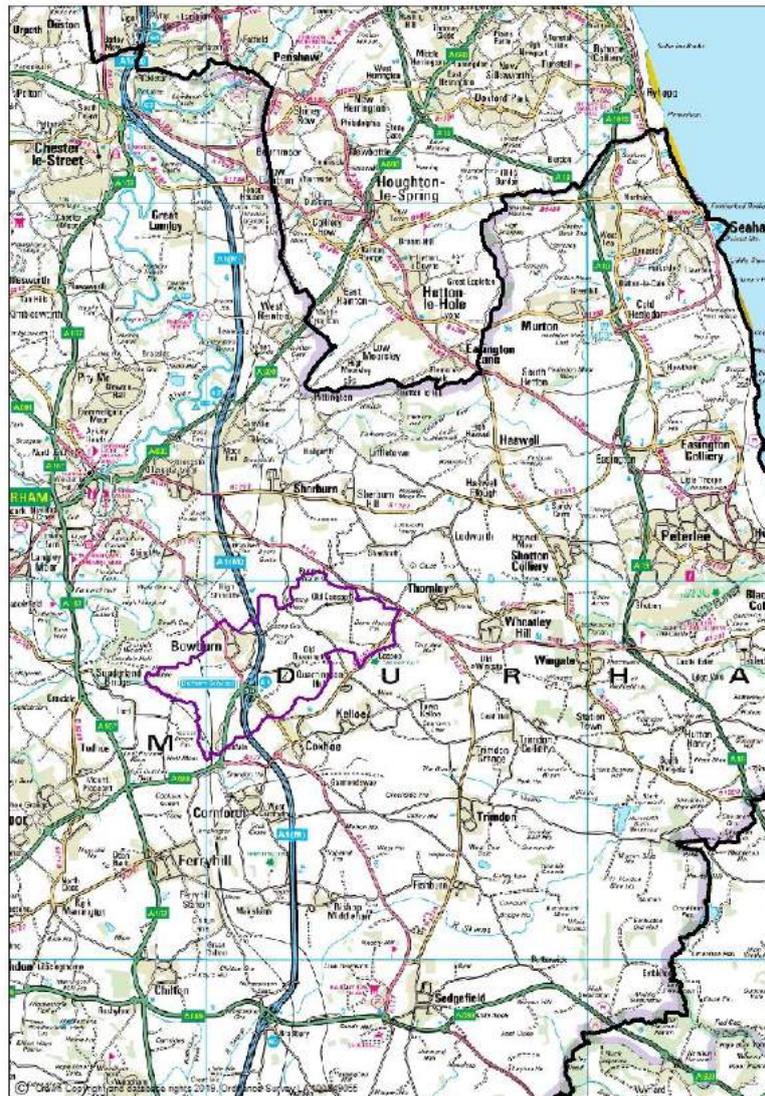


# Cassop-cum-Quarrington Neighbourhood Plan

## Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report



November 2020

*Altogether better*





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## Screening Summary

**Table 1 Summary of Neighbourhood Plan**

Details of Neighbourhood Plan	
Name of Neighbourhood Plan	Cassop-cum-Quarrington Neighbourhood Plan
Geographic Coverage of the Plan	Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish ( 1,415 hectares)
Key topics / scope of Plan	Protection of rural setting, environmental assets and the establishment of design standards

**Table 2 Summary of SEA Screening Opinion**

Local Authority Details	
Name and job title of officer undertaking screening opinion	Nadia Wetherell - Sustainability and Climate Change Officer
Date of assessment	June 2019 - version 1 March 2020 - updated to reflect changes to Policy CCQ4 and removal of CCQ5 and CCQ6. November 2020 - reviewed following Regulation 14 consultation and associated amends made to the Neighbourhood Plan
Conclusion of assessment	SEA is not required
Reason for conclusion	The Cassop-cum-Quarrington Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development and its policies seek to provide protection of rural setting, local green spaces and non-designated heritage assets along with ensuring that the design of new development contributes positively toward local character, place-making and resource efficiency. Therefore, the Neighbourhood Plan is not considered likely to have a significant effect on the environment.
Name and job title of officer approving screening opinion	Stephen McDonald - Principal Low Carbon Economy Officer
Date of approval	March 2020
Date of final screening document	November 2020

**Table 3 Summary of HRA Screening Opinion**

Local Authority Details	
Name and job title of officer undertaking screening opinion	Nadia Wetherell - Sustainability and Climate Change Officer

# SEA and HRA Screening Opinion of Cassop-cum-Quarrington's Neighbourhood Plan

Local Authority Details	
Date of assessment	June 2019 - version 1 March 2020 - updated to reflect changes to Policy CCQ4 and removal of CCQ5 and CCQ6. November 2020 - reviewed following Regulation 14 consultation and associated amends made to the Neighbourhood Plan
Conclusion of assessment	The Neighbourhood Plan will not incur likely significant effects to Natura 2000 Sites. Appropriate Assessment is not required.
Reason for conclusion	The policies within the Plan will not lead to built development
Name and job title of officer approving screening opinion	Tammara Morris Hale - Senior Ecologist
Date of approval	March 2020
Date of final screening document	November 2020

**Table 4 Summary of Consultation**

Statutory Consultee	Summary of Comments
Historic England	<p>Based on the analysis set out in the Screening Opinion, and within the areas of interest to Historic England, we agree that the emerging plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects and, therefore, it does not need SEA. In coming to this view we have taken the following factors into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plan area contains a number of heritage assets including conservation areas, a listed building, and the potential for non-designated assets.</li> <li>• Heritage assets are fragile and irreplaceable and can be damaged by change through development both directly and indirectly by development in their setting.</li> <li>• The plan is not expected to allocate sites for development.</li> </ul> <p>As such, from the perspective of our area of interest, the need for SEA of the draft plan can be screened out as it is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects</p>
Environment Agency	Do not consider that there are any environmental impacts arising from the Plan which would require it being subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Statutory Consultee	Summary of Comments
Natural England	<p><b>Screening Request - HRA</b> Natural England agree with the conclusion of the screening assessment and note that the Plan does not allocate land for development.</p> <p><b>Screening Request - SEA</b> It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan. Natural England agree with the conclusion of the SEA screening report.</p>

## 1 Introduction

**1.1** This report presents the screening assessment of the Cassop-cum-Quarrington Neighbourhood Plan to help determine whether:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Plan is required in accordance with European Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and
- Appropriate Assessment of the Plan is required in accordance with the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

**1.2** In limited circumstances, Neighbourhood Plans could have a significant effect on the environment, thereby triggering the need for SEA. SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of plans and programmes and aims to:

"Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive [2001/42/EC], an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment."

**1.3** In order to determine whether a plan is likely to have significant environmental effects a 'screening' assessment is undertaken, the requirements for which are set out in regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations.

**1.4** In the event that SEA is required it can be undertaken in conjunction with a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which takes account of social and economic effects in addition to environmental effects. There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a SA. However, a qualifying body must demonstrate how its plan or order will contribute to achieving sustainable development, which a SA will usefully provide.

### Appropriate Assessment

**1.5** Appropriate Assessment is a stage within a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which aims to protect a network of sites that have rare or important habitats and species threatened at a pan European level. European protected sites are designated under the Habitats and Birds Directives as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) – collectively known as Natura 2000 (N2K) sites. The assessment process also applies to Ramsar wetland sites (designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention for their internationally important wetlands), candidate SACs (cSAC), proposed Special Protection Areas (pSPA), and proposed and existing European offshore marine sites.

**1.6** Neighbourhood Plans will need to be subject to Appropriate Assessment when it is determined through a HRA screening process that the Plan is likely to have a significant effect on a site either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. In such cases, the parish council or neighbourhood forum will need to provide such information as the Council may reasonably require in order to undertake the assessment.

**1.7** In the event that the appropriate assessment concludes that significant effects cannot be objectively ruled out or mitigated the Neighbourhood Plan should not be made unless:

- the absence of alternatives solutions can be demonstrated;
- Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest can be demonstrated; and
- Compensatory measures can be secured.

## 2 Neighbourhood Plan Background

**2.1** The Cassop-cum-Quarrington Neighbourhood Plan Area replicates the Parish boundary and is situated approximately 5km to the south east of Durham City in County Durham, covering an area of 1415 hectares. The area includes the larger settlements of Bowburn and Parkhill, plus a number of smaller settlements, villages and hamlets. These range from TurSDale in the south west corner, to Old Quarrington in the middle and Cassop and Old Cassop on the higher ground in the east. The A1(M) and junction 61 transects the area and the former Leamside railway line also runs on a south-north alignment through the western part of the area. Notwithstanding its built-up areas and transport infrastructure, the area is predominantly rural in character,

**2.2** The Neighbourhood Plan Area also includes:

- 3 local nature designations (Coxhoe Ponds Local Wildlife Site, Quarrington Hill and Coxhoe Bank Plantation Local Wildlife Site, Crow Trees Local Nature Reserve);
- 2 national sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) which are designated for their communities of Magnesian Limestone grassland (Quarrington Hill Grasslands SSSI and Cassop Vale SSSI);
- 1 Grade II listed property and 2 Conservation Areas (Old Cassop, Bowburn);
- 3 ancient woodlands;
- 3 watercourses including Chapman Beck, Bowburn Beck and TurSDale Beck. Land associated with Bowburn Beck is situated within flood zones 2 and 3; and
- The eastern part of the area forms part of the major Magensian Limestone aquifer and is within a groundwater protection zone.

**2.3** There are no air quality management areas and currently there are no local or national landscape designations. However, the magnesian limestone escarpment is a prominent landscape feature to the east of the Neighbourhood Plan Area and is identified as a proposed area of Higher Landscape Value in the County Durham Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan area is predominantly situated within National Character Area 15: Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau, key characteristics of which include:

- Open, large-scale landscape with big fields
- Striking west-facing limestone escarpment
- Strong influence of historic mining industry on both local culture and the landscape
- A productive farmed landscape
- Small, fragmented patches of limestone grassland
- Historic villages subject to a high degree of 20th century expansion
- Major transport corridors throughout

**2.4** The Magnesian Limestone bedrock beneath the area forms part of a major aquifer supporting several abstractions for domestic supply in County Durham at Hawthorn, Thorpe and Peterlee. The aquifer is also the sole source of drinking water for Hartlepool. The main concern with the integrity of the water supply relates to rising levels of water in the underlying Coal Measures, with high sulphate concentrations and other pollutants entering the aquifer from disused mines.

**2.5** The objectives of the Cassop-cum-Quarrington Neighbourhood Plan are:

- To carefully manage new development to ensure that the rural setting around and between settlements is protected and enhanced;
- To identify, protect and enhance the local green spaces and other valued features of the Parish for the various roles they fulfil; and
- To ensure that any new development in the Parish is carefully designed to enhance the quality of the environment.

## 3 SEA Screening

**3.1** This section presents the SEA screening opinion assessment which is undertaken in two parts. The first part will assess whether the plan requires SEA (as per the flow chart which follows). The second part of the assessment will consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, using criteria drawn from Schedule 1 of the EU SEA Directive and the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.<sup>(i)</sup>

**3.2** The three statutory consultation bodies (Historic England, Environment Agency and Natural England) will be consulted to determine whether they agree with the conclusion of this screening opinion. The neighbourhood forum will need to make arrangements for undertaking SEA of the Neighbourhood Plan and its alternatives in the event that the screening opinion concludes that it is required which is then further qualified by the statutory consultees.

**3.3** The following flowchart outlines the criteria to be taken into account and process to follow when formulating a pre-consultation screening opinion for SEA:<sup>(ii)</sup>

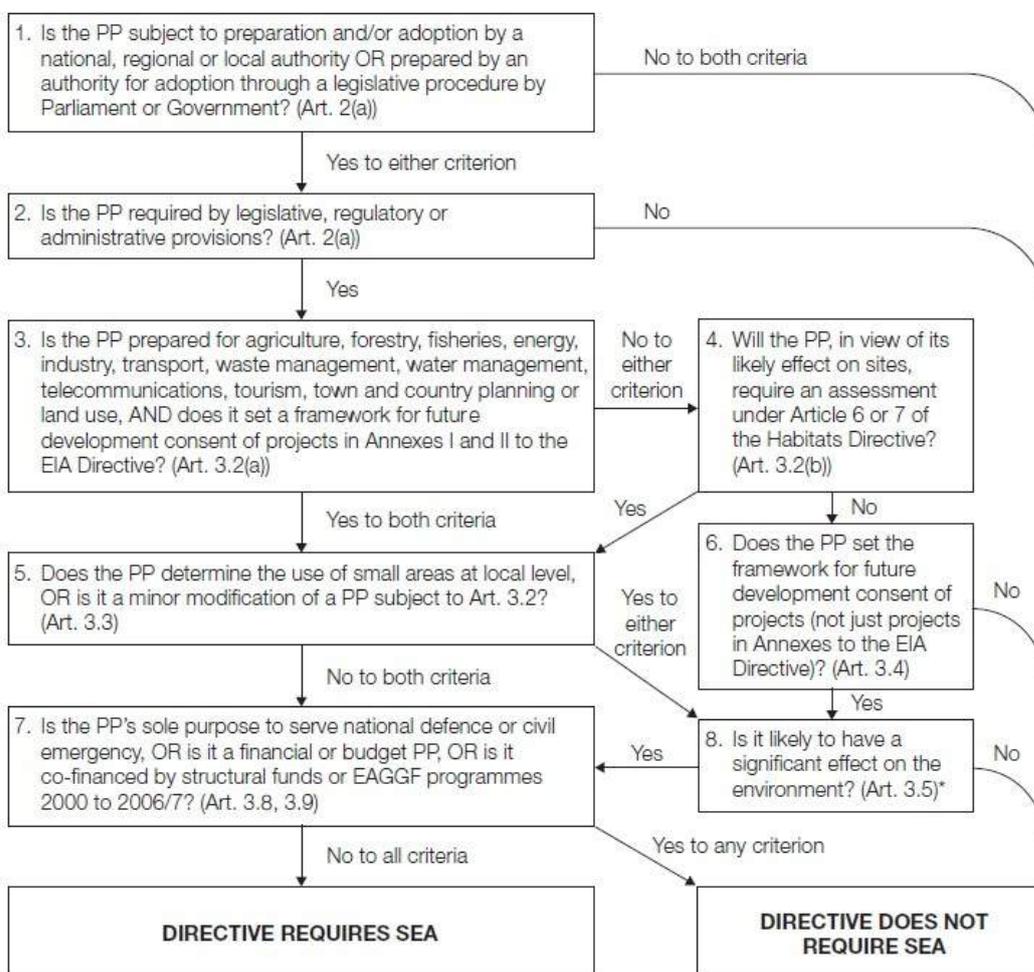
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i [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#)

ii Source: former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005) [A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#)

**Figure 1 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.

**3.4** The process in figure 1 has been undertaken and the findings can be viewed in Table 5. The questions in table 5 are drawn from the diagram above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied. Table 6 provides specific detail on question 8 in relation to the criteria for determining likely significant effects referred to in Article 3(5) of the SEA Directive and regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations.

**Table 5 Assessment 1: Establishing the need for SEA**

Stage	Answer	Reason
1. Is the PP 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))	Y	The Cassop-cum-Quarrington Neighbourhood Plan is not a Development Plan Document, however if the document receives 50% or more 'yes' votes through a referendum it will be adopted by Durham County Council.

## SEA and HRA Screening Opinion of Cassop-cum-Quarrington's Neighbourhood Plan

Stage	Answer	Reason
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2 (a))	N	Communities have a right to be able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, however communities are not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. This plan however is subject to 'provisions' that require it to be prepared in a formal way and if adopted would form part of the statutory development plan. Therefore it is considered necessary to answer the following questions to further establish if an SEA is required.
3. Is the PP required for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art.3.2(a))	N	The Neighbourhood Plan is prepared for town and country planning or land use but it does NOT set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art.3.2(b))	N	See HRA screening assessment in section 4 of this report
5. Does the PP 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)	N/A	Not applicable - As the answer to question 4 is 'no', the next applicable question following the flowchart is question 6.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)	Y	The Neighbourhood Plan sets policies which planning applications within the EPNP area must adhere to.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve 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)	N/A	Not applicable - As the answer to question 6 is 'yes', the next applicable question following the flowchart is question 8.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art 3.5)	N	Please see Table 2
<b>Conclusion</b>	The Neighbourhood Plan does <b>NOT</b> require SEA	

**Table 6 Assessment 2: Likely Significant Effects on the Environment**

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment Commentary
<b>The characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan, having regard to:</b>	

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment Commentary
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 Neighbourhood Plan would, if made form part of the statutory Development Plan and as such does contribute to the framework for future consent of projects, albeit these will be localised in nature and are likely to have limited resource implications.
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to be in general conformity with the relevant Development Plan. Therefore the Neighbourhood Plan should not significantly influence other plans and programmes
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	<p>It is a condition of Neighbourhood Planning that Neighbourhood Plans are to demonstrably contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development. The Neighbourhood Plan aims to promote sustainable development through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identifying 'Protected Rural Setting' areas in countryside adjoining Bowburn and Parkhill in order to preserve the rural setting of settlements and avoid coalescence. This will also help to direct new development to existing settlements which are better served by community facilities as opposed to countryside locations</li> <li>● Identifying and protecting green areas of particular importance to the community</li> <li>● Identifying and protecting non designated heritage assets</li> <li>● Ensuring that the design of new development contributes positively toward local character, place-making and resource efficiency.</li> </ul>
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Land associated with Bowburn Beck is situated within flood zones 2 (medium probability) 3a (high probability) and 3b (functional floodplain)</li> <li>● Groundwater quality of the underlying Magnesian Limestone aquifer</li> <li>● Approximately 3 hectares (7%) of Cassop Vale SSSI is in an unfavourable-declining condition due to undergrazing.</li> </ul>
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	The Neighbourhood Plan is not directly connected to the implementation of European legislation
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</b>	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Once made the Neighbourhood Plan and its policies will be in effect until 2034 i.e. a period of 15 years. However the Plan does not allocate any land for development and will

## SEA and HRA Screening Opinion of Cassop-cum-Quarrington's Neighbourhood Plan

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment Commentary
	<p>therefore not have any direct, permanent effects. Rather, the Plan establishes, through its policies, general criteria for testing purposes which seek to protect rural setting, green spaces, locally valued heritage assets and set sustainable design criteria. The Neighbourhood Plan is therefore highly unlikely to result in either temporary or permanent significant adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will also be subject to monitoring to ensure that a</p> <p>review of the Plan can be triggered in the event of non-delivery of its objectives or undesired or unintended consequences.</p>
The cumulative nature of the effects	The Protected Rural Setting policy will work in tandem with other Policies in the County Durham Plan such as Green Belt and Countryside polices to avoid urban sprawl. No other cumulative effects are anticipated.
The trans boundary nature of the effects	The identified protected rural setting areas go beyond the extent of the Neighbourhood Plan area as they are not defined by administrative boundaries. Adjoining Neighbourhood Plan areas may need to take account of these areas when forming their Plans. There are no other trans-boundary effects.
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	The provisions within the Plan do not provide unacceptable risks to human health or the environment.
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The Cassop-cum-Quarrington Neighbourhood Plan area covers an area of 1,415 hectares with a population of 5,219 persons which predominantly reside within the settlements of Bowburn, Parkhill and Cassop. Any effects would be localised in nature and limited to the neighbourhood plan area.
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,</li> <li>- exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,</li> <li>- intensive land-use,</li> </ul>	<p>The neighbourhood plan area is assessed as being of moderate environmental value predominantly in relation to biodiversity value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's)</li> <li>● 3 local wildlife sites</li> <li>● 3 ancient woodlands</li> <li>● 1 Grade II listed property and 2 Conservation Areas</li> <li>● Magnesian Limestone Aquifer</li> <li>● Proposed Area of Higher Landscape Value associated with the magnesian limestone escarpment</li> </ul>

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment Commentary
	<p>There have been no known exceedances of national air quality objectives within the Plan. The three watercourses in the area flow into the River Wear which has historically poor water quality due to its industrial past but is improving. The Environment Agency's Catchment Data Explorer (updated January 2019) indicates several confirmed assessments of 'poor' water quality as a result of Phosphate levels from Chapman Beck to the Wear. Agriculture and rural land management is predominantly responsible. The major aquifer which underlies part of the Plan area is currently at poor status due to polluted minewater.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan is not expected to exceed environmental limits and does not allocate any land for development. Proposals will be expected to make the most efficient use of land in conformity with the relevant Development Plan.</p>
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	There are no landscapes within the Neighbourhood Plan area which have a national, European Community or international protection status.
<b>Assessment 2 Conclusion</b>	The Cassop-cum-Quarrington Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development and its policies seek to provide protection of rural setting, local green spaces, non-designated heritage assets along with ensuring that the design of new development contributes positively toward local character, place-making and resource efficiency. Therefore, the Neighbourhood Plan is not considered likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

## 4 HRA Screening

**4.1** HRA Screening is fundamentally a risk assessment to determine whether a subsequent more detailed stage of assessment, known as 'appropriate assessment' is required. The screening assessment involves an assessment of relevant Natura 2000 sites that could be affected directly or indirectly by the Neighbourhood Plan and its proposals.

### Relevant Natura 2000 Sites

**4.2** In line with the agreed methodology of the HRA of the County Durham Plan, all sites within 20km of the plan area (in this case the neighbourhood plan area) should be considered for inclusion within the HRA screening exercise. In addition, sites outwith the 20km radius that are ecologically / hydrologically linked or are likely to be subject to increased recreational pressure should also be considered. Maps 1 and 2 show that sites falling within the 20km radius include:

- Thrislington SAC
- Castle Eden Dene SAC
- Durham Coast SAC
- Northumbria Coast SPA
- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA
- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential SPA (pSPA)

Map 1 Special Areas of Conservation within 20km of the Neighbourhood Plan Area

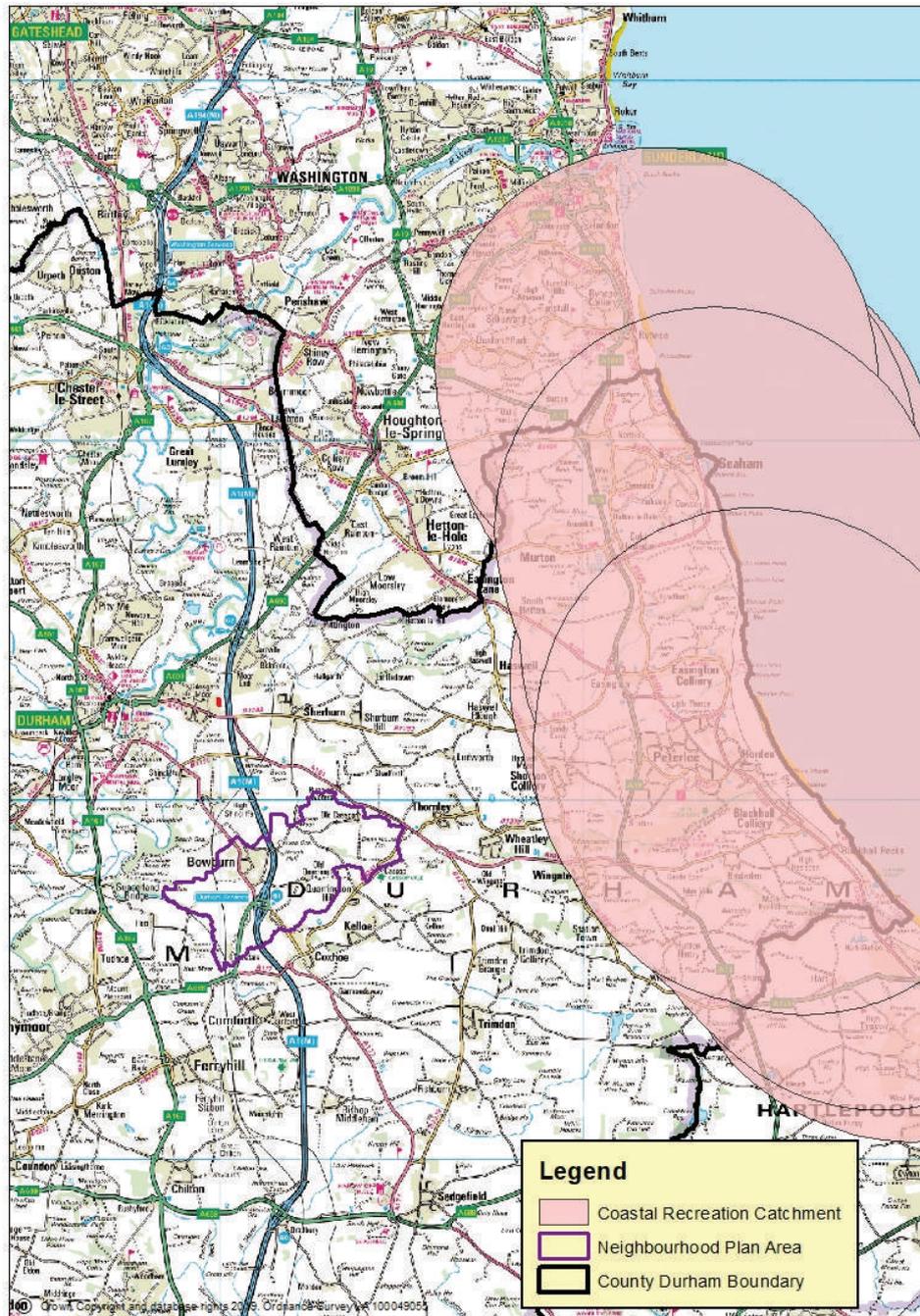


Map 2 Special Protection Areas within 20km of the Neighbourhood Plan Area



**4.3** Please note that whilst coastal Natura 2000 sites fall within the 20km buffer, the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the County Durham Plan determined that the catchment within which significant levels of recreational pressure and disturbance could occur to these sites is 6km. The Cassop-cum-Quarrington Neighbourhood Plan area falls outside of this catchment (please see map 3) and there are no other ecological, hydrological or other links/impact pathways between the neighbourhood plan area and the coastal Natura 2000 sites. Therefore, the coastal Natura sites can be eliminated from the screening exercise.

Map 3 Map showing the 6km coastal recreation catchment



4.4 There are also not considered to be any ecological, hydrological or other links / impact pathways which could potentially affect any other Natura 2000 sites falling outside the 20km buffer. Therefore, the following sites are included within the screening exercise:

- Castle Eden Dene SAC
- Thrislington SAC

4.5 The following table provides an overview of these sites:

Table 7 Overview of Relevant Natura 2000 Sites

Site	Description	Qualifying Features	Reported Threats / Pressures	Key Environmental Conditions
Castle Eden Dene SAC	Castle Eden Dene SAC was designated in April 2005 and covers an area of approximately 194 hectares. The SAC represents the most extensively northerly native occurrence of <i>Taxus baccata</i> ; Yew woods in the UK and is one of the best areas in the UK. Extensive yew groves are found in association with <i>Fraxinus-Ulmus</i> ; Ash-elm woodland and it is the only site selected for yew woodland on magnesian limestone in north-east England.	<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles; Yew-dominated woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Invasive Species</li> <li>● Forestry and Woodland Management</li> <li>● Deer</li> <li>● Air Pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No loss of ancient semi-natural stands</li> <li>● At least current area of recent semi-natural stands maintained, although their location may alter.</li> <li>● Woodland natural processes and structure / structural diversity maintained</li> <li>● Natural regeneration to maintain canopy density over a 20 year period</li> <li>● Limited loss of native woodland species to non-native or other external factors (e.g. Pollution, disease)</li> <li>● Limited air pollution</li> <li>● Maintain species, habitats and structures characteristic to the site</li> </ul>
Thrislington SAC	Thrislington SAC was designated in April 2005 and covers an area of approximately 23 hectares south of the village of West Cornforth. Thrislington SAC is a small site but nonetheless contains the largest of the few surviving stands of CG8 <i>Sesleria albicans</i> - <i>Scabiosa columbaria</i> grassland. This form of calcareous grassland is confined to the Magnesian Limestone of County Durham and Tyne and Wear. It now covers less than 200 hectares and is found mainly as small scattered stands.	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Air pollution</li> <li>● Climate change</li> <li>● Change to site conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No reduction in extent</li> <li>● Continuous management by seasonally-adjusted grazing and no overgrazing</li> <li>● No fertiliser input</li> <li>● Control of invasive species</li> <li>● Limited air pollution</li> </ul>

## Assessment of Effects

**4.6** Following the identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites to the neighbourhood area, it is then necessary to determine whether any or all of the proposals in the Plan can be eliminated on the basis that they cannot have any conceivable effect on the relevant Natura 2000 sites, e.g. if it is a general policy statement. The following preliminary assessment categories have therefore been assigned to the Plan policies as appropriate:

**Table 8 Categorisation of Likely Effects**

Category	Sub Category	Description
1. No negative effect	A	Policy or measure will not lead to built development. For example it relates to green infrastructure, design or other qualitative criteria, or it is not a land-use planning policy
	B	Policy or measure may encourage new development but due to development type, distance from Natura 2000 Sites and / or absence of connected impact pathways no negative effect is likely to occur.
	C	Policy or measure supports or may encourage new development that has the potential for adverse effects. However, additional wording can be added to the draft to safeguard against such and enable policy or measure to be screened out.
	D	Policy intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures may have a positive effect on a Natura 2000 Site.
	E	Policy intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a Natura 2000 Site.
	F	Policy would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on Natura 2000 Sites and associated sensitive areas
	G	Policy is similar to existing Development Plan policy which has already been assessed as having no likely significant effects
2. No significant effect	-	No significant effect either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, because effects are trivial or minimal.
3. Likely significant effect alone	-	Policy could impact upon a Natura 2000 Site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected. Alternatively, it may increase disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressure
4. Likely significant effect in combination	-	The policy would have no significant effect alone but the cumulative effects when combined with those of other policies or projects are likely to be significant

**4.7** An assessment of likely significant effects has been undertaken for all measures within the Neighbourhood Plan resulting in the following categories and sub categories being assigned.

**Table 9 Categorisation of Cassop-cum-Quarrington Neighbourhood Plan Policies**

Policy / Measure	Castle Eden Dene SAC	Thrislington SAC
CCQ1 - Protected Rural Settings	1A	1A
CCQ2 - Local Green Spaces	1A	1A
CCQ3 - Locally Valued Heritage Assets	1A	1A
CCQ4 - Achieving Beautiful and Successful Development	1A	1A

## Conclusion

**4.8** Following the preliminary screening assessment it can be concluded that all policies within the Neighbourhood Plan can be eliminated from further Likely Significant Effects screening and Appropriate Assessment as they will have no negative effects on the relevant Natura 2000 sites.

## 5 Conclusion

**5.1** The conclusions of the SEA and HRA screening assessments are that the Cassop-cum-Quarrington Neighbourhood Plan do not require Strategic Environmental Assessment under the provisions of the SEA Regulations or Appropriate Assessment under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations. The views of Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency have been sought and it can be confirmed that they agree with the conclusion of this screening opinion report.