

Powick

Neighbourhood Plan

2025-2041

Consultation Draft

Strategic Environmental
Assessment (SEA) and Habitats
Regulations Assessment (HRA)
Screening Opinion



May 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

This screening report is designed to determine whether the content of the Regulation 14 consultation draft of the Powick Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Whether a Neighbourhood Development Plan requires a SEA, and if so the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan. The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states that a SEA may be required, for example, where:

- the Neighbourhood Development Plan allocates sites for development.
- the Neighbourhood Development Plan Area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan.
- the Neighbourhood Development Plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through the SEA of the Local Plan in the area.

The screening report also examines the potential impact of the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan on internationally designated wildlife sites and determines if the plan requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

When deciding on whether the proposals are likely to have significant effects, the local authority is required to consult Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Where the local planning authority determines that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment) it should prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination.

1.2 DRAFT POWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SUMMARY

The draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led framework for guiding future development and growth of the parish to the year 2041. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared against the policies in the submitted South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) rather than the adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan and will be examined and 'made' (adopted) against the newly adopted local plan. Consequently, Powick Parish Council intend to publish the Neighbourhood Plan for the Regulation 14 consultation over the course of 2025.

The Neighbourhood Plan includes 14 draft policies, focusing on topics such as the built and natural environment, housing, community facilities, and the local economic development.

1.3 POWICK DESIGNATED NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

The Neighbourhood Area was designated by Malvern Hills District Council on the 16 June 2020 (Figure 1).

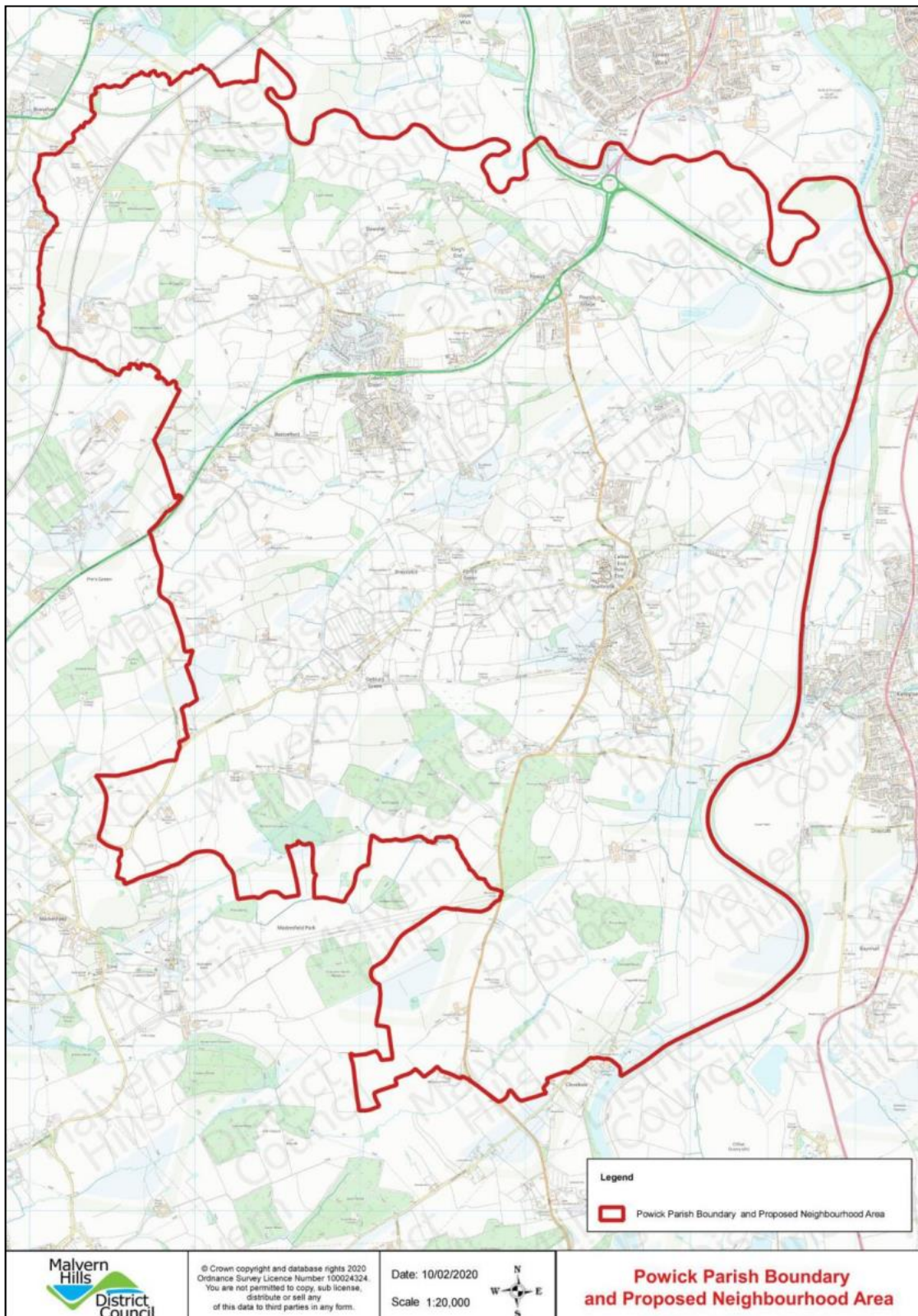


Figure 1. Designated Powick Neighbourhood Area

1.4 DRAFT POWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICY SUMMARIES

Fourteen policies are proposed in the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan (PNP); they are summarised below.

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
<p>PWK1 Design</p>	<p>Policy PWK1 states that development proposals should maintain and enhance the local distinctiveness of the Powick Neighbourhood Area and achieve a high quality of design by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrating adherence with the Powick Design Guidance/Codes and other relevant SPDs through a Design and Access Statement (DAS); • Respecting the locality’s character and street scene through sensitively designed schemes; • Retaining natural site features and providing landscaping and open space that provides for flora and fauna that is in keeping with the local townscape character; • Being safely accessible from the local road network (including sufficient off-road vehicle parking); • Avoid creating unacceptable polluting impacts (including nuisance, traffic generated, excessive external lighting, and dust or odour).
<p>PWK2 Heritage</p>	<p>Policy PWK2 sets out that development proposals should protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic environment of the Neighbourhood Area and its contribution to local character via a range of design elements, particularly within the historic core of Powick.</p> <p>The impact of proposed development on heritage assets will be assessed by each assets’ significance via the following criterion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving weight to conserving designated heritage assets and listed buildings (reference to specific buildings/assets are made in the draft plan – p.16); • Balancing the scale of harm or loss against the significance of non-designated heritage assets; • Ensuring that proposals for the redevelopment, alteration, or extension of historic farmsteads and agricultural buildings are sensitively designed; • Development proposals should be accompanied by a Heritage Impact Assessment and/or an appropriate desk-based assessment/field evaluation for proposals potentially impacting the significance of heritage assets or archaeological interests.

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
<p>PWK3 Powick Village Conservation Area</p>	<p>Policy PWK3 states that development proposals within the Powick Conservation Area or affecting its setting should preserve or enhance its character or appearance, having regard to the significance and special interest of the Conservation Area, as stipulated in the Appraisal and Management Plan.</p> <p>Proposals will be supported if they adhere to the criteria (set out in p.18 of the draft plan) encouraging sensitive development through elements such as choice of building materials, location, height, scale and massing, and overall design considerations.</p>
<p>PWK4 Landscape Character</p>	<p>Policy PWK4 sets out that criteria that development proposals must demonstrate in order to be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General conformity with guidelines set out in the latest Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment with regard to the siting, design, scale, landscaping and boundary treatment of the proposal; • Evidence that every available opportunity has been taken to strengthen the landscape character of the relevant landscape type by retaining and conserving existing natural features and by making new provision, where appropriate; and • That the landscape settings of Powick, Collett's Green, Callow End and of other settlements in the Neighbourhood Area are respected, as relevant to the proposal.
<p>PWK5 Powick/Collett's Green Local Gap</p>	<p>Policy PWK5 states that development proposals within the Powick/Collett's Green Local Gap will only be supported on the basis that they would not contribute to a reduction in the separation between these settlements or compromise its openness or character.</p> <p>The policy will consider factors such as height, scale and massing, use class suitability in relation to the setting, potential intensification impacts, as well as the individual and cumulative effects of proposals when considered against other existing and proposed development in the application of this policy.</p>
<p>PWK6 Key Views</p>	<p>Policy PWK6 sets out key viewpoints (p.27 of the draft plan) and states that proposals that would have a significant visual impact on such viewpoints should be accompanied by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment or similar study to mitigate any potential negative impacts.</p>

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
<p>PWK7 Local Green Spaces</p>	<p>Policy PWK7 sets out 13 sites that will be designated Local Green Spaces. Development will be managed in a manner consistent with that applicable to designated Green Belt.</p>
<p>PWK8 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy</p>	<p>Policy PWK8 sets out that renewable and low carbon energy development proposals will be supported where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scale and form of development are appropriate to its surroundings and maintains the rural character of the area; • There is no substantial increase in traffic volumes, including HGV traffic; and • The development does not create any undue detrimental impact (including cumulative impacts) on visual and residential amenity, landscape character, key views, heritage assets, biodiversity, or public rights of way.
<p>PWK9 Community Facilities</p>	<p>Policy PWK9 states that development proposals that would result in the loss of community facilities (reference to specific community facilities are set out on p.41 of the draft plan) will only be supported when such proposals meet the criteria set out in relevant Local Plan policies.</p> <p>The policy also supports proposals for new community facilities or the enhancement of existing ones, with a particular emphasis on welcoming a new village shop to serve Powick and Collett's Green. To gain approval, proposals must demonstrate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local road network can accommodate any additional traffic arising from the development without compromising safety; • That the facilities are accessible by various transport modes including walking and cycling (including provision of off-road vehicle and cycle parking); • That there will be no adverse impacts on residential amenity; and • The siting, scale, and design of the facilities respect the character of the surrounding area, including any historic and natural assets.
<p>PWK10 Housing Mix</p>	<p>Policy PWK10 requires development proposals for new housing of five or more units to demonstrate that they provide market dwellings of a size and type that positively contribute to meeting the latest</p>

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
	<p>assessment of housing needs, particularly the following housing types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller family housing (3 bedrooms); • Starter homes (2 bedrooms); and • Housing designed to meet the needs of older people, including bungalows <p>Proposals for accommodation associated with start-up small farming initiatives, live/work units, and self-build and custom-build housing will also be supported.</p>
<p>PWK11 Design of New Housing</p>	<p>Policy PWK11 supports proposals for new housing provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals are proportionate and in-keeping with the existing settlement in terms of built form, rural character, and countryside setting; • Proposals have regard to infrastructure and facility capacity and accommodate the additional demands necessitated by the development to at least maintain existing service levels; • Proposals should aim for high standards of energy conservation, ideally being carbon neutral, and comply with the Building Regulations; • Proposals incorporate sustainable construction methods, building orientation, waste recycling, cycle storage, broadband technologies, and electric vehicle charging points; • Proposals must demonstrate how it ensures safe access for all, sufficient off-road parking, and attractive connections by foot and cycle to community facilities and public transport; • Proposals avoid unacceptable impacts on the amenity of neighbouring properties, such as loss of privacy, overlooking, and reduction of daylight; and • Proposals are located and designed to avoid adverse impacts from existing uses, including agricultural, business, and community activities, to prevent unreasonable restrictions on existing uses.

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
<p>PWK12 Householder Development</p>	<p>Policy PWK12 states that proposals for alterations and extensions to existing dwellings or for ancillary development within residential curtilages will be supported provided they accord with policy PWK11, and if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alterations and extensions ensure the existing dwelling remains as the dominant structure, with new development being subordinate; • Proposals respect and complement the existing dwelling in terms of massing, height, materials, and detailing; and • Proposals do not result in an unacceptable loss of usable private amenity space or on-curtilage parking.
<p>PWK13 Land south of Old Malvern Road</p>	<p>Policy PWK13 sets out criteria that development proposals for land south of Old Malvern Road must comply with (along with other development plan policies) to be supported. This includes matters relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of high-quality, sustainable design with consideration of the Powick Design Codes and Guidance; • The enhancement of pedestrian and cyclist connectivity between Collett's Green and Powick, and to essential services/public transport; • The sensitive design of vehicular access from Old Malvern Road to the north with consideration of local landscape features and visibility requirements; • The provision of location-appropriate off-road parking spaces; • The timely provision of wastewater collection/treatment and surface water drainage infrastructure to serve the entire proposal; • The avoidance of adverse impacts on neighbouring amenity; and • The incorporation of open space and landscaping to enhance biodiversity and the site's edge-of-settlement location.

DRAFT POLICY	SUMMARY
<p>PWK14 Small-scale Employment</p>	<p>Policy PWK14 states that proposals for employment development that are in accord with relevant Local Plan policies will be supported provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scale, type, and nature of the proposal is sensitive to its location and setting; • The traffic generated by the proposal can be safely accommodated on the local road network; • All opportunities to enable access by walking, cycling, and public transport are taken; and • There are no unacceptable adverse impacts on neighbouring amenity, relating to issues such as traffic, noise or air pollution, light levels, and operating hours.

1.5 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) PROCESS

The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) 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 on these Regulations can be found in the Government publication “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive” (OPDM 2005).

The SEA process aims to ensure that likely significant environmental effects arising from a Plan are identified, assessed, mitigated, communicated and monitored, and that opportunities for public involvement are provided. It enables environmental considerations to be accounted for in decision-making throughout the production of a neighbourhood plan in an integrated manner.

Figure 2 sets out the screening procedure and how a plan should be assessed against the SEA Directive criteria. This outline procedure has then been applied to the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan in Table 1.

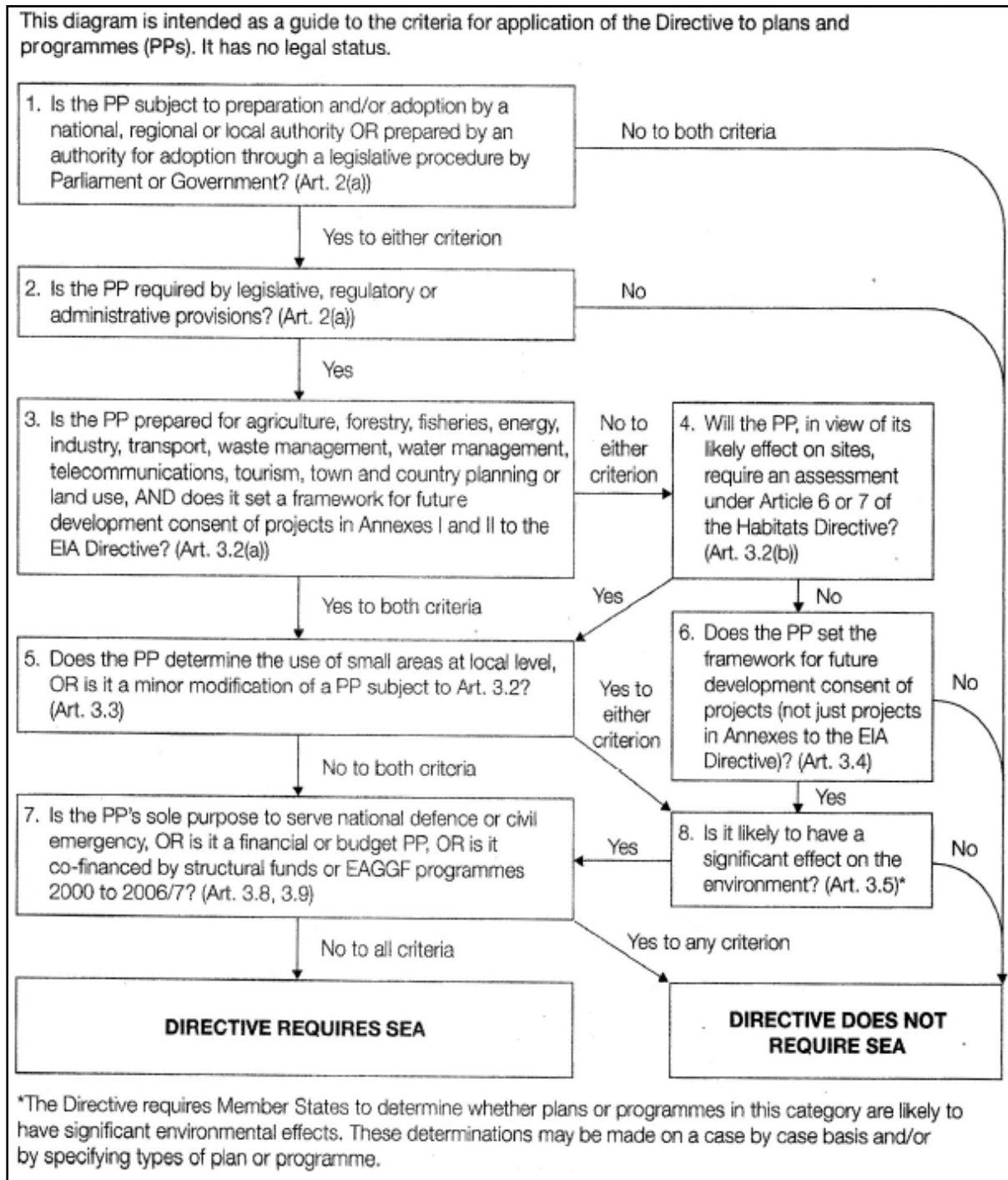


Figure 2 – Application of the SEA Directive to Plans and Programmes

Table 1: Assessment of the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan using SEA Directive Criteria

Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the Powick 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))	Y	This is a Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by a qualifying body the Localism Act 2011. If the Plan is passed by means of an either Examination and/or Referendum, it will be formally adopted by the Local Planning Authority. It will then form part of the local development framework and be afforded significant weight in planning decisions.
2. Is the Powick Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	N	The Powick Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared voluntarily by the local qualifying body in line with the provisions of the Localism Act. If the Plan is adopted or 'made' it will form part of the statutory development plan, and it is therefore considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine if an SEA is required.
3. Is the Powick 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 to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Y	The Plan is prepared for town and country planning and sets out a framework for future development consent of projects, including design policies for the proposed housing allocations included in the submitted SWDPR.
4. Will the Powick 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))	N	See Screening Opinion for HRA in Section 3 of this report.
5. Does the Powick Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor	Y	The Powick Neighbourhood Plan is made up of several policies which, when adopted, will form part of the Local Development

modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)		Framework, and so will have significant weight in planning decisions. The Powick Neighbourhood Plan includes design policies for the proposed housing allocations in the submitted SWDPR.
6. Does the Powick Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	When adopted, the Powick Neighbourhood Plan will be a statutory planning document. It will form part of the Local Development Framework and so will have significant weight in planning decisions. The responsibility for issuing development consent will remain with the Local Planning Authority.
7. Is the Powick Neighbourhood Plan sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	N	Not Applicable.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	?	The Powick Neighbourhood Plan may have a significant effect on the environment. To investigate the likelihood of potential impacts further a case-by-case assessment has been conducted, the full results of which can be found in Table 2.

Based upon the initial screening carried out against the criteria in Table 1 above, the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan may have a significant effect on the environment. To explore these potential effects further, a case-by-case assessment has been conducted. The criteria used in the undertaking of such an assessment are drawn from Article 3.5 (Annex II) of the SEA directive, and the results are shown in Table 2.

1.6 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (HRA) PROCESS

The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the assessment required for any plan or project to assess the potential implications for European wildlife sites. The HRA therefore looks at whether the implementation of the plan or project would harm the habitats or species for which European wildlife sites are designated. The relevant European wildlife site designations are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), which together form part of the Natura 2000 network.

In addition to SPAs and SACs, Ramsar sites are also designated areas which, as a matter of government policy, are to be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites (although they are not covered by the Habitats Regulations). European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as internationally designated wildlife sites.

The legislation sets out a process to assess the potential implications of a plan on internationally designated wildlife sites. The first stage of this process is a screening exercise where the details of nearby internationally designated sites are assessed to see if there is the potential for the implementation of the plan to have an impact.

2. SEA SCREENING

2.1 SEA SCREENING ASSESSMENT

European Directive 2001/42/EC requires a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans and programmes that would have a significant environmental effect.

Table 2 below provides the screening determination of the need to carry out a full Strategic Environmental Assessment for the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan. This has been made in accordance with the Regulations and will be subject to consultation with the strategic environmental bodies before Malvern Hills District Council makes its determination on the necessity for a full Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Table 2 – The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004: Schedule 1 - Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Summary of significant events
1(a) the degree to which the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	NO	The Powick Neighbourhood Plan would, if adopted, form part of the statutory Development Plan and as such would contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects.
1(b) the degree to which the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	NO	The draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan, when 'made', will be used alongside the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR), once adopted in 2025, for the determination of planning applications.
1(c) the relevance of the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	NO	The policies of the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan are not considered to have a significant impact on the integration of environmental considerations.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Summary of significant events
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan:	NO	The draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan is more likely to promote environmental sustainability than create any environmental problems.
1(e) the relevance of the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management and water protection);	NO	The policies of the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan are not considered to be relevant to the implementation of EC legislation.
2(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan;	NO	It is considered unlikely that there will be any irreversible damaging environmental impacts associated with the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan features policies which seek to protect and enhance the natural and built environment, and the plan is therefore likely to result in beneficial rather than damaging effects.
2(b) the cumulative nature of the effects of the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan;	NO	The policies of the draft Powick Neighbourhood Pan are unlikely to have any significant cumulative negative environmental impacts.
2(c) the transboundary nature of effects of the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan;	NO	The draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any significant negative environmental impacts on adjoining parishes.
2(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents) due to the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan;	NO	It is considered that there will be no risk to human health or the environment as a result of the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan.
2(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	NO	The policies of the Neighbourhood Development Plan apply to the entirety of Powick Parish Council's administrative area and are unlikely

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Summary of significant events
		to significantly affect areas beyond the Neighbourhood Area boundary.
<p>2(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use. 	NO	The draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan will not have any substantial impact on these factors.
2(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	NO	The policies of the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan are unlikely to have a negative impact on any environmental designations in the Neighbourhood Area.

2.2 SEA SCREENING OPINION

Powick Parish Council have decided to draft the Neighbourhood Plan against the submitted policies in the SWDPR and then will submit for the Regulation 15 stage once the SWDP is adopted later in 2025. Therefore, it is the intention that the Neighbourhood Plan will be consulted at Regulation 16 and examined under the newly adopted local plan in early 2026.

The draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan includes design policies for one proposed housing allocation which is included in the submitted SWDPR local plan, which has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The assessment shown in Table 1 above identifies no potential significant negative effects arising from the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan and as such, will not require a full SEA to be undertaken. This determination is pending the findings of consultation and the formal views of the statutory environmental bodies. This view is taken as the policies in the Powick Neighbourhood Plan seek to reinforce and do not deviate from the remit of the submitted policies of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review.

3. HRA SCREENING

3.1 HRA SCREENING ASSESSMENT

There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the Powick Neighbourhood Area. For the purposes of this screening assessment, sites that fall within a 20km radius are also considered. There are also two sites identified within this range – Lyppard Grange SAC and Bredon Hill SAC – which are approximately 4.5km northeast and 14.8km southeast of the Powick Neighbourhood Area, respectively.

Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC is located on the eastern outskirts of Worcester, situated amongst a recent housing development on former pastoral farmland. The site comprises two ponds in an area of grassland and scrub (public open space). The site provides habitat for Great Crested Newts *Triturus Cristatus*, which are dependent on both the existing terrestrial habitat (to provide foraging areas and refuge) and on the aquatic habitat (for breeding).

Bredon Hill SAC is located to the south of Wychavon District, situated to the south of Pershore and east of Bredon's Norton. The site contains habitats that are dominated by mixed broad-leaved woodland and calcareous rich grasslands. The historic management has resulted in several veteran and ancient trees on the site that have given rise to deadwood habitat, which are key to the survival of many saproxylic invertebrates, notably the violet click beetle (*Limoniscus violaceus*).

The potential impact of development on Lyppard Grange SAC and Bredon Hill SAC was examined by a full HRA as part of the production of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDPR). The HRA screening of the SWDPR (ref. CD31) concluded that there was uncertainty with regard to the potential for significant effects on the two sites as a result of increased disturbance, particularly due to increased recreational activity near to the sites. Concerns were raised specifically relating to the Lyppard Grange SAC and the potential impact of proposed development on water levels and quality.

As a result of the concerns raised, an interim Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been conducted (this can be viewed on the SWDPR website – [017f5b_885065667fa8420c836d4f1181dfb7ac.pdf](#)). The AA concluded that the policies of the SWDPR (including land allocations) were not likely to have adverse effects on the integrity of the Lyppard Grange SAC or the Bredon Hill SAC. In addressing concerns relating to possible increased disturbance at the sites, it was concluded that the location of the sites in relation to proposed developments and also the availability of more suitable areas of open space for recreation in close proximity would keep potential impacts to a minimum. It was also considered that the policies of the SWDPR would sufficiently mitigate the potential impact of proposed developments on the water environment, leading to minimal effect on the Lyppard Grange SAC.

The policies in the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan are considered to be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the SWDPR, and, therefore, it can be considered that the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan will have no negative impact on internationally designated wildlife sites.

3.2 HRA SCREENING OPINION

As a result of the above assessment, it is considered that the policies of the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with those contained in the SWDPR. It is therefore concluded that the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a negative impact on any internationally designated wildlife sites and as such, the recommendation is made that a full AA is not required.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The preceding assessment exercises have examined whether the draft Powick Development Plan is likely to require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment or a Habitats Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment.

The SEA screening exercise featured in Section 2 concludes that the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan will not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken. This is because the Powick Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the SWDPR and does not deviate from the proposed land allocations for development made in the SWDPR. The Neighbourhood Plan is not proposing any housing allocations to meet the community need.

The HRA screening exercise featured in Section 3 concludes that the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full Habitats Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken. There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the Powick Neighbourhood Area, with only the Lyppard Grange SAC and Bredon Hill SAC falling within a 20km radius. The impact on these sites and others because of the land allocations contained within the SWDPR has been assessed in the SWDPR HRA AA, and as the draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan is considered to be in general conformity with the SWDPR and does not deviate from the land allocations for development made in the SWDPR, the recommendation is made that a full AA is not required.

Both of the above conclusions were subject to consultation with the three statutory environmental bodies (i.e. Natural England, Historic England, and the Environment Agency). The five-week consultation period ran from 26 March to 2 May 2025 (with 2 additional working days to account for the Easter Bank Holiday). The consultation responses are included in Section 5 of this report. However, in short, all three statutory environmental bodies agreed that neither a full SEA nor HRA AA are required for the reasons outlined above.

5. STATUTORY ENVIRONMENTAL BODIES CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Wychavon District Council
Planning Policy
Civic Centre Queen Elizabeth Drive
Persnore
Worcestershire
WR10 1PT

Our ref: SV/2018/110042/OT-10/IS1-L01
Your ref:

Date: 28 April 2025

FAO: Ernie Edwards,

Dear Ernie
Cc: neighbourhoodplanning@malvern hills.gov.uk

Draft Powick Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion Consultation

I refer to your email of the 26 March 2025 with regard to the Powick Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Pre-Submission Screening Opinion. We have reviewed the submitted documentation and offer the following comments for your consideration at this time.

Flood Risk

We note the River Teme (statutory main river) flows along the Northern border of the parish boundary, connecting to the River Severn (statutory main river) to the Northeast which then runs along the entirety of the Eastern border of the parish boundary. Alongside this both the Careys Brook (ordinary watercourse) which flows through the centre of the parish and the Madresfield Brook (ordinary watercourse) which flows through the southern portion of the parish act as tributaries connecting to the River Severn to the East. Based on our indicative Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) we note these various watercourses have associated Flood Zones 3 and 2 (the high and medium risk zones respectively) largely covering the East and Northern portions of the plan area.

Site Allocations

The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) allocated three sites for housing at Powick and Collett's Green, which have now been developed. The NDP includes the submission of 'Policy PWK13 Land south of Old Malvern Road' which is an allocated site for housing and also notes the housing allocation located at 'land at Wheatfield Court'. We acknowledge the above mentioned allocated sites are all located in Flood Zone 1 (the low risk zone) on our Flood Map for Planning.

Environment Agency
Hafren House Welshpool Road, Shelton, Shrewsbury, SY3 8BB.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Cont/d..

We would not, in the absence of specific sites allocated within areas of fluvial flooding, offer a bespoke comment on flood risk at this time. It should be noted that our Flood Map provides an indication of 'fluvial' flood risk only. You are advised to discuss matters relating to surface water (pluvial) flooding with the drainage team at Herefordshire Council as the Lead Local Flooding Authority (LLFA).

However, please note that other potential development areas may also be at flood risk given the presence of 'ordinary watercourses' which are un-modelled based on the scale and nature of the stream and receiving catchment (less than 3km²).

SEA / HRA Screening Opinion

To assist your Council's determination of the SEA and HRA Screening Opinion (dated March 2025), we note the conclusions achieved:

- The SEA Screening Opinion concludes that the '*Powick Neighbourhood Plan will not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken. This is because the Powick Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the SWDPR and does not deviate from the proposed land allocations for development made in the SWDPR.*'
- The HRA Screening Opinion concludes that the '*Powick Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a negative impact on any internationally designated wildlife sites and as such, the recommendation is made that a full AA is not required.*'

We therefore agree and advise based on the Screening Report submitted and in consideration of matters within our remit that the NDP is considered unlikely to have significant environmental impacts and or significant effects on European designated sites, based on the above conclusions we do not believe a full Appropriate Assessment will be required.

Furthermore, we do not offer detailed bespoke advice on policy but advise you ensure conformity with the local plan and refer to guidance within our area neighbourhood plan "pro-forma guidance", I have attached an updated version for your consideration. Notwithstanding the above, for example it is important that these plans offer robust confirmation that development is not impacted by flooding and that there is sufficient wastewater infrastructure in place to accommodate growth.

I trust the above is of assistance at this time.

Yours faithfully

Mr. Ewan Burvill
Planning Officer

Direct e-mail [REDACTED]

End

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Date: 08 April 2025
Our ref: 507642
Your ref: Wychavon District Council - Powick Neighbourhood Plan - SEA/HRA
Screening Opinion Consultation



Ernie Edwards
Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils

BY EMAIL ONLY

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Ernie Edwards,

Wychavon District Council - Powick Neighbourhood Plan - SEA/HRA Screening Opinion Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 26 March 2025 which was received by Natural England on 26 March 2025

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.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that:

- **significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely; and,**
- **significant effects on Habitats sites¹, either alone or in combination, are unlikely.**

The proposed neighbourhood plan is unlikely to significantly affect any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection areas (SPA), Ramsar wetland or sites in the process of becoming SACs or SPAs ('candidate SACs', 'possible SACs', 'potential SPAs') or a Ramsar wetland. The plan area is unlikely to have a significant effect on a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coast, and is unlikely to impact upon the purposes for which these areas are designated or defined.

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 is contained within the [Planning Practice Guidance](#). This identifies three triggers that may require the production of an SEA:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

¹ Habitats sites are those referred to in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (Annex 2 - glossary) as "any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites".

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require an SEA. Further information is included in Natural England's [standing advice](#) on protected species.

Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant an SEA. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission [standing advice](#).

We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a SEA is necessary.

Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If a SEA is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.

Please send any new consultations, or further information on this consultation to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Holly Marlow.

Holly Marlow
Planning for a Better Environment – West Midlands Team.



Historic England

Mr Ernie Edwards
Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils
Civic Centre
Queen Elizabeth Drive
Persore
WR10 1PT

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: PL00798490

1 May 2025

Dear Mr Edwards

**POWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION
CONSULTATION**

Thank you for the above consultation and invitation to comment on the screening of the above Neighbourhood Plan.

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

P. Boland.



THE FOUNDRY 82 GRANVILLE STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 2LH

Telephone 0121 625 6888
HistoricEngland.org.uk

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



Historic England

Peter Boland
Historic Places Advisor



cc:



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