



Charnwood Borough Council

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report  
&  
Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report

Draft Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan

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DRAFT

October 2017

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report seeks to determine whether the Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and will require a strategic environmental assessment (SEA). It will also assess the likelihood of the proposals within the Plan having an adverse impact upon internationally designated wildlife sites, as required by the European Habitats Directive.
- 1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Assessment requirements are prescribed by the European Directive 2001/42/EC. The requirements have been introduced into the planning system by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations).
- 1.3 As regards the Habitats Regulations, Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 requires, as a basic condition, that the making of a neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect upon a European site.

## 2. The Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1 The Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation Draft (June 2017) has been produced by the Neighbourhood Plan working group for pre-submission consultation. The working group was set up by Thrussington Parish Council in late 2015 and contains three parish councillors and a number of volunteers.
- 2.2 The entire parish was designated as the neighbourhood area to be covered by the plan on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2016 and, following appointment of consultants, evidence gathering and consultation began. This included a questionnaire being sent to residents and stakeholders along with consultation events.
- 2.3 The consultation responses were then used to determine the emerging vision and objectives which have formed the basis of this draft plan. The vision for the Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan is:

*“To protect and enhance the character and identity of the Parish of Thrussington and to ensure any development opportunities are sustainable and appropriate to the scale and nature of the Parish, respecting its historic, agricultural and rural character.”*

- 2.4 To deliver this vision, six objectives were identified to provide a framework for the policies contained in the plan.

### *1 – Housing Objective*

*To ensure any future housing responds to local needs, is of a high standard of design and fits well into the context of the Parish in terms of type, mix, scale and character.*

## *2 – Transport Objective*

*To promote safe public streets and spaces; reduce traffic volumes through more accessible and beneficial sustainable transport links (including footpaths and cycle routes); and ensure appropriate parking solutions which are sensitive to the Parish's unique character.*

## *3 – Business and Economic Activity Objective*

*To sustain and enhance the thriving range of community, commercial activities and services in the Parish. To support appropriate and reasonable economic activity and businesses which are currently operating in the Parish.*

## *4 – Environment Objective*

*To place high value on the landscape setting of the Parish and seek protection and enhancement of this central element of Thrussington's character, including key gateways, views and vistas, local wildlife habitats and maximising the opportunities offered by the River Wreake.*

## *5 – Leisure and recreation Objective*

*To improve the leisure and recreation opportunities for residents of all ages by encouraging provision of open space and children's play facilities and protect existing assets such as school, village hall and other community buildings and spaces used for community events.*

## *6 – Design and Heritage Objectives*

*To identify, protect and enhance Thrussington's heritage assets and key public spaces. Ensure that any future development is sympathetic to the existing character of the Parish in attractive, environmental and innovative ways.*

2.5 To achieve the above objectives, the Neighbourhood Plan contains a series of specific policies and four proposals maps. The policies which have been included in the plan to address these areas are:

### **S1 – Strategic Policy:**

*In determining the acceptability of proposals within Thrussington the following points, where relevant, should be used to guide the delivery of sustainable development:*

- Is of an appropriate design, which complements the local vernacular and character of the village*
- Protects and enhances the Parish's archaeological assets whilst improving awareness and understanding of key sites*
- Protects and enhances the local landscape character*
- Protects long distance views and vistas into and out of the village*
- Is accessible by safe walking/cycling routes to local facilities (school, public houses, shops, church)*
- Ensures that residential and business development contributes to the vitality and viability of the village*
- Does not increase the risk of flooding from either increased runoff or from building within flood risk areas*

- *Preserves and enhances the local biodiversity network, paying special attention to the green and blue infrastructure network*
- *Minimises traffic generated and introduces appropriate highways improvements and other mitigation to accommodate increased traffic flows*
- *Is served by appropriate communications and utilities infrastructure, including broadband*
- *Promotes a Parish free from noise, air and light pollution and other harm.*

*Schemes which propose development outside of the Parish but will negatively impact Thrussington in terms of traffic generation, pollution or other amenity issues will not be supported by the Neighbourhood Plan.*

### **E1- Flood Risk**

*All new development must avoid any adverse impact on flood risk, both within and outside the village. This includes flood risk from surface run off as well as the risk posed by the River Wreake and watercourses. Development proposals must explain how they have considered the impact on and sustainability of such watercourses.*

*Best practice design and construction techniques should be utilised to ensure new development does not have an adverse impact on flood risk from surface runoff and rivers. This includes recognition of the role of trees, hedgerows and vegetation in preventing flooding in line with policy E2 of this Neighbourhood Plan.*

*Developments or community-led projects which seek to improve the river for community use will be looked upon favourably.*

### **E2 - Green Infrastructure**

*The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to establish a network of green infrastructure, including existing trees, hedgerows, historic field patterns and other vegetative assets across the Parish to further link the landscape setting with the urban area and protect and enhance the landscape character of Thrussington.*

*Applications which retain and enhance such features (as outlined above) and take the opportunity to re-introduce them into key sites, will be supported. Schemes which seek to contribute to this network within the street scene are more likely to be considered favourably.*

*Any development proposal must demonstrate through a comprehensive landscape plan how existing hedgerows, trees and vegetation have been retained and protected. If removal is unavoidable, replacement green infrastructure will be provided, as part of the development. Any replacement will be of appropriate scale and of native species of those existing in the Parish, unless otherwise specified and agreed.*

### **E3- Wildlife and Preservation**

*Small scale development which will preserve or enhance existing wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors around Thrussington, and allow for creation of new wildlife features will be looked upon favourably.*

*Any development which will negatively impact upon such assets or significantly reduce them will not be supported.*

*Where appropriate, new developments must not create divisions between existing important wildlife corridors and must contribute to the creation of new or improved links.*

*The current wildlife corridors have been identified on Map 1 – Wildlife Corridors (E3).*

#### **E4- Landscape, Views and Conservation**

*Development which will impact upon views listed below, and identified on Map 2 - Views and Vistas (E4), will be resisted unless demonstrated that the historic character and appearance of the surrounding landscape and built form is retained.*

*The Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect and enhance its sensitive landscape setting, through resisting applications which lead to its fragmentation or loss. All new developments must demonstrate how they have respected and reinforced historic landscape features and patterns.*

#### **B1- Working from Home**

*Where planning permission is required for the conversion and expansion of existing dwelling houses (Class C3) to facilitate home working (including office work and traditional rural occupations), this will be permitted subject to ensuring that the final use proposed does not impinge on the amenity of the existing property or neighbouring properties, including consideration of any increase in comings and goings from the property. Care should be taken to ensure that any intensification of use over time (including paraphernalia associated with the use) does not result in negative impact on nearby amenity through the use of appropriate planning conditions.*

*Where development will result in the loss of existing off road car parking spaces (either as a driveway or garage), additional parking should be replaced elsewhere on plot in order to ensure that increased on-street parking does not occur on the surrounding streets.*

*The Neighbourhood Plan will continue to support the delivery of high speed broadband infrastructure and other telecommunications infrastructure throughout the Parish to facilitate this policy and to reduce the need to travel.*

#### **B2 – New Employment Development**

*Small scale or rural developments which create new employment uses, (use classes A2 and B1 only), will only be considered on appropriate sites within the settlement boundary or on previously developed sites elsewhere within the Parish.*

*Where appropriate, all new employment development (including the expansion of existing premises) as outlined above should:*

- *be designed to the highest quality, taking account of local character, and avoiding development that is out-of-scale with the village character and rural environment.*
- *not impact negatively on nearby residential amenity as a result of noise, light spillage, vibration, smells, air pollution and other harm, in addition to appropriate and reasonable opening hours and hours of operation during construction.*
- *not result in a net loss of public open space or significant green infrastructure, including hedgerows and trees in accordance with policy E2 of the Neighbourhood Plan, unless this is replaced by equal or better provision elsewhere within the Parish.*
- *provide suitable parking and access arrangements, including parking for staff and visitors on site and the turning and manoeuvring of delivery vehicles off the public highway.*
- *not impact negatively on highways or traffic safety, in addition to avoiding use of narrow or weak roads or bridges for HGVs.*

*Other than in exceptional circumstances, subject to meeting the criteria above and in order to retain a range of employment opportunities within the Parish, the expansion and modernisation of existing employment sites are more likely to be considered favourably. Any development proposals that are unable to meet the above criteria will be refused.*

### **H1 – Infill Development**

*In locating new residential development, schemes that meet one or more of the following criteria will normally be supported subject to compliance with other Development Plan policies. All new residential dwellings (including conversions) should, where appropriate:*

- *be within the settlement boundary as identified on the proposals map*
- *be on an infill plot where it is bounded by existing properties on two or more sides and utilising an existing highway*
- *for conversions of existing buildings (for example former farm buildings), not require substantial extension and/or alteration (where these are not already permitted development)*
- *ensure that they provide sufficient parking space to serve the needs of the development on site and in compliance with policy T1.*

### **H2 – Housing Mix**

*Small scale developments which deliver housing for young people (2 and 3 bedroom starter homes) and the elderly (2 and 3 bedroom bungalows) will be looked upon favourably, subject to compliance with other policies within the Development Plan, specifically H1.*

*Affordable housing (specifically shared-ownership schemes) will be supported in line with Charnwood's Local Plan and where it is provided within the boundary of the proposed development site, designed to be indistinguishable from market housing and in line with the Thrussington Conservation Area Character Appraisal.*

### **T1 – Parking Provision**

Where parking is proposed for residential development it should be provided on-plot in accordance with the following requirements:

- for dwellings providing up to 3 bedrooms – a minimum of 2 spaces is to be provided
- for dwellings of 4 bedrooms or more - a minimum of 3 spaces is to be provided

Where parking is provided, either in the form of garaging, carports or any other type of enclosed parking it should be of a scale (measuring internally a minimum of 3.5m wide by 6.5m long by 2.5m high) to accommodate a range of modern vehicles.

Development proposals will be expected to minimise the impact of the private car on the street scene and to reflect the character and appearance of the immediate locality.

Development proposals that would generate on street parking, that would clutter the public realm or which would reduce the safety of pedestrians and cyclists will not be supported.

### **T2 – Traffic Calming**

Where required planning permission will be granted for the delivery of new public realm works. Support will be given to developments which assist with the delivery of public realm improvements through capital works or appropriate contributions.

Improvements should be focused on the roads adjacent to The Green and the school, where appropriate traffic management schemes, including the introduction of a new road layout which prioritises pedestrians and cyclists will be supported.

The Plan will support the creation of:

- gateway features on the approach to the village
- pedestrian focused road layouts
- other traffic calming measures e.g. lowering of the speed limit, and speed indicators.
- a travel plan for the school.

### **T3 – Public Transport**

The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to encourage improvement to the Parish's transport network making key services and facilities more accessible without the use of a car.

Where Travel Plans are required they should demonstrate clearly how workers and residents will commute to and from the site.

### **T4 – Walking and Cycling**

The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect and enhance all existing walking and cycling routes and Public Rights of Way across the Parish.

*Assuming they meet all other criteria, new developments which promote the use of sustainable transport modes and / or create new opportunities and new routes are more likely to be considered favourably assuming all other criteria are met.*

### **L1- Tourism Activities**

*The preservation and/or enhancement of existing tourism assets within Thrussington will be supported, especially those that:*

- *Promote appropriate and reasonable farm diversification and meet criteria outlined in B2*
- *Enhance the Parish's offer for walking and cycling and sustainable modes, in line with policy T4*
- *Provide small-scale overnight accommodation*
- *Promote equestrian facilities, routes and activities*

*All existing and new tourism activities must demonstrate that they are sensitive in scale and type to Thrussington's existing character*

### **L2- Leisure and Recreation Activities**

*Recreational facilities will be protected from inappropriate redevelopment. Enhancement to existing, or provision of new multifunctional open space, will be supported by the plan, provided that it retains and enhances biodiversity, does not harm neighbouring amenity, protects local character, and is well-surveilled.*

*The Plan will also seek the enhancement and delivery of footpaths and the national cycle route that improve access to the countryside in line with policy T4.*

### **L3- Community Facilities**

*Proposals that encourage the delivery of new services and facilities, principally A1 Retail Use (including a newsagent, post-office and/or convenience stores) and A3 Restaurants and cafés, together with other complementary uses, commensurate in scale to the settlement will be supported.*

*Proposals must also respect neighbouring uses and amenity and should accord with other relevant proposals.*

*Unless it can be demonstrated that it is no longer economically viable to retain a community facility, conversion of buildings in A1 (retail) use and/or A3 (cafés) and/or public houses to C3 (residential) use will not be supported.*

*The Neighbourhood Plan will support the diversification of community buildings (such as public houses, schools, churches and the village hall) and associated land which is ancillary to their existing use. Community-led schemes will be considered favourably.*

*Planning applications for the buildings with a mixture of the uses (retail, cafés, restaurants etc.) set out above will be looked upon favourably.*

#### **L4- Local Green Spaces**

*The Neighbourhood Plan designates areas as Local Green Spaces due to their special character, significance and community value. These sites will be protected from development considered to be inappropriate for such designations. The boundaries of these Local Green Spaces are shown within Map 4 Local Green Spaces (L4). These spaces are listed below;*

1. Rearsby Road Corridor
2. The Green
3. Flower Bed, Hoby Road
4. Holy Trinity Church Grounds
5. Back Lane planted area
6. Hoby Road Cemetery
7. Thrussington School Playing Field
8. Village Hall Grounds
9. Nature Reserve
10. Area to the rear of the Star Inn

#### **D1 - Protection of Heritage Assets**

*All new development must take account of its impact on heritage assets, both designated and non-designated – seeking to protect and enhance them.*

*Schemes which seek to ensure that heritage assets and key buildings remain in long-term active and viable use, and/or seek to bring existing heritage assets back into use in a manner sensitive to their heritage value, will be strongly supported.*

*Applications which negatively impact the collective value of buildings within the Conservation Area, including the historic plots and grid patterns will be resisted.*

*Development must seek to preserve and enhance the conservation area as well as the fabric and setting of Listed Buildings within the Plan area. This can also be said for the proposed Locally Listed buildings as follows:*

1. Thrussington Church of England Primary School
2. Holy Trinity Church Yard and wall
3. The Old Cemetery, (including Reverend Gahan's grave)
4. Pentland Room, former Methodist Chapel
5. Barns and outbuildings associated with the Homestead
6. The Star Inn, The Green
7. The Blue Lion, Rearsby Road
8. River Wreake Bridge, Rearsby Road
9. Wreake Valley Craftsman Original Building, Rearsby Road
10. Thrussington Mill Bridge
11. 20 Regent Street
12. WWII Aircraft Hanger, Fosse Fuels
13. Cottage, 5 Regent Street

*All new development must take account of known surface and sub-surface archaeology, and ensure previously unknown and potentially significant deposits are identified and appropriately considered during development. Lack of current evidence of sub-surface archaeology must not be taken as proof of absence.*

### **D2 - Design and Development Character**

*New development should, at all times, promote high quality design and offer a positive, contextually responsive contribution to Thrussington's historic built environment and landscape. High quality design is vital to achieving this goal.*

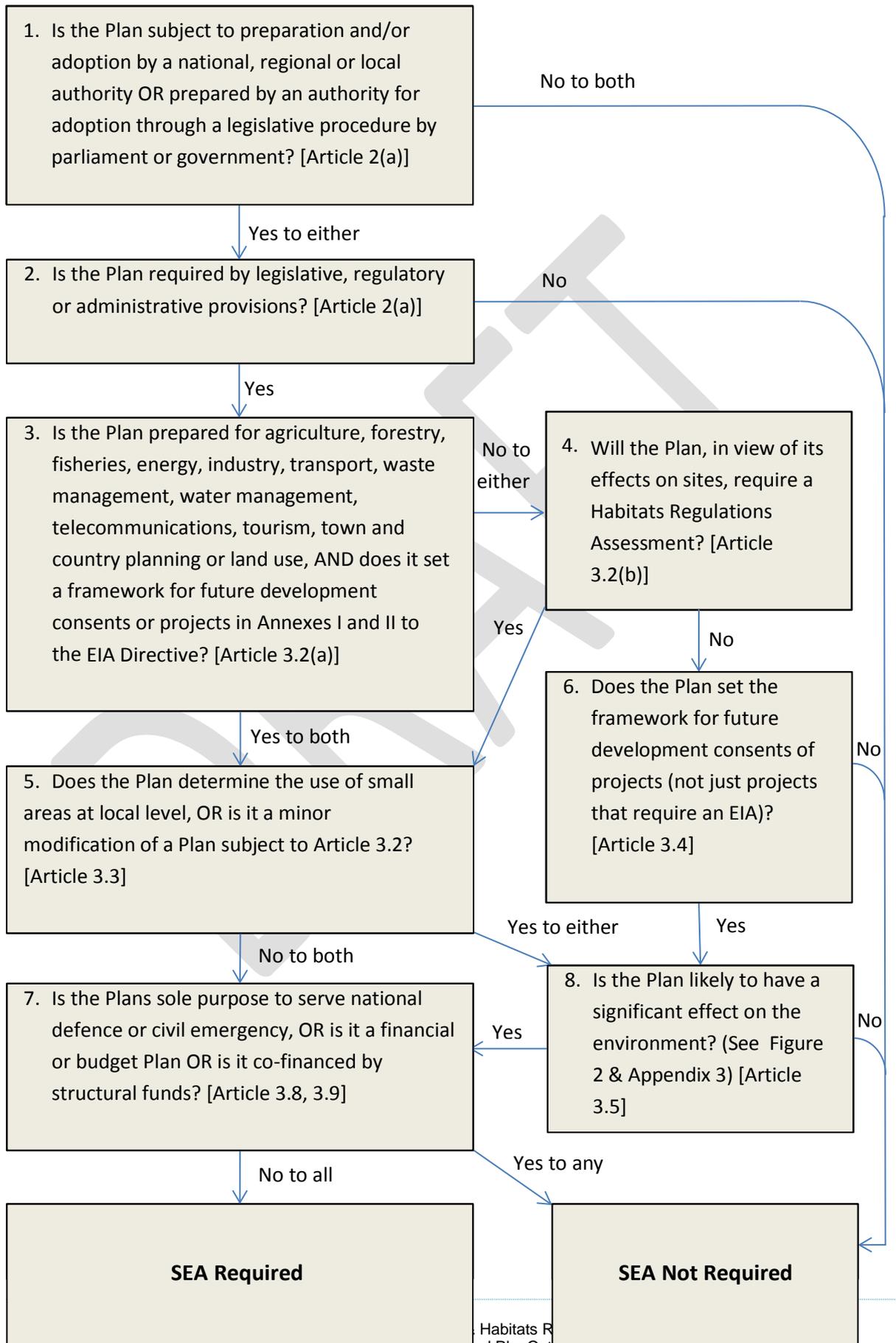
*Development which makes sustainable use and consumption of energy and water within properties may also be supported subject to compliance with other Development Plan policies.*

*Schemes should demonstrate how they have considered the relevant section of the Character Assessment and responded to the design guidance with respect to use of materials, architectural detailing, form and mass, plot size and provision of public and private space.*

### **3. Strategic Environmental Assessment**

- 3.1. The SEA Directive aims to ensure a high level of protection for the environment and to integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of plans. The Directive seeks to promote sustainable development by ensuring that an SEA is undertaken for any plans which may have a significant effect on the environment.
- 3.2 To establish if a plan needs to be accompanied by a full SEA, a “screening” assessment is undertaken against a series of criteria set out in the SEA Directive. Figure 1, which follows, shows this screening process and how a plan can be assessed against the SEA Directive criteria.

**Figure 1**  
Application of criteria of the SEA Directive to Plans



3.3 The assessment provided in Figure 2, below, has provided answers to the questions posed in the flow diagram in Figure 1. If the steps shown in Figure 1 are followed then the requirement for an SEA can be determined.

**Table 1**

Assessment of the characteristics of the Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan

	Assessment Criteria	Y/N	Assessment
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))	Y	The preparation and adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan is provided for by The Town and Country Planning Act 1990, (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. The Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared by Thrussington Parish Council (as the relevant body) and will be made by Charnwood Borough Council as the local authority. The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans is subject to the following regulations: i. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and, ii. The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012.
2	Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The Neighbourhood Plan is optional under the provisions of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Localism Act 2011; however, if “made” it will form part of the development plan for the Borough and must meet statutory requirements. Therefore, it is important that the screening process considers whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and thus if an SEA is required under the Directive. On that basis, a Yes answer is provided to the question.
3	Is the Neighbourhood Plan	Y	The Neighbourhood Plan could

	Assessment Criteria	Y/N	Assessment
	prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, <b>AND</b> does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II (see Appendix 1) to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a))		<p>potentially set the framework for future development consent of projects in the EIA Directive, notably through the location of housing and employment which may fall under 10(b) of Annex II of the Directive. (See Appendix 1).</p> <p>A definition of what is covered by the term 'urban development' is provided in <a href="#">planning practice guidance</a>.</p>
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(a))	N	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect upon any European (Natura 2000) site. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report was undertaken as part of the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy preparation process. The final report, published in March 2013, concluded that the Core Strategy <i>"is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site, including River Mease SAC and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required."</i></p> <p>Charnwood Borough does not have any European sites within its boundaries; however, two sites are examined further in the Screening Report. The River Mease SAC lies to the west of the Borough and the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site lies to the east.</p> <p>The HRA Screening Report found the Core Strategy unlikely to have</p>

	Assessment Criteria	Y/N	Assessment
			<p>a significant effect upon these sites due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) A lack of pathway for effects arising from development in Charnwood to reach and affect the River Mease SAC; and</li> <li>ii) The level of management measures implemented by Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust in partnership with Anglian Water for the Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site.</li> </ul> <p>The HRA Screening Report concluded that the Core Strategy is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.</p> <p>It is considered that the Neighbourhood Plan would not affect any European site, including the two identified, beyond those impacts already identified in the HRA Screening Report undertaken in 2013 for the Core Strategy. Therefore, it is considered that an Appropriate Assessment is not required.</p> <p>The Charnwood Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report can be viewed at Appendix 2.</p>
5	Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, <b>OR</b> is it a minor modification of a Plan subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Y	The Neighbourhood Plan involves the determination of the use of small sites at a local level.
6	Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for	Y	The Neighbourhood Plan will be used in the determination of

	Assessment Criteria	Y/N	Assessment
	future development consent of projects (not just in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)		planning applications.
7	Is the Neighbourhood Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, <b>OR</b> is it a financial or budget Plan OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 3.8, 3.9)	N	The Neighbourhood Plan does not have a sole purpose which falls within any of these categories.
8	Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	<p>The Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan will cover a relatively self-contained area.</p> <p>The limits to development contained in the 2004 Local Plan are continued in the Neighbourhood Plan and development is concentrated within these limits, as is the current situation.</p> <p>There are no additional sites for development identified in the parish which fall outside these limits.</p> <p>No ecology concerns have been identified from the local scale of development; therefore, it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan offers an opportunity to protect and enhance the natural environment and heritage assets within the area through the policies it contains.</p> <p>See more detailed Assessment of Significance of Effects on the</p>

Assessment Criteria	Y/N	Assessment
		Environment in Appendix 3.

3.4 Following the flow diagram in Figure 1, with the responses to the questions outlined in Table 1 results in the screening decision that an SEA is not necessary in this instance. The answers and subsequent following question are as follows:

1: Yes → 2: Yes → 3: Yes → 5: Yes → 8: No → SEA Not Required

Question 4, 6 and 7 are missed as the response given in the previous question does not trigger a requirement to answer them. Whilst, for the purposes of the flow chart, they are avoided, answers have been given in Table 1 as this is helpful in providing context for the decision making process. As a result of the assessment above, our initial view is that it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Draft.

3.5 The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) will now be consulted on this Screening Report and the responses to this consultation will be made available. Once responses have been received from this consultation, a formal determination will be made as to whether a full environmental assessment is required. This determination will be accompanied by a statement of reasons.

#### 4. Habitats Regulations Assessment

4.1 Alongside the SEA screening process there is also a need to assess whether the Neighbourhood Plan would have an adverse impact upon internationally designated wildlife sites, as required by the European Habitats Directive.

4.2 The Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy was accompanied by a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report to examine whether the plan would have a significant effect upon any European (Natura 2000) site. The final report, published in March 2013, concluded that the Core Strategy “*is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site, including River Mease SAC and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.*”

4.3 There are no European sites within the boundaries of Charnwood Borough; however, the Screening Report did examine the River Mease SAC, which lies to the west of the Borough, and the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, which lies to the east.

4.4 The HRA Screening Report considered that the Core Strategy would be unlikely to have a significant effect upon these sites due to:

- i) A lack of pathway for effects arising from development in Charnwood to reach and affect the River Mease SAC; and
- ii) The level of management measures implemented by Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust in partnership with Anglian Water for the Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site.

4.5 The HRA Screening Report concluded that, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, the Core Strategy is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site.

4.6 The Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in conformity with the Core Strategy. Given this requirement and the limited scale of development proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan, it is not considered that the Neighbourhood Plan will further affect any European site in addition to the impacts identified in the HRA Screening Report undertaken in 2013 for the Core Strategy. Therefore, it is considered that an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

4.7 The Charnwood Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report can be viewed as Appendix 2.

## 5. Conclusion

5.1 The Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan has been considered against the European requirements for both environmental and habitat assessments as is required by the relevant legislation.

5.2 The Strategic Environmental Assessment screening process will determine whether there is likely (or not) to be any significant environmental effects arising from the Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation Draft. Once the consultation bodies have been formally consulted, a determination will then be made as to whether a full SEA will need to be undertaken.

5.3 An HRA Screening Report was undertaken for the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy which concluded that, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects; it would not be likely to have a significant effect upon any European site. As the scale of development proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan is small scale, it is not considered that there will be any further affect upon any European site; therefore, it is considered that an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

# Appendix 1

## Annex I Projects

1. Crude-oil refineries (excluding undertakings manufacturing only lubricants from crude oil) and installations for the gasification and liquefaction of 500 tonnes or more of coal or bituminous shale per day.
2. Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more, and nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors (except research installations for the production and conversion of fissionable and fertile materials, whose maximum power does not exceed 1 kilowatt continuous thermal load).
3. (a) Installations for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuel  
(b) Installations designed:-
  - for the production or enrichment of nuclear fuel,
  - for the processing of irradiated nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste,
  - for the final disposal of irradiated nuclear fuel,
  - solely for the final disposal of radioactive waste,
  - solely for the storage (planned for more than 10 years) of irradiated nuclear fuels or radioactive waste in a different site than the production site.
4. (a) Integrated works for the initial smelting of cast-iron and steel  
(b) Installations for the production of non-ferrous crude metals from ore, concentrates or secondary raw materials by metallurgical, chemical or electrolytic processes.
5. Installations for the extraction of asbestos and for the processing and transformation of asbestos and products containing asbestos: for asbestos-cement products, with an annual production of more than 20 000 tonnes of finished products, for friction material, with an annual production of more than 50 tonnes of finished products, and for other uses of asbestos, utilization of more than 200 tonnes per year.
6. Integrated chemical installations, i.e. those installations for the manufacture on an industrial scale of substances using chemical conversion processes, in which several units are juxtaposed and are functionally linked to one another and which are:
  - i) for the production of basic organic chemicals;
  - ii) for the production of basic inorganic chemicals;
  - iii) for the production of phosphorous-, nitrogen- or potassium-based fertilizers (simple or compound fertilizers);
  - iv) for the production of basic plant health products and of biocides;
  - v) for the production of basic pharmaceutical products using a chemical or biological process;
  - vi) for the production of explosives.
7. (a) Construction of lines for long-distance railway traffic and of airports with a basic runway length 2,100 m or more;  
(b) Construction of motorways and express roads  
(c) Construction of a new road of four or more lanes, or realignment and/or widening of an existing road of two lanes or less so as to provide four or more lanes, where such new road, or realigned and/or widened section of road would be 10 km or more in a continuous length.
8. (a) Inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic which permit the passage of vessels of over 1 350 tonnes;  
(b) Trading ports, piers for loading and unloading connected to land and outside ports (excluding ferry piers) which can take vessels of over 1 350 tonnes.

9. Waste disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment as defined in Annex IIA to Directive 75/442/EEC (3) under heading D9, or landfill of hazardous waste (i.e. waste to which Directive 91/689/EEC (4) applies).
10. Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment as defined in Annex IIA to Directive 75/442/EEC under heading D9 of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 tonnes per day.
11. Groundwater abstraction or artificial groundwater recharge schemes where the annual volume of water abstracted or recharged is equivalent to or exceeds 10 million cubic metres.
12. (a) Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where this transfer aims at preventing possible shortages of water and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 100 million cubic metres/year;  
(b) In all other cases, works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where the multi-annual average flow of the basin of abstraction exceeds 2 000 million cubic metres/year and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 5 % of this flow.  
In both cases transfers of piped drinking water are excluded.
13. Waste water treatment plants with a capacity exceeding 150 000 population equivalent as defined in Article 2 point (6) of Directive 91/271/EEC (5).
14. Extraction of petroleum and natural gas for commercial purposes where the amount extracted exceeds 500 tonnes/day in the case of petroleum and 500 000 m<sup>3</sup>/day in the case of gas.
15. Dams and other installations designed for the holding back or permanent storage of water, where a new or additional amount of water held back or stored exceeds 10 million cubic metres.
16. Pipelines for the transport of gas, oil or chemicals with a diameter of more than 800 mm and a length of more than 40 km.
17. Installations for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs with more than:
  - (a) 85 000 places for broilers, 60 000 places for hens;
  - (b) 3 000 places for production pigs (over 30 kg); or
  - (c) 900 places for sows.
18. Industrial plants for the
  - (a) production of pulp from timber or similar fibrous materials;
  - (b) production of paper and board with a production capacity exceeding 200 tonnes per day.
19. Quarries and open-cast mining where the surface of the site exceeds 25 hectares, or peat extraction, where the surface of the site exceeds 150 hectares.
20. Construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kV or more and a length of more than 15 km.
21. Installations for storage of petroleum, petrochemical, or chemical products with a capacity of 200,000 tonnes or more.

## **Annex II Projects**

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:
    - geothermal drilling,
    - drilling for the storage of nuclear waste material,
    - drilling for water supplies;
  - (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 wind power for energy production (wind farms).
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) smithies 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);
  - (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, mercerization) 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 trans-shipment facilities, and of intermodal terminals (projects not included in Annex I);
  - (d) Construction of airfields (projects not included in Annex I);
  - (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 (projects not included in Annex I);
  - (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) Waste-water treatment plants (projects not included in Annex I);
- (d) Sludge-deposition sites;
- (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 camp sites and caravan sites;
- (e) Theme parks.

13. 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; 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

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## Appendix 2

Web link to the Draft Charnwood Core Strategy: Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Record (2013) [here](#).

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## Appendix 3

### The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 Schedule 1 – Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
The characteristics of the plans, having regard to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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;</li> </ul>	<p>The Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan, if made, would form part of the statutory development plan; therefore, it would contribute to the future development consent of projects. However, the Neighbourhood Plan sits within a wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the adopted Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy. The Neighbourhood Plan helps to set a framework for projects which are local in nature and must conform to the wider framework.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;</li> </ul>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will be in conformity with the NPPF and the policies will conform to the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to influence other plans or programmes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;</li> </ul>	<p>The Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan takes a positive approach to proposals that contribute to sustainable development in the village area. This includes working with the Parish and Borough Councils, local Thrussington community organisations, developers and other partners to encourage the formulation of development proposals which clearly demonstrate how sustainable development has been considered and addressed.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies which relate to environmental considerations regarding the natural and</p>

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
	<p>historic environment. These policies follow national and local policies as required by the Basic Conditions. The Neighbourhood Plan is also required to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development to enable it to be approved at Examination and “made” by the Borough Council. Development would also be subject to the policies in the Charnwood Local Plan; therefore, all environmental considerations will be taken into account.</p>
<p>- environmental problems relevant to the plan; and</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan has identified local issues and addresses these through the plan, including flooding, green infrastructure, ecology, landscape and heritage assets.</p> <p>The Parish has a variety of ecological assets, including the River Wreake, which fall outside the settlement limits and are protected through Policy E3 – Wildlife and Preservation. The policy also identifies wildlife corridors in the parish which it seeks to protect and enhance.</p> <p>The area contains no national landscape designations but the plan has identified a number of Key Views through Policy E4 – Landscape, Views and Conservation which seeks to protect sensitive landscapes.</p> <p>An analysis of Local Green Spaces has also been undertaken and Policy L4 – Local Green Spaces proposes a number of these designations which will make a contribution to local biodiversity and have a wider community benefit.</p> <p>There is a concentration of Listed Buildings in the village with a Conservation Area in two parts</p>

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
	<p>encompassing the historic core. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to preserve and enhance these buildings and the Conservation Area via Policy D1 – Protection of Heritage Assets which also identifies a number of Locally Listed buildings which are considered worth additional protection as heritage assets.</p> <p>There are areas of flooding within the Parish with development directed away from these. Policy E1 – Flood Risk seeks to ensure new development does not have an adverse impact on flood risk, from both water courses and surface run-off.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the relevance of the plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection).</li> </ul>	<p>The Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan is not directly relevant to any of these. The Neighbourhood Plan has to be in conformity with the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has had regard to European Community legislation on the environment and therefore this legislation will not be relevant for the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</li> </ul>	<p>There is the potential for development to take place within the identified settlement boundaries for Thrussington which will be of a local scale. Development within the countryside will be limited, in accordance with the NPPF and Core Strategy policies relating to the countryside.</p> <p>No ecology concerns have been identified from the local scale development proposed; therefore, it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the cumulative nature of the effects;</li> </ul>	<p>The cumulative effects of potential</p>

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
	development which may occur will be limited due to their local nature, only comprising small scale infill development within the defined Thrussington limits to development.
- the transboundary nature of the effects;	Any development which occurred through the Plan would be located within the village of Thrussington, with limited exceptions. The scale of any development would have extremely limited impact upon surrounding parishes.
- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);	There are no significant risks to human health or the environment. The Plan may improve human health by protecting areas which are important to the local community for recreation along with providing suitable homes.
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The Neighbourhood Plan relates to the parish of Thrussington with small-scale infill development concentrated within the redefined settlement boundary. Therefore, the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects are likely to be small.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</li> <li>▪ exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;</li> <li>▪ intensive land-use; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan offers an opportunity to enhance the natural environment and cultural heritage of the area through the policies it contains.</p> <p>There are ecological sites within the parish; however, potential development will be focussed within the settlement boundary to Thrussington with no effect upon these sites.</p> <p>There are Listed Buildings and a Conservation Area within the parish. The Neighbourhood Plan contains a policy which seeks to preserve and enhance heritage assets and development would</p>

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
	be required to take these assets into account.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</li> </ul>	There are no national designations within the Parish boundary.

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