



Strategic Environmental Assessment

Screening Report

July 2018

Contents	Page number(s)
1. Introduction	3
2. Legislative Background	3
3. Determination of the likeliness of significant environmental effects of Bakewell neighbourhood plan	4-10
4. Conclusion of screening process	10
5. Sustainability Appraisal of Policies DB1 and E2	12

1. Introduction

A neighbourhood plan must be compatible with European Union (EU) obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant.

This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the contents of the submission draft Bakewell Neighbourhood Plan (September 2018) (hereafter known as 'BNP') requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC.

The relevant planning authority, Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA), must decide whether BNP is compatible with the above Directive:

- when it takes the decision on whether the neighbourhood plan should proceed to referendum; and
- when it takes the decision on whether or not to 'make' the neighbourhood plan (which brings it into force)

2. Legislative Background

The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC (the Directive) and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).

Article 3(2) of the Directive makes SEA mandatory for plans and programmes 'which are prepared for . . . town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent for projects . . .'

There are plans for which an SEA is not always required. For plans which 'determine the use of small areas at local level' or are 'minor modifications' to existing plans, the Directive only requires SEA where they are **likely to have significant environmental effects**. The expressions 'small area' and 'local level' are not defined in the Directive and must be interpreted in relation to the nature and scope of a particular plan.

In order to determine whether the BNP is likely to have significant environmental effects, and therefore require an SEA, and (if so) the level of detail needed, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (HCLG) National Planning Practice Guidance advises that the relevant planning authority should:

- at an early stage assess the draft neighbourhood plan's potential scope against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004); and
- in so doing, should consult the statutory consultation bodies, in this case, Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency; and
- where a plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects, prepare a statement of its reasons.

Where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment an SEA must be carried out. Section 3 of this report assesses BNP for the likeliness of significant environmental effects.

3. Determination of the likeliness of significant environmental effects of Bakewell neighbourhood plan

Table 1: Comparison of Bakewell Neighbourhood Plan against Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004		
Significance Criteria set out in SEA Directive (Annex ii) and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	Impact of the draft Bakewell Neighbourhood Plan	Likelihood of significant environmental effects
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:		
(a) 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>Bakewell Neighbourhood Plan (BNP) would, if adopted, form part of the statutory development plan for the Bakewell Neighbourhood Area (BNA). Therefore the 'projects and other activities' for which BNP helps to set a framework are concerned with managing land-use and development.</p> <p>The parish of Bakewell has a population of 3,722 (census 2011). Bakewell town, whilst a small market town, is the largest settlement within the Peak District National Park (PDNP). The BNP covers the Parish of Bakewell which extends over the surrounding countryside (map 1).</p> <p>BNP sits within the wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework, and in line with paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 must 'be in general conformity' with strategic planning policies for the area, in this case the Local Plan which consists of the Local Plan (2001), Core Strategy (2011) and the Development Management Policies Plan (Post examination stage, June 2018).</p> <p>The 'Basic Conditions Statement' prepared under Regulation 15 (1)(d) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, demonstrates that the BNP meets this requirement.</p> <p>The SEA of the PDNPA Core Strategy concluded that it "is likely to have a generally positive effect on the SA Objectives and the SEA Directive topics. There are, perhaps unsurprisingly, no significant adverse effects expected as a result of the policies, and only relatively few minor adverse effects. These are likely to be relatively small-scale, localised and the result of</p>	Not likely

	<p>policies that deliver significant benefits to other SA Objectives.”</p> <p>Policies in the PDNPA Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Plan control development both in terms of scale and type, in order to ensure that the character of settlements and countryside is not undermined. An assessment of the BNP policies for their conformity to the adopted Core Strategies and emerging Development Management Policies Plan has been undertaken. This confirms that BNP is in general conformity with the Local Plan and no significant changes are introduced.</p> <p>In addition, the Core Strategy was subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal which included an SEA assessment. The DMP was subject to a Sustainability Appraisal Report, incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment (October 2016).</p> <p>There are 17 policies within the BNP, of which 15 provide further site specific advice, building on policies within the Core Strategy or which refer to land within the existing development boundary and are not considered to need further assessment through an SEA.</p> <p>There are 2 policies which direct development to specific locations should the need for development arise.</p> <p>The BNP Policy DB1 proposes to amend the Development Boundary by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extending the boundary to include land to accommodate development (A total of 13 hectares) • including the existing car parking facilities at the Agricultural Business Centre • draw a tighter boundary around existing residential development <p>(see Map xx)</p> <p>Bakewell town is a Core Strategy Policy DS1 settlement and as such development is directed towards it as a sustainable location. Core Strategy DS1: D states ‘In Bakewell...there is additional scope to maintain and improve the sustainability and vitality of communities across the National Park. In or on the edge of [these] settlements new build development will be acceptable for affordable housing, community facilities and small-scale retail and business premises.’</p> <p>The BNP Policy E2 proposes to safeguard 4 existing employment sites. Core Strategy Policy E1: Business development in towns and villages, safeguards existing employment sites and this approach was considered within the Core Strategy SA, therefore no further assessment is</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>required. However, the policy also seeks to allocate a site for employment use (see Map xxx). This site is vacant and has been taken forward to the BNP from the Local Plan (2001) (Policy LB6).</p> <p>Both BNP Policy DB1 and E2 will be applied alongside Core Strategy policies L1 Landscape character and valued characteristics, L2 Sites of biodiversity or geodiversity, and emerging Development Management Policies DMC11 Safeguarding, recording and enhancing nature conservation interests and DMC12 Sites, features or species of wildlife, geological or geomorphological importance.</p>	
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	BNP is the lowest level land use plan and its influence is restricted to Bakewell parish. The proposal to allocate an employment site may influence the employment land requirements for the PDNPA area, however the site is only 0.75ha and so the degree of influence is small.	Not likely
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	<p>One of the 'basic conditions' that BNP must meet under Para 8 (2)(d) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, is that it will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development: improvements in environmental, economic and social conditions or that consideration has been given to how any potential adverse effects arising from the proposals may be prevented, reduced or offset.</p> <p>The goal of sustainable development is described in the BNP's 'Visions':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A varied and lively town centre with shops and services meeting residents' and visitors' needs together with a vibrant business environment with a range of businesses offering good quality employment opportunities for local people. • Open spaces which are important for the setting of Bakewell are designated as Local Green Spaces and kept open. The landscape and townscape of the parish are conserved and enhanced. Natural and cultural heritage assets are conserved and enhanced. Environmental resilience (sustainability) is achieved in new developments and improved in existing development. • There are a sufficient range and number of homes that satisfy the needs of local people young and old, whilst retaining the heritage of the town, its important green spaces and close affinity towards the surrounding countryside. 	Not likely

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community facilities for leisure, sports and arts are maintained and enhanced to meet need. • A balance between vehicles and non-car users is achieved, particularly in the town centre. Pavements are clear of parked vehicles and obstructions. Pedestrians, wheelchairs and pushchairs can move freely. Parking opportunities are managed to suit peoples' needs. • Super-fast Broadband connections available for all. <p>POLICY DB1: Development Boundary will achieve the aim of sustainable development by expanding the development boundary in locations that have the least impact on the landscape of the National Park and character of Bakewell. This will ensure that development is delivered in the most appropriate locations if the need arises.</p> <p>POLICY ENV1 Protection and Enhancement of Bakewell's Setting will achieve the aim of sustainable development by supporting green infrastructure to improve connectivity and planting of trees.</p> <p>ENV2 Protection and Enhancement of Bakewell's Special Character will achieve the aim of sustainable development by supporting the planting of street trees and championing Building for Life standards. Development must adhere to SPDs on design and shopfronts and the Conservation Area Appraisal.</p> <p>ENV3 Protection of Non-designated Heritage Assets will achieve the aim of sustainable development by reusing existing buildings.</p> <p>POLICY ENV4: Local Green Spaces will achieve the aim of sustainable development by preventing urban sprawl.</p> <p>POLICY H1: Provision of Affordable Housing will achieve the aim of sustainable development by providing housing for the needs of the community.</p> <p>POLICY H2: Market Housing and Starter Homes will achieve the aim of sustainable development by reusing brownfield/PDL.</p> <p>POLICY H3: Age and disability related considerations will achieve the aim of sustainable development by ensuring that development is built close to existing services thereby reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>POLICY CF1: Newholme Hospital will achieve the aim of sustainable development by reusing an existing Listed Building and making good use of the site by providing housing/employment/community facilities within a sustainable location.</p> <p>POLICY CF2: Development of Community, Sports and Arts Facilities will achieve the aim of sustainable development by ensuring that new facilities are accessible to all and located</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>within or on the edge of the development boundary. POLICY CF 3: Retaining Playing Fields and Sports Facilities will achieve the aim of sustainable development by ensuring that new facilities are accessible to all and located within or on the edge of the development boundary. POLICY E1 Bakewell Central Shopping Area and Protected Shopping Frontages will achieve the aim of sustainable development by protecting the vitality and viability of Bakewell shopping centre as a service centre for Bakewell and the surrounding area. POLICY E2: Employment Sites will achieve the aim of sustainable development by locating employment facilities in accessible locations. POLICY TC1: Improvements for Non-Car Users will achieve the aim of sustainable development by improving access for non-car users thus reducing the need to use private or public transport and reducing carbon emissions. POLICY TC2: Car and Cycle Parking will achieve the aim of sustainable development by supporting the provision of more cycle parking facilities within Bakewell. POLICY TC3: Reopening the Matlock – Buxton Railway will achieve the aim of sustainable development by supporting a more sustainable mode of transport and reducing the reliance on motor vehicles. POLICY TC4: Broadband will achieve the aim of sustainable development by supporting the opportunity to work from home thereby reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>The ‘Basic Conditions Statement’ prepared under Regulation 15 (1)(d) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, demonstrates that the BNP meets this requirement.</p>	
<p>(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme</p>	<p>BNP is relevant for the consideration of environmental problems at a local parish level, at a regional level as a service centre and further afield as a tourist destination. The environmental concerns addressed by BNP are measures in relation to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A town centre which serves residents and visitors and provides a variety of employment opportunities • Protecting the natural and cultural heritage of Bakewell and supporting environmental resilience in new and existing development • Providing sufficient homes without adversely affecting heritage and countryside • A balance between vehicles and non-car users. 	<p>Not likely</p>
<p>(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation (for</p>	<p>BNP is restricted to land use planning and not directly relevant to the implementation of European legislation.</p>	<p>Not likely</p>

example plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection.)		
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular to :		
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	<p>The area to be affected is the parish of Bakewell, comprising the market town of Bakewell and surrounding countryside. The Parish of Bakewell straddles the White Peak and the Derwent valley. The PDNPA's landscape character assessment describes the area as comprising 'limestone village farmlands', 'riverside meadows' and 'estate lands'.</p> <p>The majority of the BNP policies have modest but enduring positive effects to improve the built environment, support development in sustainable locations and to address conflict between vehicular and non-vehicular users. However, policies DB1 (extend the settlement boundary) and E2 (allocate an employment site) would have the potential to result in the development on undeveloped land which is unlikely to be reversible. However, the BNP will work in conjunction with Core Strategy policies L1 Landscape character and valued characteristics, L2 Sites of biodiversity or geodiversity, and emerging Development Management Policies DMC11 Safeguarding, recording and enhancing nature conservation interests and DMC12 Sites, features or species of wildlife, geological or geomorphological importance.</p>	Not likely
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	Overall the cumulative nature of the effects of extending the settlement boundary of Bakewell and allocating an employment site are small. As stated above, Core Strategy and DMP policies will apply to development proposals, but the effect of extending the boundary itself does not result in an adverse impact and the employment site is carried forward from the Local Plan (2001).	Not likely
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects	There will be no transboundary effects across member states.	Not likely
(d) the risks to human health or the environment	No risks to human health identified. Risk to the environment is minimised by conformity with National Park Core Strategy. The Plan seeks to improve human health by supporting the provision of affordable homes and community uses where need is demonstrated and in appropriate locations, sensitive to the environment and heritage of Bakewell. The Plan also seeks to promote a balance between vehicles and non-vehicular traffic, improving links and provision for pedestrians and cyclists.	Not likely
(e) the magnitude and	BNP covers the parish area of Bakewell (approximately 1,239.745 ha), population 3,722	Not likely

spatial extent of the effects.	(2011 census). Magnitude and spatial extent of effects is restricted to the parish of Bakewell.	
(fi) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage.	<p>The area to be affected is the parish of Bakewell, comprising of Bakewell town and the surrounding countryside. The value and vulnerability of the area is high, recognised by the designation as the Peak District National Park. The Parish of Bakewell straddles the White Peak and the Derwent valley. The PDNPA's landscape character assessment describes the area as comprising 'limestone village farmlands', 'riverside meadows' and 'estate lands'. In addition to these Bakewell has a Conservation Area, Listed Buildings and Ancient Monuments.</p> <p>Policy DB1 would impact on the environment and character of the settlement through the expansion of the settlement boundary to facilitate development if needed.</p> <p>Policy E2 would impact on the environment and character of the settlement through the allocation of an employment site.</p>	Unknown
(fii) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values.	Extending the settlement boundary does not in itself have an effect and whilst an employment site is proposed, any proposals for future development will be assessed against Core Strategy and DMP policies, both documents have been subjected to an SEA and their purposes are to protect the natural and cultural environment through only permitting development where needed and in the least sensitive locations to protect, conserve and enhance the National Park.	Not likely
(fiii) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to intensive land use	Intensive land use is not proposed by BNP. National Park purposes as set out in the Environment Act 1995 and the PDNPA Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Plan seek to conserve and enhance the qualities of the natural environment as such development densities remain low in accordance with these policies.	Not likely
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	<p>BNP is within a National Park and part of the area is designated a Conservation Area. The BNP will work in conjunction with Core Strategy policies L1 Landscape character and valued characteristics, L2 Sites of biodiversity or geodiversity, and emerging Development Management Policies DMC11 Safeguarding, recording and enhancing nature conservation interests and DMC12 Sites, features or species of wildlife, geological or geomorphological importance. These policies seek to preserve and enhance the landscape quality and any proposal to develop land within the settlement boundary will have to adhere to these policies.</p> <p>Policy DB1 would impact on the environment and character of the settlement through the expansion of the settlement boundary to facilitate development if needed.</p>	Unknown

	Policy E2 would impact on the environment and character of the settlement through the allocation of an employment site.	
--	---	--

4. Conclusion of Screening Process

It is demonstrated, through assessment against the significance criteria in the SEA Directive and Regulations, as set out in Section 3, it is unlikely Bakewell Neighbourhood Plan will have any adverse environmental effects with respect to all policies except DB1 and E2.

Policy DB1 would impact on the environment and character of the settlement through the expansion of the settlement boundary to facilitate development if needed.

Policy E2 would impact on the environment and character of the settlement through the allocation of an employment site.

Therefore a full Sustainability Appraisal is undertaken with respect to Policies DB1 and E2.