

# DESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

March 2019

Strategic  
Environmental  
Assessment Screening  
Statement

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## 1. Introduction

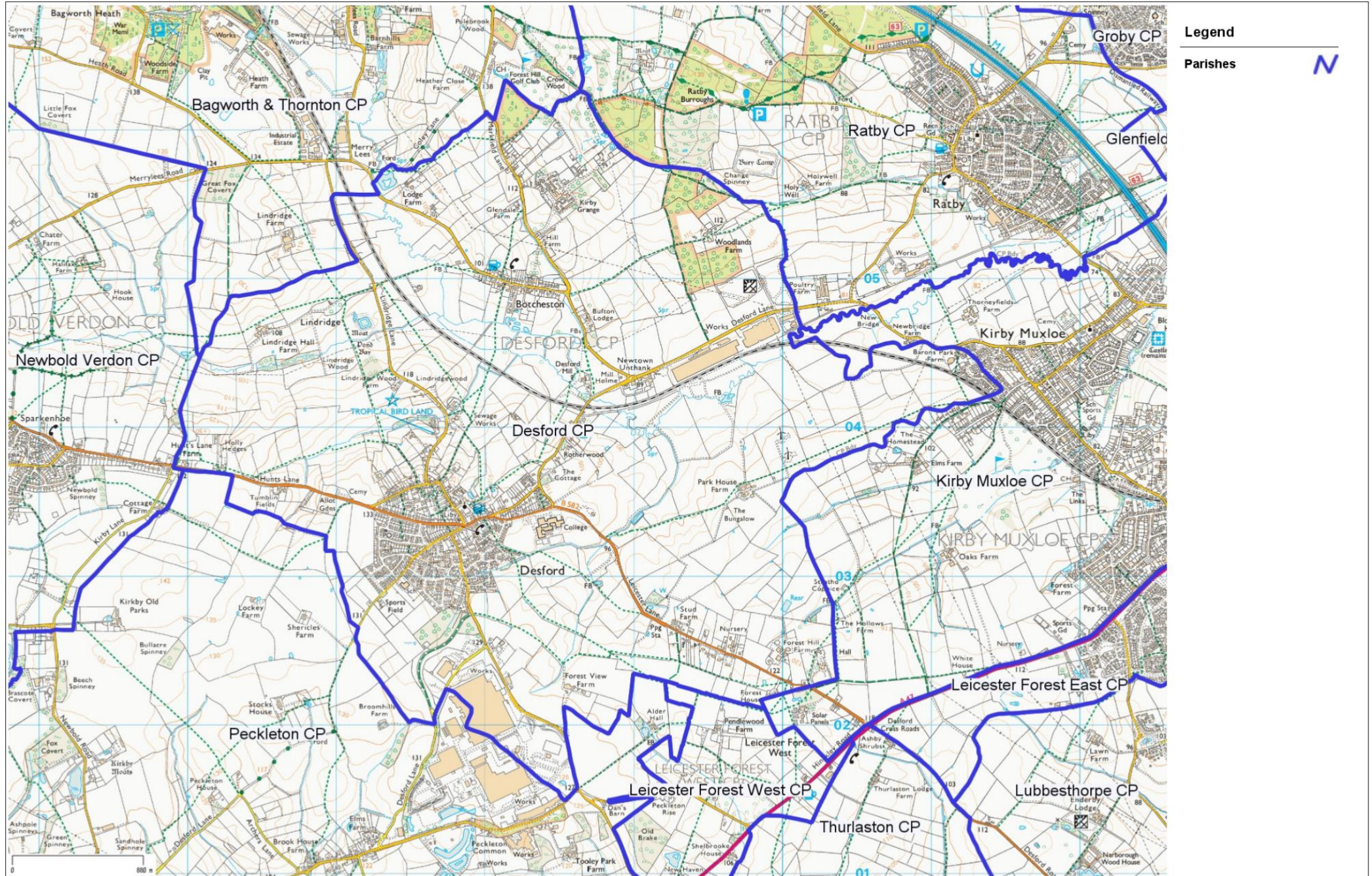
This SEA Screening Statement has been prepared on behalf of Desford Parish Council by Planit-X Town and Country Planning Services in relation to the Desford Neighbourhood Plan (Pre-Submission Version, October 2018).

The purpose of the Screening Statement is to set out a screening opinion in relation to whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process is required to accompany the development of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan. The Screening Statement is to be provided to the statutory consultation bodies for SEA (Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England) for their opinion.

SEA is a systematic process undertaken to evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of plans. The requirement for SEA in England was introduced in 2004 through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation 2004 ('The SEA Regulations'), which transposed the European SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).

One of the 'Basic Conditions' that a neighbourhood plan is tested against is whether the making of the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European Union obligations, including obligations under the SEA Directive. Neighbourhood plans only require SEA where they are likely to lead to significant environmental effects. To decide whether a proposed Neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it should be screened against the criteria set out in Annex 2 of the SEA Directive. Where it is determined that the Neighbourhood plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require SEA), a statement of reasons for this determination should be prepared and published for consultation with the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England). Where a Neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment a SEA process must be carried out.

This Screening Statement therefore provides a screening opinion as to whether or not the Desford Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environment effects, and as such requires a SEA process.



## 2. Details of the Neighbourhood Plan

### Title of the plan:

Desford Neighbourhood Plan.

### Name of Qualifying Body and Local Planning Authority:

The qualifying body preparing the Desford Neighbourhood Plan is Desford Parish Council.  
The Local Planning Authority is Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

### Desford Parish Neighbourhood Plan contact point:

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### Location and spatial extent of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan:

The Desford Neighbourhood Plan covers the Desford Neighbourhood Area, comprising the parish of Desford in Leicestershire, to the west of Leicester (Page 3).

It is a large area, comprising the villages of Desford and Botcheston, including the retirement village of Kirby Grange and the hamlet of Newtown Unthank. These settlements are located within a rural and mainly agricultural parish, and are visually separated from each other by open countryside. There are a number of significant employers at the periphery of the village or the parish boundary, including Caterpillar to the south of Desford. Community and local facilities within the parish include a primary and secondary school, pre-school facilities, parks and open spaces, sports facilities, village halls, churches, convenience stores and post office, public houses and allotments.

### Timeframe of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan:

To 2036

### Main aims of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan:

The vision of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan for 2036 is as follows:

*The Neighbourhood Plan, guided by the views of residents and stakeholders, seeks to ensure that the Parish in 2031:*

- a) *remains a valued and safe place to live and work*
- b) *continues to thrive in each of the distinct communities within it*
- c) *will evolve and expand whilst retaining its sense of community*
- d) *provides well-being through a healthy, creative, equitable and sustainable life, and*
- e) *makes a positive local contribution to enhancing the environment and improving sustainability.*

This will be achieved by:

- a) Allocating sites for measured, proportionate, timely and sustainable development from 2026 to 2036 in a sensibly phased manner: eco-friendly in both design and operation and respecting the design guidelines. Development will meet local needs from both employment and demographic perspectives. Smaller, opportunity sites coming forward from the start of the Neighbourhood Plan will also be considered in the light of these criteria.
- b) Maintaining the high quality natural environment with protected wildlife interests, recognising the local agricultural predominance.
- c) Retaining and enhancing the character and appeal of the existing conservation area and unique assets of the parish, including footpaths, jitties, open spaces and community and recreational facilities.
- d) Endorsing and/or developing policies and developments in environmentally acceptable locations that have a positive effect on the sustainability and environment of the parish, including those that remove or minimise flood risk, mitigate climate change and reduce the village carbon foot-print. Opportunities to remove or reduce through traffic will be sought wherever possible, as will measures to reduce the impact of unavoidable traffic in and through the parish.
- e) Enhancing and supporting our rural economy through ensuring efficient and timely public transport to neighbouring centres and providing an environment for local businesses and home working to flourish in a modern digital age.

### Relationship with the Local Plan:

The Desford Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan. For the purposes of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan, the relevant parts of the Local Plan 2006-2026 (formerly LDF) are the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD.

The Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy was adopted in December 2009 and is the Strategic Part 1 Local Plan. It provides the vision and spatial strategy for the borough and identifies development requirements for its main urban area which includes the settlement of Desford. Desford is identified as a key rural centre and is recognised as a settlement that provides localised provision of facilities for those living within Desford as well as those within the rural villages and hamlets surrounding this centre. The Core Strategy identifies a minimum housing requirement of 110 new homes for the village of Desford over the period 2006-2026.

The Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD was adopted in 2016 and identifies sites for uses such as housing, employment, retail, open space and community facilities that will deliver the aims, vision and objectives of the Core Strategy. It also contains development management policies which will be used to assess planning applications over the plan period. This document identifies that the residual minimum housing requirement for Desford, as of 1 September 2014 has been met and as such no sites are required to be allocated for residential development in Desford.

A parallel process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was undertaken alongside the plan-making process for these two documents.

Given the importance of having an up-to-date local plan, the Council is currently in the process of reviewing its local plan documents, including the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. This Local Plan review included a consultation undertaken in early 2018 and the Housing section of this consultation was

supported by a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) to assess future housing needs for the period 2011 -2036. This consultation document identified the target housing provision for Desford, for the period between 2016 – 2036, to be a minimum of 163 homes. As a total of 73 net units were provided between 2016-2018, the outstanding target is to provide 90 additional dwellings in the parish before 2036.

### Will the Desford Parish Neighbourhood Plan propose allocations? And if so, will these be over and above those likely to be included in the Local Plan?

The Core Strategy identifies Desford as a key rural centre and sets out that the Council will allocate land for the development of a minimum of 110 dwellings. As this residual requirement had been met the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD subsequently does not allocated any sites for residential development in Desford.

The Local Plan is currently under review and therefore the Pre-Submission Version of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan (2018) identifies a housing requirement of a minimum of 163 new homes for Desford for the period 2016-2036. Considering the number of new homes that have been completed, the outstanding minimum target is a total of 73 units for the period up to 2036. The Neighbourhood Plan therefore makes provision for a housing site allocation at 'Land off Barns Way in Desford' (Policy H2) to provide for a minimum of additional 90 new dwellings. Any further additional housing would be through Policy H6: Windfall Site Development.

### What are the key environmental assets (including 'sensitive areas') near the Desford Neighbourhood Area?

#### 'Sensitive areas'

A key determinant of whether effects are likely to be significant is the sensitivity of the asset affected. In this context, the more environmentally sensitive a location, the more likely it is that potential environmental effects from a plan will be significant.

National Planning Practice Guidance provides guidance on this topic through providing a list of sites and areas which should be deemed as 'sensitive areas' for the purposes of environmental assessment. These comprise:

- Natura 2000 sites;
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- National Parks;
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- World Heritage Sites; and
- Scheduled Monuments.

In the context of the categories of 'sensitive areas' described by the Planning Practice Guidance, the following sites and areas exist within or near the Neighbourhood Area.

#### *Natura 2000 sites*

##### *Within the Neighbourhood Area:*

No Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are present within the Neighbourhood Area.

##### *Within 10km of the Neighbourhood Area*

None

### *Beyond 10km of the Neighbourhood Area*

The River Mease Special Area of Conservation is located approximately 13.1km to the north west of the Neighbourhood Area boundary.

The River Mease and the lower part of Gilwiskaw Brook are designated as a SAC. They were designated because the River Mease represents one of the best examples of an unspoilt meandering lowland river which supports characteristic habitats and species and supports populations of spined loach and bullhead, two notable species of native freshwater fish that have a restricted distribution in England. The rivers also support populations of white-clawed crayfish, otter and a range of river plants such as water crow-foot.

Ensor's Pool Special Area of Conservation is located approximately 17.4km to the south west of the Neighbourhood Area boundary. This lowland site in Central England represents and qualifies as a SAC as it holds a large population of white-clawed crayfish in standing water. This waterbody is isolated from river systems and is a good example of a 'refuge' site.

All SCA's are also notified as SSSI's, being sites that are of specific biological or geological features.

The nearest SPA is at Rutland Water and is approximately 40km east of the Neighbourhood Area.

### *SSSIs*

#### *Within the Neighbourhood Area*

##### **Botcheston Bog**

This site comprises two units and contains one of the best remaining areas of marshy grassland in Leicestershire and is representative of grazed marsh communities on peaty soils. The marsh is supported and supplemented by an adjacent area of wet grassland and by a number of watercourses which flow through and around the site.

Condition: One unit is favourable, and the other unit is unfavourable and recovering.

#### *Within 5km of Neighbourhood Area*

##### **Groby Pool and Woods**

This site comprises six units and a complex of habitats. It includes fine examples of alder wood, dry and wet grassland, marsh, reed swamp and open water. The plant communities are representative of those developed on neutral or slightly acid soils in the North Midlands.

Groby Pool is considered to be the largest natural expanse of water in Leicestershire created by a natural 'dam' of igneous syenite and supports a range of plant communities. Additional interest is provided by the numbers of wintering wildfowl which utilise the site, the variety of the breeding bird community and by the diversity of the invertebrate fauna.

Condition: Four of the units are in favourable condition, one unit is unfavourable with no change and one unit is unfavourable and declining.

3.0km to the north east of the Neighbourhood Area.

##### **Sheet Hedges Wood**

The site comprises five units and comprises one of the best remaining examples of ash and alder woodland in Leicestershire. It is representative of ancient woodland developed on clay soils in Central and Eastern England.



Condition: One unit is favourable; three units are unfavourable and recovering and one unit is unfavourable and declining.

4.2km to the north east of the Neighbourhood Area

#### **Enderby Warren Quarry**

Enderby Warren Quarry is a nationally important geological site. It is only British locality where it can be demonstrated that the palygorskite, found here at, below and above the uniformity of the Croft microtonalite and the superjacent Triassic sediments, originated through the action of the post-Triassic groundwaters on the underlying beds.

Condition: Unfavourable no change

4.3km to the south east of the Neighbourhood Area.

#### **Ulverscroft Quarry**

The site comprises 19 units and supports a series of semi-natural habitats representative of those formerly more widespread on the siliceous clay soils of Charnwood Forest. These include permanent grassland, heath, woodland and wetlands. While each habitat is important on its own, the combination produces one of the best wildlife sites in Leicestershire. The wet grasslands have no equivalent in the County. Over 200 plant species have been recorded, some rare in Leicestershire, and there are mammals, insects and birds of note. The woodlands on the site contain one of the County's remaining unspoilt sessile oak woods with a great diversity in tree, shrub and ground flora and an associated diversity of fauna.

Condition: 7 units are favourable, 8 units are unfavourable and recovering, and 4 units are unfavourable with no change.

4.6km to the north of the Neighbourhood Area

#### **Cliffe Hill Quarry**

This site provides excellent exposures of the contact between the southern-type diorite (markfieldite) and the volcanic and sedimentary rocks of the Precambrian Charnian Maplewell Series.

Condition: Favourable

5.0km to the north of the Neighbourhood Area

#### *National Parks*

##### *Within the Neighbourhood Area*

None.

##### *Near the Neighbourhood Area*

None- the closest National Park is the Peak District National Park (located approximately 53km from the Parish).

#### *Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty*

##### *Within the Neighbourhood Area*

None.

##### *Near the Neighbourhood Area*

None- the closest AONB is the Cannock Chase AONB (located 40km from the Parish).

## *World Heritage Sites*

### *Within the Neighbourhood Area*

None.

### *Near the Neighbourhood Area*

None- the closest site is the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (located approximately 37km to the north of the Parish).

## *Scheduled Monuments*

### *Within the Neighbourhood Area*

#### **Moated site 440m south west of Lindridge Fields Farm**

The monument is situated approximately 1km north west of Desford and includes the earthwork and buried remains of a moated site. This double moated site survives well and is a good example of this class of monument, despite some infilling.

### *Near the Neighbourhood Area*

#### **Ratby Camp**

Distance from Neighbourhood Area - 139m from the parish boundary

#### **Old Hays Moated Site and associated manorial earthworks, Ratby**

Old Hays is a well-preserved example of a Leicestershire moated enclosure which is unusual for the depth of the surrounding moat. The significance of the site is greatly increased by the range of historical documentation relating to the manorial complex and its association with Leicester Abbey.

Distance from Neighbourhood Area – 398m from the parish boundary

#### **Kirby Muxloe Castle**

Kirby Muxloe Castle is a spectacular example of a late medieval quadrangular castle of the highest status and it retains extensive ruined remains which represent the two periods of construction at the site. The 15<sup>th</sup> Century gatehouse and the south western tower survive in a near-complete condition and retain early examples of gun ports within their fabric.

Distance from Neighbourhood Area – 1km from the parish boundary

#### **Moated site south of the Hall, Newbold Verdon**

It survives in good condition despite the infilling of one arm of the moat and encloses a square island.

Distance from Neighbourhood Area – 1.6km from the parish boundary

#### **Iron Age Enclosure, Thurlaston**

This is a sub circular enclosure. In the 1970s the enclosure's depth survived at about a depth of 1.0m. Pottery dating from the Middle Iron Age to the Roman period has been found on site. Today it is only visible as a cropmark. Ridge and furrow ran up to, but not over, the earthworks.

Distance from Neighbourhood Area – 1.6km from the parish boundary

#### **Rabbit Warren 180m north east of The Lawn**

The remains survive particularly well as a series of substantial earthworks. The site has remained largely under pasture with little disturbance, with the result that the preservation of buried deposits relating to the construction and use of the warren will be good. The remains represent a rare surviving example of the large-scale adaptation of a natural feature for warrening within an area of otherwise intensive cultivation. The remains of the

warren are quite well understood and will allow an insight into an important aspect of the medieval and later agricultural economy.

Distance from Neighbourhood Area – 1.8km from the parish boundary

**Moated site at New Hall, Thurlaston**

The site survives in good condition and retains considerable potential for survival of the remains of the original buildings of the interior.

Distance from the Neighbourhood Area – 1.9km from the parish boundary

**Moat with fishponds at Bagworth**

The moat at Bagworth is an unusual example of a manorial site with exceptionally well-documented evidence of the manor and the associated fishponds. The water management complex and the moat survive in good condition and evidence for various stages of building and repair of the medieval house will be preserved in the moat's interior.

Distance from the Neighbourhood Area – 2.9km from the parish boundary

**Motte and bailey castle and manorial complex at Groby**

The large motte at Groby is a good survival incorporating a rare substantial internal Norman stone building. The associated manorial complex is one of the most extensive in Leicestershire with a core considered to date to the period of the Norman castle. It also has associations with an important Leicestershire family.

Distance from the Neighbourhood Area – 3.3km from the parish boundary

**Moated site and garden enclosure at Glenfield**

This moated site remains essentially undisturbed and will retain environmental information in the waterlogged conditions. There is evidence that the moat island contains the building foundations of a substantial house and associated buildings. The adjoining enclosure is a rare feature in Leicestershire and it is thought to have contained a formal garden.

Distance from the Neighbourhood Area – 3.4km from the parish boundary

**Lubbesthorpe medieval settlement remains at Abbey Farm**

The remains survive well as a series of substantial earthworks and buried deposits. The areas of settlement have remained largely undisturbed since their abandonment with the result that the survival of archaeological deposits relating to their occupation and use is likely to be good.

Distance from the Neighbourhood Area – 3.8km from the parish boundary

**Earl Shilton motte and bailey castle**

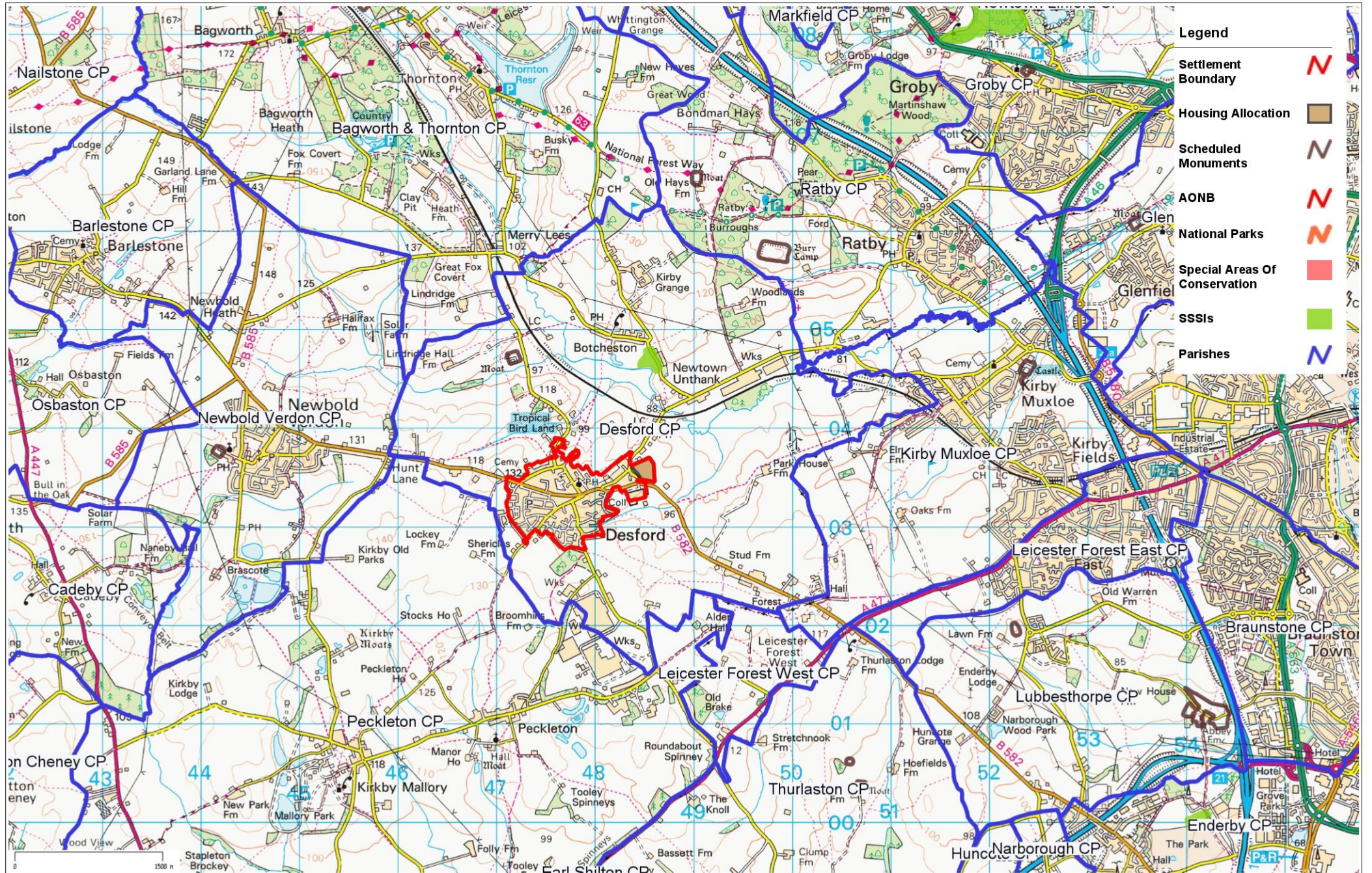
This survives in good condition and will retain archaeological evidence of buildings within the interior.

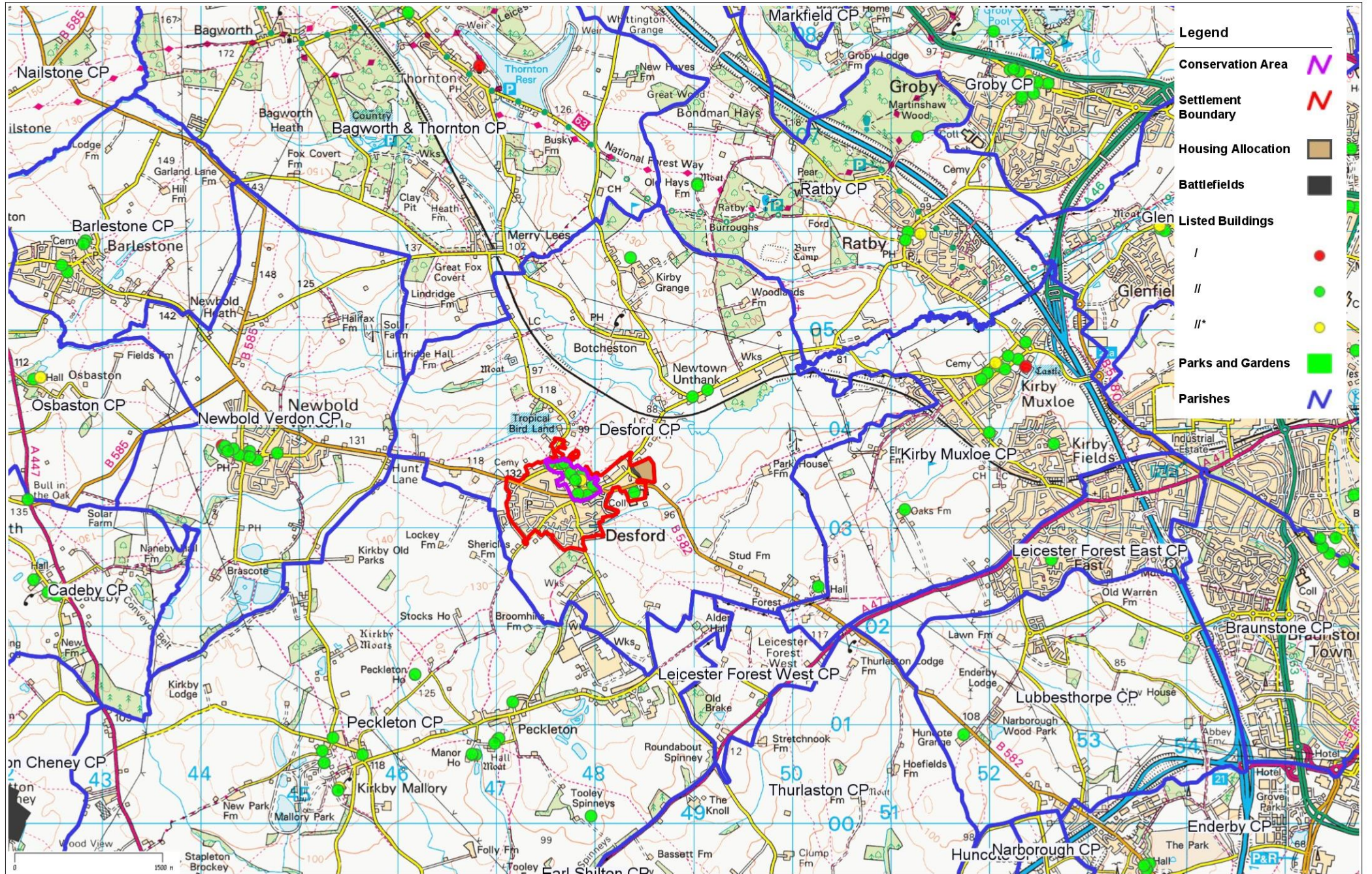
Distance from the Neighbourhood Area – 3.8km from the parish boundary

**Moated site at New Parks, Leicester**

New Parks is the only well documented example of its kind known to survive in Leicestershire. Evidence of a substantial building is contained within the island and, although largely infilled, the moat arms and the fishpond retain potential for the preservation of organic remains.

Distance from the Neighbourhood Area – 4.1km from the parish boundary





### *Other key environmental assets*

Other designated environmental assets located within the Neighbourhood Area (i.e. those which are not defined as 'sensitive areas' as defined by the Planning Practice Guidance) include as follows:

#### *Historic Park and Gardens*

There are no Historic Parks or Gardens in Desford Parish. The closest is Bradgate Park, a Grade II Historic Park and Garden, 4.9km north-east of the Neighbourhood Area.

There is also Abbey Park, a Grade II\* Historic Park and Garden 6.9km from Desford Parish,

#### *Battle of Bosworth (Field) 1485*

There is no Battlefield within the parish of Desford. However, the Battle of Bosworth (Field) 1485 registered battlefield site is located 5.2km to the south west of the neighbourhood area. It is registered due to its historical importance, topographic integrity, archaeological potential and technological significance.

#### *Conservation Areas*

Desford Conservation Area, the boundaries of which are concentrated along High Street, Main Street and Newbold Road, was designated by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in February 1981. It can be divided into four distinct areas of different character. The character of the conservation area is derived from four key factors, namely, the agricultural origins of the settlement, historical land ownership, the topography and the medieval street pattern. Important listed and unlisted buildings in the designated area include, the Church of St. Martin (Grade II\*), the Old Manor House on High Street (Grade II\*) and the Grange on Church Lane which is an 18<sup>th</sup> century timber framed property.

#### *Listed buildings*

There are 17 buildings and structures in Desford Parish listed by Historic England for their special architectural or historic interest. They include the Grade II\* Church of St Martin and the Old Manor House, on High Street. There are no Grade I listed buildings and the remainder are designated as Grade II listings.

### 3. Legislative Background

The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal 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 of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005).

Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 makes provision in relation to the Habitats Directive. The Directive requires that any plan or project, likely to have a significant effect on a European site, must be subject to an appropriate assessment. To achieve this, paragraph 1 prescribes a basic condition that the making of a neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site. Paragraphs 2 to 5 of the Schedule amend the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 so as to apply its provisions to neighbourhood development orders and neighbourhood plans. In particular, paragraph 4 inserts new regulation 78A which provides that a neighbourhood development order may not grant planning permission for development which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site.

Schedule 3 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 makes provision in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive. The Directive requires that EIA development must be subject to a development consent process. To enable this, Schedule 3 prescribes a basic condition that applies where development which is the subject of a proposal for a neighbourhood development order is of a type caught by the EIA Directive, and applies the relevant provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011(3) ("the EIA Regulations") with appropriate modifications (regulation 33 and paragraphs 1 to 4 and 6 of Schedule 3). Paragraphs 5 and 7 to 13 of Schedule 3 correct errors in the EIA Regulations.

It may be appropriate, and in some cases a requirement, that the statutory environmental bodies of Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England be consulted, for example, a draft neighbourhood plan proposal must be assessed to determine whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects.

There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, a qualifying body must demonstrate how its plan or order will contribute to achieving sustainable development.

This report focuses on screening for SEA and the criteria for establishing whether a full assessment is needed considering the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment undertaken for the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026 in 2010 and the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies 2006-2026 in 2014 and 2016.

#### 4. Criteria for Assessing the Effects of Neighbourhood Plans (the ‘plan’)

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below:

1. The characteristics of neighbourhood plans (“plan”), having regard, in particular, to - the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources, - the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy, - the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development, - environmental problems relevant to the plan, - the relevance of the plan for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).

2. 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 cumulative nature of the effects, - the trans boundary nature of the effects, - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents), - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected), - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, - intensive land-use, - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

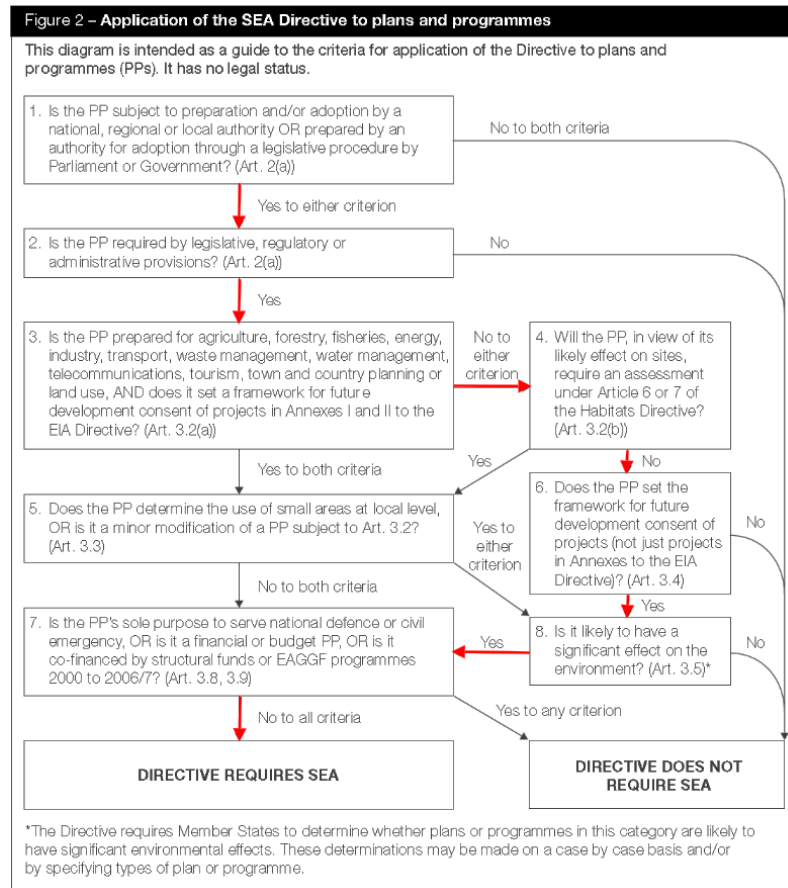
Source: Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC



## 5. Assessment

This diagram shows the Directive's field of application in the form of a diagram. The original diagram is from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Objective'. The red arrows indicate the process route for the Desford Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Assessment.

The table below shows the assessment of whether the Desford Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA. The questions below are drawn from the diagram above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.



Stage	Yes/No	Reason
1. Is the 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	The preparation of and adoption of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan is allowed under The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The Desford Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared by Desford Parish Council (as the 'relevant body') and will be 'made' by Hinckley and Bosworth Council as the local authority. The preparation of neighbourhood plans is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012.
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	Whilst the Desford Neighbourhood Plan is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the

Stage	Yes/No	Reason
		Localism Act 2011, it will if 'made', form part of the Development Plan for the District. It is therefore important that the screening process considers whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive.
<p><b>3. Is the 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 (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))</b></p>	No	<p>Whilst the Desford Neighbourhood Plan covers a range of land use issues and allocations, it does not set the framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive (see Appendix 2 for list). Instead, the Desford Neighbourhood Plan is a non-strategic scale document, focused solely upon the Parish of Desford.</p>
<p><b>4. Will the 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))</b></p>	No	<p>The Desford Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites.</p> <p>The two nearest SACs are the River Mease Catchment to the north west of the Parish and Ensors Pools to the south west of the Parish. The River Mease catchment is located 15 kilometres away from within the Desford Neighbourhood Area and the Ensor Pools are 18.5 kilometres of the Neighbourhood Area. There are no SPAs within 10km of the Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>The Hinckley and Bosworth Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2017 confirms there is no physical connection between the Borough and The Ensor's Pool SAC. From this we consider that activities within the Borough – and indeed the Desford Neighbourhood Area - would not have implications for this site.</p> <p>Part of the River Mease (not the part defined as a European site (SAC)) passes through the Borough coming in from Snarestone over the border of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, flowing</p>

Stage	Yes/No	Reason
		<p>shortly after towards Sweptstone. In addition, three tributaries of the river flow down towards and through Norton juxta Twycross, ending to the east, west and north of Norton juxta Twycross. As a result, given the physical connection to the River Mease SAC, provided by its flow through the Borough and via these tributaries, it might be conceivable that some areas of the Borough could have an impact on this site despite the actual designation being outside the Borough.</p> <p>However, no part of the River Mease or its tributaries as described above flow through the Desford Neighbourhood Area. The tributaries as described above are located roughly 13 kilometres away from the closest part of the Desford Neighbourhood Area boundary. In view of this as well as considering the scope of proposals within the draft Desford Neighbourhood Plan, the Borough Council considers that further stages in the HRA process are not required (including further screening, or Appropriate Assessment) and that the Desford Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to have any impact on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites.</p>
<p><b>5. Does the 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)</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>Determination of small sites at local level only.</p>
<p><b>6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>The Desford Neighbourhood Plan is to be used for determining future planning applications</p>
<p><b>7. Is the 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</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p>No further comments</p>

Stage	Yes/No	Reason
EAFF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)		
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	Yes	Appendix 1 presents the environmental effects which have the potential to arise as a result of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan.

## 6. Summary of screening determination

This determination has considered whether the Desford Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects as defined by Directive 2001/42/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and the transposing regulations. In particular, the review has considered several sensitive areas located in the vicinity of the Neighbourhood Area and the potential environmental effects on these areas that may arise as a result of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan.

Environmental effects have the potential to take place as a result of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan, including in relation to most of the SEA topics. This SEA screening opinion provides the necessary analysis relating to the potential for negative effects on the nearby Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and the Desford Conservation Area. With respect to these designations it is considered that these are unlikely to be significant in the context of the SEA Directive. The significance of potential effects will be limited by key aims of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan and these are in turn reflected by the policy approaches proposed by the latest version of the plan.

However, the screening opinion concludes that there is the potential for significant effects on the SSSI located within the Neighbourhood Area. It is therefore recommended that the Desford Neighbourhood Plan should be subject to a full SEA.

### Habitats Regulation Assessment

It is the opinion of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council that a full Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment of the current Desford Neighbourhood Plan is not required, as it is unlikely to have a significant effect on any designated sites.

### Conclusion

**This screening opinion has been prepared in order to fulfil the statutory SEA requirements, as set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.**

**The environmental consultation bodies Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency have been consulted during the preparation of this Screening Assessment. Their responses are summarised below:**

- **Historic England – Advice is confined to the question 'Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?' in respect of cultural heritage. Note that the SEA screening statement concludes that a SEA is required. Observe that the Plan appears to propose a housing site allocation which may have significant environmental effects upon the historic environment, due to its size and location. Therefore are of the view, that in the absence of assessments or other information, that there may well be significant impacts on the historic environment. It is noted that work has been carried out, however it is insufficiently detailed in relation to the historic environment and further assessment should be carried out.**
- **Natural England – Welcome the production of the SEA Screening report and acknowledge that the SEA screening concludes that there is the potential for significant effects on the SSSI. Reserve the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/HRA screening stage. With respect to Habitat Regulations Assessment we agree with the Council's conclusion of no likely significant effect upon European designated sites.**

- Environment Agency – Concur with the findings of the Screening Report. Namely that the Screening opinion concludes that there is the potential for significant effects on the SSSI located within the Neighbourhood Area, and as such it is recommended that the Desford Neighbourhood Plan should be subject to a full SEA. In respect of the HRA, a full Habitats Regulation Appropriate Assessment of the current Desford Neighbourhood Plan is not required, as it is unlikely to have a significant effect on any designated sites.

A full copy of the responses received are attached as Appendix 3.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, following consultation with the Environment Agency and Natural England, has determined that the Desford Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects with particular regard to the Botcheston Bog (SSSI), and therefore, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required.

In response to the consultation with Historic England, it is noted that this consultee is of the view that a lack of evidence has been provided in regard to the historic environment in the site assessments provided and as such the Strategic Environmental Assessment should also explore the potential environmental effect upon the Historic Environment. The Local Authority have given this request consideration and are of the opinion that there will not be a harmful impact on heritage assets.

Therefore, the Borough Council have determined that, although the SEA Screening Opinion has not been informed by a site-specific Heritage Impact Assessment, it would not be proportionate to request such an assessment for this site given that the potential harmful impacts on heritage assess caused by its allocation (and future development) is minimal. Any potential effects on heritage assets would not be of a significant level to warrant consideration as part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

For the above reasons, it is considered that the Desford Neighbourhood Plan is subject to the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and accompanying regulations.

## Appendix 1: Assessment of potential environmental effects

The following table presents the environmental effects which have the potential to arise because of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan. This is accompanied by a commentary on whether these effects are likely to be significant. The environmental effects have been grouped by the SEA ‘topics’ suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive.

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
<b>Biodiversity, flora and fauna</b> (Including biodiversity habitats and species, biodiversity sites, areas of geological interest)	Y	Without mitigation and enhancement measures, the Desford Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to lead to effects on biodiversity, including through loss of habitat, disturbance, effects on ecological connections and indirect effects such as from impacts on water quality and quantity.	<p>There are no Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPA) present within the Neighbourhood Area. As concluded in Section 5 of the above assessment, the Desford Neighbourhood Plan would not have implications for The River Mease SAC or Ensors Pool SAC. As such the contents of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to have an impact on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites.</p> <p>In relation to biodiversity, the main ‘sensitive areas’ in the Neighbourhood Area is the Botcheston Bog Desford Wood SSSI described in Section 2. Its condition is identified as part favourable and part unfavourable condition – recovering.’</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Area (North east area) lies within the SSSI Impact Risk Zones of Botcheston Bog. Certain developments within this ‘zone’ require consultation with Natural England, depending on the specific zone that the proposal is located. With respect to the inner zone, Natural England, are to be consulted on all planning applications. Developments within the other ‘zones’ that require consultation include airport, helipads and other aviation proposals, pipelines, quarry development, pig and poultry units, industrial and commercial development that causes air pollution, waste, and combust discharge and that that discharge certain levels of water per day. The Neighbourhood Plan does not propose development of this nature within these zones and therefore consultation</p>

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
			<p>with Natural England is not required with respect to these matters.</p> <p>However, the proposed housing allocation site of around 70 dwellings in Desford, lies within two of the Impact Zones that require consultation to be undertaken with Natural England for specific types of residential development. Given the number of dwellings proposed within this housing allocation the consultation threshold has been exceeded.</p> <p>It is recognised that the Neighbourhood Plan includes an overarching biodiversity policy that seeks to protect, conserve and enhance existing ecological corridors and features for biodiversity as well as a policy that seeks the protection or enhancement of specific local features that have been identified for their biodiversity. These policies seek to reduce the likelihood of significant effects on these 'sensitive areas'.</p> <p>In terms of the other SSSIs identified above, due to their relative distance of over 3km from the Neighbourhood Area, no parts of the Neighbourhood Area are within Impact Risk Zones for these SSSIs.</p> <p>However, in light of the siting of the proposed allocation within the impact zones of the Botchetson Bog SSSI it is considered that <b>effects on biodiversity may be significant</b> if the current policy approach proposed in the Desford Neighbourhood Plan is taken forward. It is therefore recommended that the Desford Neighbourhood Plan should be subject to a full SEA.</p>
<p><b>Population</b> (Including residents' quality of life, accessibility to services and facilities, deprivation and similar)</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>As indicated by the current policy approaches proposed for the Desford Neighbourhood Plan, the Plan has the potential to</p>	<p>Whilst the benefits for residents of Desford Parish from a well-designed neighbourhood plan have the potential to be wide-ranging, these are <b>not deemed to be significant</b> in the context of the SEA Directive.</p>



SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		<p>have a range of benefits for the quality of life of residents and for accessibility to services, facilities and opportunities. It seeks to prevent the loss of community services and facilities, as well as supports the provision of new or improved community facilities and footpath network to support exercise and leisure activities.</p> <p>The Desford Neighbourhood Plan will also support the delivery of affordable housing and help deliver a range of types and tenures of houses, including the provision of home suitable for older people.</p>	
<p><b>Human Health</b> (Incorporating residents' health and wellbeing)</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>As indicated by the current policy approaches proposed for the Desford Neighbourhood Plan, the Plan has the potential to have a range of benefits for residents' health and wellbeing through</p>	<p>Whilst the health and wellbeing benefits for residents of the Neighbourhood Area from a well-designed neighbourhood plan have the potential to be wide-ranging, these are not deemed to be significant in the context of the SEA Directive. Likely effects from noise quality are also <b>not deemed to be significant</b>.</p>

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		<p>promoting healthier lifestyles and supporting accessibility to services and facilities.</p> <p>Policies include those that support access to and the provision of non-car modes of travel, the protection of local green spaces, the protection of and the provision of new community services and facilities and the protection of residential amenities from the impact of new development.</p> <p>Direct impacts from the plan on health and well-being from renewable energy infrastructure may also arise. Policy seeks to protect the health and well-being of residents and visitors from development of this nature.</p>	
<p><b>Soil</b> (Including agricultural land, soil erosion, soil quality)</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>It is uncertain whether proposed development areas will be sited on land classified as the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land, as recent detailed</p>	<p>Due to the relatively limited area of land likely to be developed through the Desford Neighbourhood Plan, effects on the soils resource are <b>unlikely to be significant</b>.</p>

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		<p>agricultural land classification has not taken place.</p> <p>The Plan proposes to update the settlement boundary to take into account of the one proposed housing allocation and seeks to limit development outside of the this proposed Settlement Boundary.</p>	
<b>Water</b> (Including water quality and availability)	Y	<p>The Desford Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to lead to a very small-scale increase in water demand in the Neighbourhood Area through supporting the delivery of a new housing provision.</p> <p>Policy also supports the implementation of sustainable drainage systems with maintenance regimes to minimise vulnerability to flooding and climate change.</p>	Potential effects on water availability will be limited by the relatively small-scale of proposals likely to be facilitated by the Desford Neighbourhood Plan. Effects <b>unlikely to be significant</b> .
<b>Air</b> (Including air quality)	Y	Whilst new development in the Neighbourhood Area may lead to increased traffic flows and	No existing air quality issues exist in the Neighbourhood Area and there are no Air Quality Management Areas within the Neighbourhood Area. Any effects on air quality are <b>not deemed to be significant</b> in the context of the SEA Directive.

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		congestion, this is unlikely to lead to marked effects on air quality. In addition, the Desford Neighbourhood Plan includes policy which seeks to minimise traffic generation and movement through the village and encourages and facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport, which may help limit adverse impacts on air quality.	
<b>Climatic Factors</b> (Including relating to climate change mitigation (limiting greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (adapting to the anticipated effects of climate change, including flood risk))	Y	In terms of climate change mitigation, the Desford Neighbourhood Plan actively seeks to located new housing development, adjacent to the currently defined settlement boundary, where the majority of the local services and facilities are located. This will help limit potential increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Area.  Policy encourages the incorporation of	Due to the small scale, local scope of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan, the nature and magnitude of effects directly arising as a result of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan are <b>unlikely to be significant</b> in the context of the SEA Directive.

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		<p>Sustainable Drainage Systems which will help meet the challenges of climate change and in terms of climate change adaptation, statutory requirements (including the requirements of the NPPF) will ensure that flood risk is addressed through new development proposals.</p> <p>New homes will also be expected to incorporate sustainable design and construction techniques including the use of renewable and low carbon technology.</p> <p>The plan shows support for the development of renewable energy development appropriate to its location and with consideration given to its impact on amenity and the environment.</p>	
<p><b>Material Assets</b> (Including minerals resources, waste considerations)</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The Desford Neighbourhood Plan may lead to small increases in the Neighbourhood Area's waste management</p>	<p>Potential increases in waste as a direct result of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan will be managed through statutory requirements regarding waste management. Due to their limited magnitude, effects are therefore <b>unlikely to be significant</b> in the context of the SEA Directive.</p>

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		<p>requirements through supporting the delivery of new housing.</p> <p>No mineral sites or resources, or waste sites are likely to be affected or undermined as a result of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	
<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b> (Including historic environment, cultural heritage, historic settings)</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Development undertaken in accordance with the policies of the Desford Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to have effects on the fabric and setting of historic environment assets.</p>	<p>Whilst one scheduled monument (a 'sensitive area' as defined by the Planning Practice Guidance) is located within the Neighbourhood Area, it is unlikely to be directly affected by the proposed housing allocation due to its relative distance (1.5km).</p> <p>In terms of the Desford Conservation Area, the proposed housing allocation lies outside of the Area. The Conservation Area itself provides additional policy guidance for managing development within the historic core of the village. Therefore, given the siting of the proposed allocation and its distance from the Conservation Areas the effect on this asset is likely to be limited.</p> <p>In terms of the listed building present in the parish, the proposed allocation is unlikely to adversely affect the setting of these features of cultural heritage importance, due to the siting of the proposed allocation in relation to these assets. The nearest listed building to the south of the allocation, located at Bosworth Community and Sports College is a sculpture sited within the quadrangle of the collage.</p>

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
			<p>There is also the statutory protection of conservation areas and listed buildings that will run alongside any local plan policy.</p> <p>Therefore, effects are <b>unlikely to be significant</b> in the context of the SEA Directive.</p>
<p><b>Landscape</b> (Including landscape and townscape quality)</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Direct effects from the Desford Neighbourhood Plan on landscape and townscape character have the potential to take place.</p>	<p>In terms of landscape quality, no ‘sensitive areas’ as defined by the NPPG are present in the Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>In terms of the Desford Conservation Area, the proposed housing allocation lies outside of the Area. The Conservation Area itself provides additional policy guidance for managing development within the historic core of the village.</p> <p>The likelihood of significant effects on the integrity of the Conservation Area are also likely to be limited by the Desford’s Neighbourhood Plan’s focus on protecting and enhancing the historic environment and landscape of the Neighbourhood Area and the plan’s focus on protecting heritage assets.</p> <p>Overall, the Desford Neighbourhood Plan’s focus on protecting and enhancing the landscape/townscape of the Neighbourhood Area and protecting key features of importance for the historic environment will deliver positive effects on landscape and townscape quality and facilitate enhancements.</p> <p>Therefore, potential effects on landscape character and townscape quality are <b>unlikely to be significant</b> in the context of the SEA Directive.</p>

## Appendix 2: Annex I and Annex II Projects, EIA Directive

### Annex I Projects, EIA Directive

All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an Environmental Impact Assessment. The listed projects are summarised as follows:

1. Crude oil refineries, coal or shale gasification liquefaction installations
2. Thermal power stations, nuclear power stations, other nuclear reactors etc
3. Installations for the processing, reprocessing, final disposal or storage of irradiated nuclear fuel, or the production or enrichment of nuclear fuel
4. Integrated works for the initial smelting of cast-iron and steel, and the production of non-ferrous crude metals from ore
5. Installations for the extraction, processing and transforming of asbestos
6. Integrated chemical installations for the industrial scale manufacture of basic organic and inorganic fertilisers, plant health products and biocides, pharmaceuticals, and explosives
7. Construction of long-distance railway lines. Airports with a basic runway length run of 2,100 metres or more. Construction of motorways and express roads. New roads of four or more lanes and roads which have been improved so as to convert two lanes or fewer to four lanes or more, where such road would be 10 kilometres or more in continuous length
8. Inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic, trading ports and piers
9. Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment of hazardous waste
10. Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment of non-hazardous waste
11. Groundwater abstraction or artificial groundwater recharge schemes
12. Water transfer schemes between river basins
13. Waste water treatment plants
14. Commercial extraction of petroleum and natural gas
15. Dams and water storage installations
16. Gas, oil or chemical pipelines and pipelines used for the transport of carbon dioxide for geological storage



## Annex II Projects, EIA Directive

For the projects listed in Annex II the national authorities have to decide whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is needed. The projects listed in Annex II are in general those not included in Annex I but also other types such as urban development projects and flood-relief works. The listed projects are summarised as follows:

1. Agriculture, silviculture and aquaculture
  - a) Projects for the restructuring of rural land holdings;
  - b) Projects for the use of uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agricultural purposes;
  - c) Water management projects for agriculture, including irrigation and land drainage projects;
  - d) Initial afforestation and deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use;
  - e) Intensive livestock installations (projects not included in Annex I);
  - f) Intensive fish farming;
  - g) Reclamation of land from the sea.
2. Extractive Industry
  - a) Quarries, open-cast mining and peat extraction (projects not included in Annex I);
  - b) Underground mining;
  - c) Extraction of minerals by marine or fluvial dredging;
  - d) Deep drillings, in particular:
    - i. geothermal drilling;
    - ii. drilling for the storage of nuclear waste material;
    - iii. drilling for water supplies; with the exception of drillings for investigating the stability of the soil;
  - e) Surface industrial installations for the extraction of coal, petroleum, natural gas and ores, as well as bituminous shale.
3. Energy industry
  - a) Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water (projects not included in Annex I);
  - b) Industrial installations for carrying gas, steam and hot water; transmission of electrical energy by overhead cables (projects not included in Annex I);
  - c) Surface storage of natural gas;
  - d) Underground storage of combustible gases;
  - e) Surface storage of fossil fuels;
  - f) Industrial briquetting of coal and lignite;
  - g) Installations for the processing and storage of radioactive waste (unless included in Annex I);
  - h) Installations for hydroelectric energy production;
  - i) Installations for the harnessing of power for energy production (wind farms) and
  - j) Installations for the capture of CO<sub>2</sub> streams for the purposes of geological storage, pursuant to Directive 2009/31/EC, from installations not covered by Annex I to this Directive.
4. Production and processing of metals
  - a) Installations for the production of pig iron or steel (primary or secondary fusion) including continuous casting;
  - b) Installations for the processing of ferrous metals:
    - i. hot-rolling mills;
    - ii. smitheries with hammers;
    - iii. application of protective fused metal coats;
  - c) Ferrous metal foundries;

- d) Installations for the smelting, including the alloyage, of non-ferrous metals, excluding precious metals, including recovered products (refining, foundry casting, etc.);
  - e) Installations for surface treatment of metals and plastic materials using an electrolytic or chemical process;
  - f) Manufacture and assembly of motor vehicles and manufacture of motor-vehicle engines;
  - g) Shipyards;
  - h) Installations for the construction and repair of aircraft;
  - i) Manufacture of railway equipment;
  - j) Swaging by explosives;
  - k) Installations for the roasting and sintering of metallic ores.
5. Mineral industry
- a) Coke ovens (dry coal distillation);
  - b) Installations for the manufacture of cement;
  - c) Installations for the production of asbestos and the manufacture of asbestos products (projects not included in Annex I); See under corresponding Annex I project category, Annex I (5) above;
  - d) Installations for the manufacture of glass including glass fibre;
  - e) Installations for smelting mineral substances including the production of mineral fibres;
  - f) Manufacture of ceramic products by burning, in particular roofing tiles, bricks, refractory bricks, tiles, stoneware or porcelain.
6. Chemical industry (Projects not included in Annex I)
- a) Treatment of intermediate products and production of chemicals;
  - b) Production of pesticides and pharmaceutical products, paint and varnishes, elastomers and peroxides;
  - c) Storage facilities for petroleum, petrochemical and chemical products
7. Food industry
- a) Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats;
  - b) Packing and canning of animal and vegetable products;
  - c) Manufacture of dairy products;
  - d) Brewing and malting;
  - e) Confectionery and syrup manufacture;
  - f) Installations for the slaughter of animals;
  - g) Industrial starch manufacturing installations;
  - h) Fish-meal and fish-oil factories;
  - i) Sugar factories.
8. Textile, leather, wood and paper industries
- a) Industrial plants for the production of paper and board (projects not included in Annex I);
  - b) Plants for the pre-treatment (operations such as washing, bleaching, mercerisation) or dyeing of fibres or textiles;
  - c) Plants for the tanning of hides and skins;
  - d) Cellulose-processing and production installations.
9. Rubber Industry Manufacture and treatment of elastomer-based products
10. Infrastructure projects
- a) Industrial estate development projects
  - b) Urban development projects, including the construction of shopping centres and car parks.
  - c) Construction of railways and intermodal transshipment facilities, and of intermodal terminals (projects not included in Annex I);

- d) Construction of airfields (projects not included in Annex I) This project category could be interpreted as including heliports;
  - e) Construction of roads, harbours, and port installations, including fishing harbours (projects not included in Annex I);
  - f) Inland waterway construction not included in Annex I, canalisation and flood relief works;
  - g) Dams and other installations designed to hold water or store it on a long-term basis (projects not included in Annex I);
  - h) Tramways, elevated and underground railways, suspended lines or similar lines of a particular type, used exclusively or mainly for passenger transport;
  - i) Oil and gas pipeline installations and pipelines for the transport of CO<sub>2</sub> streams for the purposes of geological storage (projects not included in Annex I); Annex II (10)(f) Annex II (10)(h) 53;
  - j) Installations of long-distance aqueducts;
  - k) Coastal work to combat erosion and maritime works capable of altering the coast through the construction, for example, of dykes, moles, jetties and other sea defence works, excluding the maintenance and reconstruction of such works;
  - l) Groundwater abstraction and artificial groundwater recharge schemes not included in Annex I;
  - m) Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins not included in Annex I.
11. Other projects
- a) Permanent racing and test tracks for motorised vehicles;
  - b) Installations for the disposal of waste (projects not included in Annex I);
  - c) Wastewater treatment plants (projects not included in Annex I);
  - d) Sludge-deposition sites; The treatment and disposal of sludge could be interpreted as being covered by this project category.
  - e) Storage of scrap iron, including scrap vehicles;
  - f) Test benches for engines, turbines or reactors;
  - g) Installations for the manufacture of artificial mineral fibres; (h) Installations for the recovery or destruction of explosive substances; (i) Knackers' yards.
12. Tourism and leisure
- a) Ski runs, ski lifts and cable cars and associated developments;
  - b) Marinas;
  - c) Holiday villages and hotel complexes outside urban areas and associated developments;
  - d) Permanent campsites and caravan sites;
  - e) Theme parks.
- 13.
- a) Any change or extension of projects listed in Annex I or Annex II, already authorised, executed or in the process of being executed, which may have significant adverse effects on the environment;
  - b) Projects in Annex I, undertaken exclusively or mainly for the development and testing of new methods or products and not used for more than two years.

## Appendix 3: Responses from Environmental Consultation Bodies



Historic England

[Rachel.Dexter@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.Dexter@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk)

Our ref:  
PL00520541  
Your ref:

Telephone  
07769  
242872

23 January 2019

Dear Ms Dexter

**re: Desford Neighbourhood Plan SEA screening request**

Thank you for consulting Historic England regarding the above, 6 December 2018.

For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question 'Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?' in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. We note that the SEA screening statement considers that an SEA is required.

We observe that the Plan appears to propose a housing site allocation which may have significant environmental effects upon the historic environment, due to its' size and location. We are of the view, at this time, in the absence of evidence of assessments or other information, that there may well be significant impacts on the historic environment and it is our view that a SEA is likely to be required.

We understand that our views, together with the views of other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for SEA is made. I should be pleased if you could send a copy of the determination when this is issued.

We would like to stress that this is based on the current information provided in the screening request and the current draft Neighbourhood Plan. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on the SEA process, and subsequent draft Plan's.



Historic England, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Windsor House, Cliftonville, Northampton NN1 5BE  
Telephone 01604 73 5460 [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)  
Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.  
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.





Historic England

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any of these comments.

Kind regards,

Emilie Carr  
Historic Environment Planning Adviser  
Emilie.carr@historicengland.org.uk



Historic England, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Windsor House, Cliftonville, Northampton NN1 5BE  
Telephone 01604 73 5460 [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)  
Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.  
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.





Rachel.Dexter@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Our ref:  
PL00520541  
Your ref:

Telephone  
07769  
242872

14 February 2019

Dear Ms Dexter

**re: Desford Neighbourhood Plan SEA screening request**

Thank you for consulting Historic England regarding the above, 6 December 2018 and for the further information received 05 February.

For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question 'Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?' in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. We note that the SEA screening statement considers that an SEA is required.

We observe that the Plan appears to propose a housing site allocation which may have significant environmental effects upon the historic environment, due to its' size and location. We are of the view, at this time, in the absence of evidence of assessments or other information, that there may well be significant impacts on the historic environment. It is noted that work has been carried out, however, it is insufficiently detailed in relation to the historic environment. Further assessment should be carried out. The following guidance may be of assistance:-

GPA2 Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment  
<http://swncms02he/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/>

GPA3 The Setting of heritage assets  
<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>



Historic England, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Windsor House, Cliftonville, Northampton NN1 5BE  
Telephone 01604 73 5460 [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)  
Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.  
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.





HEAN3 The Historic Environment and site allocations in local plans

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-environment-and-site-allocations-in-local-plans/>

HEAN11 Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment/>

We understand that our views, together with the views of other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for SEA is made. I should be pleased if you could send a copy of the determination when this is issued.

We would like to stress that this is based on the current information provided in the screening request and the current draft Neighbourhood Plan. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on the SEA process, and subsequent draft Plan's.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any of these comments.

Kind regards,

Emilie Carr  
Historic Environment Planning Adviser  
Emilie.carr@historicengland.org.uk



Date: 01 February 2019  
Our ref: 266996



Rachel Dexter  
Senior Planning Officer (Policy)  
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

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

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Rachel

**Planning consultation:** Desford Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 01/02/2019

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

#### **Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening**

We welcome the production of this SEA Screening report and we acknowledge that the SEA screening has concluded that there is the potential for significant effects on the SSSI.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/HRA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

#### **Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening**

Natural England notes the screening process applied to this Neighbourhood plan. We agree with the Council's conclusion of no likely significant effect upon European designated sites

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact me on 0208 026 8695. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service

Yours sincerely

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me on 02082 256387

Yours sincerely

Felicity Bingham  
**Planning and Licensing Team**  
**Area Delivery**  
**East Midlands Area Team**  
[felicity.bingham@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:felicity.bingham@naturalengland.org.uk)  
Tel: 02082 25638

Ms. Rachel Dexter - Planning Policy  
Officer  
Hinckley & Bosworth BC  
Council Offices  
Hinckley Hub  
Rugby Road  
Hinckley  
Leicestershire  
LE10 0FR

**Our ref:** LT/2006/000101/OR-  
15/PO1-L01  
**Your ref:**  
**Date:** 28 December 2018

Dear Ms. Dexter

**Desford Neighbourhood Plan – Reg 9 - SEA Screening**

Thank you for your letter of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019 consulting us in respect of the above.

I have read the Reg 9 SEA Screening Opinion and concur with its findings namely:

**That** the screening opinion concludes that there is the potential for significant effects on the SSSI located within the Neighbourhood Area, and as such it is recommended that the Desford Neighbourhood Plan should be subject to a full SEA.

In respect of the HRA: a full Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment of the current Desford Neighbourhood Plan is not required, as it is unlikely to have a significant effect on any designated sites.

Yours sincerely

**MR GEOFF PLATTS**  
**Planning Specialist Sustainable Places**

Direct dial 0203 0253242  
Direct e-mail [geoff.platts@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:geoff.platts@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Environment Agency  
Trentside Offices, Scarrington Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5FA.  
Customer services line: 03708 506 506  
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)  
**End**



Please ask for: Rachel Dexter  
Direct dial/ext: 01455 255786  
Direct fax:  
Email: [planningpolicy@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk)  
Your ref: Desford Neighbourhood Development Plan  
Our ref: 1100/Neighbourhood Planning/NDP/Desford  
Date: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Desford Neighbourhood Planning Group  
Desford Parish Council

*Via Email Only*

Dear Sir/Madam

**The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Regulation 9  
Screening Determination: Desford Neighbourhood Development Plan**

European Union Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans and programmes that would have a significant environmental effect. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the regulations) require that this is determined by a screening process, which should use a specified set of criteria (set out in schedule 1 of the regulations).

In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council as the determining authority must consider whether an environmental assessment of the emerging Desford Neighbourhood Development Plan is required. The Borough Council has had regard to the Screening Report produced by the Neighbourhood Planning Group and has completed a consultation with the statutory consultation bodies which includes Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.

The Borough Council have received responses from the three consultation bodies which are attached with this letter. In response to the consultation Historic England have noted that a lack of evidence has been provided in regards to the historic environment in the site assessments provided and as such the Strategic Environmental Assessment should also explore the potential for the potential environmental effect upon the Historic Environment. The Local Authority have considered this request carefully in discussion with Historic England and the Borough Council's Conservation Officer to identify whether the Scope of the SEA should also include the Historic Environment and are of the opinion that there will not be a harmful impact on heritage assets. The Borough Council have determined that, although SEA Screening Opinion has not been informed by a site specific Heritage Impact Assessment it would not be proportionate to request such an assessment for this site given that the potential for harmful impacts on heritage assets caused by its allocation (and future development) is minimal. Any potential effects on heritage assets would not be of a significant level to warrant consideration as part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Natural England and the Environment Agency are in agreement that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required, the reason for this conclusion is the potential for significant effects on the SSSI (Botcheston Bog) located within the Neighbourhood Area.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council as the determining body have had regard to the recommendations and have concluded that the Desford Neighbourhood Plan should complete a Strategic Environmental Assessment to assess the potential for significant effects on the SSSI. As set out in [paragraph 8\(2\) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) in order for the Neighbourhood Plan to proceed to a referendum it is required to meet a set of Basic Conditions. As Historic England have raised concern in relation to the Plan it would not meet Basic Condition 'f. the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations', specifically the Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive).

Further information on producing Strategic Environmental Assessments can be found in National Planning Policy Guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>). Locality has also produced a process flow for the SEA process and initial steps for undertaking the scoping exercise. The link is: <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/16-LOCALITY-Screening-neighbourhood-plans-SEA-HMJS-07.06.18.pdf>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Dexter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping underline.

Rachel Dexter  
Senior Planning Officer (Policy)



**Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council**

**Desford Neighbourhood Plan**

**The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004**

**Screening determination notice under Regulation 9(1)**

Regulation 9 of the above Regulations requires Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (the “responsible authority”), on behalf of Desford Parish Council (the “responsible authority”) to determine whether the Desford Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, following consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, has determined that the Desford Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects with particular regard to the Botcheston Bog (SSSI), and therefore, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required.

Historic England have noted that a lack of evidence has been provided in regards to the historic environment in the site assessments provided and as such the Strategic Environmental Assessment should also explore the potential environmental effect upon the Historic Environment. The Local Authority have considered this request carefully in discussion with Historic England and the Borough Council’s Conservation Officer to identify whether the Scope of the SEA should also include the Historic Environment and are of the opinion that there will not be a harmful impact on heritage assets. The Borough Council have determined that, although SEA Screening Opinion has not been informed by a site specific Heritage Impact Assessment it would not be proportionate to request such an assessment for this site given that the potential for harmful impacts on heritage assets caused by its allocation (and future development) is minimal. Any potential effects on heritage assets would not be of a significant level to warrant consideration as part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

This notice fulfils the publicity requirements in accordance with Regulations 11(1) and 11(2).

A copy of this screening opinion and the associated screening report will be available on the Council’s website (Neighbourhood Planning webpage) or can be viewed during normal opening hours at:

Hinckley Hub  
Rugby Road  
Hinckley  
Leicestershire  
LE10 0FR

For further information, please email [planningpolicy@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk)