

Barton Neighbourhood Development Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)
Screening Opinion

Revised November 2022

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NOTE: This SEA and HRA were carried out on the draft policies of the Neighbourhood Development Plan at Regulation 14 stage. Statutory consultations back from Historic England, Natural and Environment Agency all concluded that it was considered that the proposals did not require a full SEA or HRA (refer to full responses on pages 26 – 29 of the Consultation Statement).

Following consultation responses at Reg 14, one of the policies was removed Non-designated Heritage Assets, Active Travel policy was created by merging Sustainable Travel and Increasing Connectivity and Surface Water Flooding was renamed Drainage and water Management. The slight changes have concentrated around wording and better terminology and it is not considered that these changes alter the Screening on the SEA and HRA.

1. INTRODUCTION

This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Development Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Whether a Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA, and if so the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states that a SEA may be required, for example, where:

- the Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for development;
- the Neighbourhood Plan 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 the SEA of the Local Plan in the area.

The screening report also examines the potential impact of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan on internationally designated wildlife sites and determines if the plan requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

When deciding on whether the proposals are likely to have significant effects, the local authority is required to consult;

- Historic England;
- Natural England and
- the Environment Agency

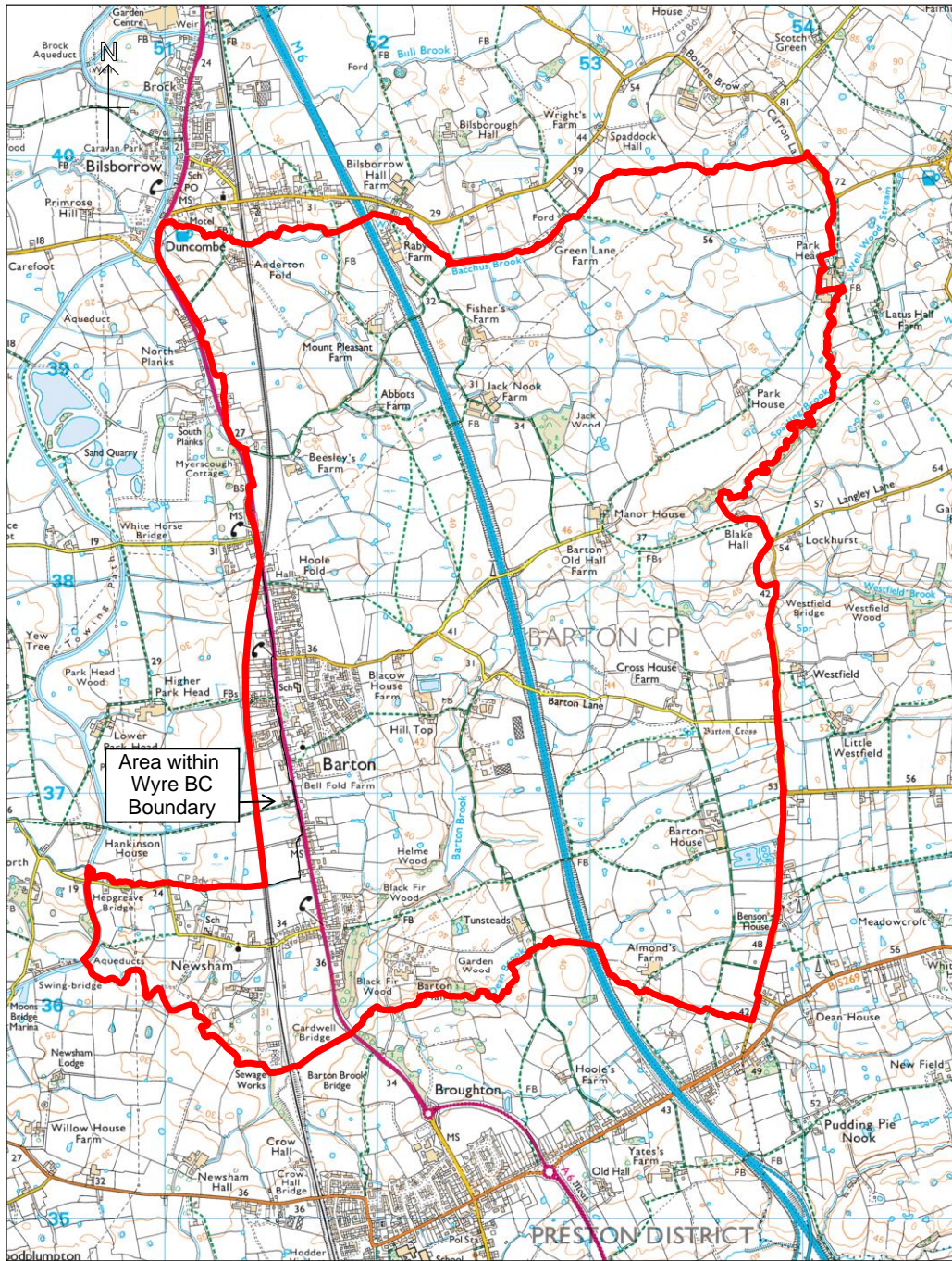
Where the local planning authority determines that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment) it should prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination.

1.2 DRAFT BARTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SUMMARY

The Barton Neighbourhood Plan is essentially a community-led framework for guiding future development and growth of the parish. Eight draft policies have been proposed, focusing on topics including Natural Environment, Housing, Transport and Connectivity and Business development.

Barton Designated Neighbourhood Area

Barton Neighbourhood Plan Boundary



Preston
City Council

Town Hall
Lancaster Road
Preston PR1 2RL

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1.3 DRAFT BARTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICY SUMMARIES

Seven policies are proposed in the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan (BNDP); they are summarised below.

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
BNDP 01	<p>Green Infrastructure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development proposals should seek to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) maintain this green infrastructure network and, where possible, should enhance the green infrastructure network by creating new connections and links in the network; b) restoring existing green infrastructure; c) introduce features that enhance the existing green infrastructure network. 2. Development that would disrupt or sever this network will not be permitted unless suitable compensatory provision can be provided to establish a new network connection within the immediate vicinity of the site.
BNDP 02	<p>Local Green Spaces</p> <p>As part of the powers under Paragraph 101 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the PC have put forward 7 spaces to be considered as LGS designation “to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them”.</p> <p>Proposes the designation of 7 Local Green Spaces (identified on 2 maps).</p>
BNDP 03	<p>(Sustainable Transport and Increasing Connectivity combined to create) Active Travel</p> <p>New development should seek to reduce reliance on the private car and increase opportunities for active travel (use of public transport, walking and cycling) by incorporating measures that improve facilitates, infrastructure and the environment for all users.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Proposals will be assessed in terms of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures that seek to reduce the need to travel; • Measures that maximise and enhance the use of non-car and public transport use; • Suitable inclusion of off-street car and other vehicle parking 3. Actively engage with LCC on a highways strategy

BNDP 04	<p>Increasing Connectivity This policy has been amalgamated with BNDP 03 Active Travel</p> <p>Improvements and new connections to existing Public Rights of Way (PROW) and bridleways will be supported as identified on 'connectivity plan'.</p> <p>The Parish Council will work with LCC Highways in making use of opportunities to support the provision of improvements to public transport, walking and cycling within the village.</p> <p>Specific proposals integral to increasing highway safety include:</p> <p>Safe crossing points, refuge islands or Toucan crossings working through detail project plans developed by LCC highways</p>
BNDP 04	<p>Surface water flooding Drainage and Water Management</p> <p>In areas where surface water flood risk is a known issue, development proposals will be resisted unless suitable mitigation can be provided which does not exacerbate surface water flooding beyond the site and wherever possible seeks to provide a betterment.</p>
BNDP 05	<p>New Housing Development</p> <p>Within Barton new housing development will be supported when it is within the defined development boundary. All new housing development proposals will be assessed against the following they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) are of good quality design; b) do not have an adverse impact on the parish's rural landscape; c) do not have an adverse impact on designated and non-designated heritage assets; d) do not have an adverse impact on existing and future residential amenity; e) do not lead to the inappropriate development of residential gardens that would cause harm to the village by reason of over-development, significant loss of useable garden spaces for both existing and proposed new properties, and loss of off-street car parking; f) are appropriately located for the users and residents of the proposed use to access local facilities and services; and g) all development must be appropriate in terms of size, scale, design and character to the surrounding area h) Should be a mixture of type and tenure i) Preference for 1 and 2 bedroom properties for the elderly to be able to downsize whilst staying within the village

BNDP 06	<p>Areas of Separation</p> <p>Development will not be permitted within the Areas of Separation as defined on Figure 11, if individually or cumulatively it would result in increasing the coalescence between Barton and Bilsborrow to the north and Barton and Broughton to the south of the NDP area.</p> <p>All forms of development outside the main settlement boundary will need to meet police EN1 of the Preston Local Plan or whatever policy supersedes it together with the NPPF policy on development within the Open Countryside.</p>
BNDP 08	<p>Non-Designated Heritage Assets</p> <p>The following have been identified as non-designated heritage assets. They have been identified through local knowledge and will be tested through this consultation.</p> <p>All new development proposals should seek to conserve and enhance the non-designated heritage assets in accordance with their significance and guidance in the NPPF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The White Horse Pub (now called Barton Bangla) — Terraces on White Horse Lane — Mill Shaft (located in the Village Hall Car Park)
BNDP 07	<p>Supporting Businesses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The expansion of existing businesses within the NDP area will be supported where the proposal conforms with national guidance and local policies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Includes satisfactory means of access to the site and adequate parking including cycle storage and low vehicle emission charging points b) Does not have an unreasonable detrimental impact on the amenities of neighboring uses c) The development is appropriate in terms of size, scale, design and character, to its locality

1.5 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) PROCESS

The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC which was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed guidance on these Regulations can be found in the Government publication “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive” (OPDM 2005).

The SEA process aims to ensure that likely significant environmental effects arising from a Plan are identified, assessed, mitigated, communicated and monitored, and that opportunities for public involvement are provided. It enables environmental considerations to be accounted for in decision-making throughout the production of a Plan in an integrated manner.

Figure 2 sets out the screening procedure and how a plan should be assessed against the SEA Directive criteria. This outline procedure has then been applied to the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan in Table 1.

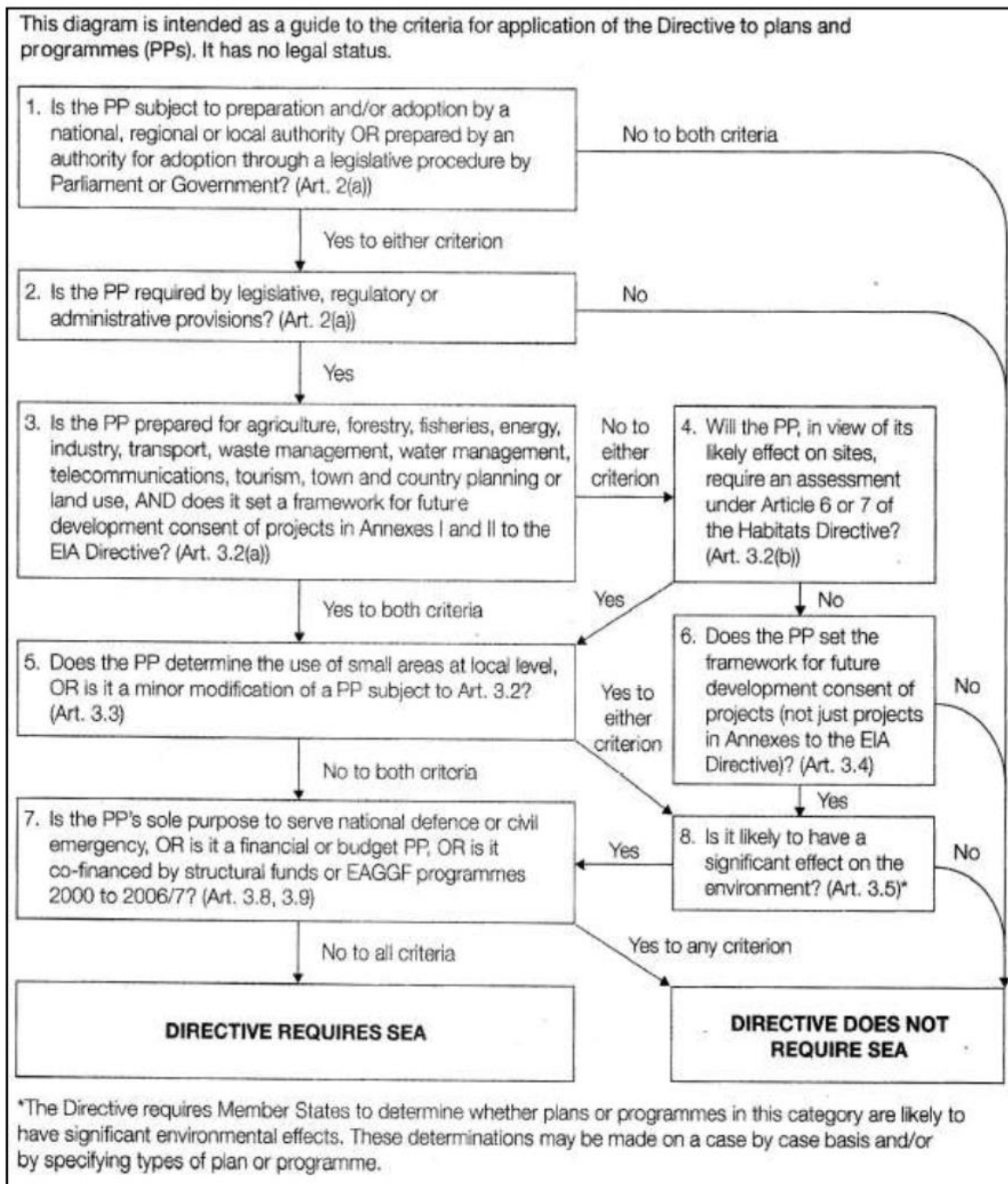


Figure 2 – Application of the SEA Directive to Plans and Programmes

Table 1: Assessment of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan using SEA Directive Criteria

Stage	Yes/No	Reason
1. Is the Barton Neighbourhood Plan 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 or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	This is a Neighbourhood Plan that is being prepared by a qualifying body the Localism Act 2011. If the Plan is passed by means of an Examination and Referendum, it will be formally adopted by the Local Planning Authority. It will then form part of the local development framework and be afforded significant weight in planning decisions.
2. Is the Barton Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	No	Neighbourhood Plans are not mandatory requirements, and the Barton Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared voluntarily by the local qualifying body in line with the provisions of the Localism Act. If the Plan is adopted however, it will form part of the statutory development plan, and it is therefore considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine if an SEA is required.
3. Is the Barton Neighbourhood Plan 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? (Art 3.2(a))	Yes	The Plan is prepared for town and country planning and sets out a framework for future development consent of projects, including the allocation of a specific area of land for development.

4. Will the Barton Neighbourhood Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	No	See Screening Opinion for HRA in Section 3 of this report.
5. Does the Barton Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Yes	The Barton Neighbourhood Development Plan does not allocate any sites but does put forward sites for designation as protected Local Green Spaces.
6. Does the Barton Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Yes	When adopted, the Barton Neighbourhood Plan will be a statutory planning document. It will form part of the Local Development Framework and so will have significant weight in planning decisions. The responsibility for issuing development consent will remain with the Local Authority.
7. Is the Barton Neighbourhood Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	No	Not Applicable
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	No	The Barton Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have an impact on the environment, but it is not considered there to be a significant effect. There are no formal designations aside from a policy on Local Green Spaces.

Based upon the initial screening carried out against the criteria in Table 1 above, the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have a significant effect on the environment. To explore these potential effects further, a case-by-case assessment has been conducted. The criteria used in the undertaking of such an assessment are drawn from Article 3.5 (Annex II) of the SEA directive, and the results are shown in Table 2.

1.6 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (HRA) PROCESS

The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the assessment required for any plan or project to assess the potential implications for European wildlife sites. The HRA therefore looks at whether the implementation of the plan or project would harm the habitats or species for which European wildlife sites are designated. The relevant European wildlife site designations are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), which together form part of the Natura 2000 network.

In addition to SPAs and SACs, Ramsar sites are also designated areas which, as a matter of government policy, are to be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites (although they are not covered by the Habitats Regulations). European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as internationally designated wildlife sites.

The legislation sets out a process to assess the potential implications of a plan on internationally designated wildlife sites. The first stage of this process is a screening exercise where the details of nearby internationally designated sites are assessed to see if there is the potential for the implementation of the plan to have an impact.

2.1 SEA SCREENING ASSESSMENT

European Directive 2001/42/EC requires a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans and programmes that would have a significant environmental effect.

Table 2 below provides the screening determination of the need to carry out a full Strategic Environmental Assessment for the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan. This has been made in accordance with the Regulations and will be subject to consultation with the strategic environmental bodies before Preston City Council makes its determination on the necessity for a full Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Table 2 – The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004: Schedule 1 - Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Summary of significant events
1(a) the degree to which the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	YES	The Barton Neighbourhood Plan would, if adopted, form part of the statutory Development Plan and as such would contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects.
1(b) the degree to which the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	NO	The Barton NDP covers an area within the context of Preston City Council's Local Plan. The Barton NDP must be in general conformity with the Development Plan in terms of the National Planning Policy Framework and Preston's Local Plan which have been subject to full SEA and Sustainability Appraisals.
1(c) the relevance of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	NO	The policies of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan are not considered to have a significant impact on the integration of environmental considerations.
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan;	No	The draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan is more likely to promote environmental sustainability than create any environmental problems
1(e) the relevance of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan	No	The policies of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan are not considered to

for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management and water protection);		be relevant to the implementation of EC legislation.
2(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan;	No	It is considered unlikely that there will be any irreversible damaging environmental impacts associated with the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan. The plan features policies which seek to protect and enhance the natural and built environment, and the plan is therefore likely to result in beneficial rather than damaging effects.
2(b) the cumulative nature of the effects of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan;	No	The policies of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan are unlikely to have any significant cumulative negative environmental impacts.
2(c) the transboundary nature of effects of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan;	No	The NDP boundary also covers an area of Wyre Borough Council (WBC). Consultation on the plan has been carried out in co-operation with WBC. The draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any significant negative environmental impacts on adjoining Parishes.
2(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents) due to the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan;	No	It is considered that there will be no additional risk to human health or the environment as a result of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan.
2(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	No	The policies of the Neighbourhood Plan apply to the entirety of Barton parish, and are unlikely to significantly affect areas beyond the Neighbourhood Area boundary.

<p>2(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <p>(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</p> <p>(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or</p> <p>(iii) intensive land-use; and</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan will not have any substantial impact on these factors.</p>
<p>2(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The policies of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan are unlikely to have a negative impact on any environmental designations in the Neighbourhood Area.</p>

2.2 SEA SCREENING OPINION

Table 2 assesses the likelihood of significant environmental effects arising from the Draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan in its current form.

In general, the in the Draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan are in-line with Preston's Local Plan and Wyre Borough Council's Local Plan which have both been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The policies of the Draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan seek to avoid or minimise environmental effects through the provision of guidance on issues which are specific to the neighbourhood area. It is therefore likely that the Draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan will have, both directly and indirectly, a positive environmental impact rather than negative, by setting out guidance addressing how developers can minimise impacts on a number of environmental receptors.

Pending the responses of the consultation and the formal views of the statutory environmental bodies, the Draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to have require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment.

3.1 HRA SCREENING ASSESSMENT

There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the Barton Neighbourhood Area. For the purposes of this screening assessment, sites that fall within a 20km radius are also considered. To clarify there are no international designated wildlife sites within 20km of the NDP.

3.2 HRA SCREENING OPINION

As a result of the above assessment, it is considered that the policies of the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with those contained in Preston's Local Plan and Wyre Borough Council's Local Plan. It is therefore concluded that the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a negative impact on any internationally designated wildlife sites and as such, the recommendation is made that a full AA is not required.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The preceding assessment exercises have examined whether the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan is likely to require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment or a Habitats Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment.

The SEA screening exercise featured in Section 2 concludes that the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken.

The HRA screening exercise featured in Section 3 concludes that the draft Barton Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full Habitats Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken. There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the Barton Neighbourhood Area.

Both of the above mentioned recommendations are subject to consultation with the statutory environmental bodies (i.e. the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) before a formal decision is made on the requirement of a full SEA and HRA AA.