

**SCREENING REPORT OF THE DRAFT  
CANNOCK WOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT &  
HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT**

30 MARCH 2022

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# 1. Introduction

1.1 Cannock Wood Parish Council has prepared a draft Neighbourhood Plan (CWNP) in order to ensure that development within the Parish reflects the objectives of the community. The Parish Council developed a Vision and Objectives for the Plan based on extensive survey work undertaken in the Parish and developed policies based on these objectives.

## VISION

Cannock Wood should

- be a village apart from urban sprawl surrounded by a sea of Green Belt,
- have long countryside views and ready access to open spaces,
- reinforce its local distinctiveness as a haven of tranquillity and wildlife.

Cannock Wood housing should be

- of a high standard of design and use appropriate materials,
- a mix of properties of appropriate size according to residents' needs,
- sustainably and sensitively developed within a tightly drawn settlement boundary to respect and enhance the AONB setting which is so important to the village.

Cannock Wood residents will have greater well-being

- as part of a friendly and cohesive community,
- as a mix of families and those of retirement age,
- by having access to important community facilities and services,
- by taking steps together to improve the village we call home.

## OBJECTIVES

<b>OBJECTIVE 1: HOUSING</b>	Ensure that any new housing is of high quality and well designed, is appropriate for the needs of the area and respects the character of the village.
<b>OBJECTIVE 2: LOCAL CHARACTER</b>	New development should respect local character/protect landscape character and reflect local vernacular or high-quality contemporary design and be fully integrated into the Parish.
<b>OBJECTIVE 3: VIEWS</b>	Views, in particular the long, panoramic views which are so important to us in Cannock Wood, should be protected and where possible enhanced.
<b>OBJECTIVE 4: GREEN BELT</b>	Support the aim of the Green Belt to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open.

OBJECTIVE 5: <b>CASTLE RING</b>	Protect and enhance Castle Ring.
OBJECTIVE 6: <b>AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB)</b>	Protect the scenic natural beauty, landscape character and tranquil wildlife habitats of the AONB.
OBJECTIVE 7: <b>BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE</b>	Protect and enhance the biodiversity and wildlife of the parish including tree and hedgerow coverage.
OBJECTIVE 8: <b>LIGHT POLLUTION</b>	Minimise light pollution wherever possible especially within rural areas.
OBJECTIVE 9: <b>FOOTPATHS</b>	Seek to improve provision for pedestrians in the village in terms of accessibility, safety and quality.
OBJECTIVE 10: <b>ROADS</b>	Seek to improve road safety in the village for all users by working with the relevant authorities.

1.2 The Parish Council consulted further on these draft objectives before drafting policies. The draft policies have since also been consulted on with opinions requested from Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC) and Cannock Chase AONB as well as those of the residents of Cannock Wood Parish. Based on the comments from this informal consultation the draft policies have been amended accordingly and are set out on the following pages.

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## POLICY CW1: HOUSING DESIGN

1. All residential proposals including extensions must:
  - a. respond positively to the character of Cannock Wood Parish as outlined in this Neighbourhood Plan and the Character Assessment (See Policy CW2: Local Character, below),
  - b. be respectful of the character of the village in scale and proportion, and
  - c. be of high quality and well designed. This may include innovative and contemporary design solutions provided they positively enhance character.
  - d. Avoid reducing the gaps between the main settlement boundary as defined by the Cannock Chase Local Plan Part 1, 2014 and clusters of buildings outside the boundary.
  - e. Avoid further extending strips of development including those on the edges of the existing Settlement boundary as defined by the Cannock Chase Local Plan Part 1, 2014.
  - f. Consider the need for external lighting as part of the siting and design of development. Whilst sufficient lighting for safety is supported, light pollution should be avoided as detailed by Policy CW9: Light Pollution. See also Design Code and contact Cannock Chase AONB to see local guidance on lighting.
  - g. Consider inclusion of features to improve energy conservation and future accessibility and adaptability including electric vehicle charging points.
2. All residential proposals including extensions should:
  - a. Use appropriate materials – traditional brick or render or other sympathetic materials – in keeping with the character of the area.
  - b. Where possible, avoid ‘terracing’ whereby semi-detached and detached houses end up so close to one another that the effect is similar to a continuous terrace.
  - c. Protect and enhance green infrastructure by avoiding removal of existing native hedgerows and trees and encouraging the planting of native hedges and trees.
  - d. Be of a scale and proportion in relation to surrounding buildings and setting in the village and wider landscape so as to not dominate them.
  - e. Demonstrate sensitive positioning within plots.
  - f. Maintain glimpsed views between properties.
  - g. Maintain a reasonable level of landscaping with native hedges and trees.
  - h. Promote or maintain natural surveillance over public space such as streets for example by ensuring that houses overlook the street.
  - i. Create or maintain clear public/private interface i.e., a clear difference between what is public and what is private land.
  - j. Create or maintain active frontage i.e., facing outwards onto the street rather than presenting a blank elevation.

## POLICY CW1: HOUSING DESIGN (continued)

3. All housing proposals except extensions should meet the following criteria:
  - a. Provide an appropriate housing type and tenure to the population. The Housing Needs Assessment has highlighted the highest need for small bungalows and starter homes.
  - b. Be 'tenure blind' so that the tenure of the housing (i.e., whether it is privately or socially owned or rented) cannot be determined from its design or location.
  - c. Provide safe access and adequate parking.
  - d. Show how the building, landscaping and planting creates attractive green spaces.
  - e. Use native trees and hedgerows in landscaping schemes and boundary treatment where possible to enhance the surrounding character and local biodiversity.
  - f. Minimise flood risk by incorporating Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) which minimises surface water run-off. These may include features such as ponds, swales and permeable paving designed as part of the development and to reflect the character of the area. Every option should be investigated before discharging surface water into a public sewerage network, in line with the surface water hierarchy.
  - g. Where it is a legal requirement for development to be provided with a drainage strategy, copies of any existing and proposed drainage strategies should be provided to the Parish Council as well as the Cannock Chase District Council so records can be retained at a local level.
4. Where housing proposals involve demolition of an existing building, proposals will be required to show that the replacement building will be of an equal or superior design in terms of the above criteria.
5. The Cannock Wood Design Code and Character Assessment will be used to assess development schemes coming forward.

## POLICY CW2: LOCAL CHARACTER

1. Proposed development should respond to, protect and enhance the character of the immediate surroundings, the wider Neighbourhood area and the rest of AONB. Proposals should be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the character, history and design of the surrounding buildings and landscape and show how this has been taken into account in the design of the proposals.

In particular, proposals should be of a scale, density and mass that is sympathetic to the character of the immediate surroundings and the wider area.

As described in the Character Assessment, consideration should be given to the elements which contribute to local character including the following:

- a. Landscape and Topography
- b. Biodiversity and Green and Natural Features
- c. General Patterns of Built Form and Open Space including Density
- d. Main Uses and Mix of Uses
- e. Views and Vistas and Enclosure
- f. Movement and Legibility
- g. Building Typologies
- h. Building Details including Scale and Height
- i. Heritage
- j. Streetscape
- k. Parking and Access
- l. Lighting and Security
- m. Gardens, Boundary Treatments, and the Public Private Interface.

Reference should also be made to the Cannock Wood Design Code where appropriate.

2. Landscape improvements in particular should be appropriate for the surrounding landscape character.

## POLICY CW3: NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

The following should be regarded as non-designated heritage assets:

- a. Cannock Wood Methodist Church;
- b. Nun's Well.

Proposals which affect the significance of non-designated heritage assets will be determined by considering the extent to which those aspects which contribute to its significance are conserved or enhanced.

The assets identified above should be submitted for inclusion on Cannock Chase's emerging Local List of non-designated heritage assets once it is established but inclusion of any non-designated heritage assets on the Local List is not necessary for the application of policy CW3.

## POLICY CW4: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

1. Proposals which affect any part of the historic environment will be determined by considering the extent to which those aspects which contribute to its significance are conserved or enhanced.
2. Proposals affecting any part of the historic environment should be informed by an understanding of the site's context and heritage significance and proposals which impact, directly or indirectly, on a heritage asset or its setting, shall be accompanied by a heritage statement which must
  - a. Explain how the proposal has taken into account the significance of any designated or non-designated heritage assets.
  - b. Evaluate any effect that the proposal would have on the significance of a heritage asset, and support the proposal by:
    - i. Demonstrating that they have avoided or minimised harm to the significance of an asset through the design of the development
    - ii. Explaining how possible mitigation of any harm has been fully considered
    - iii. Identifying any public benefits that would arise.





## POLICY CW5: VIEWS AND VISTAS

The views and vistas important to Cannock Wood should be conserved from any significant adverse impact of new development (such as detracting from or obscuring views and vistas). Proposals must demonstrate that they do not as a result of height or scale or any other aspect of the development have an adverse impact on views and vistas. The views and vistas include but are not limited to those set out in the Views Assessment list and map below. Source of this list – NP Plan Survey.

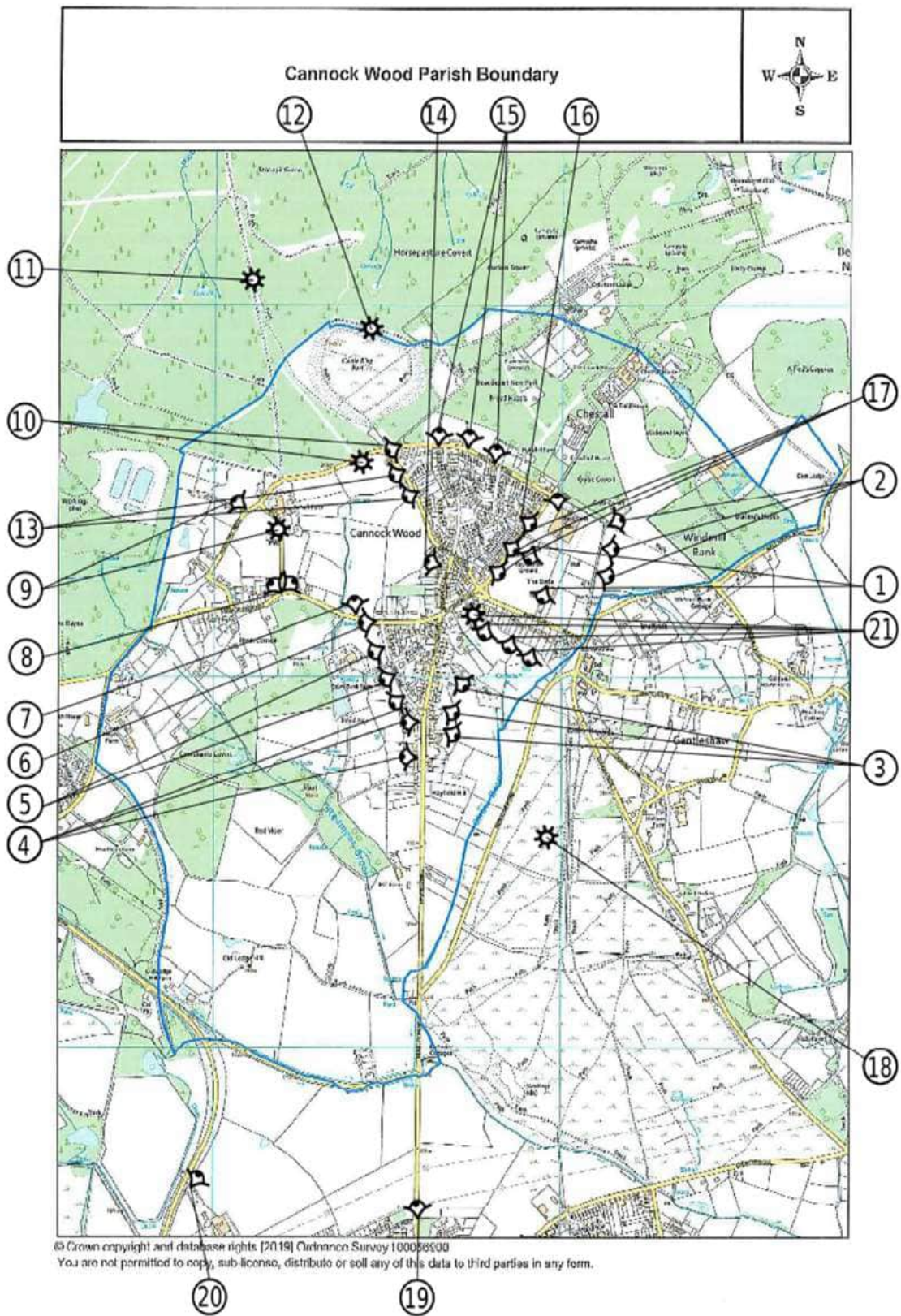
*The Views and vistas identified by Views Assessment are:*

Map ref.	Viewpoint and direction	Brief description
1.	From the playing field (and village hall car park)	Long distance views to south and south-west, to Barr Beacon, centre of Birmingham, and the Wrekin
2.	From public footpath alongside covered reservoir to east and south-east	Lichfield Cathedral, Tamworth and beyond towards Nuneaton
3.	From Hayfield Hill to east, south-east and south	Gentleshaw Common and Shaw Brook, hayfields and ranges of hills including Barr Beacon
4.	From Hayfield Hill to south-west and west	Over Court Bank Farm to Nun's Well, countryside and forest
5.	From Slang Lane south-west and west	Over Court Bank Farm and Nun's Well Park, across fields both sides of Cumberledge Hill and up to forest
6.	From Cumberledge Hill west and south-west	
7.	From Cumberledge Hill north-west and north	
8.	From junction of Chapel Lane and Cumberledge Hill	360°
9.	From Holly Hill Road (section below Park Gate)	360°

**POLICY CW5: VIEWS AND VISTAS (continued)**

10.	From Holly Hill Road (junction with Park Gate) west, south-west, south and south-east	Farmland, forest and distant views
11.	Cannock Chase forest	360°
12.	Castle Ring	360°
13.	From Park Gate Road west, south-west, south and south-east	Farmland, forest and distant views
14.	From Bradwell Lane north-west, west and south-west	Farmland to Chapel Lane, Cumberledge Hill, Nun's Well and the forest
15.	From Holly Hill Road (section Park Gate to Chestall Road)	North across fields to forest and also country feel lane behind Park Gate
16.	View alongside reservoir south-east from Chestall Road and Holly Hill Road	Long distance view towards Lichfield and beyond
17.	From Chestall Road east, south-east and south	Long distance views towards Lichfield and Gentleshaw
18.	From Gentleshaw Common	360°. Wide panorama over farmland to Cannock Wood, the forest, and in the distance as far as the Wrekin.
19.	From Burntwood (Rugeley Road) looking north	Wide panorama with Gentleshaw Common, farmland and Cannock Wood, and the forest. An entrance point to AONB. Approach to Cannock Wood.
20.	From Burntwood (Bleak House Farm) looking north-east	Farmland with forest beyond. Cannock Wood's prominently situated on the top of the hill, against with trees as the back-drop. Approach to Cannock Wood.
21.	From Buds Road, looking west, south-west and south	Nun's Well, farmland and mature trees

**POLICY CW5: VIEWS AND VISTAS (continued)**



*Views and vistas identified by the Views Assessment*

## **POLICY CW6: PROTECT AND ENHANCE CASTLE RING**

1. Protection and enhancement of the site including improvements to access will be supported where they maintain and preserve this Scheduled Ancient Monument in its present state and respect the character of the area as well as the fragile habitats in the Site of Biological Interest and the wildlife found there.
2. Proposals which harm Castle Ring and its fragile habitats and the wildlife found there will be resisted.
3. Sensitive woodland management will be supported to respect the former dominance of this Iron Age hill fort in the landscape through retention of open views.

## **POLICY CW7: PROTECTING, CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE CANNOCK CHASE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

As the whole of the Cannock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Designated Area lies within the protected landscape areas of the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the area receives the highest degree of protection from damaging or inappropriate development by National Policy. This policy gives great weighting to conserving and enhancing the landscape in AONBs.

Development proposals within the Parish will be expected to positively contribute to the AONB and its setting.

Development proposals which, individually or cumulatively, adversely impact the landscape and scenic beauty of the AONB or its setting, including its visual relationship with its surroundings, will be resisted.

All development proposals will need to set out how the development would contribute to meeting the following objectives of the AONB Management Plan (2019-2024 and subsequent plans):

- a. Landscape character;
- b. Wildlife and nature;
- c. Historic environment and culture;
- d. Experience and enjoyment; and
- e. Communities and business.

## **POLICY CW8: PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE OF THE PARISH INCLUDING TREE AND HEDGEROW COVERAGE**

1. The conservation, management and enhancement of local features of interest for their biodiversity and geodiversity will be supported and encouraged. These include:
  - a. Retention of hedgerow field boundary treatments and restoration, where these are fragmented, to improve their landscape condition and contribution while ensuring that they are not allowed to encroach on pavements and obscure traffic sight lines.
  - b. Retention of existing trees around and within existing and future development and the encouragement of additional planting where appropriate.
  - c. Promotion of the nature conservation and ecological value of current and future Sites of Biological Interest, Green Infrastructure, Existing Woodland and Wildlife Corridors as designated in the Cannock Chase District Council Local Plan and subsequent Local Plan versions and identified by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and/or Staffordshire County Council.
  - d. Retention of historic field patterns wherever possible including any areas of new development.
  - e. Management of woodland tracts to prevent deterioration.
  - f. Incorporation and maintenance of hedgerows into the wider landscape whilst ensuring existing open views are not obscured.
  - g. Incorporation of new woodland and tree cover within the wider landscape whilst ensuring existing open views are not obscured.
  - h. Creation of Wildlife Corridors between existing and future areas of biodiversity including but not limited to various types of nature conservation sites within and beyond the Parish identified by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust such as Local Wildlife Sites, Sites of Biological Importance, Biodiversity Alert Sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves, Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland, Ancient Replanted Woodland, Semi-Improved Grassland and Lowland Heath.
  - i. Support for other initiatives which assist in linking biodiversity sites such as land management.
  - j. Protection and enhancement of surface and ground water quality to comply with the Water Framework Directive in ensuring that development does not cause deterioration in the status of inland waters.

**POLICY CW8: PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE OF THE PARISH INCLUDING TREE AND HEDGEROW COVERAGE (continued)**

2. The conservation, management and enhancement of local features of interest for their biodiversity and geodiversity will be supported and encouraged. These include:
  - a. Retention of hedgerow field boundary treatments and restoration, where these are fragmented, to improve their landscape condition and contribution while ensuring that they are not allowed to encroach on pavements and obscure traffic sight lines.
  - b. Retention of existing trees around and within existing and future development and the encouragement of additional planting where appropriate.
  - c. Promotion of the nature conservation and ecological value of Local Wildlife Sites, Sites of Biological Importance, Green Infrastructure, Existing Woodland and Wildlife Corridors as designated in the Cannock Chase District Council Local Plan and subsequent Local Plan versions and identified by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and/or Staffordshire County Council.
  - d. Retention of historic field patterns wherever possible including any areas of new development.
  - e. Management of woodland tracts to prevent deterioration.
  - f. Incorporation and maintenance of hedgerows into the wider landscape whilst ensuring existing open views are not obscured.
  - g. Incorporation of new woodland and tree cover within the wider landscape whilst ensuring existing open views are not obscured.
  - h. The potential impacts on any protected species of any development proposal should be taken into account in developer formulation of proposals and opportunities for Biodiversity Net Gain should be identified at an early stage in the design of any proposal and then incorporated as the design of the scheme develops and advice sought from Natural England, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Cannock Chase District Council.
  - i. Where appropriate, development proposals should include information which demonstrates how any adverse impacts are satisfactorily mitigated through appropriate landscaping, habitat creation, protection or creation of corridors for wildlife movement or replacement and natural planting or other mitigation measures as appropriate to the particular proposal.
3. Development should not adversely impact on areas of particular ecological importance such as water courses, ponds, habitat corridors, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Wildlife Sites and Sites of Biological Importance. All statutory sites as listed by Natural England will be protected from any harmful development.

## **POLICY CW9: TRANQUILLITY AND LIGHT POLLUTION**

1. New development should not significantly disturb the tranquillity of the Parish through the creation of excess noise, increases in traffic or light pollution.
2. Proposals for development will be required to demonstrate that, if external lighting is required, it protects public visual amenity and the night sky from light pollution through:
  - a. The number, design, specification and position of lamps;
  - b. Full shielding at the horizontal and above of any lighting fixture exceeding 500 initial lumens and evidence of limited impact of unshielded lighting through use of adaptive controls;
  - c. Limiting the correlated colour temperature of lamps to 3000 Kelvins or less; and
  - d. Providing landscaping to reduce glare and reduce unnecessary light throw to a minimum.

See also Design Code and contact Cannock Chase AONB to see local guidance on lighting.

## **POLICY CW10: FOOTPATH AND BRIDLEWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

1. The improvement of footpath and bridleway access and the facilitation of new circular walks and routes around and from the village will be supported. New provision should complement existing provision and if possible also link communities with local facilities and services including public transport.
2. All improvements should respect the character of the area in terms of use of materials, lighting, surfacing, location and signage appropriate to the AONB status.
3. Provision should be made for the ongoing maintenance of any footpaths and bridleways provided under this policy.
4. Design or adaptation of new footpaths and bridleways to function as wildlife corridors is encouraged.



## POLICY CW11: HIGHWAY SAFETY

1. Development proposals should demonstrate that there is no significant detrimental impact on traffic safety and where possible contribute to improvements in traffic safety including the safety of pedestrians and cyclists and horse riders.
2. Where proposed development sites are located on a road with no pavements or other provision for pedestrians, consideration should be given to making new provision for pedestrians where this would enhance safety.
3. Where appropriate proposals should reduce car dependency and incorporate sustainable transport provision, including:
  - a. Having good access to public transport
  - b. Prioritising the needs of pedestrians and cyclists and horse riders;
  - c. Providing any necessary highway improvements to accommodate proposed development
  - d. Demonstrating how the traffic generated by the proposed development will, when considered in conjunction with other committed developments, be accommodated through the proportional contribution towards any necessary highway improvements, to ensure that there is no significant detrimental impact on traffic safety, congestion or air quality.
4. Where development proposals will create demand for parking they will be required to provide off-street parking and not reduce safety for pedestrians and cyclists and horse riders.
5. New development should provide safe access to the carriageway.
6. The impact of the private car on the street scene should be minimised wherever possible.
7. The numbers of traffic signs should not exceed what is necessary and shall be the minimum size necessary to meet the requirements of safety.

## POLICY CW12: COMMUNITY ASSETS

The Parish Council seeks to include the following sites on Cannock Chase District Council's register of Assets of Community Value as a result of their acknowledged importance to the life and enjoyment of the local community:

- a. Village Hall and Car Park and Village Hall Field
- b. Playing Field
- c. The Park Gate Inn
- d. The Rag Country Inn
- e. Cannock Wood Methodist Church
- f. Nunswell Park.

The Parish Council will apply to designate these buildings/sites as Assets of Community Value and has begun the process of so doing for The Park Gate Inn.

Development proposals that will enhance the viability and/or community value of these assets or any others subsequently added to the list of Assets of Community Value will be supported as long as it is not detrimental to the character of the Parish. Otherwise, proposals that result in either the loss of the asset or in significant harm to the community value of an asset will be resisted, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the operation of the asset or the ongoing delivery of the community value of the asset is no longer financially viable.

## POLICY CW13: PUBLIC REALM AND OPEN SPACES

Proposals for alterations, which include maintenance, cleaning, appearance, safety and condition of the public realm and open spaces will be supported provided they are in keeping with the character of the area as described in the Character Assessment and are informed where appropriate by the Design Code. Public Realm includes road, pavement, grass verges, street furniture, the playing field and other public areas.

## POLICY CW14: VILLAGE BOUNDARY

In the Cannock Chase District Council Local Plan Part 1, 2014, Policies Map, the Main Settlement is excluded from the Green Belt by a Settlement Boundary. The rest of the Parish lies inside the Green Belt. Any development outside the Settlement Boundary and therefore lying within the Green Belt will have to demonstrate exceptional circumstances, as well as evidenced need and must be in conformity with other policies in this Plan, the adopted Local Plan and the NPPF.

1.3 After this screening assessment has been undertaken, a further regulation 14 stage of consultation over a 6-week period must be undertaken and appropriate amendments made before the amended draft is then submitted to CCDDC to take the Plan to Examination and Referendum.

1.4. When submitted to CCDDC the Plan will have to be accompanied by a Basic Conditions Statement that shows how the Plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Act, as inserted by the Localism Act 2011.

1.5 The Neighbourhood Plan is required by legislation to:

- a) have regard to national policy
- b) have special regard to listed buildings (where relevant)
- c) have special regard to conservation areas (where relevant)
- d) contribute to sustainable development
- e) be in general conformity with strategic policies in the Local Plan
- f) not breach EU obligations

1.6 The Basic Condition Statement will set out how the CWNP meets these requirements. The last of these is the focus of this Screening Report as in order to avoid breaching EU obligations, plans must be screened to determine whether Strategic Environmental Assessment or Habitat Regulations Assessment are necessary.

## 2. Compatibility with EU obligations

2.1. To meet the basic conditions the draft CWNP must not breach EU obligations.

2.2 The purpose of this Screening Assessment is to determine whether the content of the draft CWNP requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and / or a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

2.3 According to Planning Practice Guidance

*“In some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This initial assessment process is commonly referred to as a ‘screening’ assessment and the requirements are set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.*

*If it is concluded that strategic environmental assessment is required, an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of those regulations.”*

2.4 This assessment satisfies the requirement to accompany the final submission to the Local Planning Authority (CCDC) of the Neighbourhood Plan with either:

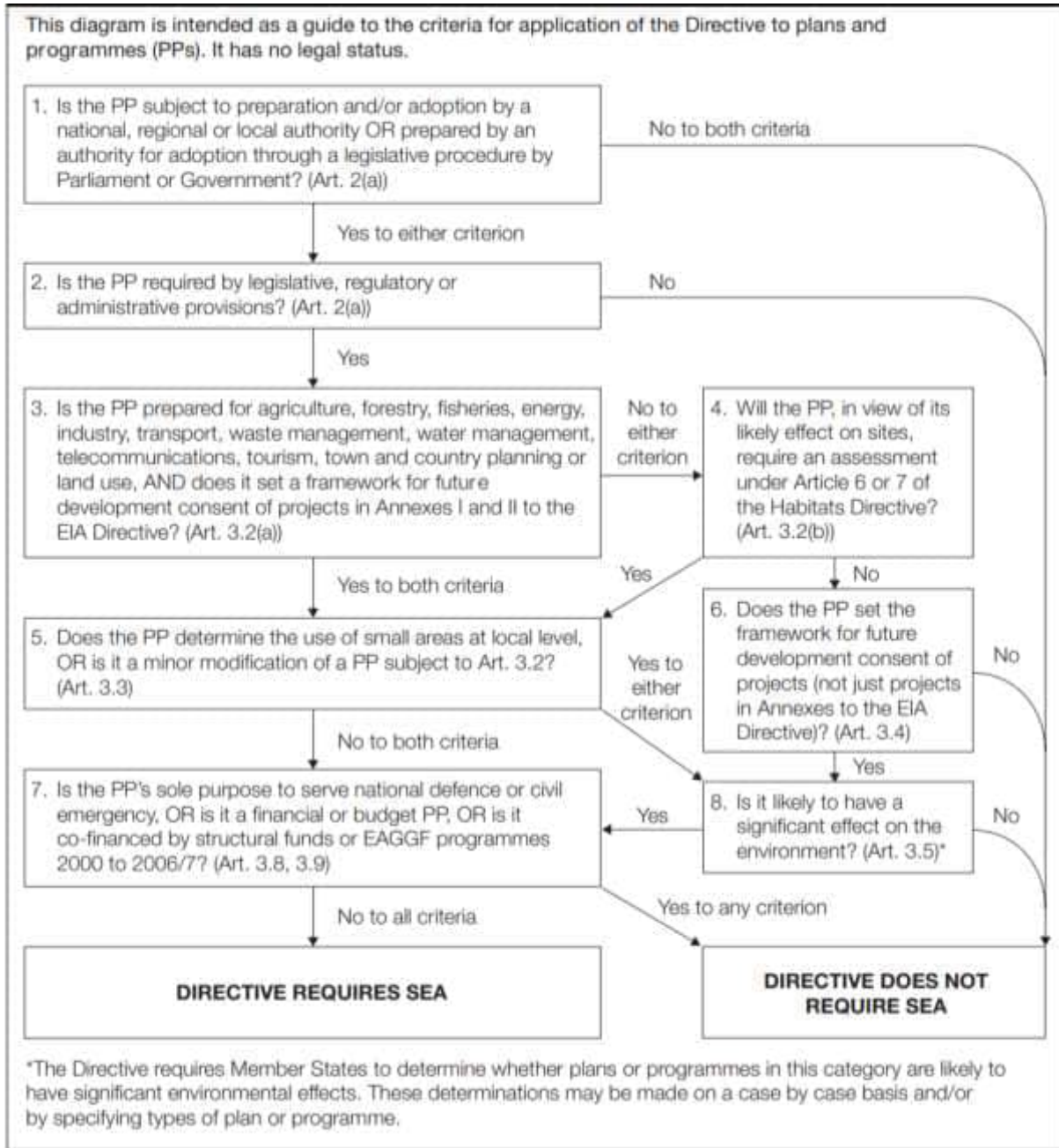
- a statement of reasons;
- environmental report; or
- an explanation of why the plan is not subject to the requirements of the SEA Directive provided that there are no significant changes to the proposals and the policies of the current draft CWNP.

2.5 A Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required where the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan is deemed likely to result in negative significant effects occurring on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites). HRA is not required for other nationally designated wildlife sites such as National Nature Reserves or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

### 3. SEA Screening

3.1 The SEA Screening process is detailed in the following diagram.

Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes



3.2. The questions below in Table 1 are drawn from the diagram in Figure 1 above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied when considering a draft plan.

Table 1: Application of SEA to a Draft Plan

QUESTION	YES/NO	COMMENT
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) subject to preparation and/or adoption	YES Go to Q2	The preparation of NPs is subject to: The Neighbourhood Planning (General)

QUESTION	YES/NO	COMMENT
by a regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative process by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))		(Amendment) Regulations 2012 and the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012. The preparation and adoption of the CWNP is regulated under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The draft NP is prepared by Cannock Wood Parish Council (as the 'relevant body') and will be 'made' by Cannock Chase Council as the local planning authority.
2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	NO Go to Q3	NPs are not a legislative requirement. However, once 'made' it will form part of the statutory Development Plan for the area and be used when making decisions on planning applications in the area it covers.
3. Is the NP prepared for agriculture, 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 to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a))	YES Go to Q5	The draft NP contains land use planning policies for town and country planning, and land use purposes.  As such, it sets a framework for future development consent of development projects, which may fall under section 10 of the Annex II of the EIA Directive.
4. Will the NP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2(b))	N/A	See HRA screening below.
5. Does the NP determine the use of small areas at local level OR is it a minor modification of a plan or programme subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	YES Go to Q8	The CWNP will affect the use of small areas by using criteria-based policies relating to the small scale of development that the location of the Parish in the Green Belt and AONB allows. While there is a potential for an effect on the environment resulting from policies in the plan the policies do not instigate changes to land use directly.
6. Does the NP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)	N/A.	N/A
7. Is the NP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget plan or programme, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 3.8, 3.9)	N/A	N/A

QUESTION	YES/NO	COMMENT
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art 3.5)	NO	The draft NP is unlikely to have any significant effect on the environment. See tables 2 and 3 below

3.3. To decide whether the Plan might have significant environmental effects (stage 8), its potential scope should be assessed against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The criteria from Schedule 1 of the Regulations are set out below.

**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,
- (b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
- (c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
- (d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
- (e) 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).

**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,
- (b) the cumulative nature of the effects,
- (c) the transboundary nature of the effects,
- (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) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
  - (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
  - (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
  - (iii) intensive land-use,
- (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

3.4. Table 2 and Table 3 apply the above criteria to measure any likely significant effects on the environment arising from the draft Cannock Wood NP.

Table 2: The Characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan, having regard to:

	<b>Likely significant environmental effect?</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
1a) The degree to which the Neighbourhood Plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	No	<p>The NP sets out a vision and objectives to help shape future development within Cannock Wood.</p> <p>A number of planning policies have been formulated to help deliver the vision. These policies seek to achieve: High quality housing design, protect local character, local heritage environment and views and vistas, protect and enhance Castle Ring scheduled Ancient Monument protect, conserve and enhance the Cannock Chase AONB, protect and enhance the biodiversity and wildlife of the Parish, minimise light pollution, support footpath and bridleway improvements and highway safety, protect community assets and promote high quality public realm and open space.</p> <p>It is not considered that the policies and proposals in the NP will have a significant detrimental environmental effect.</p>
1b) The degree to which the Neighbourhood Plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	No	<p>The draft NP is required to conform to national policy (NPPF) and strategic policies in the Cannock Chase Local Plan (Part 1). The draft NP, if made, will form part of the Development Plan for Cannock Chase and be used to determine planning applications within the Parish.</p>
1c) The relevance of the Neighbourhood Plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	No	<p>The NP contributes to the achievement of sustainable development as set out in the Local Plan (Part 1). Policies set out in the draft NP have been developed so as to have a positive impact on local environmental assets (for example Sites of Biological Importance and habitat corridors) and places valued by local people in the Parish such as Castle Ring. Significant adverse effects on the environment are, therefore, very unlikely. Beneficial, rather than detrimental effects are expected.</p>



	<b>Likely significant environmental effect?</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
1d) Environmental problems relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan.	No	The draft NP area is not located within a sensitive natural landscape of international or national designations. The NP seeks to minimise existing environmental problems in the area and does not allocate sites or propose development that would give rise to environmental problems.
1e) The relevance of the Plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	No	The NP is not proposing development specifically related to waste management or water management.

*Table 3: Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard in particular to:*

	<b>Likely significant environmental effect?</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
2a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	No	CWNP Policies seek to protect and improve the environment so it is unlikely that there will be any irreversible damaging environmental impacts associated with the NP.
2b) the cumulative nature of the effects	No	The cumulative effects of policies within the CWNP are unlikely to result in negative effects, but more likely to have a positive impact.
2c) the transboundary nature of the effects	No	The proposals within the CWNP are unlikely to have a significant impact on neighbouring areas.
2d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	No	No risks to human health or the environment have been identified as a result of draft policies in the CWNP.
2e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	The CWNP is concerned with development within Cannock Wood Parish which has an estimated population of 1032 (2020 Office National Statistics). The magnitude and spatial extent of any effects is therefore likely to be limited and minimal.

	<b>Likely significant environmental effect?</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
2f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to – i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or iii) intensive land-use.	No	<p>There are no listed buildings or Conservation Areas within the Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Area contains two Scheduled Ancient Monuments which are also Sites of Local Biological Importance (Local Wildlife Sites). The CWNP has policies to protect these as well as proposing protection for non-designated heritage assets. As such the NP is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area or its natural or cultural heritage and is likely to provide greater support for those assets to be enhanced.</p> <p>The CWNP does not seek to allocate sites. Therefore, the level of development proposed in the CWNP is unlikely to lead to intensive land use and as such will not affect the value and vulnerability of the area.</p>
2g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	No	<p>Policies in the CWNP do not allocate land for development and seek to protect landscape and biodiversity. It is not considered that the draft policies in the CWNP will adversely affect areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>

## SEA Screening Outcome

3.5. As a result of the assessment above, it is considered unlikely that any significant detrimental environmental effects will occur from the implementation of the Cannock Wood NP that were not considered and dealt with by the Sustainability Appraisal of the Cannock Chase Local Plan. As such the Cannock Wood NP does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

## 4. HRA Screening

4.1 The list below illustrates the stages of HRA related to assessing potential impacts from planning policy documents.

### *Stage 1 Screening*

- Identify international sites in and around the plan/ strategy area
- Examine conservation objectives Identify potential effects on Natura 2000 sites
- Examine other plans and programmes that could contribute to 'in combination' effects
- If no effects are likely, report that there is no significant effect.
- If effects are judged likely or uncertainty exists -the precautionary principle applies, proceed to stage 2.

### *Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment*

- Collate information on sites and evaluate impact in light of conservation objectives
- Consider how plan 'in combination' with other plans and programmes will interact when implemented (the Appropriate Assessment)
- Consider how the effect on integrity of sites could be avoided by changes to the plan and the consideration of alternatives
- Develop mitigation measures (including timescale and mechanisms)
- Report outcomes of the Appropriate Assessment and develop monitoring strategies.
- If effects remain, following the consideration of alternatives and development of mitigation measures, proceed to stage 3.

### *Stage 3 Assessment where no Alternatives and impacts remain*

- Identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest'
- Identify/ develop potential compensatory measures.

4.2. PlanSpace has carried out Stage 1 Screening on the draft Cannock Wood NP.

4.3 The CWNP once adopted will form part of the Development Plan for Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC) and will be in conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan (Part 1) which forms the Core Strategy for the District. The Core Strategy has been subject to both Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment (see Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement, May 2014) [CCDC Sustainability Adoption Statement May 2014](#).

4.4 In June 2007, a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report was conducted for CCDC as required by Habitats Regulations where a plan, alone or 'in combination' with other plans, could affect Natura 2000 Sites including Special Protection Areas for birds – SPAs, Special Areas of Conservation for habitats – SACs.

There are two Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within Cannock Chase District:

- Cannock Chase SAC and
- Cannock Extension Canal SAC

There are four more Natura Sites In neighbouring districts within 15km of Cannock Chase:

- Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC,
- Chartley Moss Special Protection Area (SPA),
- Motte Meadows SAC and
- Aqualate Mere Ramsar Site.

The first phase of the screening concluded that there was no certainty as to whether those effects identified which may compromise the conservation objectives of nearby Natura 2000 sites were significant and/or likely.

4.5 An Appropriate Assessment stage was carried out in relation to both Stafford Borough Local Development Framework and Cannock Chase District Local Development Framework and this concluded that the principal impacts of the Local Plan (Part 1) were expected to be on Cannock Chase SAC and Cannock Extension Canal SAC and that there would be no significant impacts from the Local Plan (Part 1) on all but one Natura 2000 site.

The Assessment determined that several Core Strategy policies could have adverse effects on Cannock Chase SAC: CP1 – Strategy, CP6 – Housing Land, CP8 – Employment Land, CP10 – Sustainable Transport and CP11 – Centres Hierarchy.

As outlined in the Adoption Statement:

*“All of these policies were considered to potentially lead to increased nitrogen oxides (Nox) deposition on SAC habitats caused by traffic on roads near Cannock Chase SAC, particularly on the A513, A460 and A34. Policies CP1, CP6 and CP10, were also assessed to potentially result in recreation disturbance to the SAC. The potential increase in visitor pressure to the SAC, arising from these Core Strategy policies, is a key area recognised in existing strategy documents.*”

*A series of avoidance and mitigation measures have been included in the Local Plan (Part 1) to protect the integrity of Cannock Chase SAC. Section 4.89 of the final Local Plan (Part 1) contains various provisions for avoiding air pollution impacts on the Cannock Chase SAC. Furthermore the Core Strategy contains a specific policy which aims to protect the SAC’s integrity: Policy CP13 - Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC), that requires that “all development within Cannock Chase District that leads to a net increase in dwellings will be required to mitigate adverse effects.”*

4.6 A separate Habitat Regs Assessment screening exercise was undertaken for the Canal Extension SAC and two major areas of likely significant effect were identified:

- Promotion of canals for recreational and/or transport purposes, leading to acceptance of

the long-standing proposal for restoration of the Hatherton Branch Canal, which would have a likely direct effect on floating water-plantain.

- Likely increase in traffic on the A5, M6 Toll and local roads as a result of developments promoted by the Core Strategy, which is likely to have effects on water quality.

This screening made recommendations which have also been incorporated into the final Cannock Chase Local Plan (Part 1).

4.7 The introduction to the Cannock Chase Local Plan (Part 1) summarises how it was modified to ensure that there would not likely be significant effects on Natura sites.

*“1.16 Under Articles 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EE C) a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been undertaken to consider the impact of the Local Plan on the European designated sites. An Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been undertaken for two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) at Cannock Chase and the Cannock Extension Canal to the south of Norton Canes which are likely to be significantly affected by the Local Plan.*

*1.17 A consolidated Appropriate Assessment addressing the implications stemming from the Local Plan on these internationally important sites raised particular concerns in connection with Cannock Chase SAC which delayed the plan’s preparation. Following the receipt of legal advice, the Council, and other authorities affected by the issue, were required to carry out additional research work on air quality from vehicle emissions and visitor pressure from new development. The Council has needed to address these issues to the satisfaction of Natural England, the Government agency with responsibility for SAC issues, before being able to complete Appropriate Assessment and progress the Local Plan.”*

4.8 It is considered the draft Cannock Wood NP does not propose anything which departs from the Cannock Chase Core Strategy, 2014. As a result it is not considered that implementation of the draft Cannock Wood NP would result in likely significant or in combination effects on Natura 2000 sites.

## **HRA Stage 1 Screening Outcome**

4.9 As a result of the assessment above, it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will occur from the implementation of the draft Cannock Wood NP that were not considered and dealt with by the Habitats Regulation Assessment carried out on the Cannock Chase Local Plan (Part 1). As such the draft Cannock Wood NP does not require a further HRA work to be undertaken.

## Appendix: Consultation with statutory environmental bodies

Statutory environmental bodies for consultation on this Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report are as follows. The Screening Report was emailed to all three on 31/3/2022:

### ‘Statutory Environmental Bodies Consultation

Please find attached a Screening Report for SEA and HRA in respect of Cannock Wood’s Neighbourhood Plan for your review and comment.

The Neighbourhood Plan is relatively straight-forward as there is no allocation of sites for development.

Protection of the environment is a high priority to the residents of Cannock Wood and the policies aim to make a positive contribution towards that, rather than having any significant negative impact on the environment.

We are anticipating allowing up to the customary five weeks for this consultation and look forward to receiving your response. If you require any further information, please do let me know.

Thank you very much for your help with this.

Cannock Wood Parish Council’s Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.’

Consultee	Email address	Response
Historic England	midlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk	Response received 22/4/2022: 1) agrees no SEA required; 2) does not disagree with conclusion that no HRA required but defers to opinions of the other statutory consultees. Full letter is on page 31.
Natural England	consultations@naturalengland.org.uk	Automated email response on 31/3/2022 (see page 32).
Environment Agency	enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk	Automated email response on 31/3/2022 (see page 33).



Ms Liz Whiteley  
Cannock Wood Parish Council's Neighbourhood  
Plan Working Group

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6887

Our ref: PL00770442  
22 April 2022

Dear Ms Whiteley

### **CANNOCK WOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- SEA AND HRA SCREENING**

Thank you for your consultation and the invitation to comment on the SEA and HRA Screening Document for the above Neighbourhood Plan.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage.

Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request. On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of the 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with your view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

Regarding HRA Historic England does not disagree with your conclusions but would defer to the opinions of the other statutory consultees.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

I trust the above comments will be of help in taking forward the Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely,

P. Boland.

Peter Boland  
Historic Places Advisor  
peter.boland@HistoricEngland.org.uk



THE FOUNDRY 82 GRANVILLE STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 2LH  
Telephone 0121 625 6888  
HistoricEngland.org.uk



*Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.*

**From:** SM-NE-Consultations (NE) <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 31 March 2022 18:50  
**To:** Elizabeth Whiteley  
**Subject:** Natural England Response Email  
**Attachments:** Annex - Generic advice on Natural Environment impacts + opportunities - updated Jan 22.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for contacting [Natural England](#).

We will action your request as follows:

- For consultations on Development Management, we will respond within 21 days from the receipt of your email.
- For consultations on Development Plans, we will respond within 6 weeks from the receipt of your email.
- For consultations from regulators relating to marine fisheries management we will respond within 21 days or within timelines agreed with your Natural England primary contact.
- For marine licence applications (including self-service marine licence applications) we will respond within 28 days.
- If you have specified a different deadline or we agree a revised deadline with you, we will respond within the time specified or agreed.
- If you are applying for the Discretionary Advice Service, we will respond to you within 15 working days.
- If you are a member of the public, we will respond to your query within 10 working days from receipt of your email.
- If your consultation relates to a Tree Preservation Order, Advertisement Consent, Hedgerow Removal Notice or Listed Building Consent, there is no requirement to consult us and you will not receive a further response.
- If your e-mail is regarding Agricultural Land Classification you can view both Post 1988 and Provisional ALC data on the [www.magic.gov.uk/](http://www.magic.gov.uk/) website. Provisional data can also be viewed [here](#).

**If you do not receive a response from Natural England (or communication on a revised response date), we have no specific comments to make. Please refer to our general advice in the Annex below.**

The lack of comment from Natural England does not imply that there are no impacts on the natural environment, but only that the proposals are not likely to result in significant impacts on statutory designated nature conservation sites or landscapes. It is for the local planning authority to determine whether or not the proposals are consistent with national and local policies on the natural environment. Other bodies and individuals may be able to provide information and advice on the environmental value of sites and the impacts of development proposals to assist the decision making process. We advise local planning authorities to obtain specialist ecological or other environmental advice when determining the environmental impacts of development.

We recommend that local planning authorities use Natural England's Site of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zones (available on [Magic](#) and as a downloadable [dataset](#)) prior to consultation with Natural England. Further guidance on when to consult Natural England on planning and development proposals is available on gov.uk at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-planning-authorities-get-environmental-advice> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/developers-get-environmental-advice-on-your-planning-proposals> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/consulting-on-neighbourhood-plans-and-development-orders>

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Kind regards  
Natural England Consultations Team

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**Sent:** 31 March 2022 18:50  
**To:** Elizabeth Whiteley  
**Subject:** Auto Reply Acknowledgement  
**Attachments:** image001.gif; image002.gif; image003.gif; image004.gif; image005.gif

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Thank you – the Environment Agency has received your email.

Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations state that a public authority must respond to requests for information within 20 working days.

For information on what you can expect from us and our full service commitment to you then please visit our website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-customer-service-commitment>

If you have made a data request, you may wish to look at [www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk) to see if the data you have requested is available online.

Usually we make no charge for providing information. In some cases we may make a charge for licensed re-use of our data. Where this is the case, we will notify you in advance.

If you have provided any personal information (also called personal data) in your enquiry, the Environment Agency will follow all applicable UK and EU data protection laws in how we treat it. We may use your information to help you with your enquiry, if necessary. More details on your rights and how we will process your personal information can be found in our Personal Information Charter:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/personal-information-charter>

### **Environmental Incident**

If your email was to report an environmental incident i.e. pollution, fish in distress, dumping of hazardous waste etc. then please call our **Freephone 24 hour Incident Hotline** on **0800 80 70 60**.

For more details about incident reporting please see our website:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident>

Kind Regards,

National Customer Contact Centre - Part of National Operations Services

☎ Tel: 03708 506 506

🌐 Web Site: [www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

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