

Charnwood Borough Council

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report & Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report

Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report seeks to determine whether the Queniborough 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. Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1 The Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation Draft (September 2018) was produced by the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for pre-submission consultation during November and December 2019.
- 2.2 The entire area of Queniborough parish was designated as the neighbourhood area to be covered by the plan on the 28th March 2017 and, following appointment of consultants, evidence gathering and consultation began. This included public consultation events and a questionnaire being sent to residents and stakeholders (including a separate questionnaire for young people aged 11-18) to identify the key issues that the neighbourhood plan should address.
- 2.3 The feedback from the public consultation events, the questionnaire results and information about the area have been used to prepare the Pre-Submission version of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. A Vision Statement has also been prepared and sets out what the plan is aiming to achieve:

Queniborough in 2028 The unique character and heritage of Queniborough is conserved New developments take full account of flood risk Local housing needs are met The character and beauty of the countryside and the natural environment are safeguarded The impact of vehicular traffic and parking on village life is managed A prosperous local economy Local services and facilities are retained and, where possible, improved

- 2.4 The Plan notes that it must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and notes the three overarching objectives set out in the NPPF (paragraph 8). Feedback from the community consultation has identified they key issues that the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan needs to address:
 - Transport
 - Green Spaces
 - Facilities and Services
 - Countryside
 - Housing
 - Countryside Access
 - Heritage and Design
 - Flooding
 - Renewable Energy
 - Employment and Business
- 2.5 To achieve the NPPF objectives and the key issues identified above, the Neighbourhood Plan contains a series of specific policies and proposals maps. The policies which have been included in the plan to address these areas are:

Policy Q1: Parking

New development should ensure that there is satisfactory provision for parking, servicing and manoeuvring in accordance with the Parking Standards set out at Appendix 2.

Policy Q2: Local Green Spaces

The following sites have been designated as Local Green Spaces:

- 1. King George's Field
- 2. Old Hall grounds
- 3. Queniborough Hall grounds
- 4. St Mary's Churchyard
- 5. Queniborough Cemetery
- 6. Rearsby Road Playing Field
- 7. Syston Rugby Football Club and Cricket Field
- 8. Mere Lane Field Local Wildlife Site
- 9. Queniborough Crossroads
- 10. Brook Fields

Development that would harm the openness or special character of a Local Green Space (as designated on the Polices Map) or its significance and value to the local community will not be permitted unless there are very special circumstances which outweigh the harm to the Local Green Space such as:

- A. Provision of appropriate facilities to service a current use or function; or
- B. Alterations or replacements to existing building(s) or structure(s) provided that these do not significantly increase the size and scale of the original building(s) or structure(s).

Policy Q3: Community Services and Facilities

Development that would result in the loss of the following facilities will not be supported, unless it can be demonstrated that:

- A. It is no longer viable; and
- B. It is no longer needed by the local community; and
- C. It is not needed for any other community use or that the facility is being replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity, quality and location:
- 1. Queniborough Post Office and General Store
- 2. Queniborough Village Hall
- 3. Queniborough CofE Primary School
- 4. Britannia Inn or The Horse and Groom PH (This policy is to protect the sole remaining public house in the event of the other public house closing).

Policy Q4: Sport and Recreation

The following areas of open space, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless:

- A. An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- B. The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- C. The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use:
- 1. King George's Field
- 2. Syston Rugby Club and Queniborough Cricket Club

3. Rearsby Road Playing Field

The provision of a park which includes natural and semi-natural open space and allotments will be supported. Facilities for young people will also be supported.

Policy Q5: Infrastructure

New development will be supported by the provision of new or improved infrastructure, together with financial contributions for the following offsite infrastructure requirements where appropriate:

- A. The improvement, remodelling or enhancement of Queniborough Church of England Primary School;
- B. The improvement, remodelling or enhancement of Queniborough Village Hall;
- C. Improvements to the Rearsby Road, Syston Road, Queniborough Road and Barkby Road crossroads;
- D. The provision of a park, amenity greenspace, natural and seminatural open space, facilities for young people; and allotments;
- E. Community infrastructure improvements including the provision of Parish notice boards, seats, bus shelters and litter bins.

Contributions are governed by the provisions of the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010. To ensure the viability of housing development, the costs of the Plan's requirements may be applied flexibly where it is demonstrated that they are likely to make the development undeliverable.

Policy Q6: Countryside and Landscape

We will support and protect the character of our landscape and countryside (the area outside Settlement Limits) by:

- A. Requiring new developments to protect landscape character and to reinforce Queniborough's sense of place and local distinctiveness by taking account of our assessment of the Local Landscape and Settlement Character;
- B. Requiring new development to consider and mitigate its impact on tranquillity;
- C. Requiring new development to maintain the separate identity of Queniborough. We will protect the predominantly open and undeveloped character of Areas of Local Separation unless new development clearly maintains the separation between the built-up areas of Queniborough and the nearby settlements of Syston and East Goscote:
- D. Supporting rural economic development which has a strong relationship with the operational requirements of agriculture, horticulture, forestry and other land-based industries and contributes to a low-carbon economy.

Policy Q7: Green Infrastructure

We will protect and enhance the following green infrastructure assets for their community, economic and environmental values:

- 1. River Wreake corridor:
- 2. Queniborough Brook corridor;
- 3. Local Green Spaces identified by Policy Q2

We will support proposals that provide high quality walking and cycling links between the River Wreake and Queniborough Brook corridors and Queniborough village.

Policy Q8: Ecology and Biodiversity

Development should not harm the network of local ecological features and habitats which include (as shown on the Policies Map):

- 1. River Wreake
- 2. Wildlife corridors
- 3. Queniborough Brook
- 4. Gaddesby Brook
- 5. Queniborough Brook Fields 1
- 6. Queniborough Brook Fields 2
- 7. Barrowcliffe Field
- 8. Mere Lane Field

New development will be expected to maintain and enhance existing ecological corridors and landscape features (such as watercourses, hedgerows and tree-lines) for biodiversity thus demonstrating overall net-gain. The priority for biodiversity enhancement is to improve the wetland habitat reservoirs through the River Wreake, Queniborough Brook and Gaddesby Brook corridors, the reinstatement of hedgerow boundaries and the improvement and management of parkland at Queniborough Hall and Old Hall.

Policy Q9: Public Rights of Way network

Development should protect the Rights of Way and wherever possible create new links to the network including footpaths and cycle ways.

Policy Q10: Infill Housing

Permission for housing development within Settlement Boundaries, as defined on the Policies Map, will be supported where they meet the other policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy Q11: Queniborough Lodge

The development of land at Queniborough Lodge, Melton Road, as shown on the Policies Map, for some 132 dwellings is supported subject to the following:

- A. Development is contained within the brownfield elements of the existing employment use;
- B. The development provides for improvements to the form and character of the existing lodge and associated outbuildings:
- C. The development provides for a mix of dwelling sizes which addresses identified housing need in accordance with Policy Q14;
- D. Provision is made for four serviced dwelling plots, for sale at a price which reflects the land value of 2 or 3 bed houses elsewhere on the development, to self-builders or custom builders:
- E. The development boundary shall exclude any land within the Flood Zones 2 or 3;

- F. Any contamination present on the site shall be safely remediated prior to the commencement of any development;
- G. The development shall be accessed off Melton Road; and
- H. A landscaping scheme should be implemented to provide for a net gain in biodiversity and include the retention and enhancement of trees and hedgerows within and along the boundaries of the site.

Policy Q12: Homes in the Countryside

Outside Settlement Boundaries, support for housing development will be limited to:

- A. Rural Exception Housing, in accordance with Charnwood Local Plan (Core Strategy) Policy CS3;
- B. Rural worker accommodation and individual dwellings of exceptional quality or innovative design; and
- C. The re-use and/or adaptation of rural buildings in accordance with Policy Q13.

Policy Q13: Residential Conversion of Rural Buildings

The re-use and adaptation of redundant or disused rural buildings for residential use will be supported where:

- A. The building is of architectural and historical interest;
- B. The building is structurally sound and capable of conversion without significant rebuild or alteration;
- C. The development will maintain the character of the building, including the retention of important features;
- D. The use of the building by protected species is surveyed and mitigation measures are approved where necessary; and
- E. Any proposed extension(s) or alterations are proportionate to the size, scale, mass and footprint of the original building and situated within the original curtilage.

Policy Q14: Housing Mix

Applicants for the development of new dwellings will need to demonstrate how their proposals will meet the housing needs of older households and/or the need for smaller, low-cost homes for sale.

Policy Q15: Non-designated Heritage Assets

The determination of planning applications which would affect the following nondesignated heritage assets (as shown on the Policies Map) will balance the need for, or public benefit of, the proposed development against the significance of the asset and the extent to which it will be harmed:

- 1. The Coppice, Coppice Lane
- 2. Dovecote at Queniborough Hall, Croxton Road
- 3. Wetherby House, Syston Road
- 4. Queniborough Old School, School Lane
- 5. The bridge and walls down Coppice Lane
- 6. Mud wall, Main Street
- 7. Oak Cottage, 8 Main Street
- 8. Older houses on The Banks

- 9. The bridge and walls behind the dovecote within the grounds of Queniborough Hall:
- 10. Ridge and furrow;
- 11. Hedgerow on Syston Road;
- 12. Telephone Kiosk, Main Street

Policy Q16: Design

Only development that reflects the distinctive and traditional character of Queniborough will be supported unless the development is of exceptional quality or innovative design. Development must also:

- A. Be in keeping with the scale, form and character of its surroundings;
- B. Protect important features such as traditional walls, hedgerows and trees;
- C. Have safe and suitable access;
- D. Integrate into its surroundings by reinforcing existing connections and creating new ones, while also respecting existing buildings and land uses around the development site. The amenities of residents in the area should not be significantly adversely affected, including by loss of daylight/sunlight, privacy, air quality, noise and light pollution;
- E. Create a place with a locally inspired or otherwise distinctive character;
- F. Take advantage of existing topography, landscape features (including water courses), wildlife habitats, existing buildings, site orientation and microclimates;
- G. Ensure buildings are designed and positioned to enhance streets and spaces;
- H. Be designed to make it easy to find your way around;
- I. Be designed in a way that encourages low vehicle speeds and allows them to function as social spaces;
- J. Ensure parking is well integrated so that it does not dominate the street;
- K. Ensure public and private spaces are clearly defined and designed to be attractive, well managed and safe; and
- L. Provide adequate external storage space for bins and recycling as well as vehicles and cycles.

Policy Q17: Water Management

New development should take full account of flood risk especially from rivers, groundwater and overland flow. Development is directed to locations at the lowest risk of flooding, applying the Sequential Test and if necessary, applying the Exception Test. Where development is proposed in flood risk areas, mitigation measures must be in place to reduce the effects of flood water. Developments should take opportunities to reduce flood risk elsewhere.

Developments should manage surface water run off with no net increase in the rate of surface water run off for Greenfield sites by including Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) with attenuation, storage and treatment capacities incorporated.

Policy Q18: Renewable Energy

Ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms will only be supported where:

A. They are on previously developed (brownfield) or non-agricultural land;

- B. Their location is selected sensitively and well-planned so that the proposals do not impact on any Features of Local Heritage Interest;
- C. The proposal's visual impact has been fully assessed and addressed in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance on landscape assessment (Planning Practice Guidance ref: 5-01320150327); and
- D. The installations are removed when no longer in use and the land is restored to its previous use.

Wind turbines will not be supported.

Policy Q19: Queniborough Industrial Estate

Queniborough Industrial Estate, as defined on the Polices Map, will be safeguarded for employment development (uses falling within class B of the Use Classes Order including offices (B1) manufacturing (B2) and small-scale warehousing and distribution (B8)). The expansion of existing businesses, together with new employment development within the site will be supported.

Policy Q20: Business conversion of rural buildings

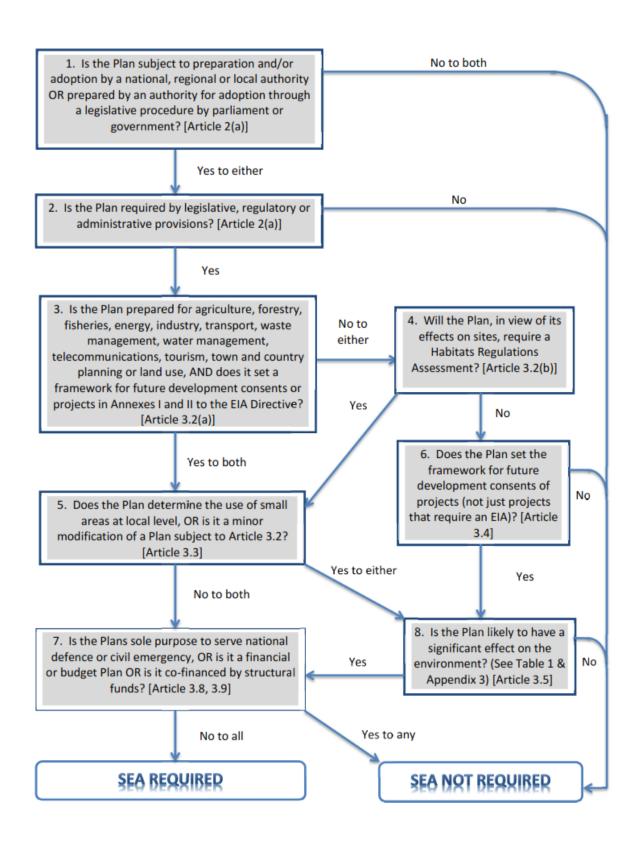
The re-use, adaptation or extension of rural buildings for business use will be supported where:

- A. Any enlargement is proportionate to the size, scale, mass and footprint of the original building;
- B. The development would not have a detrimental effect on the fabric, character and setting of historic buildings;
- C. The development respects local building styles and materials;
- D. The use of the building by protected species is surveyed and mitigation measures are approved where necessary;
- E. The proposed development would not generate traffic of a type or amount harmful to local rural roads, or require improvements which would detrimentally affect the character of such roads or the area generally; and
- F. The proposed development would not materially harm the character of the surrounding rural area.

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 1Assessment of the characteristics of the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan

Assessment Criteria Y/N Assessment 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)) Assessment Y/N Assessment Y The preparation and adoption the Neighbourhood Plan is provided for by The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Parish Council (as the relevance) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Parish Council (as the relevance) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Parish Council (as the relevance) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Parish Council (as the relevance) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Parish Council (as the relevance) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Parish Council (as the relevance) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Parish Council (as the relevance) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Parish Council (as the relevance) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Parish Council (as the relevance) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Parish Council (as the relevance) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Parish Council (as the relevance) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Parish Council (as the relevance) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Parish Council (as the relevance) and the Neighbourhood Plan has be prepared by Queniborough Plan has be p	and), (as Act ood
the local authority. The preparation of Neighbourhor Plans is subject to the follor regulations: i. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and ii. The Neighbourhood Planning (referendum Regulations 2012.	vant ncil as ood owing d,
2 Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a)) Act 1990, as amended by the Localism Act 2011; however "made" it will form part of the Borough and must meet starequirements. Therefore, it important that the screening process considers whether plan is likely to have significations. The provided to the question.	ns of anning the er, if the extutory is ng r the ticant thus if the
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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 (see Appendix 1) to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a)) 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 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 Charmwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy preparation process. The final report, published in March 2013, 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, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required." 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. The HRA Screening Report found		Assessment Criteria	Y/N	Assessment
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)) Directive? (Art 3.2(a)) 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 "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." 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.		forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II (see Appendix 1) to the		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). A definition of what is covered by the term 'urban development' is provided in planning practice
	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	N	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 "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." 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

	Assessment Criteria	Y/N	Assessment
			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.
			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.
			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.
			The Charnwood Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report can be viewed at Appendix 2.
5	Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR 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 future development consent	Y	The Neighbourhood Plan will be used in the determination of planning applications.

	Assessment Criteria	Y/N	Assessment
	of projects (not just in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)		
7	Is the Neighbourhood Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR 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	The Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan will cover a relatively self-contained area. The limits to development have been amended and are slightly different to those in the existing adopted Limits to Development for Queniborough and also to the proposed limits to development identified in the Settlement Limits to Development Assessments 2018. There is a supporting background paper 'Limits to Development' which sets out the reasons for amending the limits to development and the methodology for doing so. Queniborough Lodge is included as a housing allocation in the neighbourhood plan for 132 dwellings. Queniborough Lodge is included in the draft Charnwood Local Plan as a potential housing allocation and has been through a site selection process and informed by a Sustainability Appraisal. Expansion of existing businesses within Queniborough Industrial Estate is supported.

Assessment Criteria	Y/N	Assessment
		The re-use, adaption or extension of rural buildings for business use will be supported subject to satisfying a number of criteria.
		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.
		The Neighbourhood Plan offers an opportunity to protect and enhance the natural environment and heritage assets within the area through the policies it contains.
		See more detailed Assessment of Significance of Effects on the 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
$$\rightarrow$$
 2: Yes \rightarrow 3: Yes \rightarrow 5: Yes \rightarrow 8: No \rightarrow 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 Queniborough 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. <u>Habitats Regulations Assessment</u>
- 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. <u>Conclusion</u>

- 5.1 The Queniborough 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 Queniborough 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

- 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:
 - 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).
- 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 m3/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.
 - 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;
- (i) 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:
- (I) 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

Appendix 2

Web link to the Draft Charnwood Cor Screening Record (2013) <u>here</u> .	re Strategy: Hab	itats Regulations <i>A</i>	Assessment

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	
Th	The characteristics of the plans, having regard to:		
-	the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	The Queniborough 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.	
-	the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	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.	
-	the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan takes a positive approach to proposals that contribute to sustainable development in Queniborough. This includes working with the Borough Council, local Queniborough community organisations, developers and other partners to encourage the formulation of development proposals which clearly demonstrate how sustainable development has been considered and addressed.	
		The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies which relate to environmental considerations regarding the natural and historic environment. These policies follow national and local policies as required by the Basic Conditions. The	

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
	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.
- environmental problems relevant to the plan; and	The Neighbourhood Plan has identified local issues and addresses these through the plan, including green spaces, countryside and landscape, green infrastructure, biodiversity, heritage and design, flooding and renewable energy.
	The Parish has a variety of ecological assets, including the River Wreake, Queniborough Brook, Gaddesby Brook, 4 local wildlife sites (Queniborough Brook Fields 1, Queniborough Brook Fields 2, Barrowcliffe Field and Mere Lane Field), wildlife corridors and notable species.
	The area contains no national landscape designations however Policy Q6 'Countryside and Landscape' aims to support and protect the character of the landscape and countryside in Queniborough.
	The plan notes the importance of green infrastructure to the local community and proposes to protect and enhance it through Policy Q7 'Green Infrastructure'.
	An analysis of Local Green Spaces has also been undertaken in Appendix 3 and Policy Q2 Local Green Spaces proposes a number of these designations which have notable environmental (natural, historical and/or community) features.

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
	There are a number of Listed Buildings in Queniborough, the Queniborough Conservation Area, locally listed buildings and locally valued heritage assets. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to preserve and enhance the non-designated heritage assets via Policy Q15 'Non-designated Heritage Assets'. Flooding is an issue in some parts of the
	neighbourhood area. Policy Q17 Water Management seeks to ensure new development does not have an adverse impact on flood risk, especially from rivers, groundwater and overland flow.
- the relevance of the plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection).	The Queniborough 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.
Characteristics of the effects and of the ar particular, to:	
the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	There is the potential for development to take place within the identified settlement boundaries for the Queniborough neighbourhood area 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.
	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.
- the cumulative nature of the effects;	The cumulative effects of potential development which may occur will be limited due to their local nature, only comprising small scale infill development adjacent to Queniborough.

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
 the transboundary nature of the effects; the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents); 	Any development which occurred through the Plan would be located at Queniborough Lodge and as an expansion of existing businesses at Queniborough Industrial Estate. The scale of any development would have extremely limited impact upon surrounding parishes. 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
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	providing suitable homes. The Neighbourhood Plan relates to the Parish of Queniborough with only small-scale development concentrated within and adjacent to existing built-up areas. Therefore, the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects are likely to be small.
 the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; intensive land-use; and 	The Neighbourhood Plan offers an opportunity to enhance the natural environment and cultural heritage of the area through the policies it contains. There are ecological assets within the parish; however, potential development will be focussed at Queniborough with no effect upon these sites. 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 be required to take these assets into account.
the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	There are no national designations within the Parish boundaries.