

Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan

Screening Statement on the determination of the
need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment /
Habitat Regulations Assessment for the emerging
Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan

(in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
Regulations 2004 and European Directive 2001/42/EC, and Conservation of
Habitats and Species Regulations 2010)

December 2024

Final Version

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Introduction

- 1.1 The whole parish of Sandleheath was formally designated and confirmed by this council as a 'Neighbourhood Area' on 14 March 2024.
- 1.2 This screening report is used to determine whether or not the emerging Sandleheath Neighbourhood Development Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or Habitats Regulations Assessment. This is in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC ('SEA Directive') and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 ('SEA Regulations'). These require an SEA to be undertaken on any land use plan or programme 'which sets the framework for future development consent of projects'. In relation to the Habitats Regulations Assessment this is derived from European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora ('Habitats Directive') and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 ('Habitat Regulations'), as amended.
- 1.3 There are exceptions to this requirement for plans 'which determine the use of a small area at local level' or which only propose 'minor modifications to a plan', if it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.4 On 7 October 2024 Sandleheath Parish Council formally wrote to New Forest District Council (as the 'responsible authority' under the relevant Regulations) to request a formal screening opinion on the requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.5 To assess whether an SEA is required a screening process must be undertaken based on a standard set of criteria. This must be subject to consultation with Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The results of the screening process must be detailed in a Screening Statement, available to the public.

- 1.6 In issuing this screening opinion the District Council has had regard to advice in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) resource. The NPPG guidance on 'Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal' confirms that whether a neighbourhood plan proposal requires a strategic environmental assessment will depend on what is proposed. An SEA may be required, for example, where:
- (i) a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development;
 - (ii) the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan; or
 - (iii) the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the local plan or other strategic policies.

The Screening Process

- 1.7 The key to the screening decision is the determination of whether the Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, using the criteria set out in Annex II of the Directive and Schedule 1 of the 2004 Regulations. These criteria are set out in the table in Appendix 1, together with the response in relation to the emerging Sandleheath Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
- 1.8 The extract from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' in Appendix 1 provides a flow diagram to demonstrate the SEA screening process. This process has been set out and followed in Table 1 (Appendix 1) to ascertain whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required for the Sandleheath NDP.
- 1.9 Also part of the screening process is the Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening, which can be found in Appendix 2, and the assessment of likely significance of effects on the environment, which can be found in Appendix 3. This screening will determine whether an Appropriate Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan is required. These two assessments feed-in to Table 1 (Appendix 1).

Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.10 The emerging Sandleheath NDP may contain policies which allocate development sites but will likely contain policies that support sustainable development.
- 1.11 New Forest District Council, as the 'Responsible Authority', considers that the emerging Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan will likely fall within the scope of the SEA Regulations on the basis that it:
- a) is subject to preparation or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level (Regulation 2);
 - b) is prepared for town and country planning or land use and it is a plan that sets the framework for future development consent of projects generally (Regulation 5, para.4); and
 - c) will likely apply to the use of small areas at local level but is deemed to have (cumulative) significant effects on the environment (Regulation 5, para. 6).
- 1.12 A determination under Regulation 9 is therefore required as to whether the emerging Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment. The screening requirements set out in Regulation 9 and Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations includes two sets of characteristics for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. See Appendix 3 for an assessment of the likely significance of effects on the environment.

Conclusions

- 1.13 Given the statutory nature of the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan (NP); the range of environmental designations in proximity to the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Area; and the fact that the Plan is giving consideration to the allocation of sites for development (albeit the scale and locations have yet to be determined); **it is concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) due to the potential for significant effects upon the environment.**

1.14 An environmental report should be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It is advised that the following matters should be focused on in the assessment in relation to impacts on the New Forest District Plan Area:

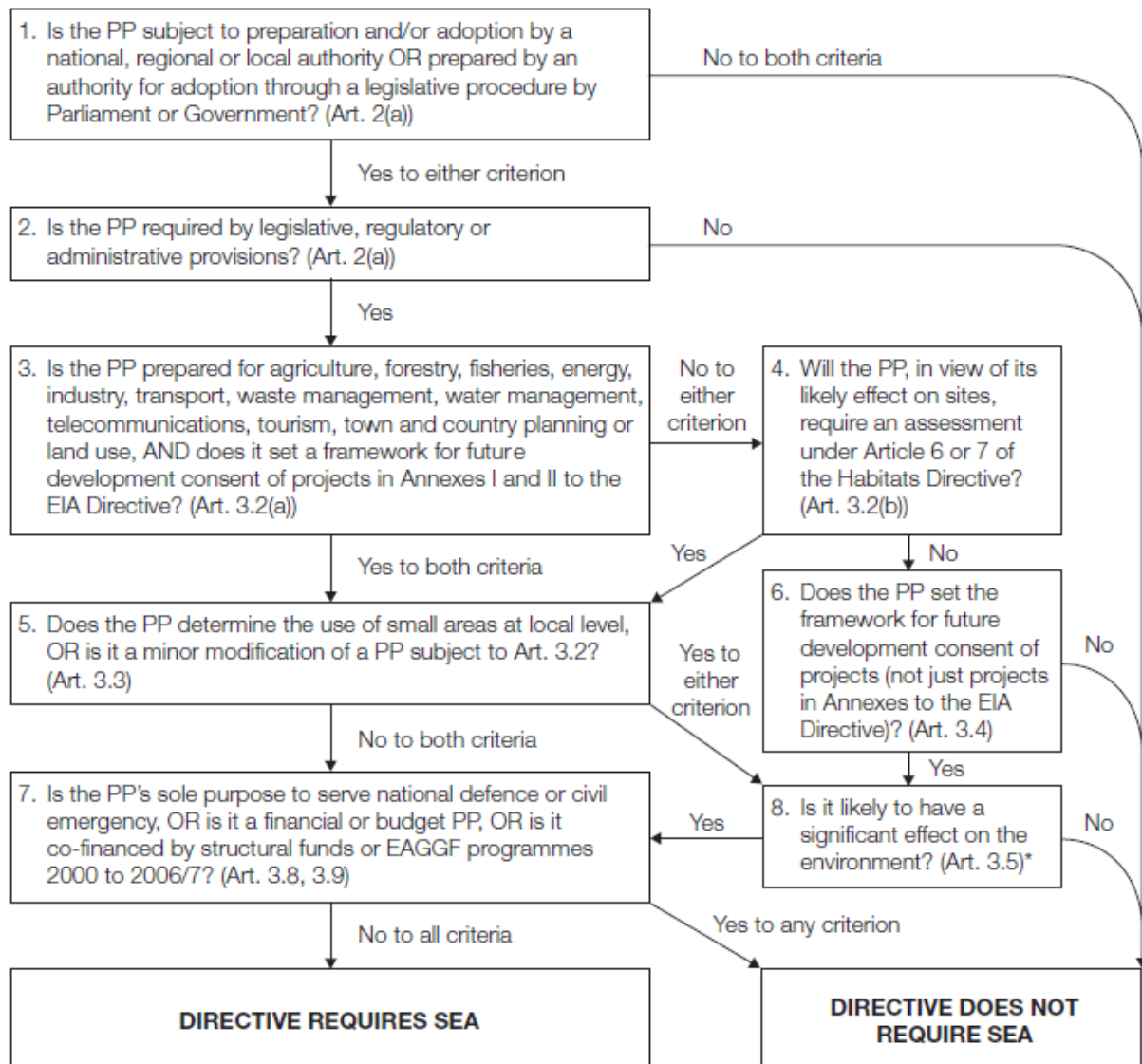
- Impacts on natural environment designations – comprising international (e.g. SAC, SPA, Ramsar), national (e.g. SSSI) and county/local (e.g. SINC). **This issue will also need to be addressed through the HRA process for international nature conservation designations (see Appendix 2).**
- Impacts on built environment designations – including designated heritage assets such as listed buildings and non-designated heritage assets. These heritage assets should be identified through the SEA process and consideration given to impact on them (and their settings) from the policies in the Sandleheath NP.
- Potential landscape impacts on the adjacent Cranborne Chase National Landscape and the nearby New Forest National Park. National policy also highlights the importance of considering development within the settings of protected landscapes. This reflects the legal duty placed on ‘relevant bodies’ by Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995 to have regard to the two statutory National Park purposes when undertaking activities which could impact on them. This legal duty (in relation to both the National Park and National Landscape purposes) was strengthened in December 2023 with a new duty on relevant authorities to ‘seek to further the purpose of purposes’ for National Parks and to ‘seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area’ for National Landscapes (Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act). This can include development outside National Parks and National Landscapes. Sandleheath Parish Council are considered a relevant body for the purposes of applying the duty.

Appendix 1 – Application of the SEA Directive

Extract from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive', DCLG (2005)

Figure 2 – Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes

This diagram is intended as a guide to the criteria for application of the Directive to plans and programmes (PPs). It has no legal status.



*The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.

Table 1: Application of the SEA Directive

Stage	Yes / No	Explanation
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	<p>The preparation of and adoption of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is allowed under the Localism Act 2011. The Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared by Sandleheath Parish Council (as the “relevant body”) and will be “made” by New Forest District Council as the local authority. The preparation of the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan is subject to the following regulations (as amended):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012; • Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012; • Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	<p>Whilst the Neighbourhood Development Plan is not a requirement and is optional under the Localism Act 2011, it will, if “made”, form part of the Development Plan for the District. It is therefore important that the screening process considers whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive.</p>
3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan 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 (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Yes	<p>The Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared for the purposes of town & country / land use planning and will set out a framework for future development consents as part of the statutory development plan covering Sandleheath. These projects are potentially of a scale referred to in Article 4(2) pf the EIA Directive (listed at Annex II of the Directive). It is recognised that development sites will not be within the National Park or National Landscape.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Neighbourhood Development Plan is setting a framework for future development. At this stage the scale of development is unknown but it is noted that no development sites will be identified within the National Park or National Landscape.</p>
4. Will the Neighbourhood Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	Yes	<p>The Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan may determine the use of sites at a wider than small area / local level. The parish of Sandleheath extends to nearly 2 square kilometres and the Neighbourhood Plan as a whole may allocate sites for development.</p>
5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level,	Yes	<p>The Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan may determine the use of sites at a wider than small area / local level. The parish of Sandleheath extends to nearly 2 square</p>

OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)		kilometres and the Neighbourhood Plan as a whole may allocate sites for development
6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Yes	If adopted, the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan will include policies to provide a framework to guide future development within the Parish. The Plan will form part of the statutory 'development plan' for the parish and in accordance with Section 38(6) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act will be the starting point for planning decisions on development proposals.
7. Is the Neighbourhood Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	No	N/A
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	Yes	Given the statutory nature of the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan; the range of environmental designations in near proximity to the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Area; and the fact that the Plan is giving consideration to the allocation of sites for development (albeit the scale and locations have yet to be determined); it is concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) due to the potential for significant effects upon the environment. See the assessment of the likely significance of effects on the environment in Appendix 3.

Appendix 2 - Habitat Regulations Assessment

Screening Opinion for the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Development Plan

1. The Local Authority is the “competent authority” under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, and needs to ensure that Neighbourhood Plans have been assessed through the Habitats Regulations process. This looks at the potential for significant impacts on nature conservation sites that are of European importance, also referred to as Natura 2000.
2. This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan that will be in general conformity with the strategic policies within the development plan (the higher level plan for town and country planning and land use). This Screening Assessment uses the Habitats Regulations Assessment of New Forest District Council’s adopted Local Plan Review 2016-2036 Part 1 as its basis for assessment. From this, the Local Authority will determine whether the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Development Plan is likely to result in significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites either alone or in combination with other plans and policies and, therefore, whether an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ is required.

Legislative Basis

3. Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive provides that:
“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

Assessment

- 4 A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) was prepared for the Local Plan Review 2016-2036 Part 1. Following further consultations with Natural England and other bodies, the development set out in the New Forest District Local Plan Review will likely lead to significant effects on European sites, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.
5. The latest HRA of the Local Plan Review was undertaken by consultants (Land Use Consultants) and assesses the potential effects of the Local Plan on one or more European sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) as well as Ramsar sites . HRA found that effective avoidance & reduction measures (through adopted policies and those put forward) have been secured. Therefore the Local Plan Part 1 will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
6. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) was also undertaken for the New Forest National Park Local Plan Review (2016-2036). This assessment was undertaken in consultation with Natural England and other bodies. The HRA work on the National Park Local Plan concluded that significant impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites within and adjacent to the National Park could not be ruled out. This conclusion recognised the in-combination effects caused by the development plans prepared for areas surrounding the National Park. The main areas where potential impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites in the New Forest are highlighted in the response to point 2(a) in Appendix 3.

7. It is concluded that the emerging Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan does require a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). This is based on the range of designated habitats within close proximity to the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Area and the recognition in published HRA work of their sensitivities to the impacts of development. The HRA work for the New Forest District Council Local Plan for example, identified the potential impacts of recreational pressure on the integrity of the New Forest's Natura 2000 sites from any development within the District Plan Area. In addition, more recently Natural England has confirmed the need for new development within the River Avon catchment to be 'phosphate neutral' and updated guidance on this matter was published in March 2022. The Sandleheath Neighbourhood Area is also within 5km of the designated Dorset Heathlands sites and therefore future HRA work will need to consider potential impacts on these designations to the south west of the Neighbourhood Area.

Statutory Consultees

Historic England (comments received 6 December 2024)

8. We support the draft Screening Opinion's conclusion that SEA is required. While it may be unlikely that the location, intensity and scale of development arising from the plan will lead to significant environmental effects on the historic environment, this must be caveated because a housing need assessment has yet to be undertaken and sites have yet to be proposed.

We strongly advise that the conservation and archaeological staff of the relevant local authorities are involved throughout the preparation of the plan and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on; local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the Historic Environment Record (HER), how the allocation, policy or proposal can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.

Natural England (comments received 3 December 2024)

9. *SEA Screening*

Based on the plan submitted, Natural England agree with the assessment that the review of the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan does require an SEA.

Where Neighbourhood Plans could have significant environmental effects, they may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended). Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the planning practice guidance.

Planning practice guidance also outlines that if an appropriate assessment is required for your neighbourhood plan this will also engage the need for a SEA. One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European obligations, including those under the SEA Directive. Where a SEA is required it should be prepared in accordance with regulation 12 of the SEA Regulations.

10. *HRA Screening*

Based on the plan submitted, Natural England agree with the assessment that the review of the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan does require an HRA Appropriate Assessment.

Where a neighbourhood plan could potentially affect a 'habitats site', it will be necessary to screen the plan in relation to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017), as amended (the 'Habitats Regulations'). Where likely significant effects are identified, it will be necessary to undertake an appropriate assessment of the neighbourhood plan and, if needed, identify and secure appropriate mitigation measures to ensure the plan does not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the habitats site.

In accordance with Schedule 2 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), a neighbourhood plan cannot be made if it breaches the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

A screening exercise should be undertaken if there is any doubt about the possible effects of the plan on the habitats site(s). This will be particularly important if a neighbourhood plan is to progress before a local plan and/or the neighbourhood plan proposes development which has not been assessed and/or included in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the local plan. Where mitigation is necessary to ensure no effects then this will need to be properly assessed via an appropriate assessment.

The Environment Agency

11. No comments were received.

Conclusions

12. **The screening process undertaken by the District Council concludes that a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required for the emerging Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan.** This conclusion is consistent with the requirements placed on other statutory development plans that have been prepared by the local planning authorities for the area which have gone through the SEA and HRA process.
13. The Authority's conclusion is based on the fact that the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan will, if adopted, be a statutory planning document that will set the framework for future development in an area with close proximity to a range of environmental designations. The Neighbourhood Plan is likely to allocate sites for development (although it is unclear where at this point in the process) and include further policies that support sustainable development.

14. Appendix 3 of this report sets out an assessment as to whether the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment. This assessment is based on the requirements of Regulation 9 and Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and recognises the statutory nature of the Neighbourhood Plan; its likely scope; and the value and vulnerability of the area (including national and internationally protected landscapes and habitats).
15. The SEA and HRA scoping work undertaken on the HRA of the Council's own Local Plan (2016-2036) has identified the following environmental effects as key:
 - The potential for direct loss of, or physical damage, to designated habitats or habitats on which designated species rely or direct mortality of designated species. In addition, the potential for development to result in loss of habitat which lies outside European site boundaries but which is used by the qualifying bird populations requires consideration.
 - Recreational pressures arising from new development on the international nature conservation sites including the New Forest SAC & SPA.
 - Changes in water quality arising from new development within the River Avon catchment.
 - Potential impacts on built heritage assets, both directly and indirectly (through impacts on their settings).
 - Potential impacts on the setting of the New Forest National Park and the natural beauty of the Cranborne Chase National Landscape.

Appendix 3 - Assessment of the likely significance of effects on the environment (SEA)

Based on Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Characteristics of the plan, having regard 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;	The Sandleheath NDP would, if adopted, form part of the Statutory Development Plan and as such does contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects. However, the Plan will sit within the wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework, the strategic policies of the New Forest District Local Plan Part 1: Planning Strategy 2016-2036 (adopted 2020) and Local Plan Part 2 Sites and Development Management (2014).
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The Sandleheath NDP (when adopted) must be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework. The policies within the document must also conform with the Council's strategic policies and complement the adopted Local Plan 2016-2036.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The Sandleheath NDP might contain policies relating to environmental considerations such as biodiversity (including internationally designated nature conservation sites) and the historic environment (heritage assets). These policies must be in conformity with national and local policies as required by the basic conditions. The NPPF places the presumption in favour of sustainable development at the heart of national planning system (paragraph 11) and also includes a range of environmental policies that the Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in general conformity with. The Neighbourhood Plans contribution to the achievement of sustainable development will need to be approved at examination and "made" by the district council. Development would also be subject to the policies in the adopted Local Plan 2016-2036 and therefore all environmental considerations would be covered by policy.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	<p><u>International nature conservation designations, in particular (the following being either within the Neighbourhood Area, or in close proximity to it) -</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - River Avon SAC - Avon Valley SPA - Avon Valley Ramsar - Dorset Heathlands SAC - Dorset Heathlands SPA - Dorset Heathlands Ramsar - The New Forest SAC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Forest SPA - The New Forest Ramsar - National SSSI designations (including the River Avon System SSSI, the Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch) SSSI, the New Forest SSSI, and Cranborne Common SSSI) <p>On this basis the Sandleheath NDP has the potential to have significant effects on the environment, which should be assessed in relation to the NDP (see Section 2 below).</p>
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The Sandleheath NDP is not directly relevant to any of these.
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 Neighbourhood Plan will need to consider all environmental effects – some of which may be significant. The New Forest District Council Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (2018) and Scoping Report (updated 2018) set out the key sustainability issues for the District plan area and how these may be affected by Local Plan policies. It is recommended that the suite of documents are utilised for the emerging Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan. The National Park Authority also undertook similar technical work for its Local Plan Review.</p> <p>The New Forest District Council Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment work (undertaken by LUC) identified the following potential effects from development either within the National Park, or in combination with development proposed in surrounding areas that would need to be considered:</p> <p>Direct loss or physical damage due to construction:-</p> <p>The HRA work identified the potential for development to result in loss of habitat which lies outside European site boundaries but which is used by the qualifying bird populations of Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar site; Dorset Heathlands SPA; and the New Forest SPA. Should HRA Screening be unable to rule out likely significant effects then more detailed Appropriate Assessment will be required to determine whether loss of the supporting habitat present at the development site would have an adverse effect on the</p>

	<p>integrity of Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar site; Dorset Heathlands SPA; New Forest SPA; or Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Disturbance and other urban edge effects from construction or occupation of buildings:- It is not possible to rule out the potential for urban edge effects such as noise pollution or light pollution from all types of built development. It should be highlighted that these urban edge impacts relate to the lowland heathland areas of the New Forest SPA and Dorset Heathlands and are not generic across all designated SPAs. In relation to urban edge impacts on the Avon Valley/River Avon designation, Natural England have not raised issues e.g. a 400m zone does not currently apply.</p> <p>Recreational pressure:- The District Council's Local Plan HRA work concluded in relation to recreational impacts that, prior to mitigation, likely significant effects in-combination could not be ruled out for any residential development or visitor accommodation within New Forest National Park on the New Forest SAC and SPA. The Sandleheath Neighbourhood Area includes areas of land with proximity to the National Park and is therefore affected by this issue. The District Council adopted an updated '<u>Mitigation for Recreational Impacts On New Forest European Sites</u>' SPD in 2021 which provides details on how the recreational impacts of new development within the New Forest District can be mitigated.</p> <p>Changes in water quality:- The District Council's Local Plan HRA work identified the European sites vulnerable to a deterioration in water quality as: River Avon SAC; Avon Valley SPA & Ramsar site; Dorset Heathlands SAC & Ramsar site; the New Forest SAC & Ramsar site; Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC; Solent Maritime SAC; Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site. The most relevant of these for the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan work is the Avon Valley/River Avon designations and the impacts arising from increased levels of phosphates. Although new development only makes a small contribution to the issue, <u>Natural England's updated methodology and budget calculator</u> (March 2022) confirms new development in the Avon catchment must be 'phosphate-neutral'.</p>
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	To be determined. Likely to be significant. HRA work undertaken for the District Council's Local Plan 2016 – 2036 highlighted the cumulative, in-combination impacts of development around the New Forest's Natura 2000 sites as potentially significant. These impacts included increased recreational pressures on the New Forest designations and

	(more recently) impacts on water quality on the River Avon designations arising from increased levels of phosphates.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The effects of the Plan are unlikely to have transboundary impacts (i.e. other Member States).
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	There are no significant risks to human health or the environment.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The Designated Area covers a small sized village (Sandleheath) with a total parish area of approximately 2 square kilometres and a combined population of approximately 600 residents (ONS census 2021). Material effects due to the geographic size of the area and population size are considered likely.
(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; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	There are a number of international nature conservation sites within 5km of the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Area. These sites are vulnerable to a variety of impacts, as set out in the assessment against criteria 2(a) above. The Sandleheath Neighbourhood Area also contains a small number of built environment assets (designated and non-designated), including listed buildings.
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	As indicated above there are a range of designated habitats within close proximity to the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Area that are protected at national and international level.