

# Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement

## March 2020

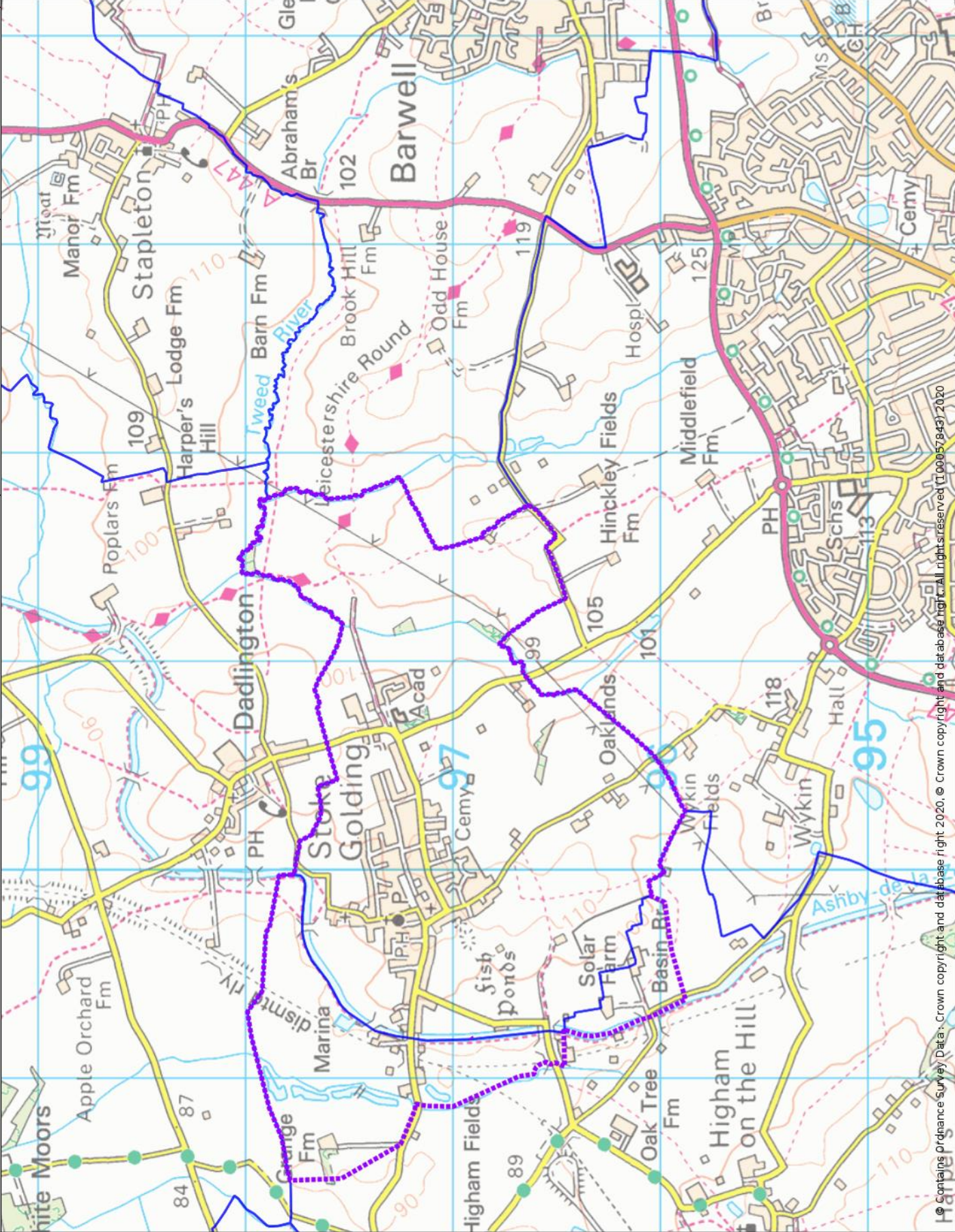
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement has been prepared on behalf of Stoke Golding Parish Council by Planit-X Town and Country Planning Services in relation to the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan (Draft Pre-Submission, December 2019).
- 1.2 The purpose of the Screening Statement is to set out a screening opinion in relation to whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process is required to accompany the development of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan. The Screening Statement is to be provided to the statutory consultation bodies for SEA (Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England) for their opinion.
- 1.3 SEA is a systematic process undertaken to evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of plans. The requirement for SEA in England was introduced in 2004 through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation 2004 ('The SEA Regulations'), which transposed the European SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).
- 1.4 One of the 'Basic Conditions' that a neighbourhood plan is tested against is whether the making of the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European Union obligations, including obligations under the SEA Directive. Neighbourhood plans only require SEA where they are likely to lead to significant environmental effects. To decide whether a proposed Neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it should be screened against the criteria set out in Annex 2 of the SEA Directive. Where it is determined that the Neighbourhood plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require SEA), a statement of reasons for this determination should be prepared and published for consultation with the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England). Where a Neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment an SEA process must be carried out.
- 1.5 This Screening Statement therefore provides a screening opinion as to whether the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environment effects, and as such requires a SEA process.





## 2. Details of the Neighbourhood Plan

### Title of the plan:

- 2.1 Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan.

### Name of Qualifying Body and Local Planning Authority:

- 2.2 The qualifying body preparing the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is Stoke Golding Parish Council. The Local Planning Authority is Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

### Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan contact point:

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Email: clerk.stokegoldingPC@gmail.com

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### Location and spatial extent of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan:

- 2.3 The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan covers the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Area, comprising the parish of Stoke Golding together with part of the neighbouring parish of Higham on the Hill to allow the Willow Park Business Area to be considered as part of the Plan. The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Area lies in southwest Leicestershire, close to the Warwickshire border in Leicestershire (Page 2).
- 2.4 Stoke Golding village is 16 miles from Leicester and about 3 miles north-west of Hinckley. Nuneaton is four miles to the south-west, which has important rail connections to London and the West Coast Mainline. The A5 corridor is about 3 miles to the south-west. The Ashby Canal, well-used for recreational purposes, passes through the western part of the Neighbourhood Area,
- 2.5 In the early part of the last century, Stoke Golding was a self-sufficient small village, with several shops and local employment. Goods were brought to and from the village, either by the Ashby Canal, or the railway which connected Stoke Golding to Nuneaton and the north.



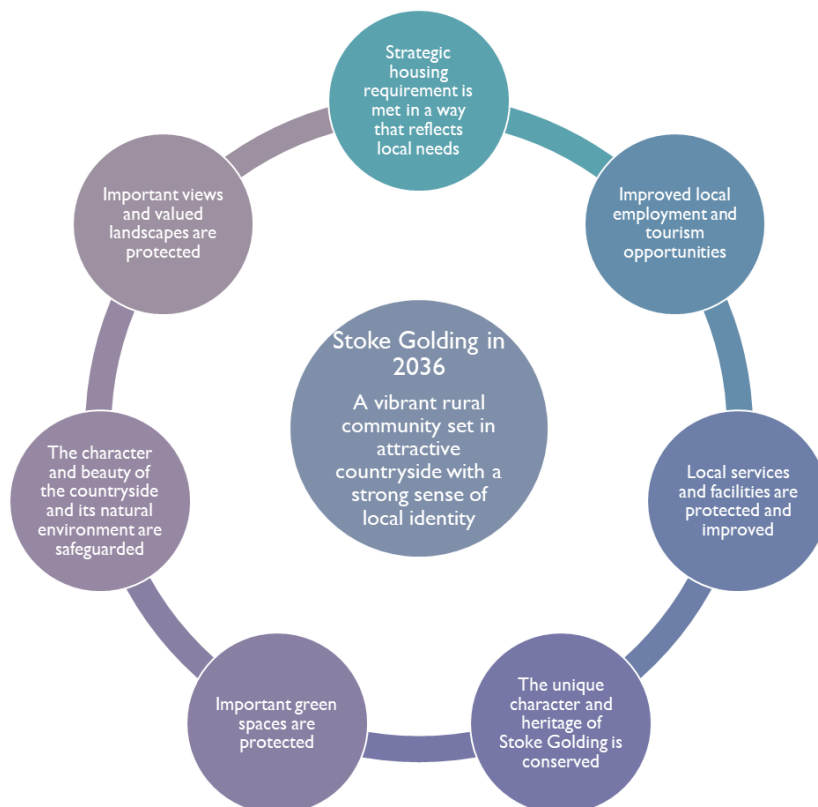
- 2.6 The village has since grown in size with the building of housing estates around its perimeter, and residents commute to work in the nearby towns. The railway has gone and the canal is now used for purely recreational purposes. Much of the local industry has gone too but there is a small trading estate. Stoke Golding has a good range of services including a convenience store, three pubs, schools, churches, GP surgery, village hall and sport and recreation facilities.

### Timeframe of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan:

- 2.7 To 2036.

### Main aims of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan:

- 2.8 The following vision statement for the Plan makes it clear what the Plan is aiming to achieve. The vision statement of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan for 2036 is as follows:



### Relationship with the Local Plan:

- 2.9 The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan. For the purposes of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan, the relevant parts of the Local Plan 2006-2026 (formerly LDF) are the Core Strategy Development Plan Document

(DPD) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD.

- 2.10 The Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy was adopted in December 2009 and is the Strategic Part 1 Local Plan. It provides the vision and spatial strategy for the borough and identifies development requirements for its main urban areas. Most new development will be accommodated in and around Hinckley. The Core Strategy also identifies development requirements for key rural centre such as Stoke Golding and identifies a minimum housing requirement of a minimum of 60 new homes for the village of Stoke Golding over the period 2006-2026.
- 2.11 The Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD was adopted in 2016 and identifies sites for uses such as housing, employment, retail, open space and community facilities that will deliver the aims, vision and objectives of the Core Strategy. It also contains development management policies which will be used to assess planning applications over the plan period. This document identifies that the residual minimum housing requirement for Stoke Golding, as of 1 September 2014 has been met and as such no sites are allocated for further residential development in Stoke Golding.
- 2.12 A parallel process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was undertaken alongside the plan-making process for these two documents.
- 2.13 Given the importance of having an up-to-date local plan, the Council is currently in the process of reviewing its local plan documents, including the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. Preparation of the new Hinckley & Bosworth began in 2017 and will set out the development strategy for Hinckley & Bosworth for the period 2016-2036. It will however not be finalised until 2021 at the earliest. The Neighbourhood Plan has been aligned with the emerging Local Plan to cover the period up to 2036. However, once the new Local Plan is adopted, there may be value in a review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Will the Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan propose allocations? And if so, will these be over and above those likely to be included in the Local Plan?**

- 2.14 The Core Strategy identifies Stoke Golding as a key rural centre and sets out that the Council will allocate land for the development of a minimum of 60 dwellings. This has been met with the granting of planning permission for the Convent Drive and Bosworth Manor developments off Hinckley Road. As this residual requirement had been met the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD subsequently does not allocate any sites for residential development in Stoke Golding.

- 2.15 The Local Plan is currently under review and therefore the Borough Council has been approached to provide an indicative housing provision for the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Area to 2036. However, the Council has been unable to do so as the housing requirement for the Borough has not yet been determined. Consequently, the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee has undertaken its own assessment to provide an indicative housing requirement for the Neighbourhood Area. Having regard to the latest evidence of local housing need and the most recently available planning strategy for the area (The Strategic Growth Plan) and housing supply, it is suggested that the annual housing requirement for the district is very similar to the provision set out in the current Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Core Strategy. Core Strategy Policy 11 provides for a housing allocation of a minimum of 60 new homes for Stoke Golding, which equates to the equivalent of 3+ dwellings per annum. This minimum housing allocation has already been met by the Convent Drive development containing 59 homes and the Bosworth Manor development off Hinckley Road, where the development of 83 dwellings was completed in 2018/20019. Having regard to the latest available evidence, it is suggested that there is no requirement for the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan to allocate additional housing site(s).
- 2.16 However, it is considered that the Neighbourhood Plan should provide for around 25 dwellings and would be beneficial for the following reason:
- The housing provision could help meet the local need for smaller households, including homes designed for older people;
  - Housing provision could help meet the need for affordable homes and the Neighbourhood Plan will seek to ensure that priority is given to people with a local connection in the allocation of this housing;
  - Many residents accept the need for up to 25 houses;
  - New housing provision would help retain local services and community facilities;
  - Stoke Golding could benefit from a limited protection as it is a neighbourhood plan which plans for housing, from the presumption in favour of sustainable development where certain criteria are met;
  - Stoke Golding will continue to contribute to meeting the Borough's housing needs.
- 2.17 The Neighbourhood Plan therefore makes provision for a housing site allocation at 'Land at Mulberry Farm, High Street' (Policy SG2) to provide for around 25 dwellings. Any further additional housing would be through



Policy SG4: Infill Housing Development. In addition, a Housing Reserve Site for around 25 dwellings at 'Land at Mulberry Farm' (Policy SG3) is also provided if it becomes necessary to provide for additional housing in accordance with the new Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan.

## What are the key environmental assets (including 'sensitive areas') near the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Area?

### 'Sensitive areas'

2.18 A key determinant of whether effects are likely to be significant is the sensitivity of the asset affected. In this context, the more environmentally sensitive a location, the more likely it is that potential environmental effects from a plan will be significant.

2.19 National Planning Practice Guidance provides guidance on this topic through providing a list of sites and areas which should be deemed as 'sensitive areas' for the purposes of environmental assessment. These comprise:

- Natura 2000 sites;
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- National Parks;
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- World Heritage Sites; and
- Scheduled Monuments.

2.20 In the context of the categories of 'sensitive areas' described by the Planning Practice Guidance, the following sites and areas exist within or near the Neighbourhood Area.

#### Natura 2000 sites

##### Within the Neighbourhood Area:

2.21 No Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are present within the Neighbourhood Area.

##### Within 10km of the Neighbourhood Area

2.22 Ensor's Pool Special Area of Conservation is located approximately 7.0km to the southwest of the Neighbourhood Area boundary. This lowland site in Central England represents and qualifies as a SAC as it holds a large population of white-clawed crayfish in standing water. This waterbody is isolated from river systems and is a good example of a 'refuge' site.

2.23 There are no SPAs within 10km of the Neighbourhood Area.

#### Beyond 10km of the Neighbourhood Area

- 2.24 The River Mease Special Area of Conservation is located approximately 13.0km to the north of the Neighbourhood Area boundary.
- 2.25 The River Mease and the lower part of Gilwiskaw Brook are designated as a SAC. They were designated because the River Mease represents one of the best examples of an unspoilt meandering lowland river which supports characteristic habitats and species and supports populations of spined loach and bullhead, two notable species of native freshwater fish that have a restricted distribution in England. The rivers also support populations of white-clawed crayfish, otter and a range of river plants such as water crow-foot.
- 2.26 All SCA's are also notified as SSSI's, being sites that are of specific biological or geological features.
- 2.27 The nearest SPA is at Rutland Water and is approximately 49km east of the Neighbourhood Area.

#### SSSIs

##### Within the Neighbourhood Area

- 2.28 There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest present within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

##### Within 5km of Neighbourhood Area

##### *Kendall's Meadow*

- 2.29 A traditionally managed hay meadow with a diversity and richness of plant life unmatched in the south west of the County, an area otherwise sparse in interest. It is probably the best representative of this grassland community type in the central English Midlands. More than a dozen grass species have been found on this meadow which lies partly on alluvium and partly on boulder clay
- 2.30 Condition: Comprises of one unit which is identified as favourable.
- 2.31 370m to the north of the Neighbourhood Area.
- Burbage Wood and Aston Firs*
- 2.32 The site comprises one of the best remaining examples of ash-oak-maple woodland in Leicestershire and is representative of semi-natural woodland developed on the clays of eastern England.
- 2.33 Condition: Comprises 4 units, all of which are identified as unfavourable – recovering.
- 2.34 3.9km to the southeast of the Neighbourhood Area.

#### National Parks

##### Within the Neighbourhood Area

- 2.35 None.

Near the Neighbourhood Area

- 2.36 None- the closest National Park is the Peak District National Park (located approximately 59km from the Parish).

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Within the Neighbourhood Area

- 2.37 None.

Near the Neighbourhood Area

- 2.38 None- the closest AONB is the Cannock Chase AONB (located 40km from the Parish).

World Heritage Sites

Within the Neighbourhood Area

- 2.39 None.

Near the Neighbourhood Area

- 2.40 None- the closest site is the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (located approximately 39km to the north of the Parish).

Scheduled Monuments

Within the Neighbourhood Area

*Hlaew and medieval farmstead immediately south west of Park House*

- 2.41 The monument is situated within the village of Stoke Golding to the south of Station Road and the west of Wykin Lane, on its south western outskirts. It includes the earthwork and buried remains of a Saxon burial mound and a medieval farmstead.

- 2.42 Although the building itself is not visible on the surface its buried remains will provide evidence for the plan of the house

- 2.43 In the northern part of the monument are the earthwork remains of an Anglo- Saxon burial mound (a hlaew). It stands approximately 2m high and is 14m in diameter. Although no longer visible at ground level, a ditch, from which material was quarried during the construction of the hlaew, surrounds the mound. This has become infilled over the years but survives as a buried feature, approximately 3m wide. The mound was partly excavated in the 1930s and pottery fragments and the enamelled escutcheons from a 7th century hanging bowl were recovered

Near the Neighbourhood Area

*Moated site at Stapleton*

- 2.44 The monument at Stapleton consists of a square moated site situated on the north side of the village, 4km north of Hinckley. The moated site measures 65 x 70m in overall dimensions with a ditch, water- filled to a shallow depth, fed by a stream which flows east-west on the north side. The arms measure an average of 12m wide and an outer bank on the west side measures 10m wide and about 1m high.

- 2.45 Distance from Neighbourhood Area – 1.7km to the northeast of the parish boundary

*Ambion deserted Medieval Village*

- 2.46 The site at Ambion is a rare example of an early desertion, probably brought about by the plague which severely diminished the population. The monument is located on Ambion Hill and the ground which slopes down to woodland on the south side. It is adjacent to the site of the battle of Bosworth and includes earthwork remains of the site of a deserted medieval village. The village earthworks occupy an extensive area measuring over 160 x 180m.
- 2.47 The village appears in records between 1271 and 1303 as Anebein or Hanebein. The last known reference is in 1346 and it may have been depopulated by the plague a few years later and never reoccupied. Ambion Hill was the site of Richard III's camp before the battle of Bosworth in 1485 but there is no archaeological evidence of this on the site.
- 2.48 Distance from Neighbourhood Area – 2.3km to the north of the parish boundary
- Remains of the motte and bailey castle at Hinckley*
- 2.49 The castle is situated in the centre of the south west Leicestershire town of Hinckley, the bailey surviving as a semi-circular raised piece of ground. The northern part of the site was occupied by the motte, which has now been destroyed and is outside the area of the scheduling. The southern half of the bailey survives as a flat-topped raised area approximately 70m in diameter, rising about 10m above the surrounding land.
- 2.50 Distance from Neighbourhood Area – 2.9km to the south of the parish boundary
- Earl Shilton motte and bailey castle*
- 2.51 This survives in good condition and will retain archaeological evidence of buildings within the interior.
- 2.52 Distance from the Neighbourhood Area – 5.2km to the east of the parish boundary.

**Other key environmental assets**

- 2.53 Other designated environmental assets located within the Neighbourhood Area (i.e. those which are not defined as 'sensitive areas' as defined by the Planning Practice Guidance) include as follows:

*Historic Park and Gardens*

- 2.54 There are no Historic Parks or Gardens in Stoke Golding Parish. The closest is Arbury Hall, a Grade II\* Historic Park and Garden 7.9km south west of the Parish.



- 2.55 There is also Merevale Hall, a Grade II\* Historic Park and Garden, 8.8km west of the Neighbourhood Area.

[Battle of Bosworth \(Field\) 1485](#)

- 2.56 The Battle of Bosworth Field extends into the north west corner of the parish of Stoke Golding. And abuts the outer perimeter of Stoke Golding village. It is registered due to its historical importance, topographic integrity, archaeological potential and technological significance.

[Conservation Areas](#)

- 2.57 The Stoke Golding Conservation Area, encompasses the western part of the village, including properties around the High Street and Station Road. It was designated by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in June 2004 and was reviewed and appraised in September 2013. Its character is primarily derived from the agricultural origins of the settlement. This can be identified through several former farmhouses and farm buildings within the area, strong visual links to the countryside and several very important green or hard surfaced spaces. The ancient street pattern with its unique twists and turns has added a further layer of local distinctiveness to the area. There are 4 Listed Building (1 x Grade I and 3 x Grade II) within the Stoke Golding Conservation Area as well as a number of important buildings identified as non-designated features of Local Heritage Interest.
- 2.58 The Ashby Canal Conservation Area that runs adjacent to the west and northern boundary, was designated by the Borough Council as a Conservation Area in December 1990. The Ashby Canal travels northeast for about seven miles through Hinckley and then continues north through largely rural countryside for a further 15 miles until it reaches its terminus in Snarestone. North West Leicestershire District Council designated the remaining watered section of the canal as a conservation area from the Borough boundary to the present terminus north of Snarestone village in June 1992.

[Listed buildings](#)

- 2.59 There are 6 Listed Buildings in Stoke Golding listed by Historic England for their special architectural or historic interest. They include the Grade I Church of St Margaret of Antioch. The remainder are designated as Grade II listings.

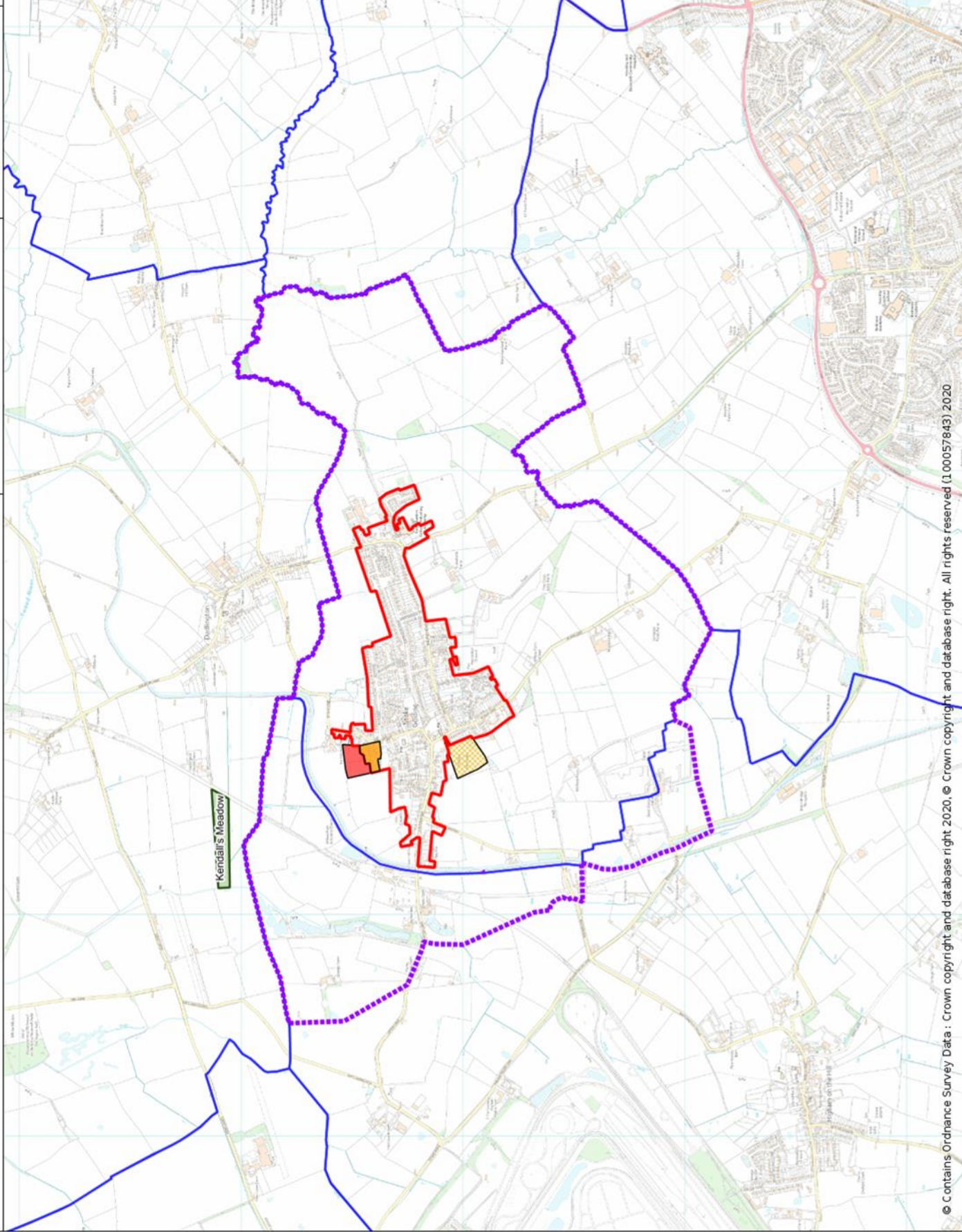
Sensitive Areas

Stoke Golding CP

Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Area

Author:

Date: 09/01/2020





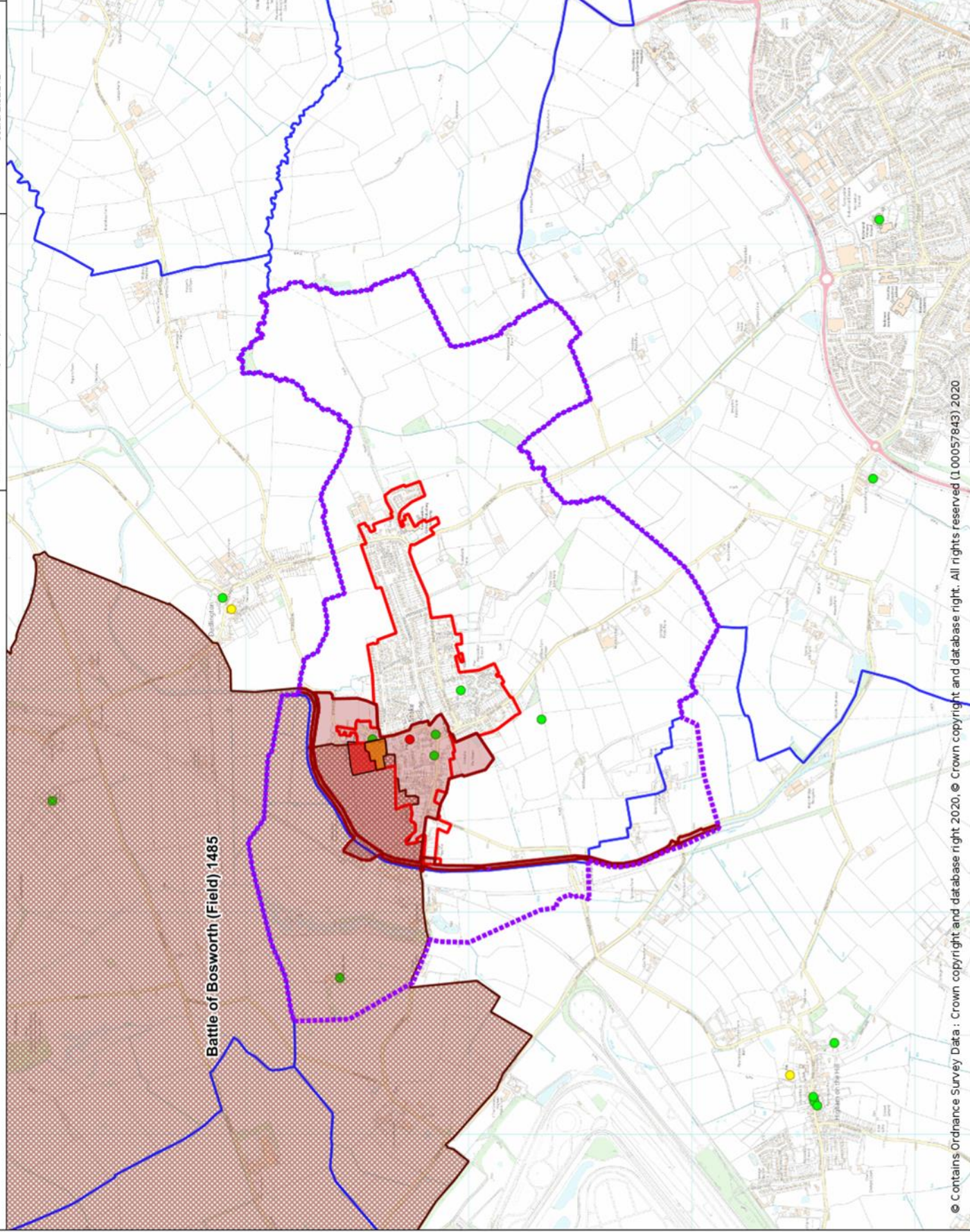
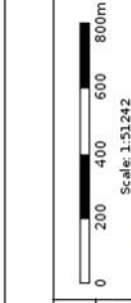
# Other Key Environmental Assets

Stoke Golding CP

## Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Area

**Author:**

**Date:** 09/01/2020



### 3. Legislative Background

- 3.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC which was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed Guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005).
- 3.2 Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 makes provision in relation to the Habitats Directive. The Directive requires that any plan or project, likely to have a significant effect on a European site, must be subject to an appropriate assessment. To achieve this, paragraph 1 prescribes a basic condition that the making of a neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site. Paragraphs 2 to 5 of the Schedule amend the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 so as to apply its provisions to neighbourhood development orders and neighbourhood plans. In particular, paragraph 4 inserts new regulation 78A which provides that a neighbourhood development order may not grant planning permission for development which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site.
- 3.3 Schedule 3 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 makes provision in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive. The Directive requires that EIA development must be subject to a development consent process. To enable this, Schedule 3 prescribes a basic condition that applies where development which is the subject of a proposal for a neighbourhood development order is of a type caught by the EIA Directive, and applies the relevant provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011(3) ("the EIA Regulations") with appropriate modifications (regulation 33 and paragraphs 1 to 4 and 6 of Schedule 3). Paragraphs 5 and 7 to 13 of Schedule 3 correct errors in the EIA Regulations.
- 3.4 It may be appropriate, and in some cases a requirement, that the statutory environmental bodies of Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England be consulted, for example, a draft neighbourhood plan proposal must be assessed to determine whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects.
- 3.5 There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, a qualifying body must



demonstrate how its plan or order will contribute to achieving sustainable development.

- 3.6 This report focuses on screening for SEA and the criteria for establishing whether a full assessment is needed considering the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment undertaken for the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026 in 2010 and the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies 2006-2026 in 2014 and 2016.

## 4. Criteria for Assessing the Effects of Neighbourhood Plans (the 'plan')

4.1 Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below<sup>1</sup>:

- 1. The characteristics of neighbourhood plans ("plan"), having regard, in particular, to - the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources, - the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy, - the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development, - environmental problems relevant to the plan, - the relevance of the plan 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 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects, - the cumulative nature of the effects, - the trans boundary nature of the effects, - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents), - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected), - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, - intensive land-use, - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

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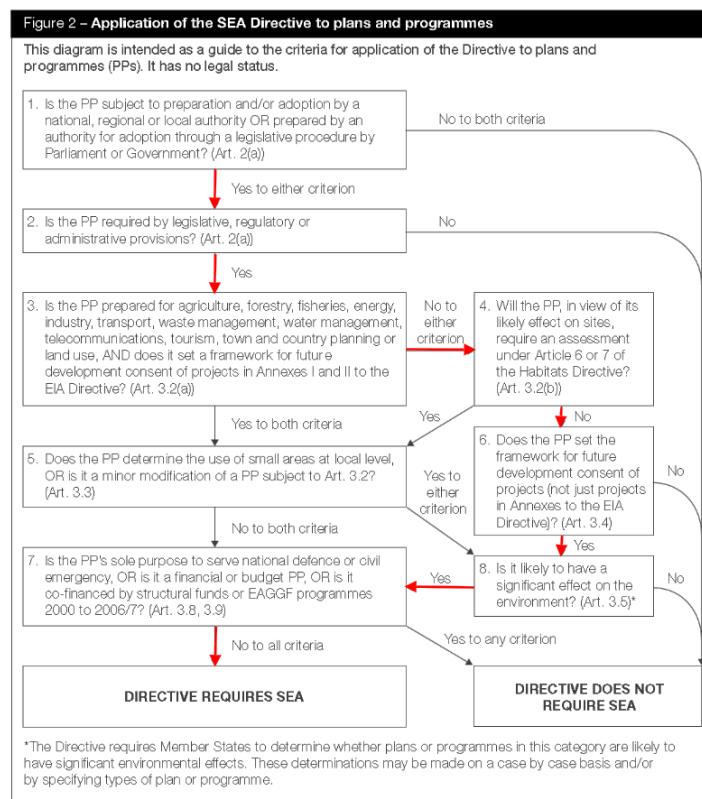
<sup>1</sup> Source: Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

## 5. Assessment

5.1 This diagram shows the Directive's field of application in the form of a diagram. The original diagram is from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Objective'. The red arrows indicate the process route for the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Assessment.

5.2 The table below shows the assessment of whether the Stoke Golding

Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA. The questions below are drawn from the diagram above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.



Stage	Yes/No	Reason
<b>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))</b>	<b>Yes</b>	The preparation of and adoption of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is allowed under The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared by Stoke Golding Parish Council (as the 'relevant body') and will be 'made' by Hinckley and Bosworth Council as the local authority. The preparation of neighbourhood plans is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012.
<b>2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative,</b>	<b>Yes</b>	Whilst the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is not a

Stage	Yes/No	Reason
<b>regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))</b>		requirement and is optional under the provisions of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by 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.
<b>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))</b>	<b>No</b>	Whilst the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan covers a range of land use issues and allocations, it does not set the framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive (see Appendix 2 for list). Instead, the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is a non-strategic scale document, focused solely upon the Parish of Stoke Golding together with part of the neighbouring parish of Higham on the Hill.
<b>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))</b>	<b>No</b>	<p>The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites.</p> <p>The two nearest SACs are Ensors Pool to the south west of the Parish and the River Mease Catchment to the north. Ensors Pool is located 7km away from the Parish and the River Mease Catchment is located 13km away from the Parish.</p> <p>The Hinckley and Bosworth Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2017 confirms there is no physical connection between the Borough and The Ensor's Pool SAC. From this we consider that activities</p>



Stage	Yes/No	Reason
		<p>within the Borough – and indeed the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Area - would not have implications for this site.</p> <p>Part of the River Mease (not the part defined as a European site (SAC)) passes through the Borough coming in from Snarestone over the border of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, flowing shortly after towards Swepstone. In addition, three tributaries of the river flow down towards and through Norton juxta Twycross, ending to the east, west and north of Norton juxta Twycross. As a result, given the physical connection to the River Mease SAC, provided by its flow through the Borough and via these tributaries, it might be conceivable that some areas of the Borough could have an impact on this site despite the actual designation being outside the Borough.</p> <p>However, no part of the River Mease or its tributaries as described above flow through the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Area. The tributaries as described above are located roughly 13 kilometres away from the closest part of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Area boundary. In view of this as well as considering the scope of proposals within the draft Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan, the Borough Council considers that further stages in the HRA process are not required (including further screening, or Appropriate Assessment) and that the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to have any impact on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites.</p>

Stage	Yes/No	Reason
<b>5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	Determination of small sites at local level only.
<b>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)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is to be used for determining future planning applications
<b>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 EAFF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)</b>	<b>No</b>	No further comments
<b>8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	Appendix 1 presents the environmental effects which have the potential to arise as a result of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan.

## 6. Summary of screening determination

- 6.1 This determination has considered whether the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects as defined by Directive 2001/42/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and the transposing regulations. In particular, the review has considered several sensitive areas located in the vicinity of the Neighbourhood Area and the potential environmental effects on these areas that may arise as a result of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.2 Environmental effects have the potential to take place as a result of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan, including in relation to the majority of the SEA 'topics'. This SEA screening opinion provides the necessary analysis relating to the potential for negative effects on 'Sensitive Areas' and other key environmental assets.
- 6.3 There are no Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or World Heritage Sites present within the Neighbourhood Area. The one scheduled monument located within the Neighbourhood Area is unlikely to be affected by the Plan's proposals.
- 6.4 Having considered representation from Natural England, the screening opinion also concludes that there is unlikely to be significant effects on the Kendall's Meadow SSSI located to the north of the Neighbourhood Area.
- 6.5 However, the screening opinion concludes that there is the potential for significant effects on designated heritage assets. The proposed housing allocation and the proposed housing reserve site lie within the Battle of Bosworth Field Registered Battlefield and the Stoke Golding Conservation Area. A Grade II Listed Building lies adjacent to the proposed housing site allocation.

### Conclusion

- 6.6 **This screening opinion has been prepared in order to fulfil the statutory SEA requirements, as set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The environmental consultation bodies Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency have been consulted during the preparation of this Screening Statement. Their responses are summarised below:**
- **Historic England – Advice is confined to the question 'Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?' in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. It is noted that the proposed site allocation (for up to 50 dwellings) are located within Bosworth Battlefield near to Crown Hill, where Henry VII was crowned after**

**defeating Richard III. 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 'SEA' Directive), Historic England is of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is likely to be required.**

- **Natural England – The screening opinion concludes that there is the potential for significant effects of the Kendall's Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located to the north of the Neighbourhood Area. The allocated housing sites lies within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of Kendall's Meadow SSSI. Natural England has identified that the SSSI is particularly sensitive to residential dwellings of 100 or more dwellings outside of existing settlements. The proposed housing allocation and the proposed housing reserve site cumulatively proposed around 50 dwellings. Based on the information submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not damage or destroy the interest features for which the site has been notified.**
- **Environment Agency – no comments received.**

**A full copy of the responses received are attached as Appendix 3.**

- 6.7 For the above reason, it is considered that the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is subject to the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and accompanying regulations.**



## Appendix 1: Assessment of potential environmental effects

The following table presents the environmental effects which have the potential to arise because of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan. This is accompanied by a commentary on whether these effects are likely to be significant. The environmental effects have been grouped by the SEA 'topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive.

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
<b>Biodiversity, flora and fauna</b> (Including biodiversity habitats and species, biodiversity sites, areas of geological interest)	Y	Without mitigation and enhancement measures, the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to lead to effects on biodiversity, including through loss of habitat, disturbance, effects on ecological connections and indirect effects such as from impacts on water quality and quantity.	<p>There are no Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPA) present within the Neighbourhood Area. As concluded in Section 5 of the above assessment, the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan would not have implications for Ensors Pool SAC or the River Mease SAC. As such the contents of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to have an impact on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites.</p> <p>In relation to biodiversity, there are no SSSIs located in the Neighbourhood Area. The nearest are Kendall's Meadow SSSI (favourable) and Burbage and Aston Firs SSSI (unfavourable – recovering), located 370m and 3.9km from the Neighbourhood Area respectively.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Area lies within the SSSI Impact risk Zones of Kendall's Meadow. Certain developments within the zones require consultation with Natural England depending on the specific zone that the proposal is located. The proposed housing allocation and the proposed housing reserve site, cumulatively propose around 50 dwellings. Both of these sites lie within the impact zone that require consultation to be undertaken with Natural England for specific types of residential development. Where residential</p>

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
			<p>development of 50 or more houses outside an existing settlement is proposed, consultation with Natural England is required.</p> <p>The Housing Allocation is within the existing settlement boundary of Stoke Golding and proposes a development of approximately 25 dwellings. The Housing Reserve Site, an undeveloped area of land, that extends beyond the settlement boundary, is proposed to provide around 25 dwellings. Taking into account, the siting of these two sites, and the potential scale of development, the Neighbourhood Plan does not propose development of greater than 50 dwellings beyond the existing settlement. Therefore, on this basis it is considered that the Neighbourhood Plan would not result in development which will damage or destroy the interest features for which the Kendall's Meadow SSSI has been notified,</p> <p>With respect to the other and outer zones, that cover the Neighbourhood Plan area, development that require consultation include infrastructure (pipelines, pylons), quarry development, industrial and commercial development that causes air pollution, general combustion processes, waste landfill, compost proposals and water supply in relation to large infrastructure. The Neighbourhood Plan does not propose development of this nature within these zones and therefore consultation with Natural England is not required with respect to these matters.</p>

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
			<p>It is recognised that the Neighbourhood Plan includes an overarching biodiversity policy that seeks to protect, conserve and enhance the network of local ecological features and habitats, as well as the maintenance and enhancement of other ecological corridors and landscape features. This policy seeks to reduce the likelihood of significant effects on these 'sensitive areas'.</p> <p>In terms of the other SSSI identified above, due to their relative distance of over 3km from the Neighbourhood Area, no parts of the Neighbourhood Area are within its inner Impact Risk Zones for this SSSIs.</p> <p>Effects on biodiversity are therefore <b>unlikely to be significant</b> if the current policy approach proposed in the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan are taken forward.</p>
<b>Population</b> (Including residents' quality of life, accessibility to services and facilities, deprivation and similar)	Y	As indicated by the current policy approaches proposed for the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan, the Plan has the potential to have a range of benefits for the quality of life of residents and for accessibility to services, facilities and opportunities. It seeks to prevent the loss of	Whilst the benefits for residents of Stoke Golding Parish from a well-designed neighbourhood plan have the potential to be wide-ranging, these are <b>not deemed to be significant</b> in the context of the SEA Directive.

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		<p>community services and facilities, as well as supports the provision of new or improved local services and community facilities. The protection of Local Green Spaces is also sought.</p> <p>The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan will also support the delivery of affordable housing, with priority given to those with a local connection, and help deliver a mix of housing types, including the provision of smaller/low-cost homes and homes suitable for older people.</p>	
<b>Human Health</b> (Incorporating residents' health and wellbeing)	Y	As indicated by the current policy approaches proposed for the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan, the Plan has the potential to have a range of benefits for	<p>Whilst the health and wellbeing benefits for residents of the Neighbourhood Area from a well-designed neighbourhood plan have the potential to be wide-ranging, these are not deemed to be significant in the context of the SEA Directive.</p> <p>Likely effects from noise quality are also <b>not deemed to be significant</b>.</p>

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		<p>residents' health and wellbeing through promoting healthier lifestyles and supporting accessibility to services and facilities.</p> <p>Policies include those protect local green spaces and the Green Infrastructure Network; the protection and provision of community and local services and facilities; the protection of residential amenities and the provision of pedestrian and cycle routes and the protection of public rights of way.</p>	
<p><b>Soil</b> (Including agricultural land, soil erosion, soil quality)</p>	Y	<p>It is uncertain whether proposed development areas will be sited on land classified as the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land, as recent detailed agricultural land classification has not taken place.</p>	<p>Due to the relatively limited area of land likely to be developed through the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan, effects on the soils resource are <b>unlikely to be significant</b>.</p>



SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		The Plan proposes to update the settlement boundary to consider of the reserved housing allocation and seeks to limit development outside of this proposed Settlement Boundary.	
<b>Water</b> (Including water quality and availability)	Y	<p>The Stoke Golding Plan has the potential to lead to a very small-scale increase in water demand in the Neighbourhood Area through supporting the delivery of a new housing provision.</p> <p>Policy also supports the implementation of sustainable drainage systems with maintenance regimes to minimise vulnerability to flooding and climate change.</p>	Potential effects on water availability will be limited by the relatively small-scale of proposals likely to be facilitated by the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan. Effects <b>unlikely to be significant</b> .
<b>Air</b> (Including air quality)	Y	Whilst new development in the Neighbourhood Area may lead to increased traffic flows and	No existing air quality issues exist in the Neighbourhood Area and there are no Air Quality Management Areas within the Neighbourhood Area. Any effects on air quality are <b>not deemed to be significant</b> in the context of the SEA Directive.

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		<p>congestion, this is unlikely to lead to marked effects on air quality.</p> <p>In addition, the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan includes policy which seeks to reduce the use of car –based travel, through the creation of footpath links and cycle routes, and the provision of local facilities. It also supports the provision of renewable energy which may help limit adverse impacts on air quality.</p>	
<p><b>Climatic Factors</b> (Including relating to climate change mitigation (limiting greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (adapting to the anticipated effects of climate change, including flood risk))</p>	Y	<p>In terms of climate change mitigation, the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan actively seeks to located new housing development, either within or adjacent to the currently defined settlement boundary, where the majority of the local services and</p>	<p>Due to the small scale, local scope of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan, the nature and magnitude of effects directly arising as a result of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan are <b>unlikely to be significant</b> in the context of the SEA Directive.</p>

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		<p>facilities are located. This will help limit potential increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>Policy encourages the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems which will help meet the challenges of climate change and in terms of climate change adaptation, statutory requirements (including the requirements of the NPPF) will ensure that flood risk is addressed through new development proposals.</p> <p>The plan shows support for the development of suitable renewable energy development in the form of solar photovoltaic farms. appropriate to its location and with</p>	

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
		consideration given to its impact on amenity and the environment.	
<b>Material Assets</b> (Including minerals resources, waste considerations)	Y	<p>The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan may lead to small increases in the Neighbourhood Area's waste management requirements through supporting the delivery of new housing.</p> <p>No mineral sites or resources, or waste sites are likely to be affected or undermined as a result of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	Potential increases in waste as a direct result of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan will be managed through statutory requirements regarding waste management. Due to their limited magnitude, effects are therefore <b>unlikely to be significant</b> in the context of the SEA Directive.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b> (Including historic environment, cultural heritage, historic settings)	Y	<p>Development undertaken in accordance with the policies of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to have effects on the fabric and setting of historic environment assets.</p>	<p>Whilst one scheduled monuments (a 'sensitive area' as defined by the Planning Practice Guidance) is located within the Neighbourhood Area, it is unlikely to be directly affected by the proposed housing allocation due to its relative distance (approximately 3.0m) and the built development that separates the proposed allocation and the scheduled monument.</p> <p>However, the both the proposed housing allocation and the housing reserve site lie are located within the Registered Battlefield.</p>

SEA Topic	Likely effect? Y/N	Description of effect	Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA?
			<p>In terms of the Stoke Golding Conservation Area, both the proposed housing allocation and the housing reserve site lie within this designation.</p> <p>A Grade II Listed Building is sited adjacent to the proposed housing site allocation.</p> <p>The siting of the housing allocation and reserve site, is such that effect on cultural heritage <b>may be significant</b> in the context of the SEA directive.</p>
<b>Landscape</b> (Including landscape and townscape quality)	Y	Direct effects from the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan on landscape and townscape character have the potential to take place.	<p>In terms of landscape quality, despite there being no SSSIs located within the neighbourhood area, the proposed housing allocation and the proposed housing reserve site, are located within the impact zones of Kendall's Meadow SSSI. no 'sensitive areas' as defined by the NPPG are present in the Neighbourhood Area. AS stated above, it is therefore considered that <b>effects on biodiversity maybe significant</b> if the current policy approach proposed in the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is taken forward.</p> <p>In terms of the Stoke Golding Conservation Area and Listed Buildings, there is the statutory protection of these designations that will run alongside the neighbourhood plan policy, which seeks to ensure that new development reflects the distinctive and traditional character of the village, including its historic features.</p> <p>Therefore, potential effects on townscape quality is <b>unlikely to be significant</b> in the context of the SEA Directive.</p>





## Appendix 2: Annex I and Annex II Projects, EIA Directive

### Annex I Projects, EIA Directive

All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an Environmental Impact Assessment. The listed projects are summarised as follows:

1. Crude oil refineries, coal or shale gasification liquefaction installations
2. Thermal power stations, nuclear power stations, other nuclear reactors etc
3. Installations for the processing, reprocessing, final disposal or storage of irradiated nuclear fuel, or the production or enrichment of nuclear fuel
4. Integrated works for the initial smelting of cast-iron and steel, and the production of non-ferrous crude metals from ore
5. Installations for the extraction, processing and transforming of asbestos
6. Integrated chemical installations for the industrial scale manufacture of basic organic and inorganic fertilisers, plant health products and biocides, pharmaceuticals, and explosives
7. Construction of long-distance railway lines. Airports with a basic runway length run of 2,100 metres or more. Construction of motorways and express roads. New roads of four or more lanes and roads which have been improved so as to convert two lanes or fewer to four lanes or more, where such road would be 10 kilometres or more in continuous length
8. Inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic, trading ports and piers
9. Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment of hazardous waste
10. Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment of non-hazardous waste
11. Groundwater abstraction or artificial groundwater recharge schemes
12. Water transfer schemes between river basins
13. Wastewater treatment plants
14. Commercial extraction of petroleum and natural gas
15. Dams and water storage installations
16. Gas, oil or chemical pipelines and pipelines used for the transport of carbon dioxide for geological storage

## Annex II Projects, EIA Directive

For the projects listed in Annex II the national authorities have to decide whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is needed. The projects listed in Annex II are in general those not included in Annex I but also other types such as urban development projects and flood-relief works. The listed projects are summarised as follows:

1. Agriculture, silviculture\* and aquaculture Restructuring of rural land holdings; use of uncultivated land or seminatural areas for intensive agriculture; water management projects for agriculture; initial afforestation\* and deforestation\* for the purpose of conversion to a different land use; intensive livestock installations (projects not included in Annex I); intensive fish farming; reclamation of land from the sea.
2. Extractive industry Quarries, open-cast mining, peat extraction (projects not included in Annex I); underground mining; dredging; deep drilling; surface installations for coal, gas, ore and shale extraction.
3. Energy industry Installations for production of electricity, steam and hot water and for carrying gas, steam and hot water, and transmission of electricity by overhead cables\* (projects not included in Annex I); surface storage of natural gas and fossil fuels; underground storage of combustible gases; briquetting of coal and lignite; installations for processing and storage of radioactive waste (unless included in Annex I); hydroelectric and wind power installations.
4. Production and processing of metals Installations for the production of pig iron or steel; processing of ferrous metals; ferrous metal foundries; installations for smelting metals and surface treatment of metals and plastic materials; assembly and manufacture of motor vehicles and motor-vehicle engines; shipyards; installations for construction and repair of aircraft; manufacture of railway equipment; swaging by explosives; and installations for the roasting and sintering of metallic ores.
5. Metal industry Coke ovens; installations for the manufacture of glass, cement, asbestos and asbestos products (projects not covered by Annex I); smelting mineral substances; manufacture of ceramic products by burning.
6. Chemical industry (projects not included in Annex I) Treatment of intermediate products and production of chemicals; production of pesticides, pharmaceuticals, paint, varnishes, elastomers and peroxides; storage facilities for petroleum, petrochemical products and chemical products.
7. Food industry Manufacture of oils, fats, dairy products, confectionery, syrup, industrial starch; packing and canning; brewing and malting; sugar, fish-meal and fish-oil factories; and installations for the slaughter of animals.
8. Textile, leather, wood and paper industries Industrial plants for paper and board production (projects not included in Annex I); pre-treatment plants; tanning plants; cellulose-processing and production installations.
9. Rubber industry Manufacture and treatment of elastomer-based products.
10. Infrastructure projects (not included in Annex I) Industrial estates; urban development projects (including shopping centres and car parks); railways and transshipment facilities; airfields, roads, harbours, ports, inland-waterways; dams and water storage facilities; tramways, elevated and underground passenger railways etc.; oil and gas pipe-lines; long-distance aqueducts; coastal and sea defence works; groundwater abstraction and artificial groundwater recharge schemes; water transfer schemes between river basins; motorway service areas.

11. Other projects Permanent motor racing and test tracks; waste disposal projects and waste water treatment plants (projects not included in Annex I); sludgedisposal sites; storage of scrap iron (including scrap vehicles); test benches for engines etc.; installations for the manufacture of artificial mineral fibres and the recovery or destruction of explosives; knackers' yards.
12. Tourism and leisure Ski-runs, ski-lifts, cable cars etc.; marinas; holiday villages and hotel complexes outside urban areas; permanent camp sites and caravan sites; theme parks and golf courses.
13. Any change or extension of projects listed in Annex I or Annex II, already authorised, executed or in the process of being executed, which may have adverse environmental effects Projects in Annex I, undertaken exclusively or mainly for the development and testing of new methods or products and not used for more than two years.

Note Some of the types of projects listed above are covered by Annex II and the Regulations only if they meet certain threshold levels or other criteria. \* A project which is included in Annex II of the Directive but excluded from Schedule 2 of the Regulations (SI 1999/293).



## Appendix 3: Responses from Environmental Consultation Bodies



Date: 03 February 2020  
Our ref: 305704  
Your ref: 1100/Neighbourhood Planning/NDP/Stoke Golding



~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Senior Planning Officer (Policy)

BY EMAIL ONLY

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Planning consultation: Stoke Golding Draft Neighbourhood Plan - screening assessment.

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 14 January 2020 which was received by Natural England on 14 January 2020

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England welcomes the report '*Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement*' (January 2020) for the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan.

The screening opinion concludes that there is the potential for significant effects on the Kendall's Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located to the north of the Neighbourhood Area. The allocated housing site lies within the within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of Kendall's Meadow SSSI.

IRZs are a GIS tool developed by Natural England to make a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks posed by development proposals to protected sites, including SSSIs. They define zones around each site which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts.

Natural England has identified that the SSSI is particularly sensitive to residential dwellings of 100 or more dwellings outside of existing settlements. The proposed housing allocation and the proposed housing reserve site cumulatively propose around 50 dwellings

Based on the information submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not damage or destroy the interest features for which the site has been notified. We would recommend that you seek clarification from the author on the conclusion of the report.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have

any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Sandra Close on 020 8026 0676. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

~~Sandra Close~~

Planning Adviser  
East Midlands Team