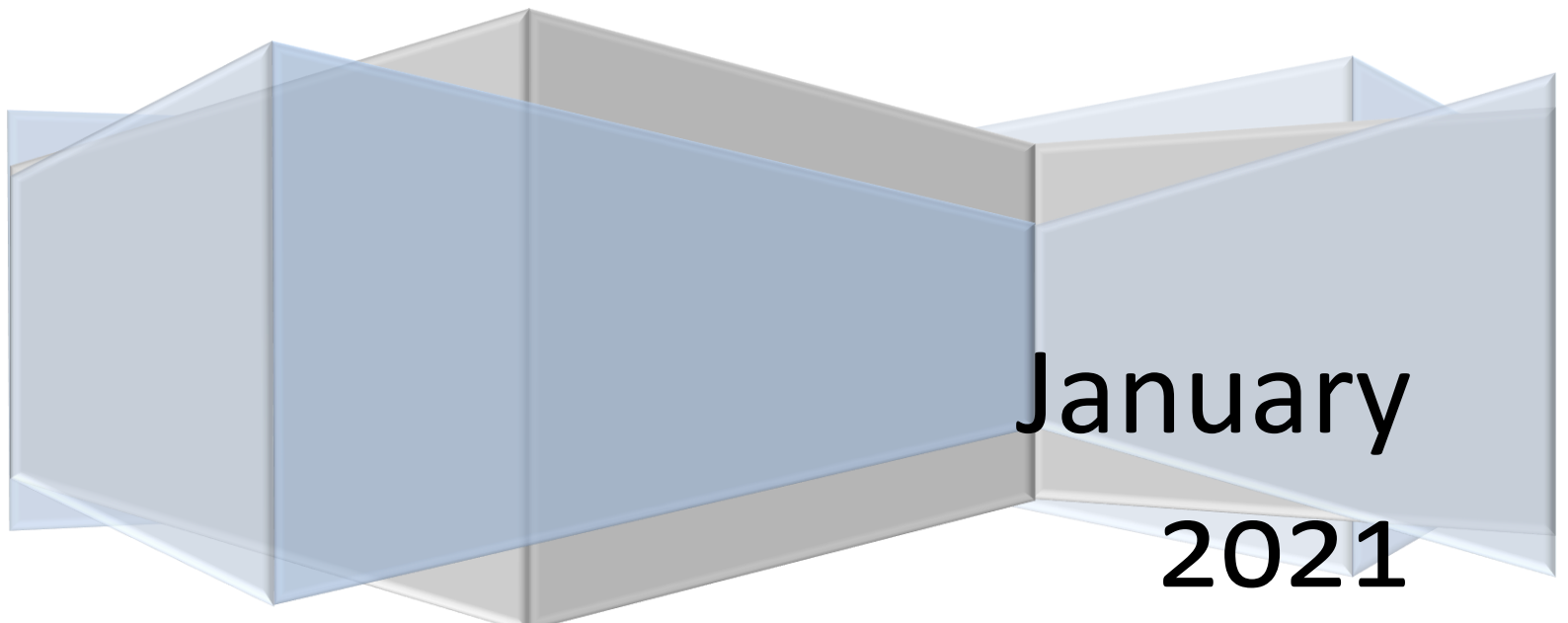


Ollerton and Marthall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Report

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Abbreviations:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| CEC | Cheshire East Council |
| CELPS: | Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy |
| MBLP: | Macclesfield Borough Local Plan |
| O&MNDP: | Ollerton and Marthall Neighbourhood Development Plan |
| O&MNA: | Ollerton and Marthall Neighbourhood Area |
| NP: | Neighbourhood Plan |
| KSC: | Key Service Centre |
| LSC: | Local Service Centre |

1.0 Introduction

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a way of ensuring the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before any such decisions are made. The need for environmental assessment of plans and programmes is set out in the EU Directive 2001/42/EC – known as the SEA Directive. Under this Directive, Neighbourhood Plans may require SEA – but this will depend on the content of each Neighbourhood Plan. The SEA Directive makes SEA a mandatory requirement for:

Plans which are prepared for town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive; or Plans which have been determined to require an assessment under the Habitats Directive.

A screening of a draft plan must be undertaken by the responsible authority prior to adoption or submission to the legislative procedure. In this case the 'responsible authority' is Ollerton and Marthall Parish Council however Cheshire East Council, upon request, has agreed to provide a screening opinion on the Ollerton and Marthall Neighbourhood Development Plan (O&MNDP) to determine if SEA is required. If it is concluded that an SEA is required, Ollerton and Marthall Parish Council are responsible for its production and it must form part of the material that is consulted on once the formal consultation stage is reached.

The main determining factor as to whether SEA is required on a Neighbourhood Plan is if it is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Those Neighbourhood Plans containing land allocations for development, which are not included in the local authority's plan, are likely to require SEA. Neighbourhood Plans which do not contain such allocations (or simply reflect allocations already identified as part of a local authority plan) are less likely to require SEA.

If SEA is required, Ollerton and Marthall Parish Council may wish to consider voluntarily expanding the scope so that it covers wider economic and social issues. This is the approach taken by Cheshire East Council, whereby SEA is included within the broader Sustainability Appraisal of plans. The advantage of undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal is that it can demonstrate the impact of the Neighbourhood Plan on social, economic and environmental factors and therefore demonstrate to an examiner that the Plan that has been prepared is the most sustainable given all alternatives.

1.1 Requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Where a neighbourhood plan could have significant environmental effects it may require a SEA.

Whether a neighbourhood plan requires SEA and (if so), the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft neighbourhood plan. SEA may be required for example when:

1. A neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
2. The neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by proposals in the plan
3. The neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with via a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan

1.2 Requirement for HRA

In the context of neighbourhood planning, a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required where a Neighbourhood Plan is deemed likely to give rise to significant effects on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites), as a result of the plan's implementation. If no significant effect is deemed likely, HRA is not required. Where HRA is undertaken, it is good practice to identify sites within 10-15km of the plan/project boundary and include them in a HRA.

1.3 Legislative Background

The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal is the [European Directive 2001/42/EC](#) which has subsequently been transposed into English law by the [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#), or SEA Regulations. The government has produced guidance in relation to these regulations, entitled '[A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#)'.

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. 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.

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 to 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.

This report seeks to determine if the O&MNDP is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

1.4 The Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy (CELPS)

The basic conditions require Neighbourhood Plans to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority. The Congleton Borough Local Plan was adopted in 2004. Some of the policies within the Local Plan have been 'saved', which means they are still used in determining planning applications. As policies become out of date through lack of conformity with the NPPF or where more up to date evidence is available, they can be given less weight for decision making purposes, particularly on strategic issues.

The Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy (CELPS) was adopted on 27th July 2017 and sets the strategic approach to development across the sub-region.

The CELPS was subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal which included SEA. This ensured that no likely significant effects are expected to arise from the implementation of the CELPS or the delivery of the quantum of development identified in it.

1.5 Screening Process

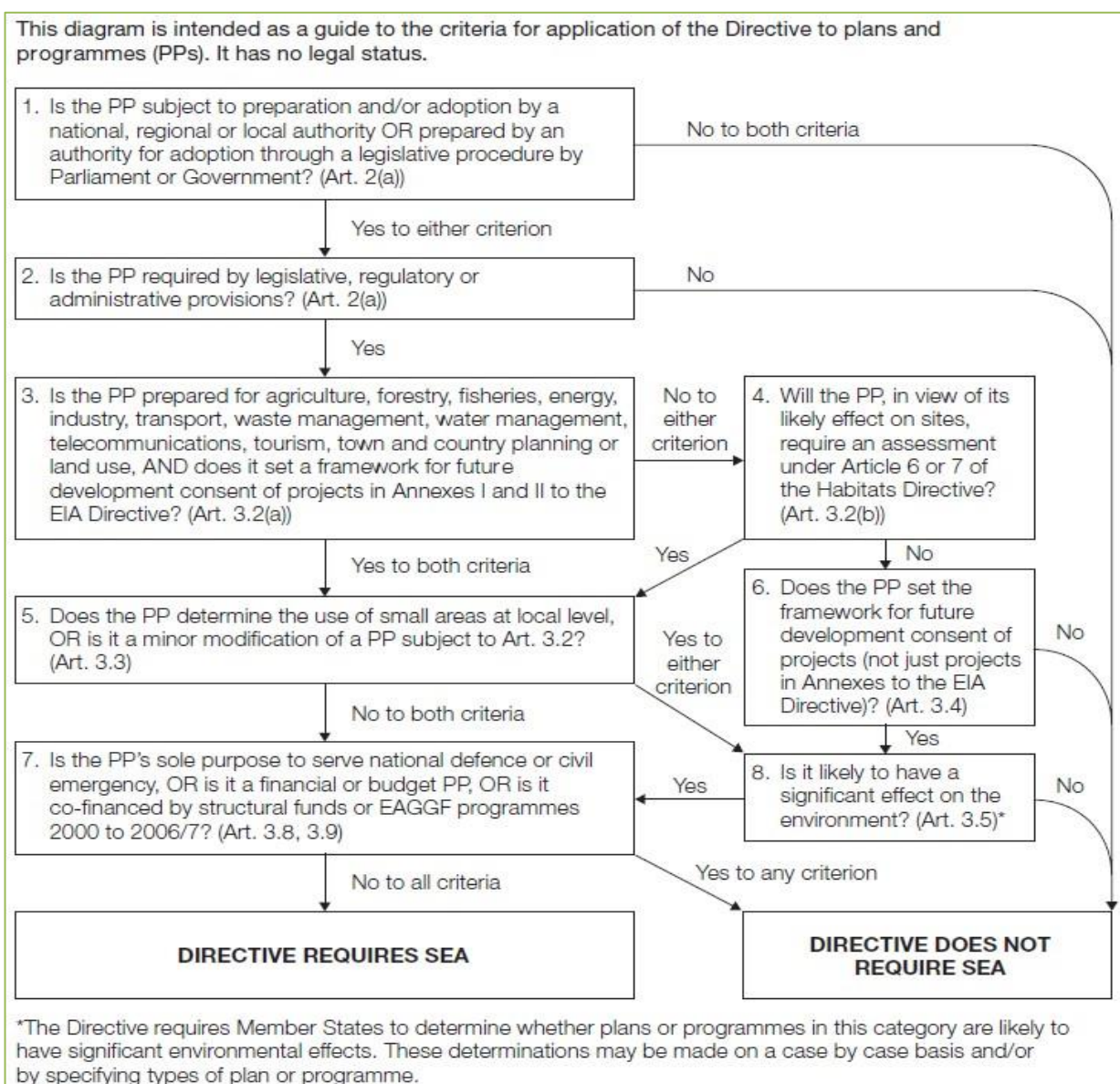
Ollerton and Marthall Parish Council has requested a SEA screening opinion of its Neighbourhood Plan. It is the qualifying body's responsibility to undertake an assessment of whether their proposed policies are likely to have 'significant environmental effects' however on request, CEC will undertake

such an assessment on behalf of the qualifying body. The Plan does not have to be at a final draft stage to be assessed.

The screening opinion assessment is undertaken in two parts: the first part will assess whether the plan requires SEA (as per the flow chart which follows); and the second part of the assessment will consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, using criteria drawn from [Schedule 1 of the EU SEA Directive](#) and the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (see section 5).

The three statutory consultation bodies (English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England) have been consulted to establish whether the Ollerton and Marthall Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA and whether the plan may have a 'significant environmental effect' on the environment. Should it be concluded that SEA is required Ollerton and Marthall Parish Council will need to undertake a SEA with a SEA Scoping Report exercise as the first stage.

The government guidance ['A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'](#) sets out the following approach to be taken in determining whether SEA is required:



1. 5.1 Summary of the Screening Assessment

| Summary | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Neighbourhood Plan: | Ollerton and Marthall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan |
| Geographic Coverage: | The Parish of Ollerton and Marthall |
| Key Topics/scope of the Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local design • Natural environment • Local Heritage |
| Key Issues | Regulation 14 plan with some scope to revise policies. Rural area extensively covered by Open Countryside policies; role as a village settlement, managing environment and landscape issues. |
| Summary of Screening opinion | |
| Assessor: | Tom Evans, Neighbourhood Planning Manager |
| Date of assessment | December 2020 |
| Conclusion | SEA not required |
| Reason for conclusion | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not propose to allocate specific development sites and promotes criteria-based policies that seek to shape future development proposals, on a small scale basis, that reduce and manage impact on the environment (both natural and built).</p> <p>Designated sites within the neighbourhood area: There are no European Sites within the neighbourhood area; there is one Special Area of Conservation within 15km of it. There are also Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the neighbourhood area (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Designated heritage assets within the neighbourhood area: There are 14 Grade II Listed Buildings in the neighbourhood area, (see appendix D).</p> <p>Flood Risk zones within the neighbourhood area: Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 are present at the northern and western boundary (see appendix E).</p> <p>Effect on the Environment: The neighbourhood plan does not introduce new policy that enables a significant effect on the environment to be created. As a lower tier plan all development proposals will be subject to assessment against the NP and higher tier policies, plans and legislation that seek to protect locally, nationally and internationally designated sites. The CELPS sets the strategic development framework for Ollerton and Marthall, including broad levels of growth appropriate to rural areas, and has been tested through integrated SEA to ensure the effect of this growth is acceptable in environmental terms. The O&MNDP does not propose additional planned growth that is of a scale or intent large enough or with an impact significant enough, that would lead to additional significant effects on the environment or designated sites (which, although are present within 15km of the neighborhood area, remain at some distance from the proposed development sites). The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are criteria based and seek to safeguard existing assets and the plan does not introduce policies which would significantly change the status of land beyond the planning framework in place, therefore SEA is not required.</p> |
| Statutory Consultee | Summary of Comments |
| English Heritage | SEA not required |
| Environment Agency | No comment received – no objection to screening conclusion |
| Natural England | SEA not required |

2.1 Plan Context

Ollerton and Marthall is a rural parish, which lies between Knutsford to the north west and Chelford to the south east. For the purposes of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy (CELPS) Settlement Hierarchy, the area falls within the category of 'Other Settlements and Rural Areas' (OSRA). Policies PG1 and PG2 of the CELPS set out the preferred development strategy and distribution of development for the Borough, and refer to these areas. The distribution of future development in the Borough is intended to be focused on the Key Towns of Crewe and Macclesfield and the nine Key Service Centres. The OSRA areas are anticipated to accommodate a small proportion of growth to support local needs and services, primarily brought forward through windfall sites and infill development.

The neighbourhood area (which is the same as the two parished areas combined) is subject to policy PG6 Open Countryside which generally restricts development but does also identify more limited forms of development which would be considered acceptable.

The settlements of Ollerton and Marthall are washed over by greenbelt policy PG3 and are not proposed to be subject to a 'village infill boundary' via the SADPD (part two of the Councils local plan which will replace the saved policies of the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan).

The CELPS outlines that a small quantum of growth to meet need and support the vitality of smaller centres and rural areas will be supported and identifies a need to deliver some 2950 homes and 8ha of employment land in Other Settlements and Rural Areas (outside of a 61ha allocation at Wardle). The Councils annual Housing Monitoring data shows that completions and commitments in this tier of the settlement hierarchy stand at 3336 as of April 2020.

The Plan area contains important natural habitats and waterbodies and a variety of heritage assets. Adjacent and in proximity to the parish boundary/neighbourhood area, but beyond it, are sites of local importance to nature (Sites of Biological Interest) and a range of heritage assets.

The Ollerton and Marthall Neighbourhood Development Plan does not allocate specific sites for development, instead focusing on a series of criteria-based policies against which development proposals should be assessed within the neighbourhood area. Such criteria are designed to ensure the delivery of sustainable development to meet the objectives of the Ollerton and Marthall Neighbourhood Plan.

Planning applications within the Ollerton and Marthall Neighbourhood Area will be assessed against the policies in the O&MNDP, saved development plan policies and other material planning considerations, including the recently adopted CELPS.

As specific development sites have not been identified in the O&MNDP an assessment of potential development sites has not been undertaken as part of the O&MNDP process.

2.2 Aims of the Plan:

The O&MNDP document sets out a vision for the parish and what the neighbourhood plan should achieve:

In 2030 Ollerton with Marthall Parish, situated entirely within the Green Belt, will be a small but thriving rural community for residents and local businesses, preserving its historic buildings and rural character while benefiting from modern technologies

2.3 Objectives

In order to deliver the vision, the O&MNDP has set out a series of objectives:

- To protect the natural environment
- To protect and enhance heritage and conservation assets
- To protect the green belt and enhance access to the open countryside
- To ensure that all developments are in keeping with the character of the villages
- To improve/develop the parish centre
- To improve and maintain local road safety
- To support the local economy

2.4 Designated sites within the neighbourhood area:

There are no European Sites within the neighbourhood area; and one Special Area of Conservation within 15km of it. There are also Sites of Natural Conservation Importance within the neighbourhood area (see Appendix C).

2.5 Policies

The O&MNDP contains several policies that will be used to ensure the delivery of the vision and objectives and guide individual development management decisions. An assessment of these policies impact on European Sites has been carried out and concludes that no likely adverse impact will arise. The full assessment and table of policies is included at Table 3 below.

The following sections assess whether the plan requires SEA due to its content and whether it is likely to give rise to a significant effect on designated sites or the environment.

3.0 Screening Assessment

3.1 Assessment 1: Does the Neighbourhood Plan require a SEA?

| Stage | Y/N | Reason |
|---|-----|---|
| 1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) 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)) | Y | The preparation and adoption of the NP is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The NP will be prepared by Ollerton and Marthall Parish Council (as the 'relevant body') and will be 'made' by Cheshire East Council as the local authority. The preparation of NPs is subject to the various regulations including: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012. |
| | | GO TO STAGE 2 |
| 2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a)) | Y | Whilst the NP is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it will if 'made', form part of the Development Plan for the Borough. 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. |
| | | GO TO STAGE 3 |
| 3. Is the NP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a)) | Y | The NP is being prepared for town and country planning, local transport and land use as it makes proposals to manage the development of land for housing and employment uses. As such, the NP contains a framework for future development consent of urban development projects (listed as 10(b) in Annex II of the EIA Directive). The NP does not specifically allocate land for development purposes. |
| | | GO TO STAGE 5 |
| 4. Will the NP, 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)) | N | No, the policies in the plan are criteria based and unlikely to directly affect designated sites, which are at some considerable distance from the proposed development sites. |
| 5. Does the NP determine the use of small areas at local level OR is it a minor modification of a plan or programme subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3) | Y | The NP intends to support local development for residential and employment/commercial use through criteria-based policies. IT therefore has potential to determine land use in a defined area. Additionally The Neighbourhood Plan sits within the wider framework of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the adopted Cheshire East Local Plan strategy and the saved policies of the Macclesfield Borough Local PlanPlan, therefore the Neighbourhood Plan will help to set the framework for projects that are localised and are likely to have limited resource implications. |
| | | GO TO STAGE 8 |
| 6. Does the NP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4) | Y | Yes, the NP contributes to establishing a local policy framework within which planning consent will be considered for a wide range of development proposals. Whilst the NP may establish very local criteria to enable development within criteria-based parameters, higher tier policies, plans and legislation exist to ensure that the NP is used within a framework which sets out protection for environmental considerations. |
| 7. Is the NP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget plan or programme, OR is it co- financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 3.8, 3.9) | N | The NP does not fall into any of the criteria listed. |
| 8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art 3.5) | N | See Assessment 2: Likely significant effects on the environment |
| Based on criterion 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 above, it is necessary to assess whether the neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. This assessment is undertaken through Assessment 2 below. | | |

3.2 Assessment 2: Is the Neighbourhood Plan likely to have a Significant Effect on the Environment?

The EIA Regulations include thresholds under which development proposals are not required to be screened to determine whether an EIA should be required. These are:

- The development includes more than 1 hectare of urban development which is not dwelling house development
- The development includes more than 150 dwellings
- The overall area of the development exceeds 5 hectares.

Under these thresholds there is no obligation to screen urban development projects for EIA.

The neighbourhood plan does not include more than 1 hectare of non-residential development; it does not allocate sites for more than 150 dwellings and the Plan contains no proposals to develop an area that exceed 5 hectares.

Whilst these tests do not apply to plan-making, they are useful as a benchmark for considering whether the content of a plan could exert a significant impact on the environment. The O&MNDP does not exceed any of the thresholds identified in the EIA regulations and it is therefore reasonable to suggest that the effects of the plan on the environment, in general, cannot be significant.

However, there may be specific features or special characteristics in this location upon which the plan may have a significant effect. It is therefore important to understand if there is any specific reason the plan could be considered to give rise to a significant effect on the environment. Using Schedule 1 of the SEA regulations, the following assessment has been undertaken to determine if there is any other reason why the O&MNDP may give rise to a significant effect on the environment.

| Issue | Effect? | Reasons |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Biodiversity | 1. No significant effect | Whilst there are locally significant assets, the neighbourhood plan, alongside existing policy held in the CELPS and the wider Development Plan provides sufficient protection for existing assets. No proposed policies are likely to give rise to a substantially negative impact on biodiversity and natural assets. |
| Population | 1. No significant effect | Ollerton and Marthall Parish has a population of 748 people (2011 Census). 18% of people are aged between 25 to 44 and 30% of people are aged between 45 and 64 which may lead to a demand in the future for accommodation more suitable for an elderly population. There is no land allocated for such development within the O&MNDP. |
| Human health | 1. No significant effect | Housing is a key detriment of human health. On a limited basis, the plan seeks to provide support provision of housing suitable for the local population which would result in a positive effect on human health and enable older residents to downsize within their community, and first-time buyers and families to access suitable housing, contributing to wellbeing. The Index of Multiple Deprivation shows Ollerton and Marthall to be generally affluent and within the 50% least deprived areas (ranked 16,432 of 32,844 output areas). The Joint Strategic Needs assessment for Ollerton and Marthall (CHelford Ward) shows the population here is generally in good health with notable indicators related to population over 85, emergency admission 0-4, binge drinking (adults), prostate and lung cancer. The neighbourhood plan introduces positive criteria based policies to shape development that may contribute to addressing some of these issues through protecting recreation and leisure assets in particular, however the policies included are unlikely to have a significant effect beyond the local area. |
| Fauna | 1. No significant effect | There are Sites of Natural Conservation Importance within the neighbourhood area. Identified sites are subject to existing protection. The neighbourhood plan seeks to protect existing assets and does not introduce policies that are likely to harm local fauna. |
| Flora | 1. No significant effect | There are Sites of Natural Conservation Importance within the neighbourhood area. Identified sites are subject to existing protection. The neighbourhood plan seeks to protect existing assets and does not introduce policies that are likely to harm local flora. |
| Soil | 1. No significant effect | Agricultural land classification grades 2 and 3 are present. No development is proposed in the neighbourhood plan that would give rise to the development of best and most versatile agricultural land. |
| Water | 1. No significant effect | Flood zones two and three are present within the neighbourhood area. The policies proposed are unlikely to exert a significant impact on the existing approach to development in areas of flooding, flooding issues are addressed by the wider development plan/other legislation. |
| Air | 1. No significant effect | There are no air quality management areas within the neighbourhood area. The plan is unlikely to significantly impact this issue. |
| Material assets | 1. No significant effect | There is one buffer area of historic landfill within the O&MNDP and an extensive area of search for sand and gravel. The policies in the plan do not address such issues and the plan therefore unlikely to result in a significant effect on the environment in this regard. No other material assets are present. |
| Landscape | 1. No significant effect | There are no landscape designations present in the NA. O&MNDP emerging policies seek to ensure that new development does not harm locally valued landscape features and the countryside. |
| Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage | 1. No significant effect | There are 15 Grade II Listed buildings, some of which may be directly affected by new development across the Plan period. If necessary, the usual mitigation measures will be required to be adhered to through the implementation of planning permission and therefore it is reasonable to expect that the effect of development on these structures and their settings will be addressed by other parts of the planning system, including the development plan for Cheshire East. As such the NP policies are unlikely to have a significant effect on heritage assets directly or on the approach taken to heritage assets in the development planning process. |

3.3 Determining if O&MNDP is likely to have a significant effect on Designated Sites

| Ollerton with Marthall NP Objective | Ollerton with Marthall NP Policy | Effect on European Designation |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect the natural environment To protect the Green Belt and enhance access to the countryside | POLICY ENV1 – WILDLIFE SITES, WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND BIODIVERSITY | 1. No negative effect 1B |
| | POLICY ENV2 – TREES, HEDGEROWS AND WATERCOURSES | 1. No negative effect 1B |
| | POLICY ENV3 – SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT AND SEWERAGE | 1. No negative effect 1B |
| | POLICY ENV4 - DARK SKIES | 1. No negative effect 1B |
| | POLICY ENV5 – FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS | 1. No negative effect 1A |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect and enhance heritage and conservation assets To ensure that all developments are in keeping with the character and needs of the villages | POLICY HER1 – HERITAGE | 1. No negative effect 1B |
| | POLICY HER2 – SCHOOL LANE, OLLERTON CONSERVATION AREA | 1. No negative effect 1B |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that all developments are in keeping with the character and needs of the villages | POLICY HOU1 –HOUSING | 1. No negative effect 1A |
| | POLICY HOU2 – HOUSING MIX AND TYPE | 1. No negative effect 1C |
| | POLICY HOU3 - DESIGN | 1. No negative effect 1C |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop and maintain the parish centre To promote and facilitate a village community spirit | POLICY COM1 – COMMUNITY FACILITIES | 1. No negative effect 1C |
| | POLICY COM2 – LOCAL GREEN SPACES | 1. No negative effect 1B |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve and maintain local road safety | POLICY TRAN1 – SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT | 1. No negative effect 1A |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the local economy | POLICY ECON1- RURAL ECONOMY | 1. No negative effect 1C |

| Category | Description |
|------------------------|--|
| 1A. No negative effect | Policy will not lead to development. For example, it relates to design or other qualitative criteria, or it is not a land-use planning policy. |

| | |
|--|---|
| 1B. No negative effect | Policy intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European Site. |
| 1C. No negative effect | Policy would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through other policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European Sites and associated sensitive areas. |
| 1D. No negative effect | Policy is similar to, or compliant with, The Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy policy which has been assessed as having no negative effects by a HRA/SA. |
| 2. No significant effect | No significant effect either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, because effects are trivial, minimal or mitigated through other policies in combination. |
| 3. Likely significant effect alone | Policy could indirectly affect a European Site, because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it, or it may increase disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressure. |
| 4. Likely significant effects in combination | The policy alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if the effects are combined with the effects of other policies or proposals provided for or coordinated by the relevant plans or projects the cumulative effects would be likely to be significant. |

3.4 Assessment 2: Is the Neighbourhood Plan likely to have a Significant Effects on the Environment?

| Characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan, having regard to: | Cheshire East Council assessment | Likely significant effect? |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| 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 NP would, if made, form part of the statutory Development Plan and as such does contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects. The NP is expected to determine the use of small areas at a local level and sits within the wider framework of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), the CEC Local Plan Strategy (2017), the emerging Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (2020) and the 'saved' Local Plan policies contained within the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan. The projects for which this NP helps to set a framework are localised in nature but may have limited resource implications. | N |
| The degree to which the Plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy. | The NP must be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework. The policies within the NP should also be in general conformity with any strategic 'saved' Local Plan policies held within the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan, and CELPS Strategic Policies. The CELPS is being prepared in two stages and because Ollerton and Marthall Parish falls within the Rural and Other Settlements category, the detailed policy framework for this tier of settlement is contained in the emerging SADPD which is currently at Regulation 19 consultation stage. Therefore, the NP may exert a limited degree of influence over the formation of future strategic and non-strategic policies in the Development Plan. However, the scope to depart from conclusions reached in the NP remains available to plan makers addressing issues relevant to this location. | N |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| The relevance of the Plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development. | The NP is expected to work to protect and enhance the natural environment of the area within a wider policy framework including, but not limited to the NPPF, the saved policies of the Development Plan for Cheshire East Council and the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy, alongside the emerging SADPD. The NP addresses a series of local environmental issues. In combination with other plans and legislation, it is considered that the NP will integrate environmental considerations and promote sustainable development but may also give rise to a limited, but positive effect on the environment through implementation of policies that protect the countryside and habitats, and also introduce new local habitats. | N |
| Environmental problems relevant to the Plan. | There are no identified environmental problems relevant to the Plan. Where relevant, future development proposals will need to consider the impact of the plan on flood risk, designated sites and other primary and secondary impacts on the environment. | N |
| The relevance of the Plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection). | The NP is not directly relevant to the implementation of European legislation, although it will need to take the impact of the Water Framework Directive into account. | N |
| The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects of the Plan. | The NP does not identify development sites but does introduce criteria based policies to manage development. There may be localized long-term effects resulting from activity associated with unplanned development within the O&MNDP, but those effects are unlikely to impact significantly on any designated sites (given the scale of development supported in the area and the distance of designated sites from the neighbourhood area). The plan may also have a positive effect on the environment by introducing additional policies that will help protect and improve the local environment. | N |
| | There may also be longer-term effects relevant to changes in land use which may be positive but on a limited scale may have a negative impact on environmental factors. The plan seeks to establish a local framework to address such issues and also relies on higher tier plans and policies to deliver mitigation of such negative impacts. | N |
| | Where proposals are received to develop small scale sites in accordance with draft NP policies and allocations, such proposals will also be subject to national and local policies in regard to environmental protection, countryside and mitigation of impacts. The plan does not deviate from such guidance. | N |
| The cumulative nature of the effects of the Plan. | The NP does not specifically identify any development sites and instead introduces a series of criteria-based policies that aim to positively manage windfall development. As such, it's unlikely the plan will enable a any significant or cumulative impacts in and of itself. | N |

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| The trans-boundary nature of the effects of the Plan. | The plan is limited in geographic extent and its policies and proposals are localized seeking to manage and implement positive local change. Therefore, there are not expected to be any significant trans-boundary effects. | N |
| The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents). | There are no identified significant risks to human health in the plan area and the plan does not support policies or programs that are likely to give rise to such risks. Indeed, the NP is likely to improve human health through positive assertions on protection of natural assets and sustainable transport. | N |
| The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected) by the Plan. | Ollerton and Marthall Neighbourhood Plan covers the parish of Ollerton and Marthall Parish. The NP is likely to affect a resident population of approximately 748 people over the life of the Plan across a parish located in a mainly rural area. The population within the parish is expected to experience limited population growth from within the neighbourhood area. | N |
| The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected by the Plan due to: Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or intensive land use | The neighbourhood area contains a number of important cultural, natural and environmental assets both within and adjacent to the plan area however the local policy framework introduced by the plan, in the context of wider planning policy is designed to minimise impact on these assets. The NP sets out to deliver new development within a framework supportive of housing development on a specified site, implemented sensitively to preserve and enhance local natural, environmental and heritage assets. Given that the Borough is generally rural in nature, and Ollerton and Marthall Parish is predominantly a rural parish with many biodiversity assets and natural habitats, most proposed development will have an impact on the environment in the wider sense. In this case, there are no identified assets within or adjacent to the proposed development site. Higher tier policies exist to offer adequate protection to the existing natural, cultural and environmental assets within and adjacent to the plan area. | N |
| | The draft NP does not exceed environmental quality standards or limit values. | N |
| | No specific sites are identified for development and there are no proposals for intensive use of the land. Future development proposals will be assessed against other policies within the Development Plan (which, in totality, should mitigate against the over-development of land). | N |
| The effects of the Plan on areas or landscapes which have recognised national, community or international protection status. | There are locally designated sites of Natural Conservation Interest, within the Ollerton and Marthall Neighbourhood Area. Policies are included in the Plan which seek to preserve and protect biodiversity and habitats. | N |
| | The plan area does not include a locally designated landscapes and introduces policies that address landscapes, and views in particular, that may be locally sensitive to development. | N |

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|------------------------------|----------|---|---------------------------------------|
| | | <p>The location of these sites within the neighbourhood plan area makes their presence relevant however the small scale nature of proposed growth, the distance from local and international sites, and the presence of policies to manage and mitigate any identified impacts suggest the impact of development on such sites will be limited.</p> | N |
| Assessment Conclusion | 2 | The O&MNDP is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment. | Directive does not require SEA |

4.0 Screening Conclusion

The Ollerton and Marthall Neighbourhood Plan introduces criteria-based policies (which are yet to be finalised) that address local issues, but which do not alter the status of land to a degree which would have a significant effect on the environment.

There are no designated sites of European significance within the neighbourhood area and six within 15km proximity of the plan. The O&MNDP also seeks to ensure that any new development is addressed sensitively in the context of evidence prepared in relation to natural, heritage and landscape assets thus incorporating environmental protection in general and at specific designated locations.

Given the above, this assessment therefore concludes that the O&MNDP is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment or on designated sites and therefore HRA and SEA are not required.

4.1 Monitoring of O&MNDP Policies

Whilst Ollerton and Marthall Parish Council is committed to the delivery of the objectives held within the O&MNDP, there may be circumstances where development will not come forward entirely as anticipated. Cheshire East Council, as part of its monitoring of the Development Plan, including this neighbourhood plan, monitor performance through a Monitoring Report produced annually. The O&MNDP will also be monitored through this process. Generally, the outcome of the monitoring process will inform whether specific intervention actions should be pursued in the O&MNDP. If these actions fail to address under performance then other complementary plans and strategies should be reviewed.

5.0 Appendices

Appendix A: Responses from Statutory Consultees (pending):

1. Historic England:

Dear Mr Evans

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion for Ollerton & Marthall Neighbourhood Development Plan

We write in response to your e-mail of 18 December 2020, seeking a formal Screening Opinion from Historic England as to whether a SEA is required for Ollerton & Marthall Neighbourhood Development Plan (O&MNDP).

For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine the advice given to the question, “Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?”, in respect to our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied at this time within the Screening Report (dated December 2020).

The Neighbourhood Plan area includes 15 Grade II Listed Buildings and a Conservation Area. There are also likely to be other features of local historic, architectural or archaeological value and consideration should also be given to the wider historic landscape.

In the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 [Annex II of SEA Directive], and on the basis of the information supplied, it is considered that the draft plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects upon the historic environment, and so Historic England concur with your conclusions that O&MNDP “*is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment*” and therefore SEA is not required.

We would like to stress that this opinion is based on the information made available. To avoid any doubt, this decision does not preclude Historic England providing further advice on later stages of the SEA process, should this be required, nor objecting to specific proposals that may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan/guidance), where we consider that these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.

The views of all statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for SEA is made.

Historic England strongly advises that the conservation and archaeological staff of the Cheshire East Council and the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service are closely involved throughout the preparation of the plan and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on: local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the HER (formerly SMR); how the policy or proposal can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of historic assets.

We would request that you please send Historic England a copy of the determination as required by Reg 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Yours sincerely,

Pippa Brown
Historic Places Adviser
Pippa.Brown@historicengland.org.uk

2. Environment Agency:

No response received.

3. Natural England:

Dear Mr Evans

Ollerton and Marthall Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening Request

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 18 December 2020 which was received by Natural England on 18 December 2020

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

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

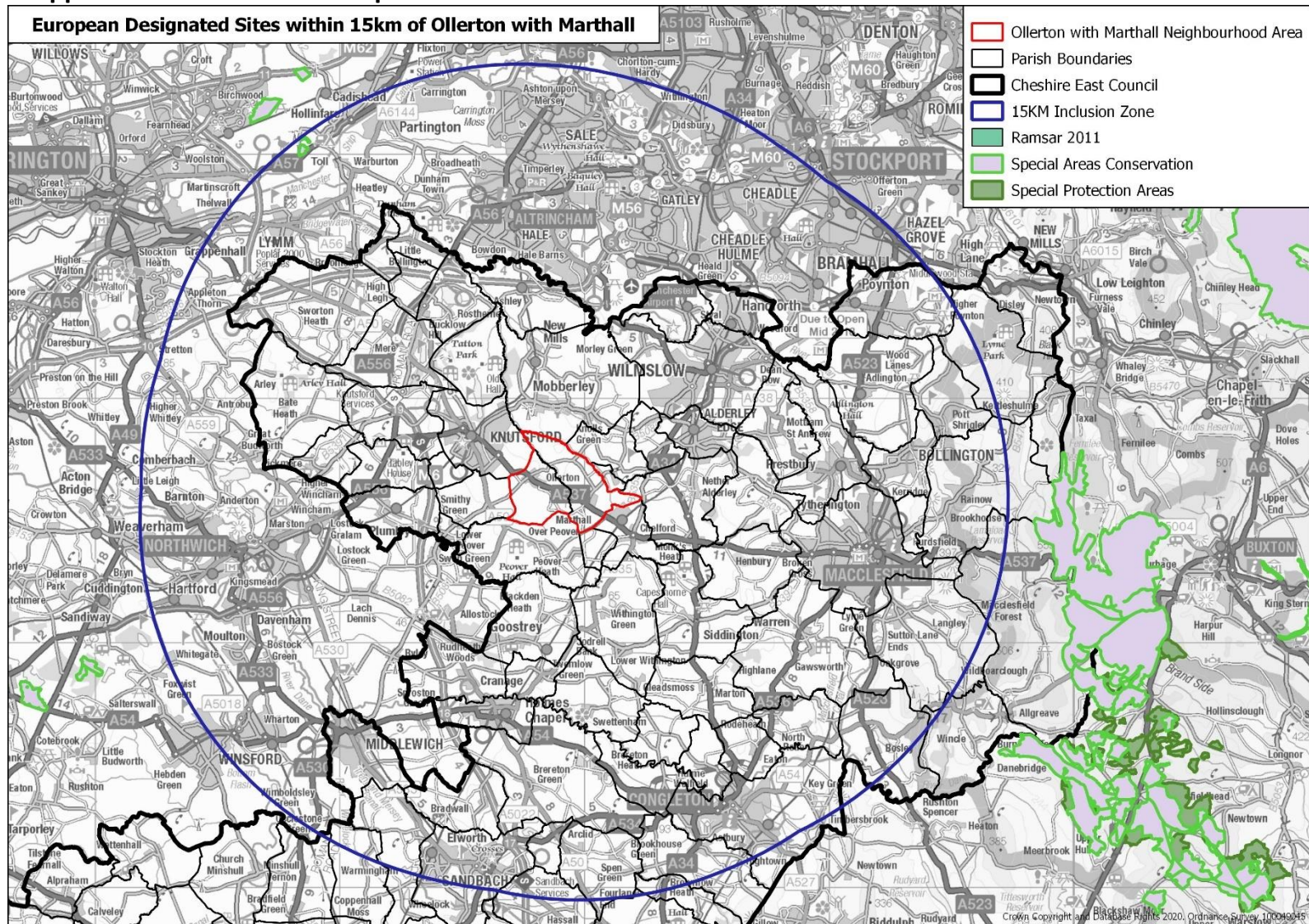
Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

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

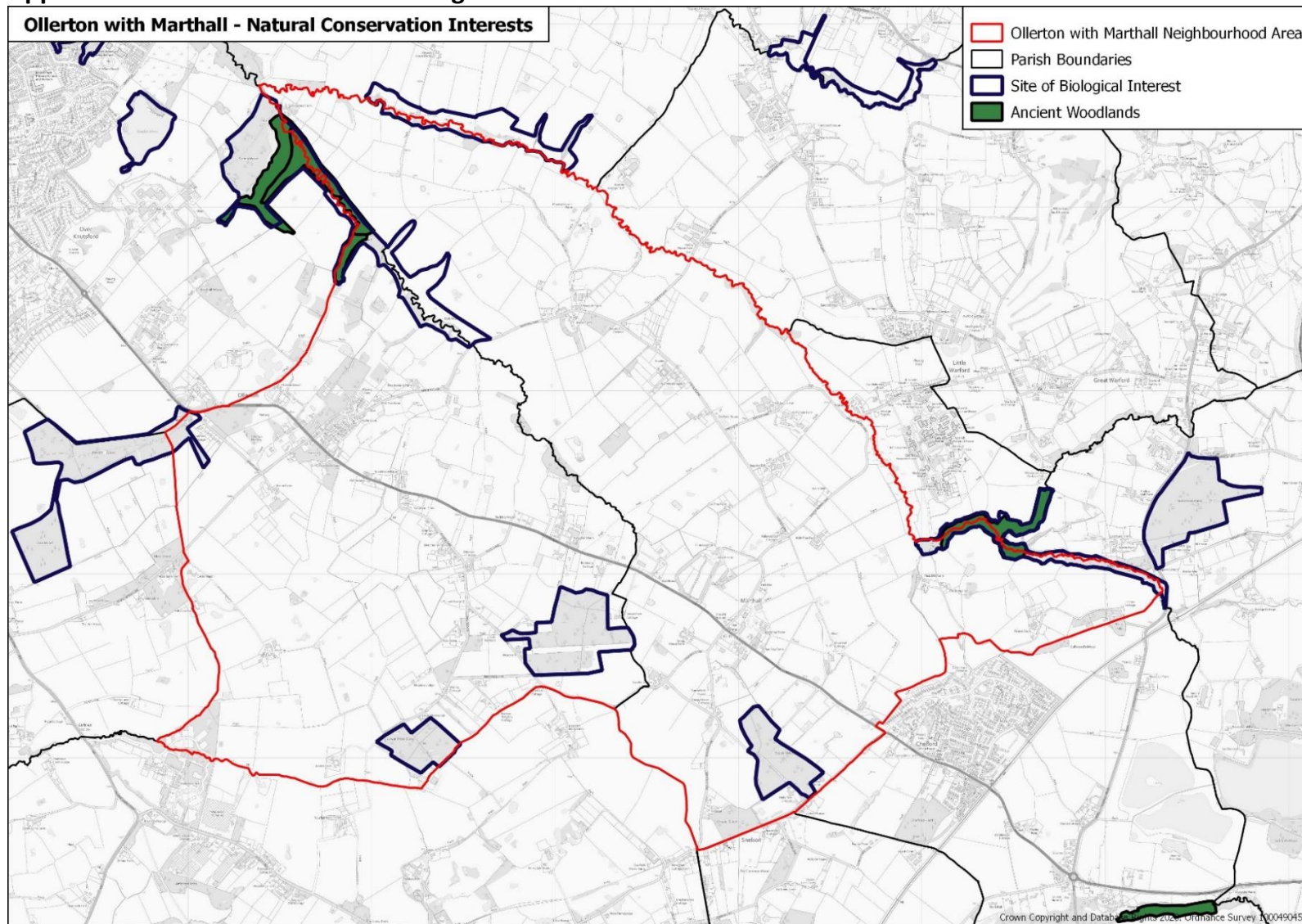
For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely
Jacqui Salt
Consultations Team

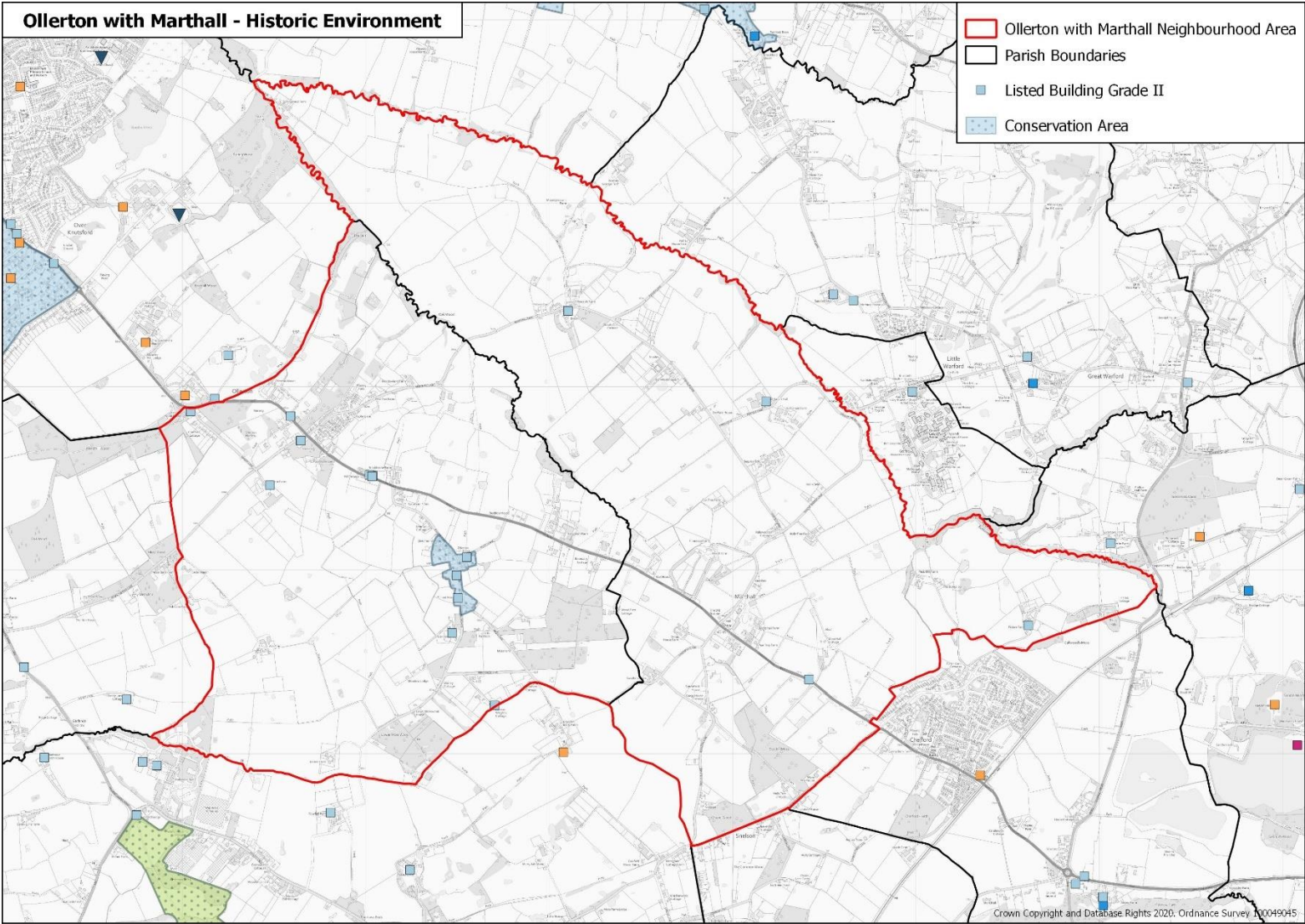
Appendix B: Location of European Sites in Relation to Ollerton and Marthall NDP



Appendix C: Local Environmental Designations in Relation to Ollerton and Marthall NDP



Appendix D: Designated Historic Assets in Relation to Ollerton and Marthall NDP



Appendix E: Flood Risk in Relation to Ollerton and Marthall NDP

