

**Wiltshire Council**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment – Screening determination for  
the Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan**

**September 2017**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Introduction	3
2. Legislative requirements	3
3. Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan - Background	5
4. SEA Screening assessment	6
5. SEA Screening decision	16
6. Consultation with statutory consultation bodies	17
Appendix A – Consultation responses from statutory consultation bodies	18

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document provides a screening determination of the need to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 Wiltshire Council, as the 'Responsible Authority'<sup>1</sup> under the SEA Regulations<sup>2</sup>, is responsible for undertaking this screening process of the Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan. It will determine if the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, and hence whether SEA is required.
- 1.3 This process has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC<sup>3</sup>, often known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, which has been transposed into English law by the SEA Regulations.

## 2. Legislative requirements

- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires neighbourhood plans to comply with EU legislation. The screening procedure outlined in this report meets the requirements of the SEA Directive and Regulations, as introduced in Section 1 of this document.
- 2.2 Regulation 5 of the SEA Regulations requires an environmental assessment of plans which:

1. *are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use (Regulation 5, para. (2)(a), and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annex I or II to Council Directive 85/337/EEC (EIA Directive) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (Reg. 5, para. (2)(b)*
2. *in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (Reg. 5, para. (3)*
3. *set the framework for future development consent of projects<sup>4</sup> (Reg. 5, para. (4)(b)*
4. *are determined to be likely to have significant environmental effects as determined under regulation 9(1) (Reg. 5, para. (4)(c)*

An environmental assessment need not be carried out for:

- a) *plans which determine the use of a small area<sup>5</sup> at local level (Regulation 5, para. (6)(a); or b) plans which are a minor modification<sup>6</sup> to a plan or programme (Regulation 5, para. (6)(b) unless it has been determined under regulation 9(1) that the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.*

---

<sup>1</sup> The organisation which adopts the neighbourhood plan (this is described in Wiltshire Council's guide *Neighbourhood planning – a guide for Wiltshire's parish and town councils* (June 2012) as 'makes the plan').

<sup>2</sup> The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

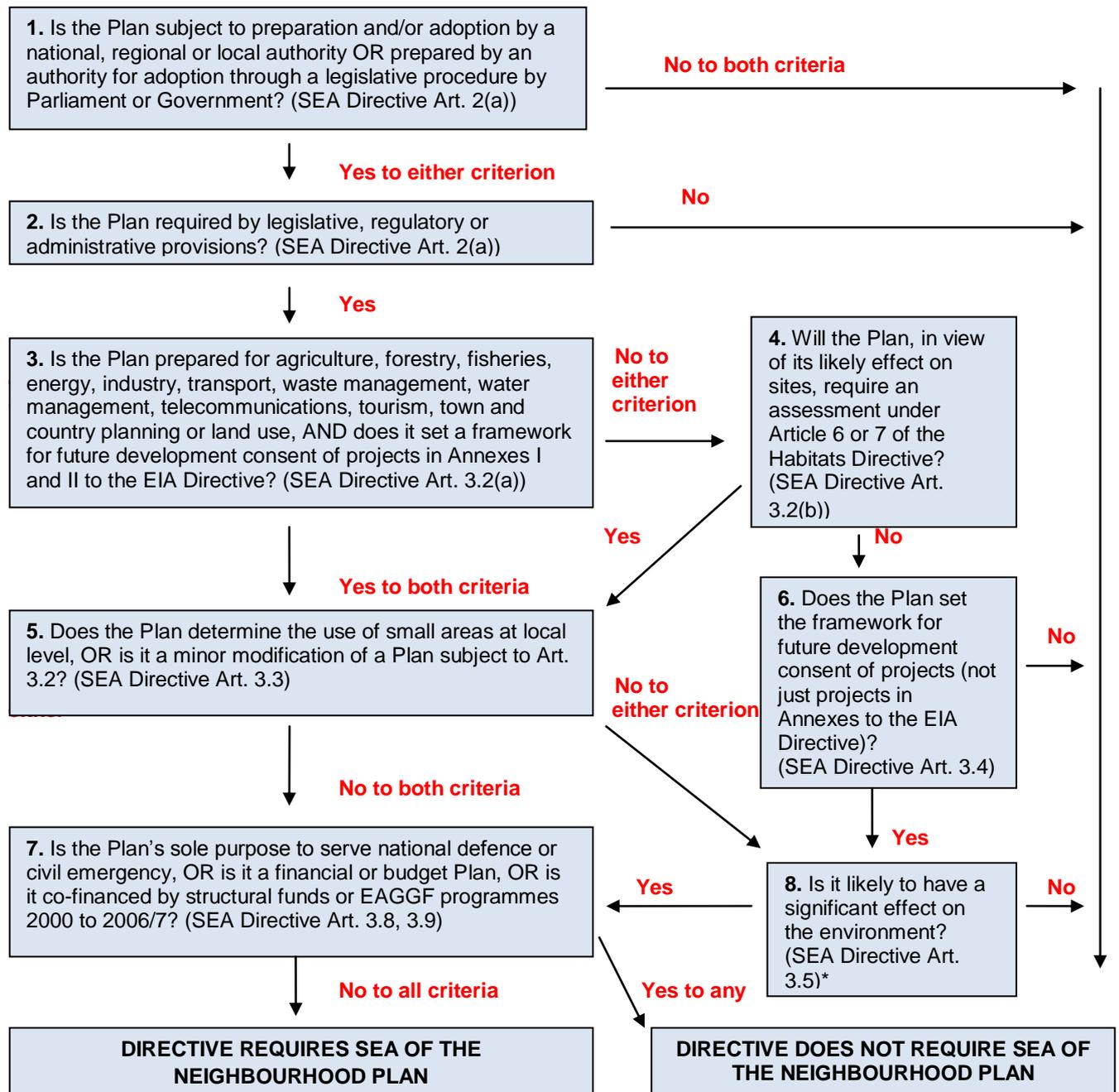
<sup>3</sup> European Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment"

<sup>4</sup> European Commission guidance states that plans and programmes which set the framework for future development consent of projects would normally contain 'criteria or conditions which guide the way a consenting authority decides an application for development consent'. Development consent is defined in the EIA Directive as "the decision of the competent authority or authorities which entitled the developer to proceed with the project" (Article 1(2) of the EIA Directive).

<sup>5</sup> European Commission guidance suggests that plans which determine the use of small areas at local level might include "a building plan which, for a particular, limited area, outlines details of how buildings must be constructed, determining, for example, their height, width or design"

<sup>6</sup> 'Minor modifications' should be considered in the context of the plan or programme which is being modified and of the likelihood of their having significant environmental effects. A modification may be of such small order that it is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

2.3 The diagram<sup>7</sup> below shows the SEA Directive's requirements and its application to neighbourhood plans:



\* Plans falling in this category (No.8) will be screened by Wiltshire Council to determine if they are likely to have significant environmental effects. This determination will be made on a case by case basis for neighbourhood plans coming forward in Wiltshire.

NB This diagram is intended as a guide to the criteria for application of the Directive to neighbourhood plans. It has no legal status.

<sup>7</sup> Taken from *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive* ODPM, 2005)

### **3. Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan - Background**

- 3.1 The parish of Great Somerford and Startley has been preparing a neighbourhood plan under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.
- 3.2 The Parish includes the villages of Great Somerford and Startley. The two villages are approximately one mile apart and are separated, in the main by open farm land. They are of similar nature, with open spaces being a prominent feature. Great Somerford has a primary school and pre-school which are used by both villages as are the local general store/post office and public house. In addition the school in Great Somerford, together with the adjoining Community Room, is used for social activities.

#### **Neighbourhood area designation**

- 3.3 Wiltshire Council publicised the Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Area application for consultation over a period of 6 weeks and 3 days from 9am Monday 9 December to 5pm Tuesday 4 February 2014. One representation was received in support of the application.
- 3.4 The designation of the Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Area was approved on 15 April 2014.

#### **Previous SEA screening consultation**

- 3.5 A consultation has previously been undertaken on an SEA screening decision with the three designated consultation bodies (Natural England, Environment Agency, Historic England). This consultation was undertaken between 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016. All three bodies agreed with the screening determination of Wiltshire Council that the Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and accordingly does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 3.6 However, due to changed circumstances as a result of the examination of the Plan whereby it has been recommended by the examiner to amend the housing site allocations within the Plan, it is considered necessary to re-consult on the screening decision.

#### **Neighbourhood Plan submission and examination**

- 3.7 The Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Wiltshire Council who undertook Regulation 16 consultation on the Plan from 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016.
- 3.8 Mr John Slater was appointed to carry out the examination of the Plan. He decided that it was necessary to hold a one-day public hearing on the Plan which was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017. At the hearing the examiner requested that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group consider a draft policy and supporting text for residential development on a previously developed site at Broadfield Farm on the edge of Great Somerford. Wiltshire Council held an additional consultation on this draft policy between 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The three SEA designated consultation bodies were invited to comment on this consultation. Comments were received from Historic England. Further details can be found at

[http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/spatial\\_planning/np/great\\_somerford\\_np/gsnp\\_exam\\_broadfield\\_farm\\_policy\\_consult](http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/spatial_planning/np/great_somerford_np/gsnp_exam_broadfield_farm_policy_consult)

- 3.9 Wiltshire Council received the examiner's final report into the Plan on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017 and it was published on the Council's website on 25<sup>th</sup> August. It can be accessed at the Council's Neighbourhood Planning website<sup>8</sup>. The main recommendations that have consequences for the SEA screening are 1) an expression of housing requirements as 'approximately 35 dwellings'; 2) for two of the proposed housing site allocations to be removed from the Plan; and 3) the previously developed land at Broadfield Farm to be included to replace them. The sites to be removed are shown in the submitted plan under Policy GSNP3 and GSNP7. Broadfield Farm was subject to focused consultation during the examination and the proposed allocation policy and map can be accessed also on the Council's Neighbourhood Planning website. The two sites recommended to be removed are:

NP1 – Seagry Road

NP5 - Land rear of the Old Police House

- 3.10 The examiner has recommended that the number of new dwellings to be provided by the Plan be amended from 'a total of 35 new dwellings...' to 'land for approximately 35 new dwellings...'. The replacement site allocation at Broadfield Farm is recommended as 'approximately 18 dwellings'. The housing site allocations recommended for inclusion in the Plan are therefore:

Site Allocation	Approximate number of dwellings
NP1 Broadfield Farm	18
NP2 Dauntsey Road	7
NP3 Frog Lane	2
NP4 Land adjacent to Brook Farm	8

#### 4. SEA Screening assessment

- 4.1 Wiltshire Council, as the 'Responsible Authority', considers that the Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan falls within the scope of the SEA Regulations on the basis that it is a plan that:

**a)** is subject to preparation or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level (Regulation 2);

**b)** is prepared for town and country planning or land use and it is a plan that sets the framework for future development consent of projects generally (Regulation 5, para. 4); and

**c)** will apply to a wider area other than a small area at local level and is not a minor modification to an existing plan or programme (Regulation 5, para. 6).

- 4.2 A determination under Regulation 9 is therefore required as to whether the Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-neighbourhood-latest-news>

4.3 The screening requirements set out in Regulation 9 and Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations includes two sets of characteristics for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. These relate to i) the characteristics of the Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) neighbourhood plan and ii) the characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected by the Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan. In making a determination, Wiltshire Council will take into account the criteria specified in Schedule I of the Regulations as follows:

**1. The characteristics of the plans and programmes, having regard in particular to:**

- (a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;
- (b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
- (c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
- (d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and
- (e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).

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

- (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
- (b) the cumulative nature of the effects;
- (c) the transboundary nature of the effects;
- (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);
- (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
- (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to—
  - (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
  - (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or
  - (iii) intensive land-use; and
- (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

The screening assessment of the Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan is set out below:

Criteria (Schedule 1 SEA Regs.)	Significant environmental effects likely?	Justification and evidence
<b>1. The characteristics of plans , having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
(a) 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	No	The proposed recommendations for this neighbourhood plan, if followed, would result in the allocation of sustainable sites to provide additional affordable housing and market housing. Together the sites will deliver approximately 35 dwellings. The plan also proposes to amend the existing settlement boundaries. This is in accordance with Core Policies 1 and 2 of the Core Strategy which has been subject to SEA. The word 'approximately' is used to afford flexibility and something that mirrors the 'indicative' housing requirements in Core Policy 13 which covers the Malmesbury Community Area remainder this plan falls into. The potential increase in the number of dwellings would be minimal as the sites allocated have limited capacity. Moreover, any scheme put forward would have to have regard to local and national planning policy covering heritage, conservation, flood risk, and landscape/ecology. Setting an approximate number is consistent with the Core Strategy which provides 'indicative' housing requirements for Community Areas, being mindful of local constraints and opportunities within settlements. The Core Strategy was subject to SEA. In addition, it is not envisaged that numbers on individual sites allocated in the Great Somerford Neighbourhood Plan will be exceeded very far, simply due to limited site capacities and the need to comply with other development plan policies and national planning policy seeking to protect environmental and heritage assets. As an example and indication of what may be realistic, the examiner is clear in his report that 28 units proposed by the Broadfield Farm developer in response to the focused consultation is not an acceptable capacity due to the high density development which would come about as a result. This illustrates that the degree of variation within the term 'approximately' is limited. At the same time it would not be possible to exactly define site capacities and a degree of flexibility expressed in the plan, would therefore inform the application process better.
(b) the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	The neighbourhood plan is produced by the local community to influence development at the local level. It does not influence strategic plans higher up in the hierarchy. The Plan proposes to amend the settlement boundary for Great Somerford but this is consistent with the Core Strategy which allows neighbourhood plans to undertake settlement boundary reviews.

<p>(c) the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The neighbourhood plan is a land-use plan that promotes sustainable development. The plan identifies areas of open space to be protected from future development. Great Somerford has a conservation area and a number of listed buildings. The housing site allocations policies unaffected by the Examiner's recommendations, and the plan's evidence base for these, adequately justify that the allocations would not result in likely significant effects on heritage assets. Where required, mitigation measures are identified. Wiltshire Council's Conservation Officer is satisfied that the site assessments and site allocations policies, as modified by the examiner, will provide a robust basis for the application process and are not likely to result in adverse effects on the historic environment. Regarding the overall level of growth the Examiner's recommendations, if followed, may result in additional units coming forward on all allocated sites given the flexibility afforded by the word 'approximately', potentially resulting in more housing on these sites than stated in the plan's policies. Again, the Council is satisfied that this would not result in significant environmental effects for the reasons stated at a). The removal of proposed greenfield allocations in favour of a brownfield site represents an improvement of the plan in terms of sustainability and is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects either alone or in combination.</p>
<p>(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>There are two County Wildlife Sites located south of Great Somerford, one County Wildlife Site located south west of Startley (which has no site allocations), and the River Avon borders the plan area to the north. However, the plan is not promoting development over and above that contained in the Wiltshire Core Strategy, which has been subject to SEA and HRA. The neighbourhood plan proposes to allocate sites to deliver approximately 35 dwellings. The sites are located in Great Somerford, which is designated as a Large Village in the Wiltshire Core Strategy core policies 2 and 13. The sites are either within or adjacent to the settlement boundary. The amount of development proposed, the location and type of development is in conformity with the Core Strategy and it is not considered likely there will be significant environmental effects. Great Somerford has a conservation area and a number of listed buildings and a scheduled monument. The housing site allocations policies and the plan's evidence base adequately justify that the allocations would not result in likely significant effects on heritage assets. The removal of Sites NP1 and NP5 will reduce the amount of greenfield land taken up by housing and the inclusion of previously developed land at Broadfield Farm is considered to be sustainable development consistent with Core Policy 2 in the Core Strategy. Where required, mitigation measures are identified. Wiltshire Council's Conservation Officer is satisfied that the site assessments and site allocations policies recommended by the examiner appropriately address heritage matters.</p>

<p>(e) the relevance of the plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The neighbourhood plan is not relevant as a plan for implementing community legislation.</p>
<p><b>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</b></p>		

<p>(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Any environmental effects are not considered to be significant judging by the proposals in the neighbourhood plan. Any effects of the limited amount of development proposed is likely to be localised and short-term and related to the construction stage. Through detailed work on the site allocations, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has given consideration to the potential for significant effects on heritage assets but the assessments have not resulted in evidence that the proposed allocations would have such effects. As regards to the recommendations by the examiner it is essentially necessary to assess if the inclusion of Broadfield Farm and the exclusion of Sites NP1 and NP5 alone or in combination will result in likely significant environmental effects. . Great Somerford has a number of listed buildings, a scheduled monument and is also covered by a conservation area, as described and mapped in the evidence underpinning the submission version of the plan. With this in mind, the Council's conservation officer is in support of 'approximately 18 units' at Broadfield Farm. This provides a degree of flexibility provided that an application demonstrates compliance with all other development plan policies, and the requirement in national policy that development should preserve and enhance the Conservation Area. Moreover it is felt that at plan-making stage an exact number of units may be difficult to justify, and that 'approximately 18 units' on this site is an acceptable starting point. The new Policy for Broadfield Farm confirmed by the Examiner furthermore refers to the need for the applicant to pay particular attention to "Minimising the impact on the conservation area and its setting, in terms of the scale, bulk, siting, design and materials of the new units in order that they respect the local vernacular built form." The Policy specifies paying attention to the relationship with local biodiversity and here especially with regard to the County Wildlife Site to the south east of Broadfield Farm. Taken together it is expected that no likely significant effects on the environment arise from this site allocation.</p> <p>The Examiner recommends excluding Site NP1 due to the lack of evidence that the development of the site for 12 dwellings would 'preserve or enhance' the Conservation Area in line with national policy. He was not convinced that sufficient evidence had been provided to justify the capacity of the site and landscape impacts of the development. His conclusion is that this Greenfield site is not a sustainable location. From the Council's perspective removal of the site is not likely to result in significant adverse effects on the environment as this site will remain undeveloped.</p> <p>The Examiner further recommends excluding Site NP5 due to an incongruous incursion of development into open countryside; the development of the site being out of character with the surrounding form of development; and that it would detrimentally affect a proposed Local Green Space, and the setting of the Conservation Area. From the Council's perspective removal of the site is not likely to result in significant adverse effects on the environment as this site will remain undeveloped.</p>
<p>(b) the cumulative nature of the effects</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No cumulative effects considered to be significant. In fact based on the information available it is likely that the modifications will result in an improvement compared to what was proposed in the submission plan. Greenfield land at removed Sites NP1 and NP5 is now not allocated for housing and it is therefore to remain undeveloped. In turn, the proposed new allocation at Broadfield Farm would result in development of previously developed land which is supported in local and national planning policy.</p>

(c) the transboundary nature of the effects	No	No transboundary effects with other EU countries considered to be significant.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment	No	No environmental effects considered likely to risk human health or the environment.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	No	The neighbourhood plan covers a parish which includes the villages of Great Somerford and Startley. The two villages are approximately one mile apart and are separated, in the main by open farm land. They have a population of approximately 737 residents (ONS census 2011). Significant effects due to the geographic size of the area and population size are not considered likely.
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to— (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use;	No	There are two County Wildlife Sites located south of Great Somerford, one County Wildlife Site located south west of Startley and the River Avon borders the plan area to the north. The majority of the village of Great Somerford is designated as a conservation area and there are a high number of listed buildings. However, development proposed that is in conformity with the Core Strategy, in particular Core Policies 50 and 58, is not considered likely to significantly affect these environmental assets. With regard to the proposed site allocations and the Examiner's recommendations, the removal of two greenfield sites and inclusion of a brownfield site in their place represents an improvement and ensures the plan is consistent with local and national planning policy. Removing Site NP1 will continue to protect the rural approach to the village and the open character of that site which forms part of the Conservation Area. Removal of Site NP5 will preserve the fertile agricultural land and prevent the uptake of countryside for development; it also prevents adverse effects on the setting of the Conservation Area as stated by the independent examiner. The allocation at Broadfield Farm aims to re-use previously developed land and it is considered that the recommended policy will allow for sufficient flexibility to devise a scheme that appropriately considers environmental policies within the neighbourhood plan, the Core Strategy and the NPPF. On the basis of the examiner's recommendations it is considered that the neighbourhood plan will contain policies to protect, conserve and where possible enhance the conservation area and County Wildlife Sites and is therefore not considered likely to significantly affect these important heritage and environmental assets. The housing site allocations policies and the plan's evidence base adequately justify that the allocations now left in the plan would not result in significant effects on environmental assets or designations. Where required, mitigation measures are identified to maintain the setting of heritage assets. Wiltshire Council's Conservation Officer is overall satisfied that the site assessments and site allocations policies (including those modified by the examiner) appropriately address heritage matters.

<p>(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>There are no national or international landscape/biodiversity designations within or on the edge of the Plan area. There are four County Wildlife Sites in the Plan area. The majority of Great Somerford is a conservation area and there are a number of listed buildings in the village. Development which is in conformity with the Core Strategy, in particular Core Policies 50 and 58, is not considered likely to significantly affect these important heritage and environmental assets. The plan's evidence has paid particular attention to the site allocation's effects on heritage assets. The assessments concluded that there would be no significant effects but where appropriate, additional measures are proposed in the site allocations policies to preserve the setting of heritage assets. Wiltshire Council's Conservation Officer is satisfied that the site assessments and site allocations policies appropriately address heritage matters.</p>
---	-----------	---

## 5. SEA Screening decision

5.1 Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations requires that the responsible authority shall determine whether or not a plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. The responsible authority shall —

- (a) take into account the criteria specified in Schedule 1 to these Regulations; and
- (b) consult the consultation bodies.

5.2 Where the responsible authority determines that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), it shall prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination.

5.3 Wiltshire Council considers that the proposed Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan is **unlikely to have significant environmental effects and accordingly does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment**. This decision is made for the following key reasons:

1. The neighbourhood plan proposals, as proposed to be amended by the independent examiner, are considered to be in general conformity with the adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy which has been subject to SEA and HRA assessments. The Core Strategy was adopted on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

2. The Examiner is not proposing additional development over and above that described in the Core Strategy. In the settlement strategy outlined in Core Policy 1, Great Somerford is identified as a Large Village whilst Startley is a small settlement not identified in the settlement strategy. Great Somerford has a settlement boundary. Startley is located outside the settlement boundary. The Core Strategy states that development at Large Villages will be limited to that needed to help meet the housing needs of settlements and to improve employment opportunities, services and facilities. There is a general presumption against development outside the defined limits of development, although the strategy will allow carefully managed development in specific cases such as when brought forward through a neighbourhood plan. The examiner's recommendation to express housing growth at the village at 'approximately 35 dwellings' over the plan period 2016-2026 is not considered to result in significant environmental effects.

3. The neighbourhood plan area includes several County Wildlife Sites, a conservation area, listed buildings and a scheduled monument, all of which will restrict the location of new development. The examiner's recommendations for this neighbourhood plan will result in site allocations and policies considered to protect and enhance these valuable environmental and heritage assets with the allocation of development sites only to be located in sustainable locations. The inclusion of a brownfield site at the expense of two greenfield sites is considered to be an improvement in sustainability terms. The plan's evidence has paid particular attention to the site allocation's effects on heritage assets. The assessments concluded that there would be no significant effects but where appropriate, additional measures are referenced in the site allocations policies to preserve the setting of heritage assets.

4. The Council's conservation officer, in an email dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017, supports the conclusion of this SEA screening that the amended Plan will not require SEA.

5.4 This screening decision has been sent to Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England for their comments and their responses will be attached to this report as an appendix.

## **6. Consultation with statutory consultation bodies**

6.1 Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England, as statutory consultation bodies under Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations, were consulted on this SEA screening determination between 25th August 2017 and 29th September 2017. All three bodies agreed with the screening determination of Wiltshire Council that the Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and therefore an SEA is not required.

6.2 The consultation responses received from the three consultation bodies, agreeing with the screening determination that an SEA is not required, is presented in Appendix A.

## Appendix A – Consultation responses from statutory consultation bodies

Mr David Way – Neighbourhood Planning  
Wiltshire Council  
Planning Policy  
County Hall Bythesea Road  
Trowbridge  
Wiltshire  
BA14 8JD

**Our ref:** WX/2009/110257/OR-31/IS4-L01  
**Your ref:** Great Somerford NP  
**Date:** 15 September 2017

Dear Mr Way

### Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan – further SEA screening reconsultation

Thank you for your email of 25 August 2017, re-consulting the Environment Agency on the SEA screening opinion for the above Neighbourhood Plan. Having reviewed the recommendations of the examiner, we are satisfied that our position remains unchanged. We continue to concur that a SEA is not required.

We hope this assists in the progress of the Plan.

Yours sincerely

**Ms Ellie Challans**

**Sustainable Places - Planning Advisor (Environment Agency)**

Direct dial 02030 259311

E-mail [swx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:swx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### RE: Great Somerford NP SEA Screening Consultation August 2017

18 September 2017

14:15

**Subject**

RE: Great Somerford NP SEA  
Screening Consultation  
August 2017

**From**

Stuart, David

**To**

Way, David

**Cc**

Totz, Henning

**Sent**

18 September 2017 13:59

Dear David,

Thank you for your consultation on the revised SEA Screening for the Great Somerford Neighbourhood Plan and the supporting information to evidence this report.

On this basis I am formally able to revise our advice and can confirm that we now have no objection to the conclusion that an SEA will not be required for this Plan.

Kind regards

David

David Stuart | Historic Places Adviser South West

Direct Line: 0117 975 0680 | Mobile: 0797 924 0316

Historic England | 29 Queen Square | Bristol | BS1 4ND

<https://historicengland.org.uk/southwest>

**RE: Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan -further SEA screening consultation (Wiltshire Council). Ne ref: 224508**

18 September 2017

14:21

<b>Subject</b>	RE: Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan -further SEA screening consultation (Wiltshire Council). Ne ref: 224508
<b>From</b>	Routh, Charles (NE)
<b>To</b>	Way, David
<b>Sent</b>	06 September 2017 09:31

Dear David,

I can confirm that the changed circumstances do not alter our original advice which concurs with your view that (in terms of the natural environment) the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

Regards,  
Charles Routh

Lead Advisor, Planning & Licencing, Somerset, Avon and Wiltshire Area Team, Natural England.07990 773630