

PIMPERNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SCREENING DETERMINATION

INCLUDING SCREENING WITH REGARD TO THE HABITATS REGULATIONS

Prepared on behalf of Pimperne Parish Council

PREPARED NOVEMBER 2021, UPDATED MAY 2022

1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	The Neighbourhood Plan	1
3.	SEA screening of the Neighbourhood Plan	8
4.	HRA screening of the Neighbourhood Plan.....	11
5.	Consultation Responses	11
6.	Conclusion.....	15



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to determine whether or not the review of the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (under the Habitats Regulations) through a process known as screening. The need for such a report is set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The regulations require that either an environmental report (if an SEA is required), or a statement of reasons why an environmental assessment is not required, must be submitted alongside neighbourhood planning proposals (including modifications to a Neighbourhood Plan).

1.2 The original (now made) Neighbourhood Plan was subject to a SEA, and as it was also determined that a full assessment with regards to impacts on internationally and nationally designated wildlife sites (in line with the Habitats Regulations) could be screened out.

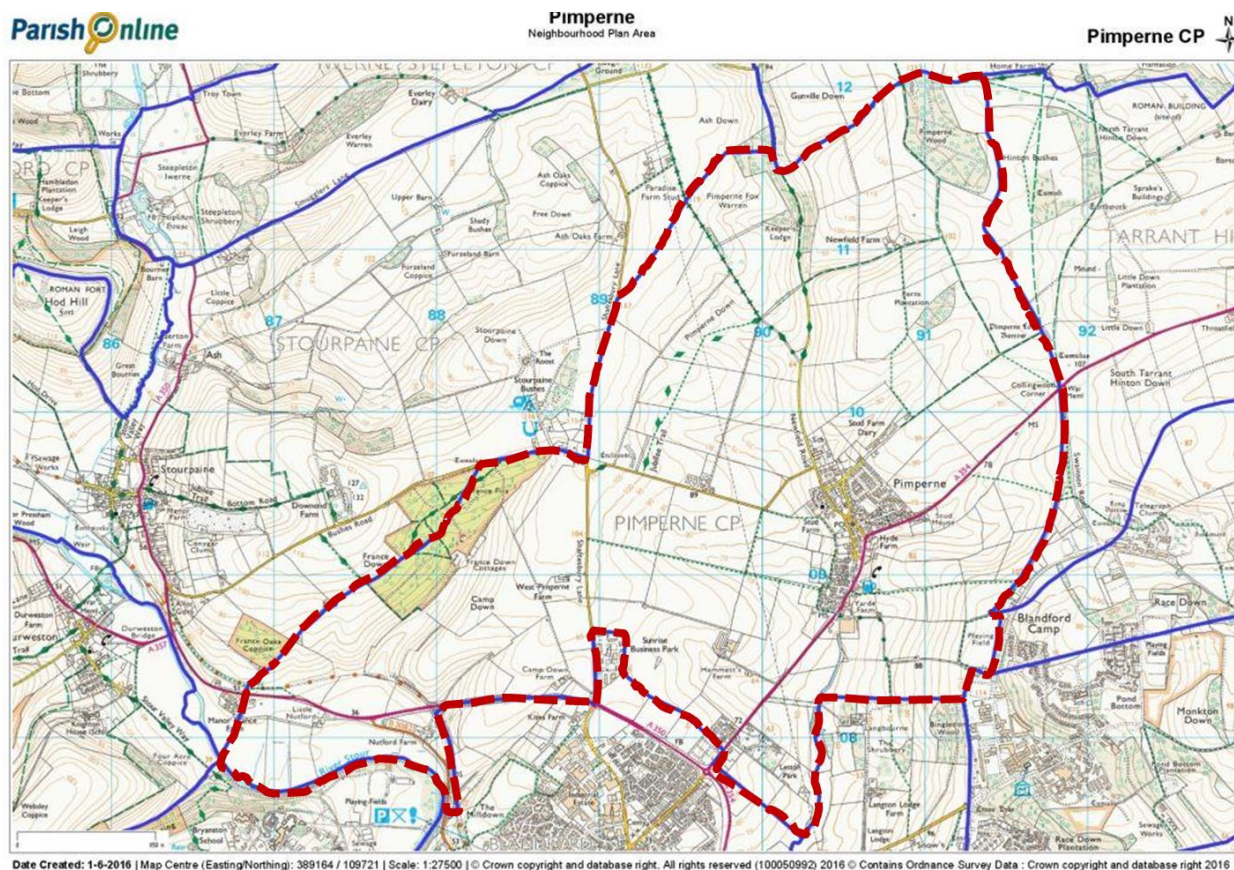
1.3 This report provides an outline of the policy changes proposed for the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan and carries out the screening exercise for the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan. The report was drafted by Jo Witherden BSc (Hons) DipTP DipUD MRTPI of Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd, based on similar reports used in conjunction with the Local Planning Authorities in the area.

1.4 The first draft of this screening report has been subject to consultation with the statutory consultees: the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The responses received have been included within this report.

2. THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

2.1 The Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan area was designated by North Dorset District Council in April 2014. It follows the parish boundary.



2.2 Pimperne parish comprises the village of Pimperne, and the historic settlements of Letton and Nutford. Most of the 1,100 residents live in the village of Pimperne, less than a mile from the Georgian town of Blandford Forum along the A354.

2.3 The previous SEA Scoping (undertaken in 2016) highlighted the following potential environmental issues:

Topic	Findings	
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Sites of special scientific interest (and European designations)	None within the neighbourhood plan area Handcocks Bottom SSSI lies just to the north, Blandford Camp SSSI lies to the east of Blandford Camp, approximately 1km from the parish boundary. Hod Hill SSSI lies approximately 3km to the west of the parish boundary. The nearest European / International designations is Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC, approximately 6km north of the parish boundary
	Protected species	Recent records supplied by DERC show the potential presence of a range of protected species, including: → Bats (variety of species) → Birds (including Barn Owl; Hen Harrier; Merlin) → Butterflies (White-letter Hairstreak) → Mammals (Eurasian Badger)
	Sites of local nature conservation interest	Pimperne Wood SNCI (ancient woodland) is on the northern border of the parish. There are also other ancient woodland and unimproved and semi-improved calcareous / chalk grasslands close to the parish boundary, including Pimperne Long Barrows
Landscape	Nationally valued landscapes	The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB covers almost the entire neighbourhood plan area (with the exception of land south of the A350/B3082 which falls within the Dorset AONB, and a small area around Letton Park in the south-east corner of the parish)
	Greenbelt	None within or close to the plan area
	Local Green Spaces	<i>These were subsequently defined through the Neighbourhood Plan</i>
Cultural heritage	Conservation Area	The older part Pimperne village has Conservation Area status. There is no adopted appraisal, although work has started on an appraisal.
	Historic Parks and Gardens	There are no registered Parks and Gardens within 1km of the plan area There are no local sites identified by Dorset Gardens Trust within the plan area
	Listed Buildings	There are 14 Listings in the parish, the most notable being the Church of St Peter (Grade II*) and the cross of St Peter to the east of the church, just on the roadside
	Locally Listings	No current list compiled for Pimperne parish

Soil, Water, Air and Climatic Factors		<i>Dorset Council has just commenced an exercise to update their Local List</i>
	Registered Battlefield	None within or close to the plan area
	Scheduled monuments	There are 3 Scheduled Monuments in the parish → Enclosure S of Pimperne Down, on the 'At Risk' register (principal vulnerability: arable ploughing) → Pimperne Long Barrow → Medieval standing cross 50m east of St Peter's Church
	Locally identified monuments	The local monuments record identifies a number of sites of archaeological importance in the plan area, including land off A354 south of Hyde Farm (lynchets) and land west of The Old Rectory (various barrows).
	World Heritage Sites	None within or close to the plan area
	Fluvial flood risk	There is a flood risk area along the tributary to the Stour, that runs down much of Church Road and across the A354.
	Surface and groundwater flooding	Indicative surface water flood maps also indicate some potential for flooding on land adjoining and feeding into the fluvial flood risk areas. Flood risk in the Pimperne area is likely to also be influenced by groundwater flooding, and could result in flooding beyond the mapped fluvial and surface water extents. Wessex Water are seeking to agree a groundwater management strategy with Dorset County Council as the Local Lead Flood Authority
	Agricultural land value	The South West Region ALC 1:250,000 maps indicate most of the land is likely to be Grade 3, but there is potentially a small area of Grade 2 agricultural land value in between Sunrise Business Park and Letton Park.
	Minerals safeguarding	Area around Nutford (adjoining Blandford) is identified as a minerals safeguarding zone.
	Land contamination and pollution	There are no known notable current or historic landfill sites within the parish Almost the entire area is within a Groundwater Nitrate Vulnerable zone area, which means that it is at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution. The area does not contain any declared air quality management areas (AQMA) Much of the parish lies within a Groundwater Source Protection Zone – the outer zone covers much of the village, with the inner zone including land either side of the A354 between Blandford and the southern edge of Pimperne village.
Material assets, population	2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation	Pimperne Parish is in the Cranborne Chase ward (in North Dorset 006A LSOA) and is amongst the 50% least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.

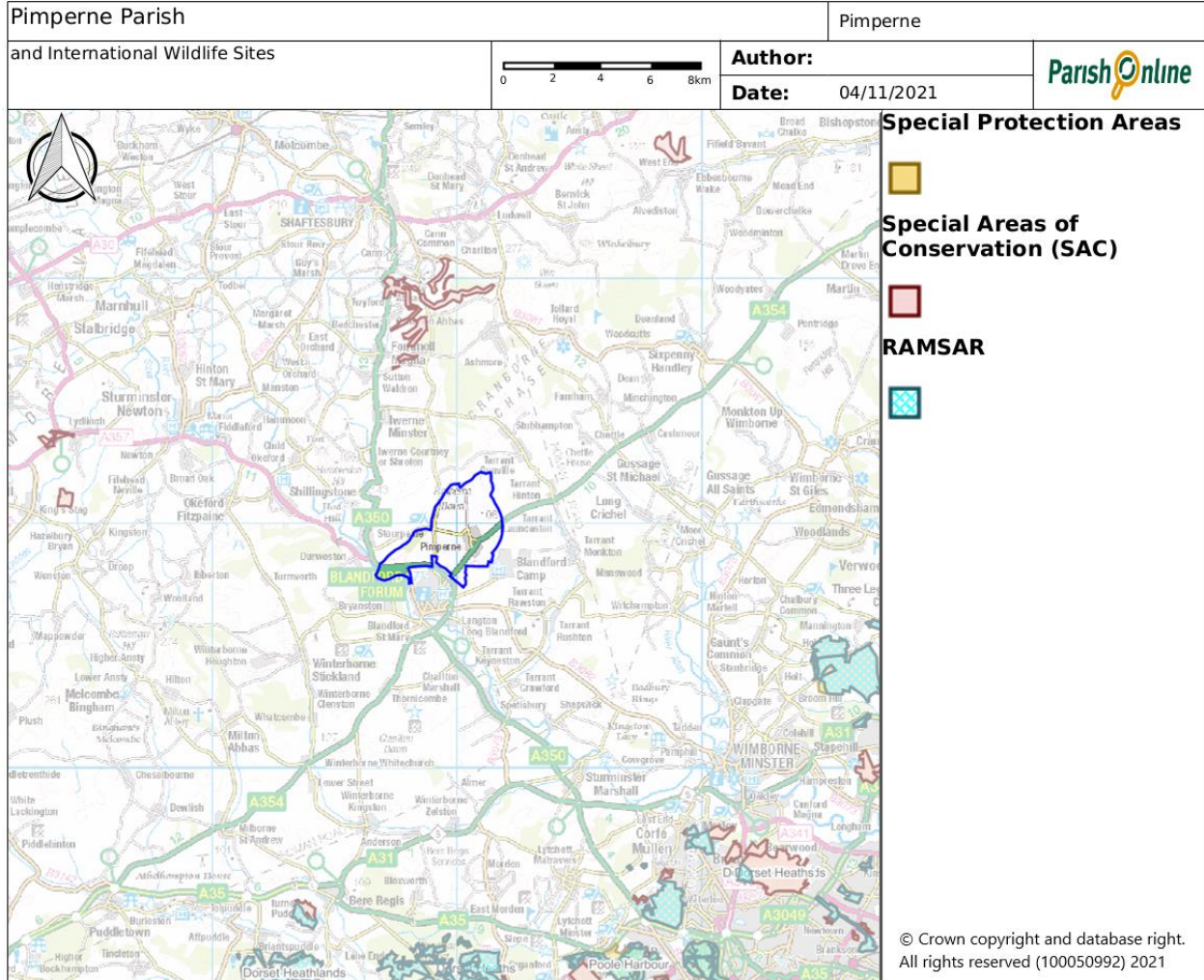
and human health

2011 Census data 'snapshot'

1,109 usual residents (16% under 16, 24% over aged 65+, median age 48 years old, 95.9% White British)
 Population density 0.9 persons per hectare
 478 households with at least one usual resident, 503 household spaces (5.0% vacancy rate)
 45.2% households under-occupied by +2 or more bedrooms
 18.6% day to day activities limited (a lot or a little)
 5.4% households with no car / van
 4.1% economically active are unemployed
 8.0% economically active work at or mainly from home, 10.3% travel to work on foot or by bicycle, 1.7% travel to work by public transport

2.4 The village of Pimperne is within 6km of Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC (which lies to the north). There are no other internationally important wildlife sites within a 12km buffer. Pimperne parish lies within the catchment of the Stour, which flows through the Bournemouth / Poole conurbation and discharges into Christchurch Harbour.

Map showing wider area and internationally important wildlife sites



2.5 In respect of the made Neighbourhood Plan, North Dorset District Council consulted Natural England as to the requirement for a habitats regulation assessment, and their response (May 2017) was as follows:

“Based on the information provided, we can confirm that the plan is unlikely to harm any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), or Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), or Ramsar Site and is not likely to significantly affect the interest features for which they are notified. I can therefore confirm that Natural England has no concerns regarding this aspect of the proposals and is satisfied that impacts on internationally and nationally designated wildlife sites can be screened out from any requirement for further assessment.”

THE OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE PIMPERNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

2.6 The Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan (as made) includes four objectives as follows:

- Protect the distinct character of the village, by making sure new development respects locally important spaces and features, respects the more traditional styles and materials used, and is of a scale appropriate to a Dorset village sitting within its landscape setting
- Protect the wider countryside, including Nutford, Letton Park and other isolated settlements as well as the open downlands and woodland, from inappropriate development that would harm this nationally important landscape
- Protect those community facilities that are important to the well-being of local residents and provide for a growth that supports a sustainable, thriving village
- Identify suitable sites or areas where new development can take place that will meet anticipated need for housing, employment and community facilities

2.7 The plan was subject to a full SEA based on the following policies:

- Policy LC: Landscape Character
- Policy LGS: Local Green Spaces
- Policy LDC: Locally Distinct Character
- Policy MHN: Meeting Housing Needs
- Policy MEN: Meeting Employment Needs
- Policy CF: Community Facilities
- Policy DC: Developer Contributions for Social Infrastructure
- Policy HSA1: Land east of Franwill Industrial Estate
- Policy HSA2: Land north of Manor Farm Close
- Policy HSA3: Land west of Bakery Close
- Policy SB: Settlement Boundary

2.8 The objectives of the plan remain relevant, and no further site allocations are proposed as part of this review. The main changes envisaged are outlined below – these have been updated (as shown in italics) in light of the additional modifications proposed in response to the pre-submission consultation:

Table 3: Changes envisaged to the made Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Policy	Scope of change	Notes / reason for change
LC: Landscape Character	No change proposed prior to Regulation 14 <i>Post Regulation 14: Clarification of the context of exceptional circumstances with reference to major development within the AONB. Inclusion of references to the International Dark Sky Reserve status of the Cranborne Chase AONB and open nature of land / sensitivity to</i>	The usefulness of the gap in light of the Blandford NP was consulted on, and its retention strongly supported. <i>The other changes are relatively minor and clarify guidance provided in national policy or by the Cranborne Chase AONB team in respect of the qualities and characteristics of that designated landscape.</i>

	<i>development. New criteria to highlight the need to respect the historic character of the landscape, cross-referencing the many such sites evidenced in the Dorset Historic Environment Record</i>	
LGS: Local Green Spaces	No change proposed	Whilst an area of amenity green space is included in the plans for Manor Farm Close (now under construction) this is not yet in place and therefore would not currently qualify as a LGS. Its designation as a LGS can be considered in future reviews.
Policy LWCPs: Local Wildlife Corridors and Protected Species	No change proposed <i>Post Regulation 14: Map 4 has been updated to include the latest evidence on ecological potential within the parish.</i>	Whilst the need for a BMEP has been a validation requirement, it is notable that the Council's validation checklist has not been kept up-to-date (the current checklist is dated 2019) and therefore cannot be relied upon. <i>The amendment to Map 4 is simply to reference the most up to date information held by Dorset Council.</i>
LDC: Locally Distinct Character	Additional criteria added covering: the design of new buildings to achieve zero-carbon homes (as strongly supported provided that overall the development would still reflect the character of the area); tree planting (provision of space to accommodate within plans); and parking provision (to meet or exceed the county car parking guidelines), and designed to ensure they remain readily accessible (particularly in locations where there is limited on-street parking available), respects the character of the area, uses permeable, non-migrating surfacing materials, and clearly indicates the provision of electric vehicle charging points, ensuring that at least one charging point is readily accessible for each dwelling or workplace.	A number of additions have been made to this policy in order to highlight design issues relevant to respond to the climate change emergency, and also the issue of on-street parking when there is insufficient or poorly planned parking provided within the village, and no safe spaces likely to be available on the local roads (with residents and visitors then parking in an unsafe fashion, which is difficult to enforce against). It also reflects the changes to the NPPF in relation to the incorporation of trees in designs (para 131).
MHN: Meeting Housing Needs	Amendment to ensure that at least 10% of the total number of homes provided are for affordable home ownership on sites of 10 or more homes (or where the site area is 0.5ha or greater). <i>Post Regulation 14: Revision made to the housing target to "at least 61" dwellings.</i>	In light of the changes made to the NPPF (para 65) <i>The revision to the housing target reflects the standard method in NPPF and most recent data – it does not require any changes to allocations which together with existing consents more than meet this higher target.</i>

	<i>Inclusion of a lower threshold for securing affordable housing.</i>	<i>The revised threshold for affordable housing has been added in light of advice of the AONB Team and agreed with Dorset Council, to better reflect national policy and local housing needs.</i>
MEN: Meeting Employment Needs	No change proposed	
CF: Community Facilities	Reference to village shop and post office moved to 'additional facilities that should be supported'	Given redevelopment of the site that had been used as a village shop and post-office, a new site would need to be found. The Farquharson Arms Public House has recently been sold and the intentions of the new landowner are not yet known, therefore this has been retained on the list of existing facilities.
DC: Developer Contributions for Social Infrastructure	Road safety improvements to refer to 20mph zone (rather than safer routes to school improvements)	In light of the consensus of support for a 20mph zone this is considered to be the more appropriate way forward to secure road safety improvements.
HSA1: Land east of Franwill Industrial Estate	No change proposed	Supporting text to note that a planning application has been submitted (July 2021) to erect 15 dwellings (including 40% affordable); form new vehicular access and carry out associated development.
HSA2: Land north of Manor Farm Close	No change proposed	Supporting text to note that a planning application was submitted in October 2019 to erect 14 dwellings with garages (including 5 affordable), form vehicular access and parking, carry out other associated works including highway and footway improvements. This was approved in December 2020, and construction has commenced. The policy will be retained until such time the site is fully built (in case a revised application were to be submitted).
HSA3: Land west of Bakery Close	No change proposed	Supporting text to note that the landowner was contacted as part of the review to check that they still intended to bring forward the site in line with the policy and timescales outlined, and has confirmed this to be the case.
SB: Settlement Boundary	Clarification that development outside of this boundary will be	The added wording is simply clarification and not a policy change.

	treated as 'countryside' in respect of the Local Plan policies.	
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3. SEA SCREENING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

3.1 This Chapter provides an account of the SEA screening exercise for the Neighbourhood Plan. The SEA screening process is summarised in diagrammatic form in the flowchart shown in Figure 1¹. The screening for the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan Review is highlighted in orange, and justification for the decisions made at each stage in the SEA screening process is given in Table 4.

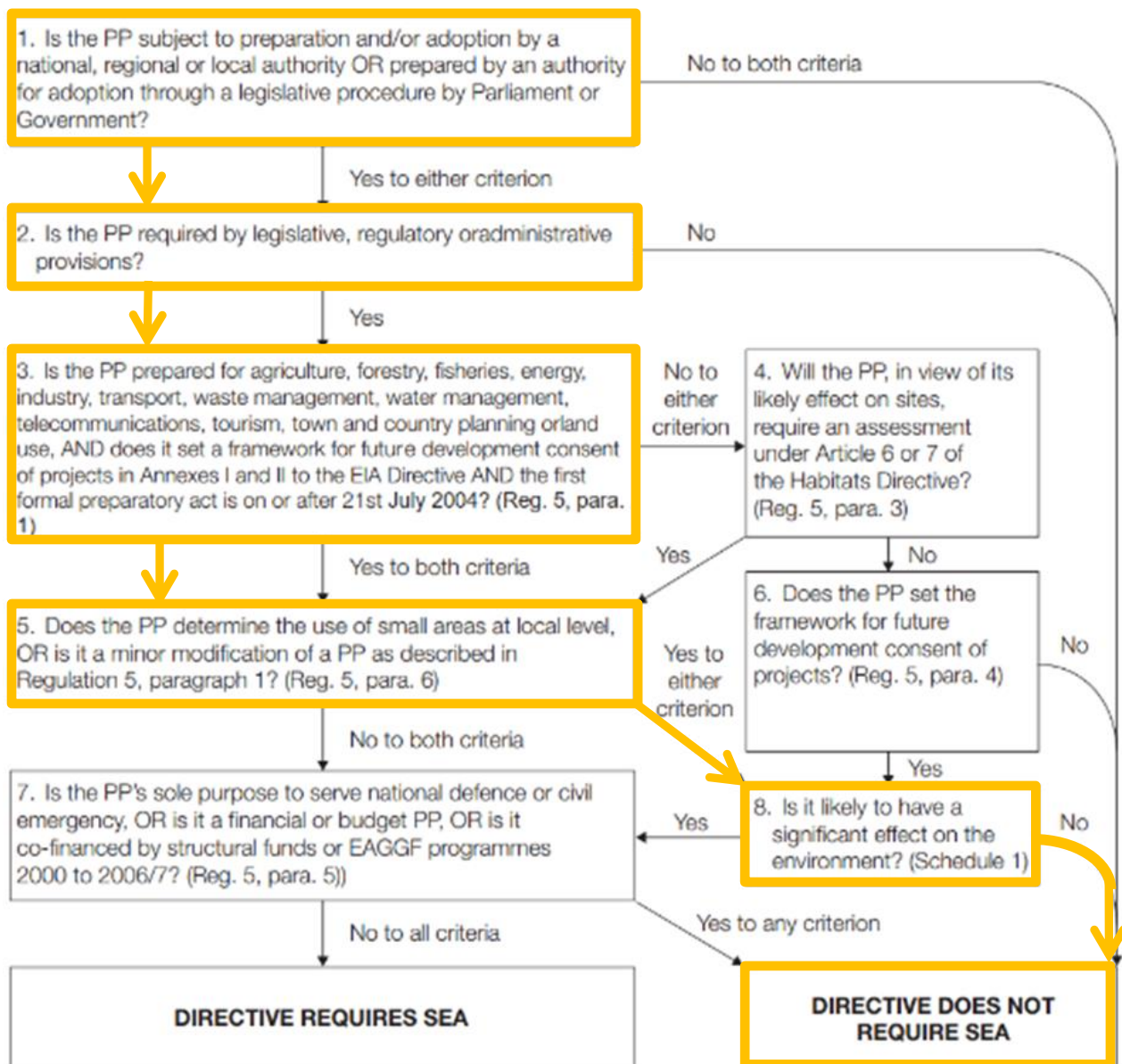
3.2 It is important to note that this screening opinion is based on the proposed **changes** to the made plan, in terms of whether may lead to additional significant effects which have not already been considered as part of the SEA on the made plan and related HRA screening determination at that time.

Table 4. a summary of the justification for the decisions on the SEA screening.

Question in SEA screening flow chart (Figure 4.1)	Response
Q1. Is the PP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament of Government?	YES The preparation and adoption of the NP is provided for under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The NP will be prepared by Pimperne Parish Council as the 'relevant qualifying body' and will be 'made' by Dorset Council as the Local Planning Authority. The preparation of NPs is subject to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
Q2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Whilst the NP is not strictly a requirement (as it is optional under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act as amended by the Localism Act 2011), it will when 'made', form part of the Development Plan for the area.
Q3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive?	YES The NP is a document prepared for town and country planning purposes, and can (alongside the adopted Local Plan) set a framework for future development consent of urban development projects which falls under paragraph 10(b) of Annex II of the EIA Directive.
Q5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP described in Regulation 5, paragraph 1?	YES The NP determines the use of small areas at a local level (used alongside the adopted Local Plan). Neighbourhood plans cannot contain strategic policies or allocate the sites necessary to deliver the strategic priorities of the area (NPPF paras 18 - 23)
Q8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	NO Justification for this decision is given later in this chapter.

¹ Diagram taken from the Government guidance on the Strategic Environmental Assessment regulations titled 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive', published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005

Figure 1: A diagram summarising the SEA screening process with the SEA screening for the Neighbourhood Plan outlined in orange.



IS THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LIKELY TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT?

3.3 The final question in the SEA screening process presented in Figures 1 and Table 4 for the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan was question 8: Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?

3.4 In order to answer this question, it is necessary to refer to Schedule 1 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, which sets out that the relevant criteria to be taken into account when determining whether there are likely to be significant effects. Therefore, the criteria in Schedule 1 have been taken into consideration when determining whether the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA, as presented in Table 5.

Table 5: The assessment of the likely significance of effects of the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan (Taken from Annex II of the SEA Directive)

Criteria in Schedule 1 of the Regulations	Response	Is there a significant effect?
Characteristics of the plan and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:		
The degree to which the plan will set a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size, and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	The adopted Local Plan will continue to provide the overarching policy for the location and amount of new development in this area. The Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan will influence the details of development projects within this area, but the review does not seek to allocate additional land for built development.	No
The degree to which the plan will influence other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan will be 'made' part of the development plan alongside the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will expand upon the policies in the Local Plan, influencing the nature of development at the local scale.	No
The relevance of the plan in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	Any development which comes forward through the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to the environmental considerations of the Local Plan. The aim of both plans is to achieve sustainable development.	No
Environmental problems relevant to the plan, and other environmental legislation e.g. waste management and water protection.	The environmental problems within the Pimperne Neighbourhood plan area are not considered exclusive to the area, and are similar to those considered and addressed in the Local Plan. The implementation of other environmental legislation is unlikely to be significantly compromised by the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan	No
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:		
The probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of the effects.	The plan period is to 2031 and is not being extended through the review. Whilst the effects of development may be irreversible, it is not considered probable that changes to the plan will have significant effect since the review is not allocating new sites or advocating additional development above that which already has consent, or could come forward through the adopted Local and Neighbourhood Plan policies or permitted development rights.	No
The cumulative nature of the effects.	The major (strategic) development proposals within the adopted Local Plan have been subject to an SEA, and it is considered unlikely that review of the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan, when considered in combination with the Local Plan, will introduce any further significant environmental effects.	No
The transboundary nature of the effects.	The transboundary impacts, beyond the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan area, are unlikely to be significant in light of the proposed scope of the Plan.	No

The risks to human health or the environment (e.g due to accidents).	The review of the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to introduce significant risks to human health and the environment, for example due to accidents, in light of the proposed scope of the Plan and potential changes.	No
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	The Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan area occupies approximately 11.8 square kilometres and has a limited residential population of about 1,100 residents (2011 Census). Given that the plan is not promoting strategic scale development, and the limited population size, any effects are not considered likely to be of a significant scale for the purposes of SEA.	No
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:		
Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage And The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	Much of the area is within either the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB or Dorset AONB, which are nationally important landscapes. The Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan area is also home to a number of nationally important historic buildings and archaeological sites. The impact of development proposed in the made Plan has been fully considered through the previous SEA work, and given the absence of any proposals for additional development in the review, it is considered unlikely that the likely changes to the plan will significantly impact on these features.	No
Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values	The Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in the exceedance of environmental quality standards, such as those relating to air, water and soil quality, in light of the proposed scope of the Plan.	No
Intensive land-use	The Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to bring forward development of an extent which would result in a significant intensification of land use.	No

4. HRA SCREENING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

4.1 Based on the above assessment, it follows that the review of the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore further assessment under the Habitats Regulations is not required.

5. CONSULTATION RESPONSES

5.1 The draft screening assessment was sent to the three statutory consultees in November 2021. Their responses are shown below:

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

From: Sustainable Places, SWX [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 December 2021 10:37
To: jo [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 17th Dec - Pimperne NP Review - SEA and HRA Screening consultation

Dear Jo,

Thank you for consulting us on the Strategic Environmental Assessment screening for the Pimperne neighbourhood plan update. My apologies for the delayed response.

Based on the proposed changes to the existing plan Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan we agree with the conclusion that these are unlikely to have significant effects on the environment within our remit.

We still encourage you to seek ways in which your neighbourhood plan can improve the local environment. For your information, together with Natural England, English Heritage and Forestry Commission we have published joint guidance on neighbourhood planning, which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at:

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/consider-environment-neighbourhood-plans/>

Kind regards,
Matt

Matthew Pearce
Planning Advisor – Wessex Sustainable Places

HISTORIC ENGLAND

From: Stuart, David [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 December 2021 09:13
To: jo [REDACTED]
Cc: ed.gerry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk; oliver.rendle@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk; James Weir
Subject: Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan Review - SEA and HRA Screening consultation

Dear Jo

Thank you for your consultation on the need for a full SEA associated with the proposed review of the existing Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan.

My first thought is that even though the Plan may be making only modest changes to the scope of its existing policy content, whether it constitutes a “new” Plan in its revised form (notwithstanding that it is not extending the current Plan period) and therefore requires a “new” full SEA so it can exist (if it needs to) on a standalone basis.

I note that the basis for the previous SEA – at least from our perspective – would have been primarily the allocation of sites for development. While planning consents for two of these have now been approved and construction on one of them has commenced, it is proposed to retain the allocation policies until development is completed in case revised proposals come forward before then. The remaining site has apparently not yet been the subject of formal developer interest.

While you refer to the fact that the Plan in its potential to generate significant environmental effects might not have changed materially from a policy or contents perspective, the baseline context which informed the original SEA dates from 2016 and this may have changed in terms of adding or removing heritage (or other) assets or receptors, or in terms of an understanding of their significance and therefore their susceptibility to impact.

It therefore seems to me that a review of the need for full SEA might also need to entertain a review of the Scoping. This I know seems somewhat back to front as this latter exercise would ordinarily become necessary once the likelihood of generating significant environmental effects had been confirmed. But as the original Plan did require a full SEA and as the revised Plan is not going to be materially different it raises an interesting issue.

For this reason I would defer to planning officers at Dorset Council, in whom discretion as to the need for full SEA rests statutorily, in the determination of whether, and how, a review of this need might and should be conducted.

If their conclusion is that a full SEA is not required I can confirm that we would have no objection to this outcome.

The proposed policy modifications do not in any other respect generate issues upon which we wish to comment.

Kind regards

David

David Stuart | Historic Places Adviser

Historic England | South West

Date: 20 December 2021
Our ref: 374931



Ms J Witherden
Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd

Hombeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
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Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY



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Dear Ms Witherden,

Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan Review - SEA & HRA Screening - CONSULTATION REQUEST

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 01 November 2021.

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 (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

...

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening

Natural England agrees with the report's conclusions that the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.

For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to 

Yours sincerely,

James Gale

Lead Adviser, Sustainable Development
Dorset Team
Wessex Area Team

STATUTORY CONSULTATION FINDINGS

5.2 The statutory consultee responses are broadly in agreement that the Plan can be screened out from the requirement for either a Strategic Environmental Assessment or Habitats Regulations Assessment. In response to Historic England's comment on the

need to consider the scope, this report has considered the most recent information on the environmental characteristics of the area and the baseline is not significantly different from that noted in the previous Strategic Environmental Assessment that accompanied the made Plan.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Having considered the environmental designations and constraints outlined in this screening report, the Neighbourhood Plan would be unlikely to have significant effects on the environment, and no further assessment work is required.