

**Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and
Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Determination**

Draft Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan

Prepared on behalf of Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

by

Cheshire West and Chester Council

June 2020

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1.0 Introduction

In accordance with European Directive 2001/42/EC and the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), this document is the screening determination of the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Draft Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan. This document also sets out the decision on whether separate screening and a Habitats Regulations Assessment is required under European Directive 92/43/EEC and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the responsible authority (i.e. the Local Planning Authority) must carry out an environmental assessment for any plan or programme that is prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, which sets the framework for future development consents of projects listed in Annex I or II of Council Directive 83/337/EEC. It is likely that Development Plan Documents (DPDs), such as the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies and Neighbourhood Plans will require SEA as they will contain planning policies that influence the above list of topics, and which will be used to determine planning applications.

However, the regulations state that an environmental assessment need not be carried out for a plan or programme which determines the use of a small area at a local level unless it has been determined that the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.

The regulations advise that a screening process is used to determine whether or not a plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. This process should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the regulations). The results of this process must be summarised in a SEA screening opinion, which is then sent to the statutory consultation bodies for comment. Once comments have been taken into account a screening determination is prepared setting out whether SEA is required and reasons for the decision and this must be made publicly available.

This screening opinion has been prepared by Cheshire West and Chester Council, on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan qualifying body and is based upon the policies set out in the draft Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan (June 2020) to inform the regulation 15 Publicity consultation.

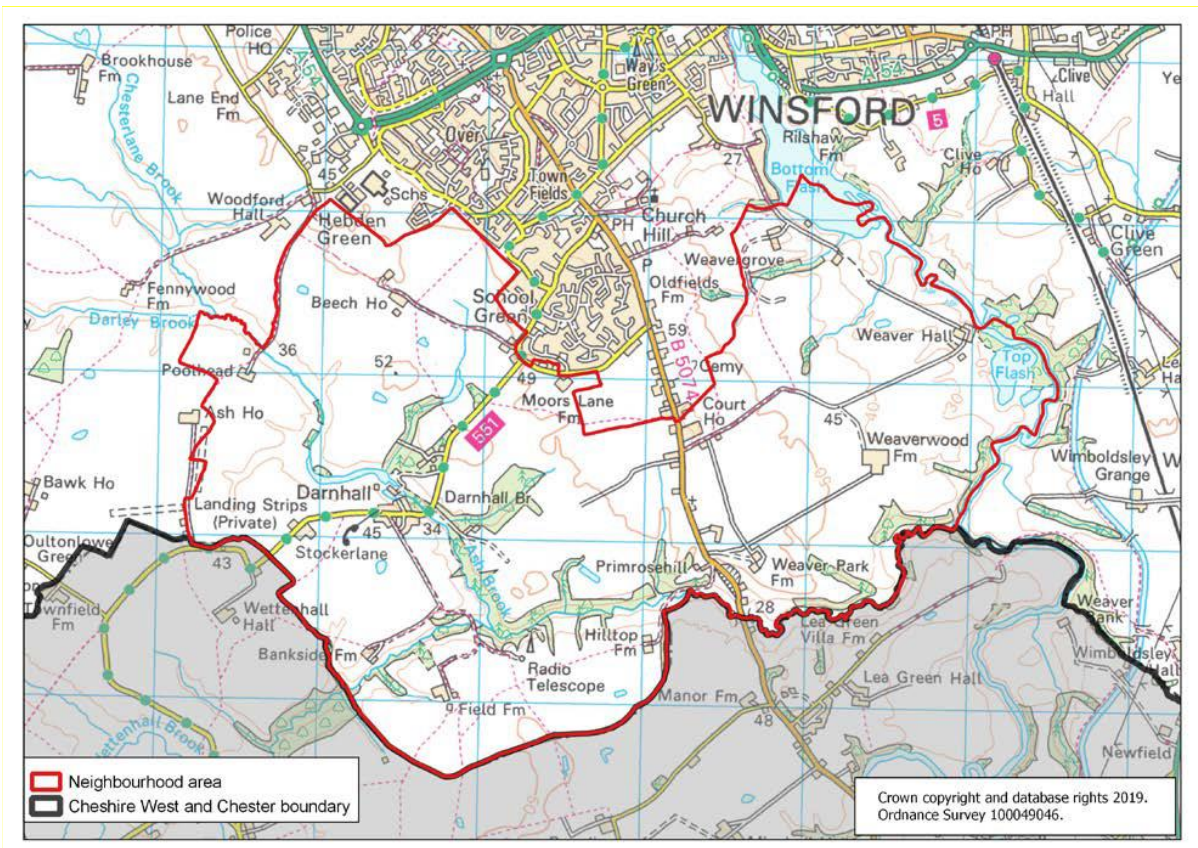
A Draft Screening Opinion was produced in April 2019 and consultation took place with the statutory consultees; Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency. The comments are set out in Appendix 6. Responses from Natural England

and Historic England agreed with the outcome of the initial screening exercise. No comments were received from the Environment Agency.

Location and geographical scope of the Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan

The parish of Darnhall is located immediately to the south of Winsford and comprises of farmland, small clusters of residences and the hamlet of Darnhall. The eastern part of the Parish is dominated by the Weaver Valley and includes part of the Winsford Flashes and areas of woodland. To the south, the Parish boundary abuts the unitary authority of Cheshire East.

The Darnhall Neighbourhood Area is shown in Map 1 below



Relationship to other plans and programmes

Once made the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of development plan for Cheshire West and Chester. The policy framework once made will not work in isolation. The Neighbourhood Plan will work alongside the adopted Local Plan policies in place at the time it is made.

The Neighbourhood Plan must have regard to national policy; be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan; must contribute to

the achievement of sustainable development and meet EU obligations and human rights requirements.

The current adopted Local Plan for the area is Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (adopted January 2015) and the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies (adopted July 2019). The Part One plan sets out the overall vision, strategic objectives, spatial strategy and strategic planning policies for the borough to 2030, with supporting policies in Part Two.

The Local Plan policy framework has been taken into account when carrying out the screening exercise. This forms the baseline for the SEA and HRA screening assessment. It has considered the potential effects of the Neighbourhood Plan over and above the current adopted Local Plan (Part One) and the Local Plan (Part Two).

Scope of Neighbourhood Plan

The vision for the neighbourhood plan is:

“The local character of the area will be preserved as open rural countryside maintained through active farming. Its community facilities and open spaces will benefit people in both our own and neighbouring areas. The environment and wildlife will be conserved and it will be a place where local people can safely live, work, play and enjoy a high quality of life.”

The topic areas include: Countryside and environment, recreation, commercial development and the local economy, recreational and social infrastructure and transport and communications. The objectives for the plan, arising from the consultation with the local community include;

- To enhance and protect the countryside and natural environment;
- To ensure that previously developed site opportunities are encouraged for residential, commercial and agricultural development;
- To encourage rural and agricultural development, enterprise, outdoor pursuits and recreation that respects the rural character of Darnhall Parish and supports the welfare of the community.
- To conserve and enhance assets and make them more accessible;
- To promote safe access for non-vehicle users to all parts of the Parish;
- To deliver improvements to local transport and communications that improve the experience of living in and visiting Darnhall.

The Draft Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan (April 2019) has been prepared so as to be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan (Part One) and the emerging Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies.

The Parish is located in the rural area of the borough and does not include any key service centres or local service centres defined through the Local Plan. It is a countryside location and new development is restricted to specific types, to protect the intrinsic character and beauty of the Cheshire countryside. The Draft Neighbourhood Plan does not propose land allocations for development, and is compatible with the overall type and level of development established in the Local Plan for the countryside. The SEA Screening Opinion only considers the likelihood of a significant environmental effect resulting from the draft policies, rather than general conformity with strategic policies which is a matter for the Examination.

2.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

Legislative background and methodology

European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be carried out for certain plans and programmes to assess their effects on the environment. This Directive was transposed in law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The Draft Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan falls within the scope of this legislation as it is a plan prepared for town and country planning or land use and will set the framework for future development consent of projects, in accordance with Part 3(2) of the SEA Directive. However, Neighbourhood Plans are land use planning documents prepared at the local level to determine land use in a small area.

Under Article 3(3) of the SEA Directive and Part 5(6) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, SEA is only required for documents that determine land use of a small area at local level and minor modifications to plans and programmes where it is considered that it is likely to have significant environmental effects. Assessment of whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects is carried out through the screening process.

If SEA is required, the assessment is usually incorporated into a Sustainability Appraisal, which includes environmental factors as required under the SEA Directive, along with social and economic factors.

Screening methodology

The role of the screening exercise is to determine whether the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The criteria for assessing whether a plan or programme is likely to have a significant environmental effect are set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The assessment criteria used to determine whether a plan or programme will have significant environmental effects are separated into two categories:

- those relating to the characteristics of the plan; and
- those relating to the characteristics of the plan's effects and the area likely to be affected.

In order to undertake the identification of the likely significance of effects, an assessment has been undertaken of each policy in the Neighbourhood Plan, its potential effects and its relationship to Local Plan (Part One) strategic policies and the emerging Local Plan (Part Two). This helps to assess the impact that the Neighbourhood Plan will have above and beyond the impact of existing Local Plan policies. This assessment is set out in the table at Appendix 1.

The assessment of the significant environmental effects of the draft Neighbourhood Plan is set out in Appendix 2. The characteristics of the plans effects and the area likely to be affected are set out in Appendix 3.

Conclusion

As a result of the SEA screening assessment, Cheshire West and Chester Council consider that it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Draft Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan. As such, a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Draft Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan is not required.

3.0 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Legislative background

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 transposed the requirements of the European Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC into UK law. The Habitats Directive and Regulations afford protection to plants, animals and habitats that are rare and vulnerable in a European context.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a systematic process through which the performance of a plan or project can be assessed for its likely impact on the integrity of a European Site. European sites, also referred to as Natura 2000 sites, consist of Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC); Potential Special Protection Areas and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (pSPA and cSAC); and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states that any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

The first stage of HRA is to screen a plan or programme to identify if there are likely to be any significant effects on the European sites. This will indicate whether a full Appropriate Assessment is required. The regulations require that the impacts and effects of any land use plan being assessed, are considered in combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the relevant European site(s).

Inter-relationship with the Local Plan HRA

The Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies has already been through the HRA process, and the results detailed in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Publication Draft (Part 1) Strategic Policies Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report.

The HRA for the Local Plan (Part One) identified 12 European sites to include within the HRA: Oak Mere SAC; Midlands Meres and Mosses Ramsar site; West Midlands Mosses SAC; River Dee and Bala Lake SAC; Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar; Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar; Liverpool Bay SPA; Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC; Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar and SPA; Sefton Coast SAC; Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site; and River Eden SAC.

Map 2 shows the European sites that are within 15km of the Neighbourhood Plan area. All of the other European sites have been screened out from this assessment as impacts would not occur due to the distance or would be so small and insignificant in scale that they would not have a Likely Significant Effect, even when combined with other plans or projects. The following sites have been screened out as they are outside the 15km radius for the Darnhall Neighbourhood Area:

- River Dee and Bala Lake SAC;
- Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar;
- Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar;
- Liverpool Bay SPA;
- Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC;
- Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar and SPA;
- Sefton Coast SAC;
- Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site; and
- River Eden SAC.

Due to the distance and scale of anticipated development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan, it is not considered relevant to include these sites in the HRA Screening of the Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan.

The European protected sites that fall within a 15km radius of the Neighbourhood Area (as shown on Map 2) are all initially included within the HRA Screening and are included in Appendix 4. Due to the pathways of impact on these sites, the scale and location of the Neighbourhood Plan area and the scale of potential future developments, these European sites (Oak Mere SAC, Midlands Meres and Mosses Ramsar site Phase 2 and West Midlands Mosses SAC) can be screened out as there are unlikely to be any direct impacts due to the distance and scale of anticipated development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan.

Appendix 4 identifies whether there could be potential impacts arising from the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, on the European protected sites and their reasons for designation.

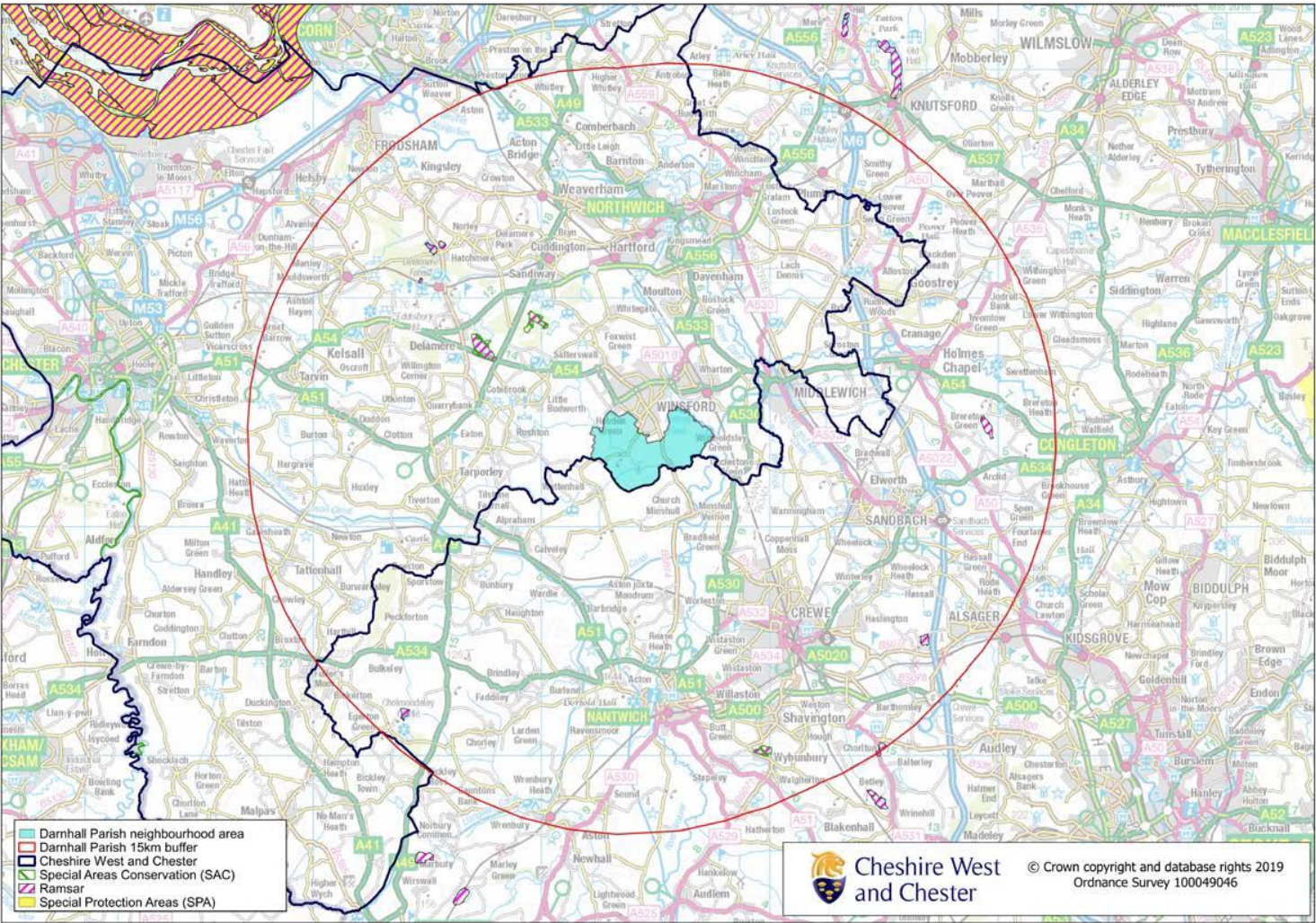
The conservation objectives of the European sites are taken into account. These include maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species

- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

The HRA undertaken for the Local Plan (Part One) and (Part Two) forms part of the baseline for the HRA screening assessment of the Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan. The potential effects of the Neighbourhood Plan over and above those already assessed for the Local Plan have been considered. The Local Plan (Part One) was identified through the HRA process, as not leading to a Likely Significant Effect on European Sites. The HRA of the Local Plan (Part Two) concluded that, in the context of the over-arching strategic policies contained within the Local Plan (Part One) comprises a sufficient policy framework to enable the subsequent delivery of necessary measures that would avoid or adequately mitigate adverse effects on internationally designated sites and thus enable a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity.

Map 2- European Designations within a 15km distance of the Darnhall Neighbourhood area



The European sites are also subject to certain pressures that are outside the scope of the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans and therefore have not been included in the table above. Table 1 below identifies the potential pressures (which may be relevant to one or several of the European sites) and explains why it is not considered relevant to the HRA of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Table 1: Potential pressures outside the scope of the HRA

Pressure	Reasons outside scope of this HRA
Disturbance of sediment releasing legacy heavy metal pollution that is bound into the sediment.	The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan relate to land-based uses and operations, which will not disturb sediment within European sites.
Pollution via commercial shipping by chemical or noise pollution and dumping of litter at sea	The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan will not have a significant impact on commercial shipping.
Navigational / aggregate dredging resulting in physical loss and alteration of coastal processes or damage of marine benthic habitat	The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan will not have a significant impact on navigational or aggregate dredging.
Overfishing of particular species	Fishing levels are not controlled through Neighbourhood Plans.
Overgrazing of ungrazed / little grazed saltmarsh	Grazing levels are not controlled through Neighbourhood Plans.
Damage of marine benthic habitat directly from fishing methods	Commercial fishing methods and levels are not controlled through Neighbourhood Plans.
The need to manage continuing coastal erosion at protected sites outside CWaC	Neighbourhood Plans within CWaC will not impact on management of coastal erosion in areas outside CWaC.
The need to develop and maintain management practices which sustain the conservation value of the area for protected sites outside CWaC.	Neighbourhood Plans cannot influence management practices for protected sites outside CWaC.
Loss or damage of habitat as a result of increasing off-shore exploration and production activity associated with oil and natural gas on protected sites outside CWaC.	Neighbourhood Plans within CWaC cannot control oil and gas exploration and production activity outside CWaC.
Coastal squeeze from land reclamation and coastal flood defences and drainage in European sites outside CWaC.	Neighbourhood Plans within CWaC will not have a significant impact on coastal squeeze resulting from land reclamation, coastal flood defences and drainage in areas outside CWaC.

HRA screening

The Neighbourhood Plan is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of a European site for nature conservation and therefore needs to be assessed for Likely Significant Effects.

It is considered that as long as the proposed policies of a Neighbourhood Plan do not alter the strategic policy framework assessed in the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) HRA Screening Report and do not have Likely Significant Effects beyond this, then Appropriate Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan will not be required. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development, which makes it less likely to have significant effects resulting from specific development supported through the Plan.

Appendix 5 identifies whether the Neighbourhood Plan alters the policy position for the area. It also assesses whether each policy has a Likely Significant Effect alone. If a Likely Significant Effect is identified, the policy would be taken forward for further investigation through Appropriate Assessment. If there is no Likely Significant Effect when considering the policy alone, the final column assesses whether the policy could have a Likely Significant Effect when combined with the effects of other relevant policies, plans or projects.

Conclusion

The Neighbourhood Plan will not work in isolation and will be used alongside other development plan policies including the Local Plan Part One and Local Plan (Part Two) for determining planning applications for new development. The quantum of development to come forward in Darnhall Neighbourhood Area in the future will be set by Local Plan policy. The Neighbourhood Plan will guide how this should come forward locally.

There are no specific issues highlighted in the HRA of the emerging Local Plan in relation to Darnhall, although there are other more general potential impacts highlighted as a result of the quantum and location of development proposed for the borough as a whole in the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two). However, it is considered there are sufficient mitigation and control measures in the policy framework of the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) to avoid and mitigate any of these adverse effects on the integrity of a European site in the emerging Local Plan.

Therefore, it is considered that any proposals coming forward in Darnhall in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan would not result in a Likely Significant Effect on a European site than already identified and assessed through the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) Habitats Regulation Assessment Report.

The Screening opinion made by Cheshire West and Chester Council is that the Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have an adverse effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d), alone or in combination with other plans and projects. As such, Appropriate Assessment is not considered to be required.

Appendix 1: SEA Screening - Overview of policies and identified effects of the Draft Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan (June 2020)

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape)	Relationship to Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
CE1 Biodiversity	Development supported where there is a net gain of biodiversity resources and where habitats, wildlife corridors, ancient woodlands and local wildlife sites are protected.	Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, Protect the landscape character	Local Plan (Part One) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV2 Landscape - ENV4 Biodiversity and geodiversity Local Plan (Part Two) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 44 protecting and enhancing the natural environment
CE2 Natural habitats	Supports proposals to protect and enhance natural habitats.	Protect and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna, Enhancement and creation of habitats and creation of wildlife corridors.	Local Plan (Part One) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV4 Biodiversity and geodiversity Local Plan (Part Two) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 44 protecting and enhancing the natural environment
CE3 Hedgerows,	Any development that would result in the loss of, or the deterioration in the quality of an important natural feature,	Protect the landscape character	Local Plan (Part One) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV4 Biodiversity and geodiversity

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape)	Relationship to Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
Trees and Watercourses	including trees and hedgerows and watercourses will not normally be permitted. New tree planting will be supported within new developments, and throughout the Parish in line with The Mersey Forest Plan.	Protect biodiversity, flora and fauna	Local Plan (Part Two) policies: - DM 44 protecting and enhancing the natural environment
CE4 Dark Skies	Support the principle of dark skies to minimise the impact on wildlife and ecology and local amenity. Schemes should reduce the consumption of energy by promoting efficient outdoor lighting technologies, keeping the night-time skies dark and reducing glare.	Protect cultural heritage and landscape Protect biodiversity, flora and fauna	Local Plan (Part One) policies: - ENV2 Landscape - ENV4 Biodiversity and geodiversity Local Plan (Part Two) policies: - DM 44 protecting and enhancing the natural environment - DM2 – Impact on residential amenity
CE5 Landscape Character	New development must, where appropriate, respect and enhance the landscape character of the area,	Protect cultural heritage and landscape Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, Protect the landscape character	Local Plan (Part One) policies: - ENV2 Landscape - ENV4 Biodiversity and geodiversity Local Plan (Part Two) policies: - DM 44 protecting and enhancing the natural environment

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape)	Relationship to Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
CE6 Surface Water Management	New development should be designed to manage surface water at source to minimise runoff.	<p>Reduce the potential impacts of climate change, by reducing the amount of flooding.</p> <p>Population and human health - protecting residential amenity can have a positive effect on health and well being</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV1 Flood risk and water management. <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM40 Development and flood risk - DM41 Sustainable drainage systems
RCLE 1 Rural Economy	Supports proposals which support the rural economy and agriculture, horticulture, forestry, equestrian enterprises, home working and farm diversification.	<p>Supporting the economy (no direct SEA Topic)</p> <p>Population and health – supports access to local opportunities for employment and training</p> <p>Population and human health - protecting residential amenity can have a positive effect on health and well being.</p> <p>Effect on land and resources (Soil) from new development</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT8 rural area - STRAT9 countryside - ECON1 economic growth, employment and enterprise - SOC5 health and well being - ENV 2 Landscape <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 2 Impact on residential amenity - DM7 rural diversification of land based business

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape)	Relationship to Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
RCLE 2 Loss of employment sites	Loss of employment sites and community facilities will only be supported where the existing use is not viable and has been marketed for at least 12 months.	Population and health – supports social inclusion within the community, providing access to services in the rural area. Supporting the economy (no direct SEA Topic)	Local Plan (Part One) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECON1 economic growth employment and enterprise. - SOC5 health and well being Local Plan (Part Two) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM5 Protection and refurbishment of employment land and premises - DM39 Culture and community facilities.
RCLE 3 Commercial development, scale, design and amenity	New employment development must be of a high quality design which is in keeping with existing business development; does not adversely impact the amenity of neighbouring dwellings and provides appropriate landscaping and on site car parking	Protect cultural heritage and landscape Population and human health - protecting residential amenity can have a positive effect on health and well being.	Local Plan (Part One) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV 6 high quality design and sustainable construction Local Plan (Part Two) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 2 impact on residential amenity - DM3 design, character and visual amenity
RCLE 4	New development will be supported	Providing sufficient housing to meet	Local Plan (Part One) policies:

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape)	Relationship to Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
Housing development	where it meets local plan policies STRAT 1 and STRAT 9, Acceptable types of development are: Reuse of redundant or disused buildings; Redevelopment of brownfield sites subject to policy DM19; Enabling development	needs (No direct SEA topic) Effect on land and resources (Soil) from new development Effect on cultural heritage and landscape (enabling development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 1 Sustainable development - STRAT 9 Green belt and countryside - Local Plan (Part Two) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM19 proposals for residential development - DM25 Essential Rural Workers dwellings
RCLE 5 Design	New development should be of a high quality design which complements and enhances existing development in the area; does not adversely impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties; provides appropriate landscaping, and supports SuDs.	Protect cultural heritage and landscape Population and human health - protecting residential amenity can have a positive effect on health and well being. Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna Reduce the potential impacts of climate change.	Local Plan (Part One) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV2 landscape - ENV6 high quality design and sustainable construction - ENV1 Flood risk - Local Plan (Part Two) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM2 impact on residential amenity - DM3 design character and visual amenity - DM41 - SuDs

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape)	Relationship to Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
RCLE 6 Renewable energy installations	<p>Proposals for wind turbine installations will be subject to an assessment of their impact on landscape character, residential amenity, and local infrastructure.</p> <p>Small domestic or agricultural solar panels will be supported, especially where they are mounted on buildings.</p>	<p>Reduce the potential impacts of climate change through promoting renewable energy</p> <p>Protect landscape</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV7 Alternative energy supplies <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM51 Wind energy - DM52 Solar energy
RSI1 Community facilities	<p>The retention, continued use, refurbishment and improvement of community facilities and buildings will be supported.</p>	<p>Population and health – supports social inclusion within the community, providing access to community facilities and services in the rural area.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT11 Infrastructure - SOC5 Health and well-being <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM39 Culture and community facilities
RSI2 Heritage Assets	<p>Support for conserving the significance of and preserving or enhancing the historic and</p>	<p>Protect cultural heritage and landscape</p>	<p>The policy is in line with Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 8 Rural area

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape)	Relationship to Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
	archaeological assets in the Parish.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV5 historic environment <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM47 listed buildings - DM48 non designated heritage assets - DM50 Archaeology
RSI3 Access to the countryside	Access to the countryside is promoted through protection and maintenance of the existing Public Right of Way (PROW) network.	<p>Protect and improve air quality, by managing traffic impacts</p> <p>Effect on population and health – promoting safe environments and minimising adverse impacts on quality of life arising from traffic impacts</p> <p>Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV3 Green infrastructure - ENV4 biodiversity and geodiversity <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM37 recreational routeways
RSI4 New pedestrian and cycle routes	Support for contributions towards or delivery of specific pedestrian and cycleway projects and networks.	Effect on population and health – providing access to services and supporting rural employment.	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV3 Green infrastructure - ENV4 biodiversity and geodiversity

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape)	Relationship to Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
		Reduce the potential impacts of climate change, by reducing the demand for travel for work and other purposes	Local Plan (Part Two) policies: - DM37 recreational routeways
TC 1 Telecommunications and Broadband	Support for the development of advanced, high quality communications infrastructure including high speed broadband and fibre.	Effect on population and health – providing access to services and supporting rural employment Reduce the potential impacts of climate change, by reducing the demand for travel for work and other purposes	Local Plan (Part One) policies: - STRAT10 Transport and Accessibility - STRAT11 Infrastructure - SOC 5 – health and wellbeing Local Plan (Part Two) policies: - DM18 – ICT and telecommunications
TC 2 Traffic	Development must not create unacceptable impacts on the local road network, its users, road safety, parking and congestion.	Protect and improve air quality, by managing traffic impacts Effect on population and health – promoting safe environments and minimising adverse impacts on quality of life arising from traffic impacts	Local Plan (Part One) policies: - STRAT10 Transport and Accessibility - SOC5 health and well being Local Plan (Part Two) policies: - T 5 Parking and access - DM 2 Impact on residential amenity

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape)	Relationship to Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies

Appendix 2: SEA Screening - Assessment of significant environmental effects of the Draft Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan

SEA Directive	Characteristics of the plan	Significant environmental effect?
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is a local level land use planning document to determine land use in a small area. Once made, it will work within the planning policy framework of the Local Plan for the borough.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a local planning policy framework for the Parish of Darnhall that will become part of the development plan for Cheshire West and Chester. It is required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan. The Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan will not impact on the strategic location, nature, size and operating conditions of new development over and above that set by the adopted Local Plan for the borough. It will provide local level guidance within the strategic framework on the nature of development in the Darnhall Neighbourhood Area should be brought forward and the mitigation and enhancement measures required in order to minimise impacts. The Neighbourhood Plan policies will work alongside the strategic policies in the development plan; other development management measures and environmental protection legislation.</p>	No
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other	The Neighbourhood Plan has to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan and must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.	No

SEA Directive	Characteristics of the plan	Significant environmental effect?
plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	It will therefore have limited influence over changing the policies in plans at the higher strategic level or lead to the development of further plans below it.	
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	The Neighbourhood Plan is required, as one of the basic condition tests, to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The framework for the promotion of sustainable development is set by the Government's Strategy for Sustainable Development, the National Planning Policy Framework and the policies in the adopted Local Plan for the borough. The Neighbourhood Plan will have limited influence over changing the sustainable development policies in plans and policies at the higher strategic level.	No
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	<p>Some of the environmental issues and problems identified in the neighbourhood plan for Darnhall include the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect the countryside including ancient woodland, field boundaries and dark skies - Maximise reuse of previously developed land to help prevent loss of greenfield land - Safeguard and enhance heritage assets and recreational facilities such as 	No

SEA Directive	Characteristics of the plan	Significant environmental effect?
	<p>footpaths</p> <p>- Promote safe access for pedestrians and cyclists to all parts of the parish</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to address these issues.</p>	
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection)</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Development Plan will have no direct role in the delivery of community legislation on the environment. It does not include policies on these matters.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to Habitats Regulation Assessment screening as set out in part 2 of this document.</p>	No

Appendix 3: SEA Screening - Characteristics of the plan's effects and of the area likely to be affected

Identified effects of the proposed policies	(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	(f) value and vulnerability of effect on (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Protect and improve air quality, by managing traffic impacts	Low infrequent probability, reducing the impact of traffic. Effects Medium and Long term.	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None – policy aims to protect and enhance heritage and landscape.	None	None	None identified	No
Effect on population and health – promoting safe environments and minimising adverse impacts on quality of life arising from traffic impacts	Low infrequent probability, reducing the impact of traffic. Effects Medium and Long term.	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None – policy aims to protect and enhance heritage and landscape.	None	None	None identified	No
Reduce the potential impacts of climate change by reducing the need to travel	Low infrequent probability, reducing the impact of traffic. Long term.	None	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified	No

¹ The assessment here has considered whether the effect of the policy goes beyond the UK and impacts upon other EU territories. Given scale and nature of Neighbourhood Plan the effects are not considered to be transboundary.

Identified effects of the proposed policies	(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	(f) value and vulnerability of effect on (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna Enhancement and creation of habitats, including trees/woodlands	High probability, as applications come forward. Policies support protection and enhancement of habitats and no net loss of biodiversity. Effects short, medium and long term.	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified – see HRA Screening	No
Protect cultural heritage and landscape	High probability as applications come forward. Effects short, medium and long term.	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None – policy aims to protect and enhance heritage and landscape.	None	None	None identified	No
Protect water quality	Low infrequent probability, related to specific applications. Impacts medium and long term	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	Potential small scale positive impact	None	None identified – see HRA screening	No
Population and health – supports access to local opportunities for employment and training	High probability – policy supports local employment opportunities. Effects short, medium term and potentially long term	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies	(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	(f) value and vulnerability of effect on (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Reduce the potential impacts of climate change through promoting renewable energy and reducing the amount of surface water flooding	Low infrequent probability, related to specific applications. Impacts medium and long term	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No
Population and human health – supports social inclusion and access to rural services and community facilities	Dependant on the scale and nature of development proposed. The NDP provides a positive framework to support facilities, but does not allocate specific sites/schemes.	Dependant on the nature and location of development.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies	(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	(f) value and vulnerability of effect on (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Providing sufficient housing to meet needs (No direct SEA topic)	<p>Dependant on the nature and location of development.</p> <p>High probability as policies support small scale housing appropriate to the Neighbourhood Area's countryside location (in accordance with the policies of the Local Plan) long term.</p> <p>The NDP does not allocate sites and unlikely to result in a significant increase in housing above existing levels due to the</p>	<p>Dependant on the nature and location of development.</p> <p>Unlikely cumulative effects.</p>	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	Dependant on the location and scale of development. Unlikely to be an effect.	None	None	None identified	No
Population and health –protection of residential amenity can have a positive effect on health and well being	High probability as development takes place. Short, medium and long term positive effects for residents.	None	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies	(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	(f) value and vulnerability of effect on (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Population and health – access to countryside promotes health and well being	Medium probability, short, medium and long term through the plan period. Potential for positive effects at the neighbourhood scale. The Neighbourhood Plan provides a positive framework to support access to the countryside, which should have a positive effect on health and well-being	Potential for small scale positive effects.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified	No
Effect on land and resources (Soil) from new development	Medium probability, depending on scale and type of employment development proposed. Potential for long term permanent effects, although likely to be small scale.	Potential for small scale cumulative effects, depending on nature and location of development proposed.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified	No
Supporting the economy (no direct SEA topic)	Medium probability, depending on scale and type of employment development proposed. Potential for long term permanent effects, although likely to be small scale.	Potential for small scale cumulative effects, depending on nature and location of development proposed.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

Appendix 4: European sites relevant to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan

European site	Reason for inclusion	Reason for designation	Existing pressures and potential impacts	Relevance to the Neighbourhood Area
Oak Mere SAC	Located within Cheshire West and Chester and within 15km of Darnhall NA	Water body with clear water of low nutrient status characteristics of oligotrophic waters and a marginal zone of shoreweed (<i>Littorella uniflora</i>). Site supports an assemblage of plants that are rare in the lowlands of England, including bog moss (<i>Sphagnum</i> spp.) and the scarce narrow small-reed (<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>).	Water pollution / enrichment. Hydrological changes - reduction in size of the mere due to natural lowering of the local water table caused by successive droughts, resulting in threat to shoreline communities from desiccation and invasion by birch and willow. Atmospheric pollution from nearby roads.	The site falls within the 15km radius of the Darnhall Neighbourhood Area. However, it does not fall within the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies of the plan. The pressures and potential impacts to consider in the screening are: - Water pollution - Atmospheric pollution.
Midlands Meres and Mosses Ramsar site Phase 2	Located within Cheshire West and Chester and within 15km of Darnhall NA	Series of open water and peatland sites supporting a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog. This includes natural dystrophic lakes and ponds and transition mires and quaking bogs with floating bog moss. Site supports a number of rare plant species associated with wetlands and an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates.	Water pollution / enrichment. Hydrological changes. Despite number of visitors to some of the meres and mosses, interest features are resilient to recreational pressure and off-track trampling is not a significant issue due to the hazardous nature of the sites away from designated tracks and boardwalks.	The site falls within the 15km radius of the Darnhall Neighbourhood Area. However, it does not fall within the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies of the plan. The pressures and potential impacts to consider in the screening are: - Water pollution
West Midlands Mosses SAC	Located partly within Cheshire West and Chester and within 15km of Darnhall NA		Due to distance to major roads, changes in local air quality are not an issue requiring investigation.	The site falls within the 15km radius of the Darnhall Neighbourhood Area. However, it does not fall within the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies of the plan. The pressures and potential impacts to consider in the screening are: - Water pollution

Appendix 5: HRA Screening of Neighbourhood Plan policies for Likely Significant Effect

The pressures and issues to consider, as identified in Appendix 4, are Likely Significant Effects on water pollution and atmospheric pollution (Oak Mere SAC) and water quality (Midlands Meres and Mosses Ramsar site Phase 2 and West Midlands Mosses SAC).

Policy	Neighbourhood Plan policy summary	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
CE1	New developments shall demonstrate a net gain in biodiversity using appropriate evaluation methods and avoidance/ mitigation strategies. Compensatory measures (for example biodiversity offsetting) will be required where a net loss of biodiversity is demonstrated..	No LSE No links/pathways with water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution. Potential for improvements to local water quality, but this is unlikely to have a significant effect on the SAC.	No
CE2	Supports proposals to enhance all natural habitats and seeks to provide for greater integration between existing wildlife corridors.	No LSE No links/pathways with atmospheric (air) pollution. Potential for improvements to local water quality, but this is unlikely to have a significant effect on the SAC.	No
CE3	Supports proposals that would not result in the loss of, or the deterioration in the quality of an important natural feature, including trees and hedgerows and watercourses. New tree planting will be supported within new	No LSE No links/pathways with atmospheric (air) pollution. Potential for improvements to local water quality, but this is unlikely to have a significant effect on the SAC.	No

Policy	Neighbourhood Plan policy summary	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
	developments.		
CE4	Principle of dark skies to minimise the impact on wildlife and ecology supported.	No LSE No links/pathways with water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution.	No
CE5	Supports development which respects and enhances the landscape character of the area.	No LSE No links/pathways with water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution.	No
CE6	New development should be designed to manage surface water at source to minimise runoff.	No LSE No links/pathways with atmospheric (air) pollution. Potential for improvements to local water quality, but this is unlikely to have a significant effect on the SAC.	No
RCLE 1	Supports proposals to extend existing or promote new small scale employment opportunities that are appropriate to a rural environment. Proposals should support the rural economy and agriculture, horticulture, forestry and equestrian enterprises where they contribute positively to the environment and at do not cause	No LSE The effect of additional employment development on air pollution, will depend on the type of employment use and associated traffic generated. The scale and type of use would be small scale appropriate to the neighbourhood area. Due to the distance and scale of anticipated development	Employment development would be small scale appropriate to the rural area, in line with Local Plan (Part One) and (Part Two). Due to the scale of likely development and distance from the Oak

Policy	Neighbourhood Plan policy summary	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
	unacceptable visual or landscape harm	proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan development would be unlikely to lead to LSE on the Oak Mere SAC or qualifying features. No links/pathways with water quality.	Mere SAC, an LSE is unlikely.
RCLE 2	Loss of employment sites and community facilities will only be supported where the existing use is not viable and has been marketed for at least 12 months.	No LSE The aim of policy RCLE2 is to protect existing employment sites and community uses, which is unlikely to have any additional impact on air pollution or water quality.	No
RCLE 3	New commercial development must be of a high quality design which is in keeping with existing business development; does not adversely impact the amenity of neighbouring dwellings and provides appropriate landscaping and on site car parking	No LSE No links/pathways with water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution.	No
RCLE 4	New housing development will be supported where it meets local plan policies STRAT 1 and STRAT 9 and ENV5, Acceptable types of development are: Reuse of	No LSE Policy RCLE4 allows for limited housing development. The scale of development would be relatively small and impacts would be local. It is unlikely to lead to LSE on the	No - housing development would be small scale appropriate to the rural area, in line with the levels established in Local

Policy	Neighbourhood Plan policy summary	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
	<p>existing rural buildings;</p> <p>Redevelopment of brownfield sites subject to policy DM1, 19 and 22;</p> <p>Enabling development.</p>	<p>Oak Mere SAC or qualifying features.</p> <p>No links/pathways with water quality.</p>	<p>Plan (Part One) and (Part Two). Due to the scale of likely development and distance from the Oak Mere SAC, an LSE is unlikely.</p>
RCLE 5	<p>New development should be of a high quality design which complements and enhances existing development in the area; should not adversely impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties; should provide appropriate landscaping, garden space and SuDs.</p>	<p>No LSE</p> <p>No links/pathways with atmospheric (air) pollution. Potential for improvements to local water quality, through the implementation of SuDs but this is unlikely to have a significant effect on the SAC.</p>	<p>No</p>
RCLE 6	<p>Supports small groups of wind turbines subject to criteria relating to impact on the surrounding countryside and sufficient distance from the Merlin Network radio telescope.</p> <p>Supports small domestic or agricultural solar panels particularly on buildings. Larger solar installations only supported where they accord with Policy DM52 of the Local Plan (Part Two).</p>	<p>No LSE</p> <p>No links/pathways with water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution.</p>	<p>No</p>

Policy	Neighbourhood Plan policy summary	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
RSI1	Supports retention, continued use, refurbishment and improvement of community buildings.	No LSE No links/pathways with water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution.	No
RSI2	Protects historic assets, requires development to conserve the significance of and preserve and enhance the asset and its setting	No LSE No links/pathways with water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution.	No
RSI3	Promotes opportunities to provide access to the countryside through the protection and maintenance of the PROW network New paths, or PROW should be appropriate and sensitive to biodiversity and character of the locality.	No LSE Extending recreational links along the Winsford Flashes has the potential to impact on water quality. The policy recognises the need for any new paths to protect biodiversity. As such, the policy is unlikely to result in a significant effect on the international sites.	No
RSI4	Supports contributions towards or delivery of the pedestrian and cycleway as follows:	No LSE	No

Policy	Neighbourhood Plan policy summary	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Style Farm to the Footpath starting at Primrose Hill • From Hall Lane to the Footpath near Stocker Lane as well as links with routes identified in the Winsford Neighbourhood Plan. <p>This provision will be supported subject to any impact on biodiversity and the environment being acceptable or successfully mitigated, with measures introduced to protect the local ecology, wildlife habitats and specifically the Nature Reserve at Weaver Dairy House Farm.</p>	<p>Connecting networks of pedestrian and cycle routes along the Winsford Flashes has the potential to impact on water quality. The policy recognises the need for any new paths to protect biodiversity and specifically the nature reserve at Weaver Dairy House Farm. As such, the policy is unlikely to result in a significant effect on the international sites.</p>	
TC1	Supports the development of high quality communications infrastructure including high speed broadband and improved mobile network coverage and fibre to premises.	<p>No LSE</p> <p>No links/pathways with water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution.</p>	No
TC2	Requires the submission of a 'connectivity statement' with planning applications for new residential and business developments, to show how the development will be connected to nearby data networks	<p>No LSE</p> <p>Oak Mere SAC has the potential to be effected from atmospheric pollution from nearby roads Policy TC 1 should not result in any increase in traffic, and has the potential to result in a reduced need to</p>	No

Policy	Neighbourhood Plan policy summary	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
		travel. As such the policy is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the SAC or qualifying features. No links with water quality	
TC2	<p>Development should not create unacceptable impacts on the local road network, its users, road safety, parking and congestion.</p> <p>Mitigation measures should be incorporated into proposals to minimise adverse impacts. Where appropriate, developments may be asked to contribute to the delivery of sustainable transport projects.</p>	<p>No LSE</p> <p>Policy TC 2 is intended to prevent adverse impacts from additional traffic. The measures aim to reduce the impact of heavy goods vehicles and traffic speeds, to improve safety and environmental impact. This is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the SAC or qualifying features. No links with water quality.</p>	No

Appendix 6: Comments received during consultation on initial SEA Screening Opinion (January 2019)

Statutory consultee	Date Consulted	Consultee Response	CWAC response
Environment Agency	30 th April 2019	<p>16th May 2019</p> <p>The above consultation does not require a formal response from the Environment Agency as we no longer respond to screening opinions and these now fall outside the scope of referrals we would wish to receive.</p>	Thank you for your response to the Draft Screening Opinion. Comments noted.
Historic England	30 th April 2019	<p>24th May 2019</p> <p>.In terms of our area of interest, we would concur with your assessment that the document is unlikely to result in any significant environmental effects and will simply provide additional guidance on existing policies which have already been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal. As a result, we would endorse the conclusions that it is not necessary to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the document.</p>	Thank you for your response to the Draft Screening Opinion. Comments noted.

Statutory consultee	Date Consulted	Consultee Response	CWAC response
Natural England	30 th April 2019	<p>14th May 2019</p> <p>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening</p> <p>It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development •the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan •the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan. <p>We have checked our records and based on the information</p>	<p>Thank you for your response to the Draft Screening Opinion. Comments noted.</p>

Statutory consultee	Date Consulted	Consultee Response	CWAC response
		<p>provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.</p> <p>We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.</p> <p>Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.</p>	

Statutory consultee	Date Consulted	Consultee Response	CWAC response
		<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening</p> <p>Natural England agrees with the report's conclusions that the Darnhall Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.</p>	

