of new development; failure to recognise the character and visual distinctiveness of local areas; loss of character through inappropriate land use; introduction of high and intrusive infrastructure such as wind turbines.
- 1.3.23 It is useful and may be necessary to commission landscape character assessments or capacity studies of the plan area. Outputs will help (a) identify the sensitivity and suitability of particular landscapes in the plan area (b) help identify likely significant visual effects of development.



## Decision making questions (include but are not limited to)

Is any part of the plan area covered by a nationally important landscape designation?

Will any development proposals conflict with the Village Design Statement?

Would the plan be in keeping with the features of the local character area as defined by the Landscape Character Assessment?

Is any part of the plan area covered by an Area of Greater Landscape Value or Special Landscape Area designation?

Will the plan encourage design in keeping with local development style?



# Material Assets

1.3.24

The **NPPF** chapters 4, 5 and 6 encourage a well-connected, sustainable transport network, high quality communications infrastructure, with an emphasis on good broadband connectivity, and high quality-housing infrastructure.

1.3.25

There is no single definition of Material Assets, although it is commonly used to refer to physical infrastructure including social infrastructure, transport infrastructure and water and energy infrastructure.

1.3.26

Social infrastructure includes housing, hospitals, schools and universities. Transport infrastructure includes roads, non-motorised traffic routes, other public rights of way, railways, ports and airports. Water and energy infrastructure can include flood defences, wastewater treatment works, power stations and the electricity distribution network.

1.3.27

When seeking to identify likely significant effects on material assets, plan makers should consider any loss of material asset as well as impacts associated with the introduction of new infrastructure. Such impacts are likely to relate to all of the other SEA topics; impacts on material assets can usually be identified through impact evaluation of the other SEA topics.



## Decision making questions (include but are not limited to)

Is the plan area well connected in terms of telecommunications infrastructure? (i.e broadband, phone lines, phone reception)

Would proposed residential development have sustainable access to the necessary infrastructure such as education, transport, health and communications infrastructure?

Does the existing infrastructure have the capacity to meet demand for proposals in the plan (e.g. schools and public transport)?

Are current levels of affordable housing in the plan area insufficient?

# Population

1.3.28

The **NPPF** paragraph 21 promotes flexible working practices and investment in business. Paragraph 58 encourages development that adds to the overall quality of the area, establishes a strong sense of place, is visually attractive and contributes to creating safe and accessible environments. Paragraph 69 of the NPPF promotes social interaction and inclusive communities.



1.3.29

Population is a broad theme encompassing the size, density, demography, safety and quality of life of local people. Plans for development should consider the potential impacts on the number and diversity of local residents, their safety and their perception of how safe they are. It is important that crime and the fear of crime do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion.

1.3.30

Overpopulation and high population density results in increased stress on the local environment, local resources as well as on individual health of residents. The UK is considered to be the third most densely populated country in the EU which is having real impacts on the day to day lives of residents. It influences access to and use of key services and facilities such as hospitals and supermarkets, access to and use of green and open spaces such as playgrounds and sports fields, perceptions of safety, social interactions and community stability. Residents are less likely to have access to green spaces in high population density areas, but are also less likely to use it than residents in lower density areas.

## Decision making questions include (but are not limited to)

Will development be insufficient to meet the demands of projected population growth trends of the plan area?

Is there an insufficient number and range of employment opportunities for the population of the plan area?

Is there a possibility that residents' safety would be compromised by the plan?

Is quality of life compromised by fear of crime within the plan area?

Will development meet the demands of the local demographic?

Is there a general sense of community cohesion within the plan area?

Is the plan area diverse and an inclusive place to live?

# Health

1.3.31

The **NPPF** chapter 8 promotes healthy communities by emphasising the value of social and recreational facilities including open space and recreational facilities. Plans should protect and enhance the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network and Local Green Space in order to promote and healthy and active lifestyle.



1.3.32

Health includes the social, physical and mental wellbeing of all residents in the plan area. The plan should consider the capacity, quality and accessibility of:

- GP surgeries;
- NHS hospitals (preferably with A&E);
- Leisure centres;
- Access to habitats and green spaces; and
- The PRoW network.

1.3.33

Other factors such as noise, light and air pollution should also be considered.

## Decision making questions include (but are not limited to)

Do medical facilities have sufficient capacity to accommodate population growth?

Are medical facilities accessible by public transport?

Is there adequate of open space and natural green space within the plan area?

Are sufficient recreation facilities available to residents of the plan area?

Are noise and odour levels currently an issue in the plan area?

Are there good links to footpaths and cycle paths (PRoW) within the plan area?

# Natural Resources

1.3.34

Paragraphs 109 and 112 of the **NPPF** state that planning should protect and enhance soils, particularly those recognised as best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a). Chapter 13 of the **NPPF** recognises the need for a sufficient supply of minerals and making best use of these finite resources.



1.3.35

For the purposes of SEA, natural resources chiefly refers to local soil and mineral resources. Soil is an essential and non-renewable resource that provides a diverse range of ecosystem services. It filters air, stores and cycles water and nutrients, decomposes and cycles organic matter, supports plant growth and provides medicines. It is also one of the most important natural carbon sinks available and is vital in efforts to mitigate climate change. Alterations of the structure and fertility of soils alters the ability of soils to perform these essential functions which are related to other SEA topics such as climate change, biodiversity, health and water.

1.3.36

Development can impact on the fertility and structure of soils in a variety of ways, such as by excavation, compaction, contamination and removal of vegetative cover.

## Decision making questions include (but are not limited to)

What is the local agricultural land classification of soils in the plan area?

Will the development proposals alter the structure, fertility and function of soils in the plan area?

Will the plan sterilise mineral deposits?

Will the plan propose development on greenfield or previously undeveloped sites?

Will the plan incorporate recycling and waste minimisation within the plan area?

Are there areas of contaminated land within the plan area?

Will the proposed development increase the risk of soil excavation, compaction, erosion or contamination?

# Climate Change

1.3.37

Climate change is predicted to lead to higher average temperatures, high levels of precipitation and flood risk and more extreme weather events<sup>3</sup>. The **NPPF** chapter 10 recognises the need to adopt proactive strategies to reduce our contribution to, and better prepare for the effects of, climate change.



1.3.38

This includes moving to a low carbon future by promoting energy efficiency measures and renewable energy. The preparation of Green Infrastructure (GI) plans and strategies can help preserve and enhance the natural carbon sink.

1.3.39

Preparing for the effects of climate change in the UK is predominantly related to managing the risk of flooding which includes avoiding the allocation of new development in areas of high flood risk.

## Decision making questions include (but are not limited to)

Will the proposals in the plan increase car use within the plan area?

Does any part of the plan area coincide with Flood Zones 2, 3a or 3b?

Will proposals in the plan promote renewable energy?

Is the plan area likely to require measures to reduce surface water flooding, e.g. SuDS?

Will Green Infrastructure be incorporated into the plan?

<sup>3</sup> IPCC (2014), Climate Change 2014 Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Available at: [www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2](http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2)

# Water

1.3.40 **NPPF** paragraph 109 states that both new and existing development should not contribute to or be put at risk from water pollution.

1.3.41 Water quality addresses the issues of pollution, wastewater treatment and the supply of water. Good water quality has implications for the safety of people and the diversity of aquatic environments and their ecosystems.



1.3.42 Abstraction of water from local water sources is managed via Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS). Suppliers of water also prepare Water Resources Management Plans (WRMP) to set out the anticipated future demand for water and their plan for meeting the demand.

1.3.43 Impacts on water quality and environments are often in relation to: over abstraction; pollution events; introduction of invasive non-native species; sewage & waste water; alteration to riparian habitats; and alteration to river structure and shape.

## Decision making questions (include but are not limited to)

Are there water bodies nearby that may become contaminated by development?

Is there sufficient water supply within the plan area?

What is the water quality status of water bodies in the plan area?

Are there any groundwater source protection zones in the plan area?

## 1.4 Summary

1.4.1 This non-technical guidance provides an introduction to the SEA screening process for neighbourhood plans.

1.4.2 Planning Practice Guidance identifies that:

*“Plan-making and decision-taking should help to achieve **sustainable development**. A qualifying body must demonstrate how its plan or Order will contribute to improvements in environmental, economic and social conditions or that consideration has been given to how any potential adverse effects arising from the proposals may be prevented, reduced or offset (referred to as mitigation measures).”*

1.4.3 When using this guidance, industry professionals should handle any matters of a complicated technical nature. It is possible that neighbourhood groups already have this expertise. A second opinion or advice from experts in SEA is invaluable when making screening decisions. Local Planning Authorities should be able to advise on screening issues that the NDP team feel are beyond its immediate capabilities to determine”.

1.4.4 Planning Practice Guidance offers the following information with regard to determining likely significant effects:

*“To decide whether a draft neighbourhood plan might have significant environmental effects, it must be assessed (screened) at an early stage of the plan’s preparation according to the requirements set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These include a requirement to consult the environmental assessment consultation bodies (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency).*

1.4.5 Each consultation body will be able to advise on particular topics relevant to its specific area of expertise and responsibility, and the specific information that it holds”.

1.4.6 If the outcome of screening decision is that the plan must be screened into the SEA process, a Scoping Report and Environmental Report must be prepared.

1.4.7 Further information on the requirements of SEA for Neighbourhood Plans can be found at:  
<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-neighbourhood-plans/>

## 1.5 About Lepus Consulting Ltd

1.5.1 Lepus Consulting is an environmental assessment consultancy. Our success lies in listening to the requirements of our clients and responding with practical and legally robust solutions, both delivered at affordable prices.

1.5.2 We specialise in ecology, landscape and environmental assessment services. Our unique selling points are value for money, the special quality of consultancy advice and consistent reliability.

1.5.3 When you contact or visit Lepus you will have the opportunity to speak directly to our team of consultants and ask them about their experience or for friendly, professional advice, tailored to you.

## 1.6 Contact details

1.6.1 Lepus Consulting has a team of experienced SEA and SA consultants who can carry out your screening report or any other part of the SEA process for your plan. We can also give help and advice to groups that decide to undertake SEA in-house.

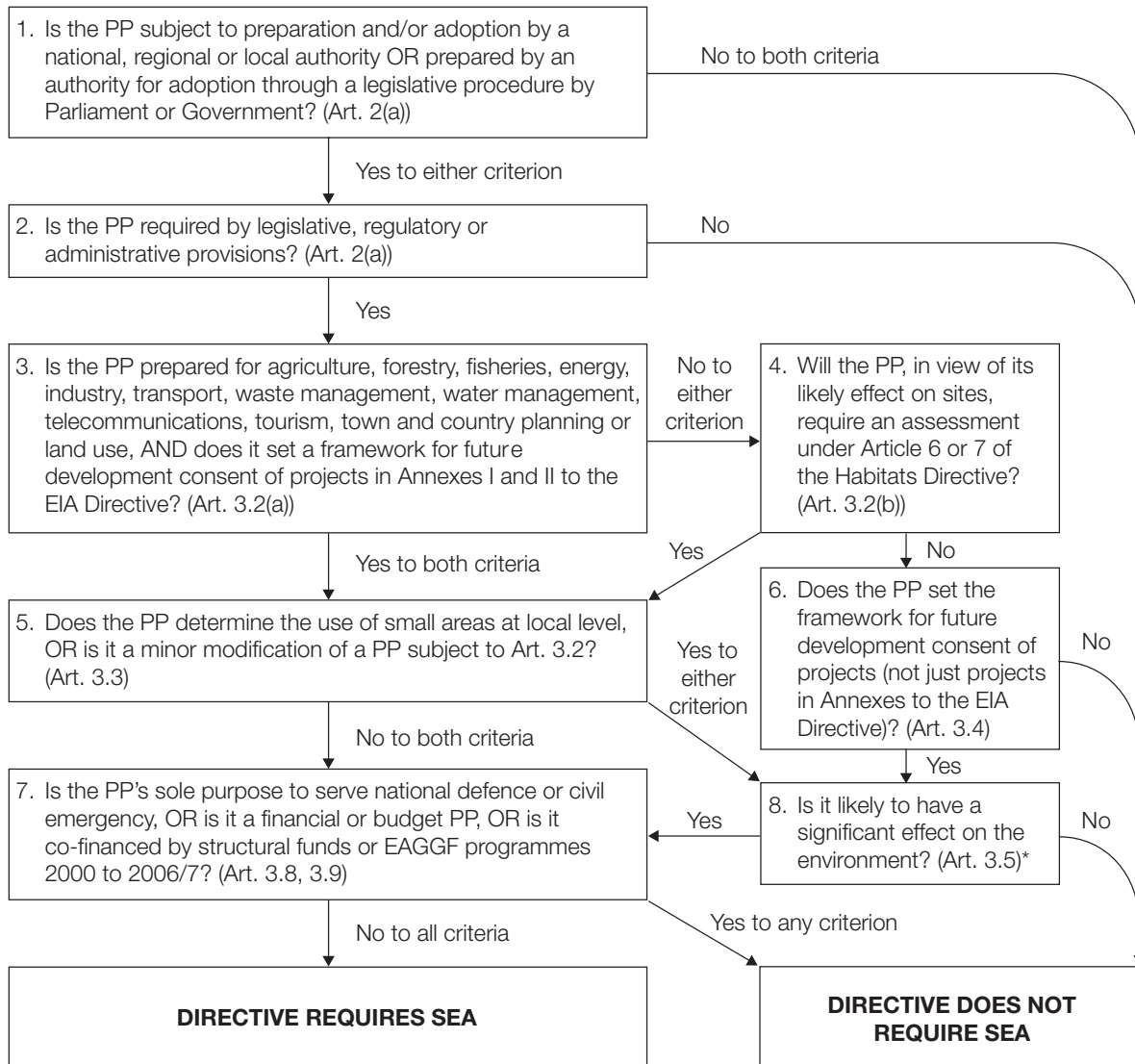
1.6.2 For further information or free advice on this guidance, please contact Lepus Consulting:

**Telephone:** 01242 525222

**Email:** [enquiries@lepusconsulting.com](mailto:enquiries@lepusconsulting.com)



# Decision making flowchart



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

Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes (ODPM, 2005)

# Useful websites

The table below presents a number of useful websites that can provide information on each of the topic areas. This list is by no means exhaustive and is intended to give some starting points for baseline data collection. The [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website is the central government website for all departments, which has useful information for a number of the topics identified in this document. Local authorities have a range of data regarding local baseline data for the below topics, presented in a variety of documents. It may be worth exploring the published evidence base for the Local Plan and getting in touch with the local authority to see what other documents and data they could provide.

The NPPG and NPPF can be accessed via the UK Government's Planning Practice Guidance website (<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk>).

Organisation	Description	Link
<b>Air quality</b>		
DEFRA	Air Quality Management Areas	<a href="http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/">http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/</a>
Environment Agency	What's in Your Backyard: Air Pollution maps	<a href="http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=357683.0&amp;y=355134.0&amp;scale=1&amp;layerGroups=default&amp;ep=map&amp;textonly=off&amp;lang=_e&amp;topic=airpollution">http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=357683.0&amp;y=355134.0&amp;scale=1&amp;layerGroups=default&amp;ep=map&amp;textonly=off&amp;lang=_e&amp;topic=airpollution</a>
Air Pollution Information Systems	Air pollution data and critical loads at UK SACs and SPAs	<a href="http://www.apis.ac.uk/src1">http://www.apis.ac.uk/src1</a>
Public Health England	Public health outcomes framework: data on residents' health	<a href="https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/">https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/</a>
<b>Biodiversity and geodiversity</b>		
DEFRA	MAGIC website: Designations This shows all sites designated for biodiversity and geodiversity, including National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and SSSI's.	<a href="http://www.magic.gov.uk">http://www.magic.gov.uk</a>
National Biodiversity Network	NBN Gateway Records of species found in the UK	<a href="https://data.nbn.org.uk">https://data.nbn.org.uk</a>
<b>Cultural heritage</b>		
Historic England	National Heritage List for England Heritage at Risk Registers (Prior to March 2015 these were maintained by English Heritage)	<a href="http://www.historicengland.org.uk">http://www.historicengland.org.uk</a>
<b>Landscape</b>		
DEFRA	MAGIC website: Designations This shows all sites designated for landscape purposes, including AONBs and National Parks.	<a href="http://www.magic.gov.uk">http://www.magic.gov.uk</a>

Natural England	National Character Area profiles	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making</a>
Campaign to Protect Rural England	Dark skies and night time light pollution map of England	<a href="http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/dark-skies/item/4311-night-blight-2016-mapping-england-s-light-pollution-and-dark-skies">http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/dark-skies/item/4311-night-blight-2016-mapping-england-s-light-pollution-and-dark-skies</a>
<b>Material Assets</b>		
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	Information regarding energy, including renewable energy.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change</a>
Schools Service UK Gov	Register of schools and education facilities	<a href="https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/">https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/</a>
Department for Transport	Traffic counts data	<a href="https://www.dft.gov.uk/traffic-counts/">https://www.dft.gov.uk/traffic-counts/</a>
Department for Transport	Information regarding transport in the UK.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport</a>
NHS	NHS Choices: Find services	<a href="http://www.nhs.uk/service-search">http://www.nhs.uk/service-search</a>
<b>Population</b>		
Office for National Statistics	Census statistics	<a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html</a>
Office for National Statistics	Local level population statistics	<a href="http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/">http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/</a>
DCLG	English Indices of deprivation and Index of Multiple Deprivation	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation</a>
<b>Health</b>		
DEFRA	Noise mapping	<a href="http://data.gov.uk/dataset/noise-exposure-data-england">http://data.gov.uk/dataset/noise-exposure-data-england</a>
Sport England	Participation in sport	<a href="https://www.sportengland.org">https://www.sportengland.org</a>
Public Health England	Health Profiles	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-profiles">http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-profiles</a>
<b>Natural Resources</b>		
Environment Agency	What's in Your Backyard – River Basin Management Plans Pollution incidents	<a href="http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby">http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby</a>
Natural England	Regional agricultural Land Classification maps	<a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5954148537204736">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5954148537204736</a>
DEFRA	Interactive agricultural Land Classification maps	<a href="http://www.magic.gov.uk">http://www.magic.gov.uk</a>

British Geological Survey	Onshore mineral resource maps	<a href="http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsUK/planning/resource.html">http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsUK/planning/resource.html</a>
<b>Climate Change</b>		
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	Information regarding CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy</a>
Department for Communities and Local Government	Information on planning and flood risk	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change</a>
IPCC	Climate change data	<a href="http://www.ipcc.ch">http://www.ipcc.ch</a>
Met Office	UK Climate Projections	<a href="http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/climate-services/uk/ukcp">http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/climate-services/uk/ukcp</a>
Environment Agency	What's in Your Backyard - Flood Map for Planning	<a href="http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby">http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby</a>
<b>Water quality</b>		
Environment Agency	What's in Your Backyard - Pollution River Quality, Water Source Protection Zones	<a href="http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby">http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby</a>
Environment Agency	Abstraction licensing strategies (CAMS process)	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-abstraction-licensing-strategies-cams-process">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-abstraction-licensing-strategies-cams-process</a>
Environment Agency	Check the quality of beach and bathing water (England and Wales)	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/quality-of-local-bathing-water">https://www.gov.uk/quality-of-local-bathing-water</a>

Ecological Services

Green Infrastructure

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Landscape Character Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Sustainability Appraisal

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