

# Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan

Environmental Report to accompany  
Submission Version  
of the Neighbourhood Plan

January 2018

## Quality information

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## Non-Technical Summary

### What is strategic environmental assessment?

A strategic environmental assessment has been undertaken to inform the Loggerheads Plan (LNP). This process is required by the SEA Regulations.

Neighbourhood Plan groups use SEA to assess Neighbourhood Plans against a set of sustainability / environmental objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the assessment is to avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects through the Neighbourhood Plan, and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan and the quality of life of residents.

### What is the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan?

The Loggerhead Neighbourhood Plan (LNP) presents a plan for the administrative area of Loggerhead Parish for the period to 2033. The Plan has been prepared to be in conformity with planning policy for Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council; including the following:

- Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Core Strategy (adopted, 2009).
- Newcastle under Lyme Adopted Local Plan (Adopted 2011).
- Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Local Plan (in preparation).

The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision and a range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area. These relate to a range of topics, including, but not limited to, village centre development, transport, open space and housing.

It is anticipated that the LNP will be published for Regulation 14 Consultation in November 2017.

### Purpose of the Environmental Report

The Environmental Report, which accompanies the Submission Version of the LNP, is the third document to be produced as part of the SEA process. The first document was the SEA Scoping Report (September 2017), which includes information about the Neighbourhood Plan area's environment and community. The second document was the SEA Report prepared alongside the Regulation 14 Consultation. The third document is essentially an update of the previous SEA Report to reflect changes made to the plan at this stage.

The purpose of the Environmental Report is to:

- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the LNP and alternatives; and
- Provide an opportunity for consultees to offer views on any aspect of the SEA process, which has been carried out to date.

The Environmental Report contains:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the LNP and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- Relevant aspects of the current and future state of the environment and key sustainability / environmental issues;
- The SEA Framework of objectives against which the LNP has been assessed;
- The appraisal of alternative approaches for the LNP;
- The likely significant environmental effects of the LNP;

- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the LNP; and
- Potential monitoring measures.

## Scoping

The scoping stage involves the collection of information relating to:

- the state of the environment in the plan area; *and*
- relevant objectives and targets set out within plans, policies and programmes.

This information allowed for a range of key issues to be identified, and to establish what topics should be the focus of the SEA. The scoping process led to the following topics being scoped in or out of the SEA. These topics then formed the basis of an SEA Framework, which is the basis for appraising the Plan (and reasonable alternatives).

- Air Quality – **Scoped out**
- Biodiversity – **Scoped in**
- Climatic factors – **Scoped in**
- Landscape and historic environment – **Scoped in**
- Land, soil and water resources – Soil and waste **Scoped out**, Water **Scoped in**.
- Population and community – **Scoped in**
- Health and wellbeing – **Scoped in**
- Transportation – **Scoped in**

## Assessment of alternative approaches for the LNP

### Multi-sports and community facility

One of the key aims of the neighbourhood plan is to enable the development of a community and multi sports facility. This would help to meet local aspirations, and tackle shortages in provision. Consequently, a feasibility study for the multi-sport, community and recreational facility was commissioned as part of the Neighbourhood Plan work.

The study concluded that the most suitable site, of the size and layout of land required and within walking distance of the majority of residents, was on the A53 alongside the Fire Station.

However, the initial site identified, directly adjacent to the fire station has been superseded by a planning application for +65 new houses which was granted permission in September 2017.

There are two fields adjacent to this permitted development site that are considered to be the only suitably remaining sites (for a multi-sport, community and recreational facility) in the village of Loggerheads. This is based on factors such as layout and walking distance. These two sites are therefore proposed for allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan (for a multi-sport, community and recreational facility).

The group concluded that there were no reasonable alternative site options on the basis that the feasibility study identified the preferred sites as the most appropriate and suitable.

### Determining the village boundaries

Though the neighbourhood plan does not allocate housing or employment sites, it seeks to manage growth through the continued application of policies relating to the village boundary.

A built up area boundary (village envelope) has been defined for Ashley and Loggerheads villages. The proposed approach (identified as part of LPN-G1) is based on previous boundaries from the adopted local plan (Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted in 2003), but with some expansion to allow for growth and to recognise where development has been approved. The boundaries have been set to create a clear and logical boundary, based on physical features and logical defensible boundaries. Other factors that have influenced the setting of the boundaries are as follows:

- Loggerheads is a largely rural area, with high-grade agricultural land. Therefore, development should focus on existing built settlements and not sprawl into the rural area or create connected and uncontrolled ribbon development.
- There is a need for a balanced mix of use in the settlements, to create more sustainable live-work patterns. Focusing growth on the existing centres helps to make them and their community facilities more viable.
- Community facilities and public transport services are focused on the larger settlements, so focusing growth in and around them have less impact through car journey generation and make them more sustainable.
- There is a need to preserve the largely rural character of the area.
- To protect and enhance the character of the villages and the surrounding countryside.

The Plan working group do not consider that there are any reasonable alternatives. Expanding the village envelope further to allow for additional future growth is not considered appropriate for the following reasons:

- The character of the settlements and rural areas could be negatively affected.
- It could lead to more unsustainable forms of development that are less accessible by sustainable modes of travel.
- There could be a loss of agricultural land.
- Strategic changes to settlements and potential Green Belt loss ought to be dealt with through the new Local Plan.

## Assessment of the current version of the LNP

The LNP has been appraised against each of the environmental objectives in the SEA Framework. In undertaking the appraisal, each of the policies in the Plan has been considered individually and collectively. A summary of the findings is presented below.

Biodiversity	Climate change mitigation	Climate change resilience	Built and natural environment	Water	Housing	Health and wellbeing	Travel and transport
Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Positive / Uncertain	Positive	Positive

## Mitigation

No negative effects have been identified, and so there are no corresponding mitigation measures.

The Plan has been proactively prepared with regards to the protection of local greenspace, promotion of walking and cycling, protection of cultural heritage and the allocation of recreational facilities. However, some additional minor recommendations for enhancement have been made as follows.

- Policy LNP-P3 could be strengthened by encouraging green infrastructure linkages between open spaces.
- Positive effects upon water could perhaps be achieved for policy LNP-S2 by requiring the new site for multi-sport and community facilities and sports pitch to incorporate sustainable / natural drainage systems.

The Neighbourhood Plan Groups response to these recommendations was to amend policy LNP-S2 to take account of sustainable/natural drainage systems to take greater account of water factors

No further enhancement measures have been identified through the SEA process.

## Monitoring

There is a requirement to present measures that could be used to monitor the effects of the Plan identified through the SEA. It is particularly important to monitor effects that are predicted to be significant, whether this be positive or negative. Monitoring helps to track whether the effects turn-out as expected, and to identify any unexpected effects.

Two significant effects have been predicted in the SEA. Whilst these are both positive, it is still important to monitor whether the effects that occur in reality are as positive as expected. Potentially suitable indicators are identified below for each of the significant effects.

Significant effects	Monitoring measures
Overall, the plan is predicted to have a <b>significant positive effect</b> upon the built and natural environment as it sets out several policies that add local context in support of the adopted Local Plan.	Character appraisals of local settlements  Development approved in accordance with policy advice
Overall, the plan is predicted to have a <b>significant positive effect</b> on health and wellbeing. This is mainly related to the benefits of a new multi-recreational facility, but also supported by minor benefits from a range of other plan policies.	Progress on the development of a multi recreational facility  Number of users of recreational facilities

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan (LNP).

The LNP is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2012. The Neighbourhood Plan area, which includes the administrative area of Loggerheads Parish (Figure 1.1), is being prepared in the context of planning policy for Newcastle-under-Lyme including:

- Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Core Strategy (adopted, 2009).
- Newcastle under Lyme Adopted Local Plan (Adopted 2011).
- Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Local Plan (in preparation).

It is currently anticipated that the LNP will be submitted to Newcastle-under-Lyme in January 2018.

Key information relating to the LNP is presented in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan**

Name of Qualifying Body	Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Title of Plan	Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan
Purpose	The Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in conformity with the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke on Trent Core Spatial Strategy 2006-2026 and the saved policies of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan 2011.
Timescale	To 2033
Area covered by the plan	Loggerheads Parish, which includes the wards of Ashley, Loggerheads, Mucklestone and Tyrley.  (As shown in Figure 1.1)
Summary of content	The Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the plan area.
Plan contact point	Karen Watkins  Email address: loggerheadspc@btconnect.com

## 1.2 SEA explained

The LNP has been screened-in as requiring an SEA.

SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative environmental effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SEA for the LNP seeks to maximise the emerging Neighbourhood Plan's contribution to sustainable development.

The SEA has been prepared in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive<sup>1</sup>.

The SEA Regulations require that a report is published for Regulation-14 consultation alongside the draft plan that 'identifies, describes and evaluates' the likely significant effects of implementing 'the plan, and reasonable alternatives'. The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.

In line with the SEA Regulations this Environmental Report must essentially answer four questions:

- What is the scope of the SEA?
- What has plan-making/SEA involved up to this point?
  - 'Reasonable alternatives' must have been appraised for the plan.
- What are the appraisal findings at this stage?
  - i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
- What happens next?

These questions are derived from Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, which present 'the information to be provided within the report'. **Table 1.2** presents the linkages between the regulatory requirements and the four SEA questions.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC

## 1.3 Structure of this Environmental Report

This document is the Environmental Report for the LNP and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed above with a view to providing the information required by the SEA Regulations.

Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as follows:

**Table 1.2: Questions that must be answered by the Environmental Report in order to meet regulatory<sup>2</sup> requirements**

Environmental Report question	In line with the SEA Regulations, the report must include... <sup>3</sup>
What's the scope of the SEA?	<p>What is the plan seeking to achieve?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes</li> </ul>
	<p>What is the sustainability 'context'?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relevant environmental protection <b>objectives</b>, established at international or national level</li> <li>Any existing environmental <b>problems</b> which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance</li> </ul>
	<p>What is the environmental 'baseline'?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan</li> <li>The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected</li> <li>Any existing environmental <b>problems</b> which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance</li> </ul>
	<p>What are the key issues &amp; objectives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key <b>problems/issues</b> and <b>objectives</b> that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a 'framework' for) assessment</li> </ul>
What has plan-making/SEA involved up to this point?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline reasons for selecting the <b>alternatives</b> dealt with (and thus an explanation of the 'reasonableness' of the approach)</li> <li>The likely significant effects associated with <b>alternatives</b></li> <li>Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of <b>alternatives</b> appraisal/a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan</li> </ul>
What are the assessment findings at this stage?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The likely significant effects associated with <b>the draft plan</b></li> <li>The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing <b>the draft plan</b></li> </ul>
What happens next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next steps for plan making/SEA process</li> </ul>

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

<sup>3</sup> NB this column does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation.

## 2. Local Plan context and vision for the LNP

### 2.1 Local Plan context for the LNP

Due to the Neighbourhood Plan area's location within Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough, this Plan is being prepared in the context of the existing development plan for the borough.<sup>4</sup>

The joint Newcastle under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy was adopted in October 2009 and classifies Loggerheads as a Rural Service Centre with a good range of local services. In the key Rural Service Centres, the Core Spatial Strategy includes a housing requirement of 900 dwellings primarily located on brownfield sites within the village envelopes. This is designed to meet identified local requirements – in particular, the need for affordable housing. However, no targets or allocations are specifically included for the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Neighbourhood plans are required to be in strategic conformity with the Core Strategy and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Core Spatial Strategy (particularly policy ASP6) to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in the Neighbourhood Plan area, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.

A new Joint Local Plan is being prepared by Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme. This plan will provide the strategic direction for Loggerheads, and will also contain updated policies for the management of development.

The latest stage of plan-making involved consultation on key Strategic Options during July-August 2017. Though this document sets out a vision and broad options for growth, it does not set a clear preferred strategy yet.

As the new joint Local Plan is in the early stages of development, the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan will still need to take account of the existing adopted Local Plan. However, it is acknowledged that the Neighbourhood Plan should be developed in the context of the emerging new Local Plan as well.

### 2.2 Vision for the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan

The vision / mission statement for the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan, which was developed during earlier stages of plan development, is as follows:

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**“ To create an enhanced sustainable rural community that provides for people of all ages. ”**

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Vision / Mission Statement for the Loggerheads  
Neighbourhood Plan

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To support the Neighbourhood Plan's mission statement, the LNP sets out five aims and a number of Neighbourhood Plan policies. The latest iteration of these policies have been appraised in **Chapter 5** of this Environmental Report.

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<sup>4</sup> Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke on Trent Joint Core Strategy (June 2014) [https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IMCE/Planning/Planning\\_Policy/SpatialStrategy/Core%20Strategy%20Final%20Version%20-%2028th%20October.pdf](https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IMCE/Planning/Planning_Policy/SpatialStrategy/Core%20Strategy%20Final%20Version%20-%2028th%20October.pdf)

## 3. The Scope of the SEA

### 3.1 SEA Scoping Report

The SEA Regulations require that: *"When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies"*. In England, the consultation bodies are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.<sup>5</sup> These authorities were formally consulted on the scope of the LNP SEA from the 1<sup>st</sup> September to the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

The purpose of scoping was to outline the 'scope' of the SEA through setting out:

- A context review of the key environmental and sustainability objectives of national, regional and local plans and strategies relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Baseline data against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed;
- The key sustainability / environmental issues for the Neighbourhood Plan; and
- An 'SEA Framework' of objectives against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed.

Baseline information (including the context review and baseline data) is presented in **Appendix A**.

Two of the statutory consultees (Historic England and the Environment Agency) provided a response to the Scoping Report within the five week consultation period. The comments made and how they have been considered and addressed, are presented in **Table 3.1** below.

**Table 3.1: Consultation responses received on the SEA Scoping Report**

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed
<b>Historic England</b> We have no substantive concerns as to the contents of the document and commend the approach taken to historic landscape and Heritage at Risk.	Comments welcomed
<b>Environment Agency</b> We note that the issue of flood risk is assessed under section 4 of the scoping report. It identifies how there is a small area of mapped floodplain to the south west of the plan area. It does not however, consider the ordinary watercourse flowing in a westerly direction out of Loggerheads itself, and through the extended development boundary area. The scoping report in fact states: <i>'The built up parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area falls entirely within Flood Zone 1, and so development is unlikely to be affected by fluvial flood risk'</i> This watercourse is classified an Ordinary Watercourse and only falls within low risk Flood Zone 1 as no mapping has been undertaken due to its position high in the catchment. In light of this, there may well be risk associated with this watercourse, which is currently unassessed and is not shown on the Flood Map for Planning.	Scope updated to consider the potential for flooding in unmapped areas.

<sup>5</sup> In-line with Article 6(3) of the SEA Directive, these consultation bodies were selected because *'by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, [they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programme'*.

## 3.2 Key sustainability / environmental issues

Drawing on the review of the policy context and baseline information, the SEA Scoping Report was able to identify a range of sustainability / environmental issues that should be a particular focus of SEA. These issues are as follows, presented by eight environmental themes:

The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive<sup>6</sup>. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects (drawing from the screening opinion and local knowledge).

The scoping process allowed for some sustainability topics to be 'scoped out'; as it was considered the Plan is unlikely to have significant effects on certain factors.

### 3.2.1 Air quality

- Air quality is not a particular issue in the Plan area and is unlikely to be significantly affected by the Plan.
- There is likely to be a continued reliance on the car to access services, jobs and facilities.

Scoped OUT

### 3.2.2 Biodiversity

- There are no European designated sites located within the Neighbourhood Plan area and the closest is located approximately 7km from the edge of the area. The Neighbourhood Plan is not expected to have any potential impact on international designated assets due to their distance from the neighbourhood area and lack of receptor pathways.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains several SSSI units which are vulnerable to unmanaged public access.
- Numerous Protected Species are present in the Neighbourhood Plan area and could be affected by new development.
- Features of biodiversity value such as trees, hedgerows, waterways and meadows should be protected from the impacts of future development and where possible enhanced. Their integrity should also be supported through improved ecological connections in the area, including through the provision of green infrastructure enhancements.

Scoped IN

### 3.2.3 Climatic factors

- The built up parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area falls entirely within Flood Zone 1, and so development is unlikely to be affected by fluvial flood risk.
- Newcastle-Under-Lyme has higher CO2 emissions than the rest of the districts in the West Midlands until 2014.

Scoped OUT

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<sup>6</sup> The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on '*the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors*' [our emphasis]

### 3.2.4 Landscape and historic environment

- There are 76 Listed Buildings and structures within the Neighbourhood Plan area and two scheduled monuments.
- Whilst there are no landscapes designated nationally for their sensitivity or importance, landscape has been characterised locally, with a focus on 'conservation' and 'enhancement' at identified development sites.

Scoped IN

### 3.2.5 Land, soil and water resources

- The only agricultural land in the Plan area is within areas already permitted or allocated for development. No further agricultural land is likely to be affected by the Plan.
- The plan area contains areas that fall within a groundwater protection zone, and the whole area is identified as a groundwater and surface water nitrate vulnerable zone.

Soil & waste Scoped OUT Water Quality Scoped IN

### 3.2.6 Population and community

- The population of Loggerheads Parish has increased significantly higher than borough averages between 2001 and 2011 (6.8%).
- The age profile of the Neighbourhood Plan area is older than borough, regional and national averages.
- The age profile of the parish has become recently become older. This will have implications for community provision and the provision of suitable housing to meet specialist needs.

Scoped IN

### 3.2.7 Health and Wellbeing

- Loggerheads has a higher number of residents with a limiting long-term illness.
- Medical centres in the area are already at over-capacity.
- Leisure facilities are lacking within the parish of Loggerheads.

Scoped IN

### 3.2.8 Transportation

- Whilst bus services to Market Drayton, Stone and Newcastle-under-Lyme are relatively frequent during the day, they are poor during the evening and at weekends.
- Loggerheads has a significantly higher level of car and van ownership than borough and regional averages.
- A higher proportion of people travel to work by car than the borough and national average.

Scoped IN

### 3.3 SEA Framework

The SEA framework has been established through the identification of key issues and environmental objectives as part of the scoping exercise. This draws upon the baseline position and policy context that has been prepared for a range of SEA topics.

The framework consists of a set of headline objectives and ancillary questions, which has been used to appraise the environmental effects of the draft Plan (and any reasonable alternatives).

Table 3.2 below outlines the full SEA Framework, which focuses on those issues that have been identified as the most important to consider in the preparation of the Plan; but acknowledging the limited influence that the Plan can/will have in some areas.

These issues were then translated into an 'SEA Framework'. This SEA Framework provides a methodological framework for the appraisal of likely significant effects on the baseline.

**Table 3.2: SEA Framework for the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan**

SEA Objective	Supporting questions (Will the option/proposal help to...)
Protect and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support connections between habitats in the Plan area?</li> <li>• Support continued improvements to the designated sites in the Plan area?</li> <li>• Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</li> <li>• Support access to interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</li> <li>• Better manage public access to SSSIs</li> </ul>
Contribute to climate change mitigation	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote high quality design?</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</li> <li>• Reduce the need to travel?</li> </ul>
Support the resilience of Loggerheads to the potential effects of climate change	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area?</li> <li>• Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change?</li> </ul>
Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of the built and natural environment.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment?</li> <li>• Contribute to better management of heritage assets or tackle heritage at risk?</li> <li>• Identify and protect / enhance features of local importance?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li> <li>• Improve linkages between residential areas and open space.</li> </ul>



SEA Objective	Supporting questions (Will the option/proposal help to...)
Protect ground and surface water quality.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect groundwater quality in the GPZ?</li> <li>• Minimise water consumption?</li> <li>• Reduce surface water pollution or localised flooding through the use of SUDS?</li> </ul>
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, suitable housing which meets the needs of occupiers.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support enhancements to the current housing stock?</li> <li>• Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction?</li> <li>• Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?</li> </ul>
Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents by enhancing the quality and accessibility of open space, facilities for recreation and transport links.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote availability and accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?</li> <li>• Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?</li> <li>• Improve access to health facilities?</li> </ul>
Reduce the need to travel and support modal shift to active and sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling and public transport.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable transport infrastructure improvements?</li> <li>• Increase the range, availability and affordability of sustainable travel choices i.e. public transport, walking, cycling?</li> <li>• Promote sustainable patterns of land use and development that reduce the need to travel and reliance on the private car?</li> <li>• Promote car-share schemes and/or working from home?</li> </ul>

## 4. What has plan making / SEA involved to this point?

### 4.1 Introduction

In accordance with the SEA Regulations the Environmental Report must include...

- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with; and
- The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives / an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of alternatives appraised.

The 'narrative' of plan-making / SEA up to this point is told within this part of the Environmental Report. Specifically, this section explains how preparation of the current version of the LNP has been informed by an assessment of alternative sites for village centre redevelopment and for specialist housing delivery.

### 4.2 Overview of plan making / SEA work undertaken

In August 2015 residents were given information on Neighbourhood Planning and asked if they wished to take this opportunity to plan proactively for the challenges of the future. There was unanimous agreement to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan so that the community could ensure gradual, sustainable development to allow the local infrastructure and facilities to keep pace with the additional demands more housing will create.

Over the following months the Parish Council set about investigating what was required to produce a robust, evidence-based Neighbourhood Plan. Newsletters and the Parish Council website were used to publicise the process and several requests were made for volunteers from the community to participate in the exercise. The Parish Council applied for designation of the neighbourhood area, which was granted in September 2015.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed from the views of the local people gathered using a variety of different consultation approaches including meetings, presentations, interactive workshops, the Parish Council website, village-wide on-line surveys and paper surveys. A separate survey of young people was undertaken at both primary schools in the parish. In addition local businesses were asked to complete a survey, either paper-based or on-line. The Working Group has worked closely with neighbouring parishes and Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council. Staffordshire County Council, health and social housing providers have all been consulted.

There are several key stages of statutory consultation affording a wide range of consultees the opportunity to have a say about the Plan.

**Designation:** When the Parish Council applied for designation of the Neighbourhood Area the Local Authority undertook a 6-week consultation, which was publicised locally and borough-wide. The feedback received has been used to inform the plan.

**Pre-submission Consultation:** The Neighbourhood Plan undertook a Regulation-14 consultation which brought the plan to the attention of the wider community and statutory and other bodies provided by Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council as required under Regulation 14, Town and Country Planning, England Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (General) 2012. Responses have been documented in the Consultation Statement which can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

## 4.3 Assessment of reasonable alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan

A key element of the SEA process is the appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' for the LNP. The SEA Regulations<sup>7</sup> are not prescriptive as to what constitutes a reasonable alternative, stating only that the Environmental Report should present an appraisal of the '*plan and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan*'.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group considered different alternatives for how two key plan elements could be delivered.

1. The location of a site for multi-sport and community facility
2. The extent of the village envelopes

### 4.3.1 Alternative locations for a multi-sport and community facility

One of the key aims of the neighbourhood plan is to enable the development of a community and multi sports facility. This would help to meet local aspirations, and tackle shortages in provision. Consequently, a feasibility study for the multi-sport, community and recreational facility was commissioned as part of the Neighbourhood Plan work.

The study concluded that the most suitable site, of the size and layout of land required and within walking distance of the majority of residents, was on the A53 alongside the Fire Station.

However, the initial site identified, directly adjacent to the fire station has been superseded by a planning application for +65 new houses which was granted permission in September 2017.

There are two fields adjacent to this permitted development site that are considered to be the only suitably remaining sites (for a multi-sport, community and recreational facility) in the village of Loggerheads. This is based on factors such as layout and walking distance.

These two sites are therefore proposed for allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan (for a multi-sport, community and recreational facility).

The group concluded that there were no reasonable alternative site options on the basis of accessibility for residents and topography, this is the only location with enough relatively flat land for a community centre and for sports pitches.

### 4.3.2 Determining the village boundaries

Though the neighbourhood plan does not allocate housing or employment sites, it seeks to manage growth through the continued application of policies relating to the village boundary.

A built up area boundary (village envelope) has been defined for Ashley and Loggerheads villages. The proposed approach (identified as part of LPN-G1) is based on previous boundaries from the adopted local plan (Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted in 2003), but with some expansion to allow for growth and to recognise where development has been approved. The boundaries have been set to create a clear and logical boundary, based on physical features and logical defensible boundaries. Other factors that have influenced the setting of the boundaries are as follows:

- Loggerheads is a largely rural area, with high-grade agricultural land. Therefore, development should focus on existing built settlements and not sprawl into the rural area or create connected and uncontrolled ribbon development.

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<sup>7</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

- There is a need for a balanced mix of use in the settlements, to create more sustainable live-work patterns. Focusing growth on the existing centres helps to make them and their community facilities more viable.
- Community facilities and public transport services are focused on the larger settlements, so focusing growth in and around them have less impact through car journey generation and make them more sustainable.
- There is a need to preserve the largely rural character of the area.
- To protect and enhance the character of the villages and the surrounding countryside.

The Plan working group do not consider that there are any reasonable alternatives. Expanding the village envelope further to allow for additional future growth is not considered appropriate for the following reasons:

- The character of the settlements and rural areas could be negatively affected;
- It could lead to more unsustainable forms of development that are less accessible by sustainable modes of travel;
- There could be a loss of agricultural land; and,
- Strategic changes to settlements ought to be dealt with through the new Local Plan. (nb. There is NO green belt in Loggerheads neighbourhood plan area.

## 4.4 Current approach in the Neighbourhood Plan and the development of Neighbourhood Plan policies

The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate new housing or employment provision. Instead it seeks to shape the location of development in the Neighbourhood Plan area by setting village envelopes within which the majority of development should be focused.

This is supported by the introduction of a range of Neighbourhood Plan policies, which have been designed to shape development in the Neighbourhood Plan area and protect features of special local importance. A key policy is the allocation of land for the delivery of a multi-sport and community facility.

To support the implementation of the vision for the Neighbourhood Plan, the current version of the LNP puts forward twelve policies to guide development in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The policies, which were developed following extensive community consultation and evidence gathering, are as follows:

**Table 4.1: Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan draft Policies**

### Plan Policies

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LNP-G1. New Housing Growth

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LNP-G2. Housing Mix

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LNP-P1. Urban Design and Environment

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LNP-P2. Local Character & Heritage

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LNP-P3. Local green space

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LNP-T1. Sustainable Transport

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LNP-S1. Community infrastructure

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LNP-S2. Site allocation for multi-sport and community facility and sports pitch

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LNP-S3. Sports pitches

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LNP-E1. Employment

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LNP-E2. Retail

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LNP-E3. Broadband

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## 5. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?

### 5.1 Introduction

The aim of this chapter is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the Submission Version of the LNPS.

### 5.2 Approach to the appraisal

The appraisal is structured under each of the SEA Objectives that are set out in the SEA Framework.

For each theme 'significant effects' of the current version of the plan on the baseline are predicted and evaluated. Account is taken of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the Regulations.<sup>8</sup> So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. These effect 'characteristics' are described within the assessment as appropriate.

Every effort is made to identify / evaluate effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high level nature of the plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline and the nature of future planning applications. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure all assumptions are explained. In many instances it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.

### 5.3 SEA Objective 1: Biodiversity

Plan policies	Effects
LNP-G1. New Housing Growth	Neutral
LNP-G2. Housing Mix	Neutral
LNP-P1. Urban Design and Environment	Positive
LNP-P2. Local Character & Heritage	Positive
LNP-P3. Local green space	Positive
LNP-T1. Sustainable Transport	Neutral
LNP-S1. Community infrastructure	Neutral
LNP-S2. Site allocation for multi-sport and community facility and sports pitch	Positive
LNP-S3. Sports pitches	Neutral
LNP-E1. Employment	Neutral
LNP-E2. Retail	Neutral
LNP-E3. Broadband	Neutral
Cumulative effects	Positive

The plan does not allocate housing or set a specific target for housing or employment growth. Therefore no direct effects on biodiversity are predicted.

Policy LNP-G1 outlines that housing growth will be directed to within the village envelopes. Though the envelopes have been expanded, this is to take account of existing developments and permitted development. Therefore, the effects on biodiversity are likely to be neutral. Having said this, part of the new village envelope does include areas of woodland. It will be important to ensure that these areas are protected.

<sup>8</sup> *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004*

The majority of plan policies are also unlikely to have a significant effect upon biodiversity as they are related to specific policy areas. For example, the mix of housing is unlikely to affect biodiversity assets, as are policies that seek to protect cultural heritage, support broadband delivery, community infrastructure or retail policy.

Policies LNP-P1 and LNP-P2 are predicted to have a positive effect on biodiversity, as they state that trees and hedgerows ought to be retained. The effects are not predicted to be significant, as existing saved policies (e.g. N14) already provide a degree of protection to such features.

Policy LNP-P1 amendments following the regulation 14 consultation should increase the provision of high quality planting/ landscape design and create a strong green infrastructure buffer at the interface between urban and rural areas. These changes are predicted to have further positive effects for biodiversity; however these benefits are unlikely to be significant.

Policy LNP-P3 could have benefits for biodiversity by helping to retain existing local green space; which has some value for biodiversity. However, these benefits are unlikely to be significant.

Policy LNP-S2 allocates a site for a multi-sports and community facility and sports pitch. The site does not fall within any areas designated for their biodiversity value. However, the amendments to the policy (post Regulation 14 consultation) seek for natural drainage systems to be incorporated into development. This ought to have positive (but not significant) effects on biodiversity by potentially creating new habitats such as reed beds and ponds.

Though the site is within 500m of Burnt Wood SSSI and adjacent to areas of priority habitat (*Ancient Replanted Woodland and Deciduous Woodland*), development is not likely to have a negative effect upon these habitats. In fact, the provision of sports and recreation facilities ought to help reduce recreational pressure on the SSSI. Presuming development is well-designed and provides measures to protect adjacent habitats; then effects during construction are also unlikely to occur.

In light of the factors discussed above, the cumulative effects of the Plan on biodiversity are predicted to be **positive**, but not significant.

## 5.4 SEA Objective 2: Climate change mitigation

Plan policies	Effects
LNP-G1. New Housing Growth	Neutral
LNP-G2. Housing Mix	Neutral
LNP-P1. Urban Design and Environment	Positive
LNP-P2. Local Character & Heritage	Neutral
LNP-P3. Local green space	Neutral
LNP-T1. Sustainable Transport	Positive
LNP-S1. Community infrastructure	Neutral
LNP-S2. Site allocation for multi-sport and community facility and sports pitch	Neutral
LNP-S3. Sports pitches	Neutral
LNP-E1. Employment	Neutral
LNP-E2. Retail	Neutral
LNP-E3. Broadband	Positive
<b>Cumulative effects</b>	<b>Neutral</b>

No housing or employment growth is proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan, and therefore the effects on greenhouse gas emissions are predicted to be insignificant.

Most of the plan policies are unrelated to climate change and unlikely to have an effect in terms of high quality design and sustainable travel. Neutral effects are therefore predicted in the main.

Certain policies could however contribute to an improvement in design quality, including LNP-P1.

Policy LNP-T1 will also support a reduction in emissions from travel by encouraging sustainable travel and electric charging points. This is recorded as a positive effect, but not likely to lead to a significant change in the baseline position.

Policy LNP-E3 could also contribute to a minor reduction in emissions from transport by supporting high speed broadband expansion.

Though there could be some small positive effects with regards to sustainable transport; the overall effects of the plan on climate change mitigation are predicted to be **neutral**.

## 5.5 SEA Objective 3: Climate change resilience

Plan policies	Effects
LNP-G1. New Housing Growth	Neutral
LNP-G2. Housing mix	Neutral
LNP-P1. Urban Design and Environment	Positive
LNP-P2. Local Character & Heritage	Positive
LNP-P3. Local green space	Positive
LNP-T1. Sustainable Transport	Neutral
LNP-S1. Community infrastructure	Neutral
LNP-S2. Site allocation for multi-sport and community facility and sports pitch	Neutral
LNP-S3. Sports pitches	Neutral
LNP-E1. Employment	Neutral
LNP-E2. Retail	Neutral
LNP-E3. Broadband	Neutral
<b>Cumulative effects</b>	<b>Positive</b>

Policies LNP-P1 and LNP-P2 are predicted to have a minor positive effect on climate change resilience, as they state that trees and hedgerows ought to be retained and to provide high quality planting / landscape design, creating a strong green infrastructure buffer. The effects are not predicted to be significant, as existing saved policies (e.g. N14) already provide a degree of protection to such features, and would continue to do so in the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan

Policy LNP-P3 is predicted to have minor positive effects on resilience by helping to maintain local green spaces. This should help to protect green infrastructure, which can have benefits in terms of providing shade. The policy could perhaps be strengthened by encouraging green infrastructure linkages between open spaces.

All the other policies in the plan are predicted to have neutral effects as they are not related to climate change resilience. They are not likely to improve green infrastructure linkages, nor are they likely to affect flood risk or biodiversity resilience.

Overall, on balance the plan is predicted to have a **minor positive effect**.



## 5.6 SEA Objective 4: Built and natural environment

Plan policies	Effects
LNP-G1. New Housing Growth	Positive
LNP-G2. Housing Mix	Neutral
LNP-P1. Urban Design and Environment	Positive
LNP-P2. Local Character & Heritage	Positive
LNP-P3. Local green space	Positive
LNP-T1. Sustainable Transport	Neutral
LNP-S1. Community infrastructure	Neutral
LNP-S2. Site allocation for multi-sport and community facility and sports pitch	Neutral
LNP-S3. Sports pitches	Neutral
LNP-E1. Employment	Neutral
LNP-E2. Retail	Neutral
LNP-E3. Broadband	Neutral
Cumulative effects	Positive (significant)

Policy LNP-G1 sets out village envelopes which identify the areas that growth will broadly be acceptable within. This should help to ensure that the character of the rural areas is maintained and protected, which includes a variety of heritage assets. Though the settlement boundaries have been increased in some areas, this is mainly to cover existing and permitted development. Therefore, the effects are positive, but not expected to be significant.

Policies that seek to encourage high quality and sensitive design (LNP-P1, LNP-P2) are predicted to have positive effects upon the historic environment. Policy LNP-P2 in particular sets out some locally important features that ought to be protected and enhanced through development. This will have a more positive effect upon the setting of heritage assets compared to the current policy position and so a **significant positive effect** is predicted.

Open space contributes to the setting of the built environment in the plan area, and so policy LNP-P3 ought to be beneficial. However, the effects are not predicted to be significant.

Overall, the plan is predicted to have a **significant positive effect** upon the built and natural environment as it sets out several policies that add local context in support of the exiting Local Plan.

Though policy LNP-P3 was deleted following the Regulation 14 consultation, the overall positive effects are still predicted to be significant. Heritage considerations are still considered through policy LNP-P2, and the positive effects associated with the other policies still remain.

## 5.7 SEA Objective 5: Water

Plan policies	Effects
LNP-G1. New Housing Growth	Neutral
LNP-G2. Housing Mix	Neutral
LNP-P1. Urban Design and Environment	Neutral
LNP-P2. Local Character & Heritage	Neutral
LNP-P3. Local green space	Positive
LNP-T1. Sustainable Transport	Neutral
LNP-S1. Community infrastructure	Positive
LNP-S2. Site allocation for multi-sport and community facility and sports pitch	Positive
LNP-S3. Sports pitches	Neutral
LNP-E1. Employment	Neutral
LNP-E2. Retail	Neutral
LNP-E3. Broadband	Neutral
Cumulative effects	Positive

The plan does not specify a level of housing or employment growth, nor does it identify site allocations. Therefore the potential effects on water quality are likely to be minimal.

LNP-S1 has been amended following the Regulation 14 Consultation and now includes reference to the need to ensure that sites will incorporate sustainable / natural drainage. This ought to have additional benefits in terms of protecting water quality and managing flood risk.. However, it is not likely that the development would lead to significant effects upon water quality given the relatively small scale and proposed uses on the site.

Policy LNP-P3 could indirectly contribute to the protection of water quality by aiming to protect green space. However, the effects would be minor due to the limited spatial areas covered and the small contribution to water quality that these local green spaces make.

The overall effects of the plan on water are predicted to be **neutral** on balance. Though the protection of green space ought to have some benefits, these areas are already protected to an extent in the current local plan. The magnitude of effects is also low and unlikely to lead to significant effects on the baseline position.

It was recommended that Policy LNP-S2 could be amended to refer to sustainable/natural drainage systems. Following the Reg 14 Consultation, these changes were made to the policy, which ought to ensure that development at the site is more positive with regards to water quality and drainage. This is an improvement on the neutral effects that were predicted in the previous version of the SA Report.

## 5.8 SEA Objective 6: Housing

Plan policies	Effects
LNP-G1. New Housing Growth	Uncertain
LNP-G2. Housing Mix	Positive
LNP-P1. Urban Design and Environment	Neutral
LNP-P2. Local Character & Heritage	Neutral
LNP-P3. Local green space	Neutral
LNP-T1. Sustainable Transport	Neutral
LNP-S1. Community infrastructure	Neutral
LNP-S2. Site allocation for multi-sport and community facility and sports pitch	Neutral
LNP-S3. Sports pitches	Neutral
LNP-E1. Employment	Neutral
LNP-E2. Retail	Neutral
LNP-E3. Broadband	Neutral
Cumulative effects	Positive / uncertain

The Plan does not set a target for the amount of housing to be delivered. Therefore, effects are unlikely in terms of supporting new homes. However, it is clear from the emerging Local Plan that levels of housing need across the Local Authorities are substantially higher than is planned for in the current Local Plan Core Strategy.

There may therefore be a need to set higher targets for the Loggerheads area. Whilst this would be dealt with through the Local Plan process, the Neighbourhood Plan could have an influence through policy LNP-G1, which seeks to limit the majority of housing to within the identified village envelopes. This could restrict development on greenfield sites outside of the village envelope, but these may be necessary for longer term growth. An **uncertain effect** is predicted at this stage as the Local Plan is in the early stages of development.

Policy LNP-G2 is predicted to have positive effects on housing as it ought to encourage the development of the types of dwellings that are needed in Loggerheads.

The remaining policies are predicted to have neutral effects upon housing. None of the policies are overly restrictive so as to deter housing development, whilst none of the policies would be likely to lead to additional housing growth. Whilst policies that protect the environment and encourage sustainable design and transport can be attractive for residential areas, the effects are considered to be negligible.

Overall, the effects of the Plan on housing are predicted to be **positive**, but not significant. However, there is also **uncertainty** given that new housing targets may need to be set for Loggerheads (through the Local Plan) and established village envelopes could restrict potential locations for growth. Ultimately though, the new Local Plan would provide the overall framework for development.

## 5.9 SEA Objective 7: Health and wellbeing

Plan policies	Effects
LNP-G1. New Housing Growth	Neutral
LNP-G2. Housing Mix	Positive
LNP-P1. Urban Design and Environment	Positive
LNP-P2. Local Character & Heritage	Neutral
LNP-P4. Local green space	Positive
LNP-T1. Sustainable Transport	Positive
LNP-S1. Community infrastructure	Positive
LNP-S2. Site allocation for multi-sport and community facility and sports pitch	Positive Significant
LNP-S3. Sports pitches	Positive
LNP-E1. Employment	Positive
LNP-E2. Retail	Neutral
LNP-E3. Broadband	Neutral
Cumulative effects	Positive Significant

Several of the plan policies are predicted to have positive effects on health and wellbeing. This includes the following elements.

- Supporting the provision for the type of housing that certain members of the community are in need of (LNP-G2),
- The protection and enhancement of local green space and sports pitches (LNP-P3, LNP-S3), which will help to support healthy lifestyles.
- Support for community infrastructure (LNP-S1).
- Support for active modes of travel (LNP-T1).

Together, these policies all contribute to benefits for health and wellbeing for a range of community groups. However, the effects would be fairly minor as the policies are mostly related to protection of existing assets (which are unlikely to be vastly different in the absence of the Plan given that there are protection mechanisms in place in existing, saved Local Plan policies).

Policy LNP-S2 is predicted to have a **significant positive effect** as it will support new facilities into the settlement that ought to benefit the whole community. This should help to improve health over the plan period, as well as supporting greater community engagement activities.

Overall, the plan is predicted to have a significant positive effect on health and wellbeing. This is mainly related to the benefits of a new multi-recreational facility, but also supported by minor benefits from a range of other plan policies.

## 5.10 SEA Objective 8: Travel and transport

Plan policies	Effects
LNP-G1. New Housing Growth	Positive
LNP-G2. Housing Mix	Neutral
LNP-P1. Urban Design and Environment	Neutral
LNP-P2. Local Character & Heritage	Neutral
LNP-P4. Local green space	Neutral
LNP-T1. Sustainable Transport	Positive?
LNP-S1. Community infrastructure	Neutral
LNP-S2. Site allocation for multi-sport and community facility and sports pitch	Positive
LNP-S3. Sports pitches	Neutral
LNP-E1. Employment	Neutral
LNP-E2. Retail	Neutral
LNP-E3. Broadband	Positive
Cumulative effects	Positive

LNP-G1 ought to be beneficial in terms of travel, by seeking to contain development within village envelopes. These areas are more accessible and served by more facilities compared to the more rural areas, and so this approach should help to ensure that new development is located appropriately. The policy is unlikely to have significant effects though, as it would be a continuation of the approach outlined in the Local Plan.

Most other plan policies are likely to have neutral effects, as they do not influence patterns of travel or modes of transport. For example, protection of local heritage and quality design.

Several policies would have minor positive effects, including LNP-T1, which specifically seeks to improve walking and cycling links. The effects in the long term could perhaps be significant, but this is uncertain.

Policies which seek to retain or create local sports and recreation facilities are also likely to have minor benefits in terms of reducing the need to travel further afield to access facilities. Policy LNP-S2 should be particularly beneficial in this regard, as it will help to plug a gap in local service provision.

Policy LNP-E3 is predicted to have minor positive effects as improved broadband at home could help to support and encourage greater home working. However, the magnitude of effects would be very low.

Overall, a **positive effect** is predicted from the Plan as several policies ought to encourage sustainable modes of travel whilst reducing the need to travel to access recreational facilities. However, the effects are not likely to be significant given the relatively small magnitude of effects, and the likely continued reliance on cars to access jobs, and other services.

## 5.11 Conclusions at this current stage

### 5.11.1 Potential significant effects

Biodiversity	Climate change mitigation	Climate change resilience	Built and natural environment	Water	Housing	Health and wellbeing	Travel and transport
Positive	Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive / Uncertain	Positive	Positive

The plan is predicted to have no negative effects. However, establishing a village envelope may restrict development in the longer term, which might be needed in light of emerging evidence on the local plan.

Two **significant positive effects** are identified. The first is for the built and natural environment associated with more locally specific policies that ought to provide greater protection and enhancement compared to the current situation. The second is related to health and wellbeing and mainly attributable to the allocation of a new multi-recreational facility.

The plan is predicted to have mostly minor effects for biodiversity. Though there are sensitive biodiversity habitats in the plan area, the plan includes policies to protect locally important features, which compliments the existing Local Plan approach.

The only allocated development site is the multi-recreational facility, which is unlikely to have significant effects on biodiversity, cultural heritage or water.

The effects of the plan on some environmental factors are limited, and so a neutral effect is predicted for climate change mitigation and resilience and water.

## 5.12 Summary of changes to the SEA findings at Submission Stage

A number of changes have been made to the Plan following the Regulation 14 consultation. The majority of changes are minor and would have no implications for the findings. However, some more substantial changes have been made, which have led to changes to the SEA findings. In some instances, the appraisal findings have changed, whereas in others, the changes are simply factual to reflect changes to policy numberings

- Policy LNP-G1 has been strengthened to provide clarity regarding development that will be permitted outside the proposed village envelope. Infill development or replacement of an existing dwelling is appropriate in principle, provided it does not impact village amenity. This is more positive with respect to SEA objective 6 (Housing), as it may lead to slightly more affordable housing provision. However, the magnitude of effects is low, and so the overall effects are still not predicted to be significant.
- Policy LNP-P1 has been strengthened to include reference to creating strong green infrastructure buffers between development and the surrounding landscape. This is more positive with respects to SEA objectives 1 and 3, though the overall effects are still not predicted to be significant.

- Policies LNP-P2 and LNP-P3 have been merged into one comprehensive policy. This has not led to any significant changes to policy content, and so the effects of the plan remain the same in this respect.
- Previous policy LNP-P4 has become LNP-P3 as a result of the policy merge described above.
- Policy LNP-S2 has been amended to include the incorporation of sustainable/natural drainage systems, which is more positive with respect to SEA objective 5. This has resulted in positive effects to be predicted for Water rather than neutral effects.
- LNP-E3 was amended to include more specific details relating to broadband provision for any allocated sites for residential development. This is positive, but has not led to any significant changes to policy content, and so the effects of the plan remain the same in this respect.

## 5.13 Recommendations

A small number of mitigation measures were identified as the Plan was being prepared in order to reduce any potential negative effects resulting from individual policies.

With regards to objective 1, 3 and 7 it was recommended that LNP-P3 could be strengthened by encouraging green infrastructure linkages between open spaces. The group considered it unnecessary to make the suggested changes to policy LNP-P3 because the existing built environment would make this difficult to achieve. However, as an alternative, the group strengthened Policy LNP-P1 to include reference to creating strong green infrastructure buffers between development and the surrounding landscape.

It was recommended that policy LNP-S2 incorporated sustainable/natural drainage systems into the proposed site for multi-sport and community facilities. Following consultation at Regulation 14, changes were made to policy LNP-S2 in response to these recommendations.

No other enhancement measures were identified through the SEA process up to Regulation 14 stage, and no further recommendations are made at this stage (given that the plan has been finalised for submission).

## 5.14 Monitoring

There is a requirement to present measures that could be used to monitor the effects of the Plan identified through the SEA. It is particularly important to monitor effects that are predicted to be significant, whether this be positive or negative. Monitoring helps to track whether the effects turn-out as expected, and to identify any unexpected effects.

Two significant effects have been predicted in the SEA. Whilst these are both positive, it is still important to monitor whether the effects that occur in reality are as positive as expected. Potentially suitable indicators are identified below for each of the significant effects.

Significant effects	Monitoring measures
Overall, the plan is predicted to have a <b>significant positive effect</b> upon the built and natural environment as it sets out several policies that add local context in support of the exiting Local Plan.	<p>Character appraisals of local settlements</p> <p>Development approved in accordance with policy advice</p>

Overall, the plan is predicted to have a <b>significant positive effect</b> on health and wellbeing. This is mainly related to the benefits of a new multi-recreational facility, but also supported by minor benefits from a range of other plan policies.	<p>Progress on the development of a multi recreational facility</p> <p>Number of users of recreational facilities</p>
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At this stage, the monitoring measures are not 'decided'; rather they are suggested as potentially suitable indicators.

## 6. What are the next steps?

Following consultation on the Regulation 14 version of the LNP, the draft Plan has been updated to reflect comments received. The Environmental Report has been updated to reflect the changes made to the Plan.

The LNP will now be submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Newcastle under Lyme, for its consideration with the updated Environmental Report. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council will consider whether the plan is suitable to go forward to Independent Examination in terms of the LNP meeting legal requirements and its compatibility with the Local Plan.

Subject to Newcastle-under-Lyme Council's checking that the plan meets the basic conditions, the LNP will then be subject to independent examination. The Examiner will consider whether the plan is appropriate having regard to national policy and whether it is in general conformity with the Newcastle under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Strategy (and is mindful of the emerging new Local Plan).

The Examiner will be able to recommend that the LNP is put forward for a referendum, or that it should be modified or that the proposal should not proceed to a referendum. Newcastle-under-Lyme Council will then decide what should be done in light of the Examiner's report. Where the report recommends modifications to the Plan, the Council will invite the LNP Steering Group to make modifications to the plan, which will be reflected in an updated Environmental Report. Where the Examiner's Report recommends that the proposal should not proceed, Newcastle-under-Lyme will need to work closely with Loggerheads NP Steering Group to take appropriate action.

Should the plan be found to meet basic legal requirements, the LNP will then be subject to a referendum, organised by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the plan, then it will become part of the Development Plan for Newcastle under Lyme.



## Appendix A - Scoping Report

*Loggerheads  
Neighbourhood Plan:  
Strategic Environmental  
Assessment*

*Scoping Report*

*July 2017*

## Quality information

Document name	Prepared for	Prepared by	Date	Reviewed by
SEA Scoping Report for the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan	Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	Abi Rhodes Graduate Planner	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	Ian McCluskey Principal Consultant

## Revision history

Revision	Revision date	Details	Name	Position
V1.0	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Draft for internal review	Abi Rhodes	Graduate Planner
V1.1	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Draft for client comment	Ian McCluskey	Principal Consultant
V1.2	20 <sup>th</sup> August	Updated report for internal review	Abi Rhodes	Graduate Planner
V1.3	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	Final report	Ian McCluskey	Principal Consultant

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## Acronyms

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
DPD	Development Plan Document
EU	European Union
GhG	Greenhouse gas emissions
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
NEWP	Natural Environment White Paper
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Policy Guidance
NVZ	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPZ	Groundwater Source Protection Zone
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable drainage systems
UKCP	UK Climate Projections
WFD	Water Framework Directive

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

The Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act (2012). The Neighbourhood Plan, which covers Loggerheads Parish in Newcastle-under-Lyme is being prepared in the context of the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy 2006-2026 and the saved policies of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan 2011. It is anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council in late 2017.



Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council has determined that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) needs to be undertaken for the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan. As a result, the Neighbourhood Plan steering group has sought technical support, which is available through Locality (in collaboration with AECOM) to help qualifying Neighbourhood Groups to prepare a sound Neighbourhood Plan. Undertaking SEA is one of the support packages offered by Locality and delivered by AECOM.

This document is a scoping report, which represents outputs from the early stages of SEA that have been undertaken alongside the emerging Plan.

Key information relating to the Neighbourhood Plan is presented in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1:** Key facts relating to the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan

<b>Name of Responsible Authority</b>	Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
<b>Title of Plan</b>	Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan
<b>Purpose</b>	The Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in conformity with the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke on Trent Core Spatial Strategy 2006-2026 and the saved policies of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan 2011.
<b>Timescale</b>	To 2033
<b>Area covered by the plan</b>	Loggerheads Parish, which includes the wards of Ashley, Loggerheads, Mucklestone and Tyrley. (As shown in Figure 1.1)
<b>Summary of content</b>	The Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the plan area.
<b>Plan contact point</b>	Karen Watkins Email address: loggerheadspc@btconnect.com

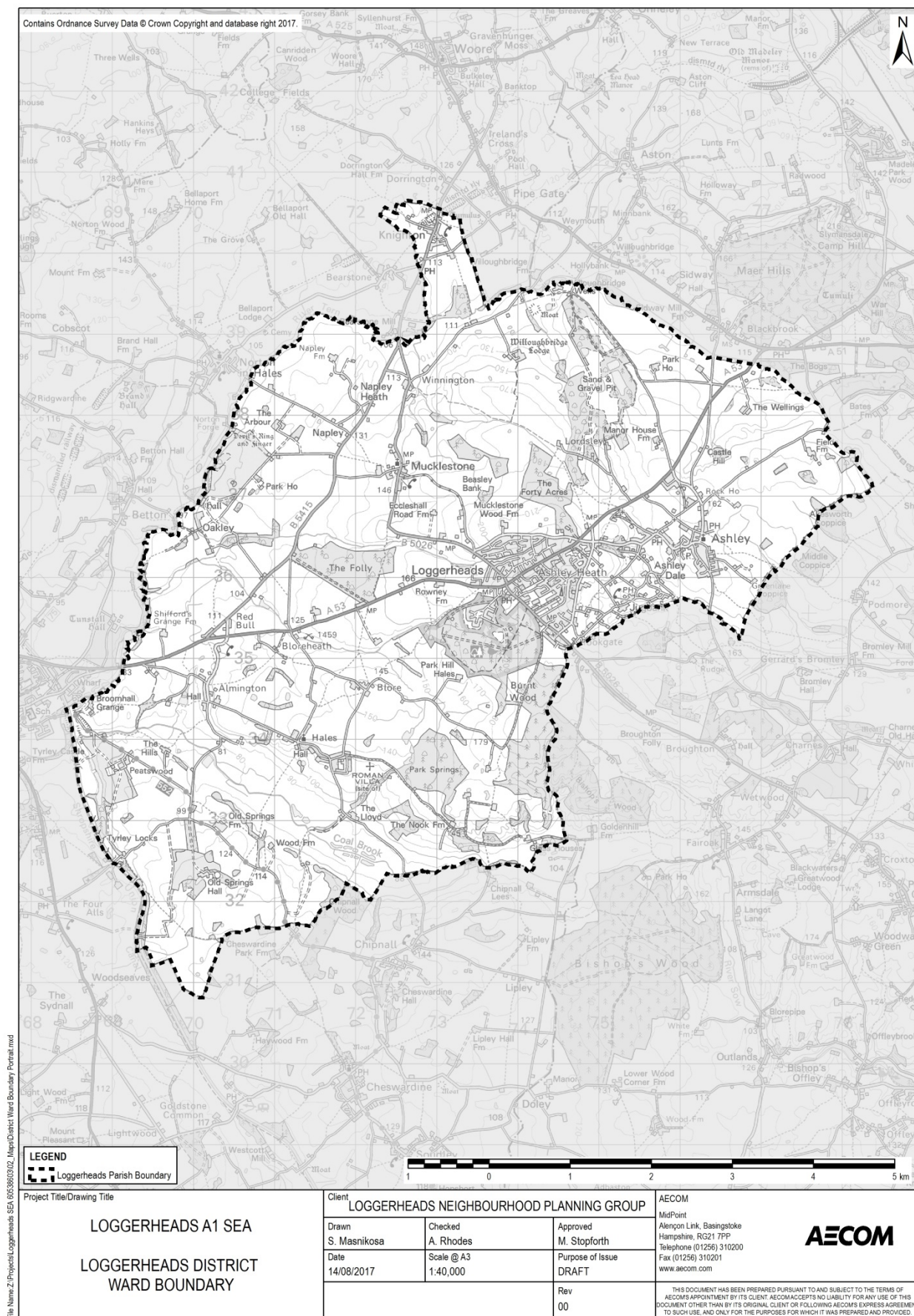


Figure 1.1: The Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan Area

## 1.2 Relationship of the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan with the joint Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke on Trent Core Strategy and the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan 2011

Due to the Neighbourhood Plan area's location within Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough, this Plan is being prepared in the context of the existing development plan for the borough.<sup>1</sup>

The joint Newcastle under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy was adopted in October 2009 and classifies Loggerheads as a Rural Service Centre with a good range of local services. In the key Rural Service Centres, the Core Spatial Strategy includes a housing requirement of 900 dwellings primarily located on brownfield sites within village envelopes. This is designed to meet identified local requirements – in particular, the need for affordable housing. However, no targets or allocations are specifically included for the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Neighbourhood plans are required to be in conformity with the Core Spatial Strategy and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Core Spatial Strategy to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in the Neighbourhood Plan area, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.

## 1.3 SEA Explained

The Neighbourhood Plan has been screened in by Newcastle-under-Lyme Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group as requiring a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the effects of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative effects and recommending enhancements.

SEA is undertaken to address the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive<sup>2</sup>. The Plan has been determined to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. To meet this requirement, the Plan is undergoing an SEA process which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.

Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Directive are that:

- 1) A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan that presents an appraisal of the Draft Plan (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives; and
- 2) When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the Environmental Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues.

This 'Scoping Report' is concerned with (2) above. It presents a suggested scope for the SEA so that the nationally designated authorities (which, in England, are Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) can provide timely comment.

<sup>1</sup> Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke on Trent Joint Core Strategy (June 2014) [https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IMCE/Planning/Planning\\_Policy/SpatialStrategy/Core%20Strategy%20Final%20Version%20-%2028th%20October.pdf](https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IMCE/Planning/Planning_Policy/SpatialStrategy/Core%20Strategy%20Final%20Version%20-%2028th%20October.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC



## 1.4 SEA 'scoping' explained

Establishing the scope of the SEA presented in this report has involved the following steps:

- 1) Exploring the environmental context for the SEA, i.e. reviewing high level messages (e.g. from government departments and agencies in particular) with a view to gaining an understanding of broadly what the SEA needs to focus on.
- 2) Establishing the baseline for the SEA, i.e. the current and projected baseline in the area in the absence of the Plan, in order to help identify the plan's likely significant effects.
- 3) Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the SEA (and those which should not)
- 4) Developing a SEA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions on the basis of these issues which can then be used to appraise the draft plan.

## 1.5 Structure of this report

The outcomes of the scoping exercise (introduced through steps 1–4 above) have been presented under a series of broad environmental themes, as follows:

- Air quality
- Biodiversity
- Climatic factors (including flood risk)
- Historic environment and landscape
- Land, soil and water resources
- Population and community
- Health and wellbeing
- Transportation

The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive<sup>3</sup>. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects (drawing from the screening opinion and local knowledge).

It is intended that presentation of the scoping information under these SEA topics will enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them.

Each SEA topic is given a chapter in this report (Chapters 2 to 9) setting out the following:

- The policy context
- Baseline summary
- Key headline issues
- Scoping outcome

To demonstrate a clear trail of how the SEA objectives have been identified each SEA topic Chapter (which is scoped into the SEA) concludes with suggested objectives and supporting criteria for inclusion in the SEA Framework.

Chapter 10 then sets out the proposed SEA Appraisal Framework, which draws upon the key issues identified within Chapters 2-9.

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<sup>3</sup> The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on 'the environment, **including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors**' [our emphasis]

## 2 Air Quality

### Focus of theme:

- Sources of air pollution
- Air quality hotspots

### 2.1 Policy context

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- 'Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan'.
- New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.

In terms of the local context, Newcastle-Under-Lyme Council is required to monitor air quality across the West Midlands, report regularly to Defra and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and local authorities are required to produce an Action Plan to improve air quality in the area.

NB: Noise pollution has been considered under the Health and Wellbeing theme (**Chapter 8**).

### 2.2 Baseline summary

#### Summary of current baseline

The 2016 Newcastle-Under-Lyme Air Quality Annual Status Report confirms that there are four air quality management areas (AQMAs) in the borough. This includes Little Madeley, Newcastle-under-Lyme Town Centre, Kidsgrove and May Bank. All of these are located outside of the Neighbourhood Plan area and are not directly influenced by local traffic flows within Loggerheads. Within Loggerheads itself, air quality is generally good, with no significant issues and no locations in the Neighbourhood Plan area are at risk of exceedances of national standards for air quality.

#### Summary of future baseline

Whilst no significant air quality issues currently exist locally, new housing provision in the Neighbourhood Area has the potential to create adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide.

Areas of particular sensitivity to increased traffic flows are likely to be around the village envelope of Loggerheads as this is the focus for services, facilities and homes. There are a number of permitted developments in the area that could increase the amount of traffic. However, it is presumed that modelling was undertaken in support of these developments that concluded the impacts on air quality were insignificant.

Any increases in traffic may also be offset in part by factors such as measures implemented through the emerging Integrated Transport Plan to encourage modal shift from the private car and the improved fuel economy and efficiency of vehicles.

## 2.3 Key headline issues

- Air quality is not a particular issue in the Plan area and is unlikely to be significantly affected by the Plan.
- There is likely to be a continued reliance on the car to access services, jobs and facilities.

## 2.4 Scoping outcome

The Neighborhood Plan is unlikely to generate significantly more trips by car than would be the case in the absence of the Plan. The likely level of housing development is consistent with that set out in the Core Spatial Strategy, and no employment sites are being promoted through the Neighborhood Plan. Therefore, the potential to generate increased particulates and nitrogen dioxide from car travel is limited.

Combined with the absence of general or point specific air quality issues in the Plan area or adjoining parishes, air quality has been **SCOPED OUT** of this SEA. This means that the plan will not be assessed for its performance against air quality objectives (given that no significant effects or opportunities are expected to arise through the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan).

# 3 Biodiversity

## Focus of theme:

- Nature conservation designations
- Habitats and species
- Geodiversity

## 3.1 Policy context

At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy<sup>4</sup> was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to '*halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020*'.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the 'preservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. 'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities').
- Plan positively planning for 'green infrastructure' as part of planning for 'ecological networks'.
- High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)<sup>5</sup> sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:

- Halt biodiversity loss, support functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020;

<sup>4</sup> European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1\\_EN\\_ACT\\_part1\\_v7%5b1%5d.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

- Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting to be tested in pilot areas;
- Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and
- Address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth.

#### The Newcastle-Under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy

Policy CSP4 – Natural Assets seeks to protect, maintain and enhance the quality and quantity of the plan area's natural assets through the following measures:

- Working with relevant partners to enhance the plan area's natural habitats and biodiversity to achieve the outcomes and targets set out UK Biodiversity Action Plan, the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan and the Staffordshire Geodiversity Action Plan;
- Working with relevant partners to achieve significant improvements to the condition of the plan area's internationally designated Ramsar sites, nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), locally designated Sites of Biological Importance (SBI) and Local Wildlife Sites, Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) and Local Nature Reserves;
- Ensuring that the location, scale and nature of all development planned and delivered through this Core Spatial Strategy avoids and mitigates adverse impacts, and wherever possible enhances, the plan area's distinctive natural assets, landscape character, waterways, network of urban green corridors and priority species and habitats identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan;
- Ensuring that the value of previously developed land as a source of biodiversity is recognised and appropriate measures are taken to reduce the negative impact of development upon this resource and wherever possible to achieve an enhancement.
- Development that is likely to contribute additional nutrients to Black Firs and Cranberry Bog will not be permitted.

#### The Newcastle-Under-Lyme Biodiversity opportunity Mapping Report (2014)

A report was commissioned by Natural England as part of a wider programme of landscape scale conservation efforts within Staffordshire. This report highlights where priority habitats could be enhanced, restored or created in the borough as a basis from which to develop relevant policies and targets<sup>6</sup>. The report shows 8 biodiversity zones across the borough.

## 3.2 Baseline summary

### Summary of current baseline

#### Natura 2000 and international environmental Sites

Parts of the Midland Meres & Mosses Phase 2 RAMSAR site are located approximately 8km south east of the Neighbourhood Area and 12km north of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

The closest Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to the Neighbourhood Plan area as follows:

<sup>6</sup> Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (2014) [online] available at: [https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IMCE/Planning/Planning\\_Policy/Monitoring/Biodiversity\\_Opportunity\\_Report\\_Newcastle\\_2014\\_Final.pdf](https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IMCE/Planning/Planning_Policy/Monitoring/Biodiversity_Opportunity_Report_Newcastle_2014_Final.pdf)

1. The West Midlands Moss SAC that is located to the north (approximately 12km)
2. The South Pennine Moors and Peak District Dales SACs are located c.33km to the north east of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
3. The West Midland Moss and Cannock Chase SACs are located c.26km to the south east of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
4. The Brown Moss SAC is located c.14km west (approximately 14km) of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

The Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough has five SSSIs, including one grouping within the Neighbourhood Plan area (Figure 2.1) at Burnt Wood and within close proximity to the village of Loggerheads.

The Burnt Wood SSSI is divided into four segments across an ancient woodland site. Each designation is located within a radius of 2km, to the south of Loggerheads. The condition of the SSSI was mainly recorded as being in an 'unfavourable - no change' condition in March 2015<sup>7</sup> and having elevated vulnerability to the effects of unmanaged public access.

The northern segment of the SSSI is located adjacent to Kestrel Drive in the village, as well the sports ground.

The Maer Pool SSSI lies approximately 1.1km to the north east of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

### **SSSI Impact Risk Zones**

SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is designated. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs. The Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan area is within the SSSI Impact Risk Zone for the Burnt Wood and Maer Pool SSSI.

The Impact Risk Zone for the Burnt Wood SSSI relating to residential development of 50 units or more and any residential development of ten or more houses outside existing settlement/urban areas covers the southern part of Loggerheads village.

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<sup>7</sup> Natural England Designated site View (2017) Condition of SSSI Units for Site Burnt Wood SSSI [online] available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1004454&ReportTitle=Burnt Wood SSSI>



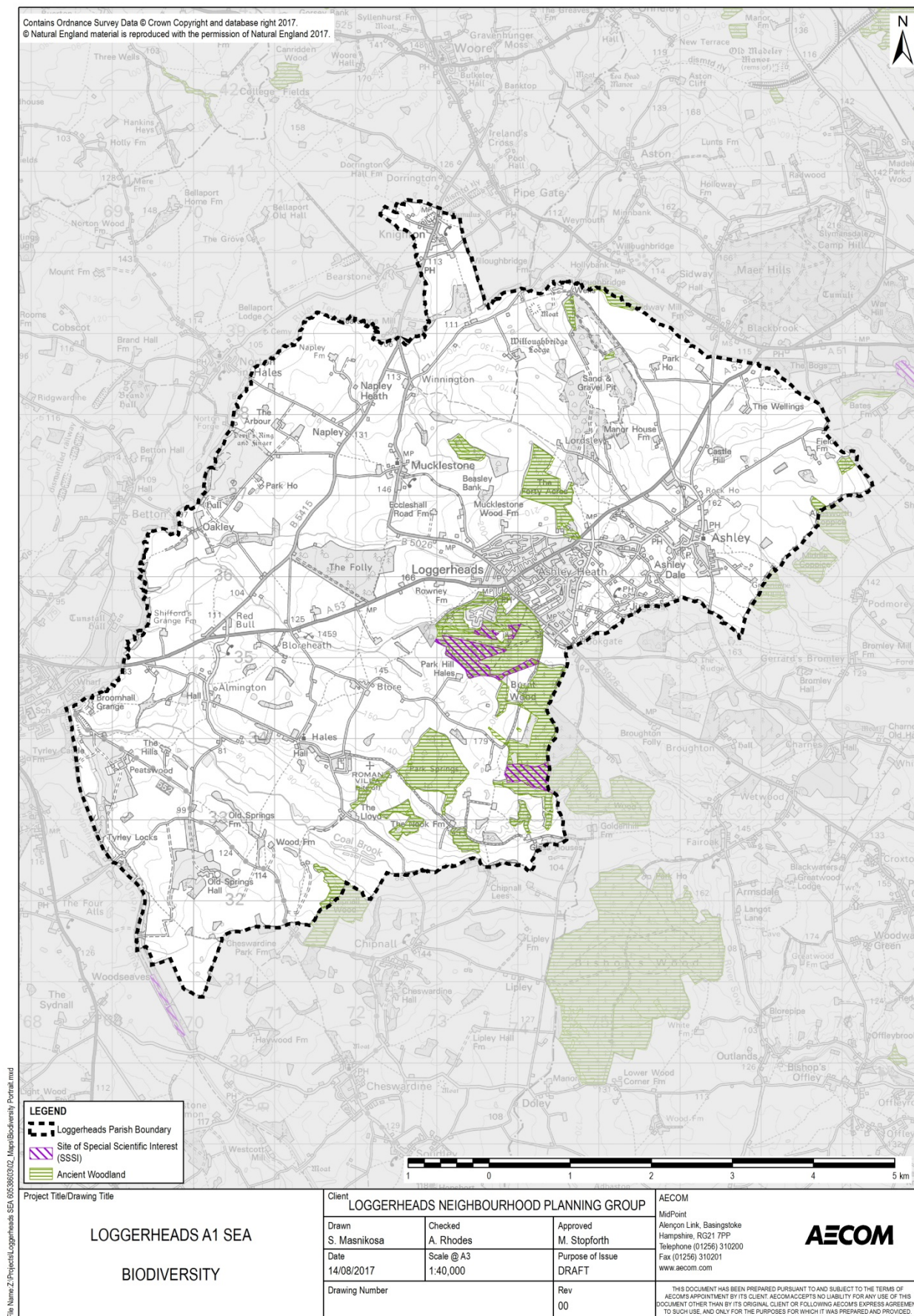


Figure 3.1: Map of Loggerheads Biodiversity Designations

## Ancient Woodland

There are eleven areas of ancient woodland within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The closest ancient woodland to Loggerheads village is Burnt Wood.

## Protected Species

There are likely to be numerous protected species present in the Neighbourhood Plan area, including those that have European protection, species on the NERC Act (2006) Section 41, and those listed through the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). These include numerous species of bat, butterflies, moths, amphibians and birds; including prominent species such as the Common Dormouse, Greater Horseshoe Bat, Pipistrelle and Peregrine.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council commissioned Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to undertake an ecological study of potential strategic development sites: Phase 1 Survey, (2013). This involved an assessment of the sites that are proposed to be allocated or included in the amended village envelope boundaries of the Neighbourhood Plan. According to the Phase 1 Survey, a number of species are present within the Loggerheads area. Key details are provided below:

- Hazel Dormouse: Staffordshire's only population of this species is found in Loggerheads. They usually require woodland/scrub habitat, with a wide range of seeds and flowers as a food source. They use above ground routes along branches and creepers.
- The Common Bullfinch, Common Cuckoo, Kestrel, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, European Turtle Dove, Green woodpecker, Marsh tit, Lesser redpoll were all recorded as breeding in the immediate area.
- Linnet, Dunnock, Yellowhammer: These species may nest in woodland, but probably also make use of farmland and wetland habitats on site.
- Eurasian Curlew (Common Snipe): Curlew recorded as breeding in the Neighbourhood Plan area, probably in wetland areas.
- Northern Lapwing: This species may be using farmland as well as wetland.
- Sky Lark: This species may be breeding on the grassland.

The Phase 1 Survey also identified other species (Redwing Fieldfare, Bluebell, Reed Bunting, etc.) that may be affected by the potential development in the Neighbourhood Plan area, but it indicated that the potential effects on these could be mitigated by good design practices.

## Summary of future baseline

Habitats and species will possibly face increasing pressures from future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with the potential for negative impacts on the wider ecological network. This may include a loss of habitats and impacts on biodiversity networks, which may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats. Benefits for biodiversity have the potential to arise from the increasing integration of biodiversity considerations within decision making.



### 3.3 Key headline issues

- There are no European designated sites located within the Neighbourhood Plan area and the closest is located approximately 7km from the edge of the area. The Neighbourhood Plan is not expected to have any potential impact on international designated assets due to their distance from the neighbourhood area and lack of receptor pathways.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains several SSSI units which are vulnerable to unmanaged public access.
- Numerous Protected Species are present in the Neighbourhood Plan area and could be affected by new development.
- Features of biodiversity value such as trees, hedgerows, waterways and meadows should be protected from the impacts of future development and where possible enhanced. Their integrity should also be supported through improved ecological connections in the area, including through the provision of green infrastructure enhancements.

### 3.4 Scoping outcome

The SEA topic 'Biodiversity has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. Although significant effects are not anticipated due to proposed level of housing, there is potential for localised effects at sites identified for development. It will be important to ensure that species do not rely upon or make use of habitats outside of designated habitat areas. There may also be opportunities to enhance ecological networks through mitigation measures on these sites.

### 3.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Biodiversity SEA theme?

The SEA topic 'biodiversity' has been scoped in to the SEA. **Table 3.1** presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the Neighbourhood Plan in relation to this theme.

**Table 3.1:** SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Biodiversity

SEA objective	Supporting questions
Protect and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support connections between habitats in the Neighbourhood Plan area?</li> <li>• Support continued improvements to the designated sites in the Neighbourhood Plan area?</li> <li>• Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</li> <li>• Support access to interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</li> <li>• Better manage public access to SSSIs?</li> </ul>

## 4 Climatic Factors

### Focus of theme:

- Greenhouse gas emissions by source
- Greenhouse gas emissions trends
- Effects of climate change
- Climate change adaptation
- Flood risk

### 4.1 Policy context

In its 2007 strategy on climate change, the European Commission assesses the costs and benefits of combating climate change and recommends a package of measures to limit global warming to 2° Celsius.<sup>8</sup> In relation to energy, the Commission recommends that the EU's energy efficiency improves by 20% and the share of renewable energy grows to 20% by 2020.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
- There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gases (GhG), including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008<sup>9</sup>. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
  - planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GhG emissions;
  - actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
  - setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy;
  - positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
  - encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion.
- Direct development away from areas highest at risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

<sup>8</sup> Commission of the European Communities (2007) Limiting Global Climate Change to two degrees Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond [online] available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0002:FIN:EN:PDF>

<sup>9</sup> The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

The Flood and Water Management Act<sup>10</sup> highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings)
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)<sup>11</sup>

Further guidance is provided in the document Planning for SuDS<sup>12</sup>. This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.

Staffordshire County Council is the lead local flood authority (LLFA) for the county as defined by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Under this role, it is the Council's responsibility to assist in the management of flood risk from local sources such as surface water, ordinary watercourses, groundwater, canals, lakes and small reservoirs. As a result, the Council has produced a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2015) to outline how they will manage flood risk within local areas.

#### Newcastle-under-Lyme Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Strategy 2011-2016 (2010)

The main purposes of this strategy are to find ways of minimising the potentially adverse climatic effects of everyday activities within the borough and to reduce the Borough Council's energy consumption. Amongst the key objectives of the strategy is the use planning and building control powers to ensure energy efficiency and climate change adaptation measures are included within the development of land and buildings.

## 4.2 Baseline summary

### Summary of current baseline

#### Potential effects of climate change

The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team<sup>13</sup>. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

<sup>10</sup> Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

<sup>11</sup> N.B. The provisions of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will come into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDS.

<sup>12</sup> N.B. The provisions of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will come into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDS.

<sup>13</sup> The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>

As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the West Midlands by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario<sup>14</sup> are likely to be as follows:

- the central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.1°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.6 °C; and
- the central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 13% and summer mean precipitation is -17%.

Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Area. These include:

- increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
- increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
- increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
- increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
- increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
- effects on water resources from climate change;
- reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
- adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
- changes in insurance provisions for flood damage;
- a need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- a need to upgrade flood defences;
- soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
- changes to global supply chain;
- increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage due to higher temperatures;
- an increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for business;
- increased demand for air-conditioning;
- increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- flooding of roads.

## Flood risk

There is a small section, cutting through the south western edge of the neighbourhood plan area that lies within a low/medium risk of flooding from rivers and sea.

<sup>14</sup> UK Climate Projections (2009) West Midlands 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23767?emission=medium>



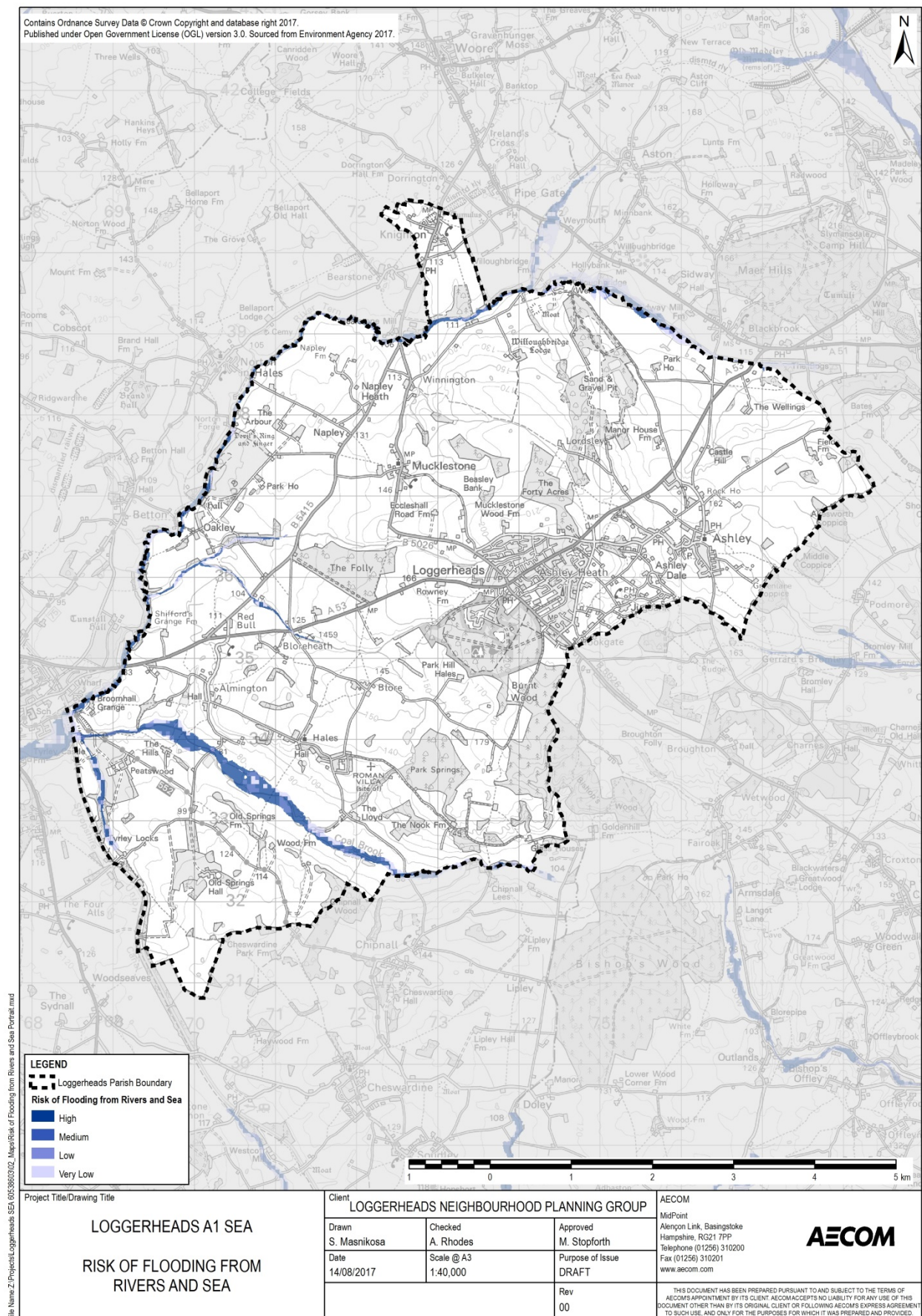


Figure 4.1: Fluvial flood risk in Loggerheads

## Greenhouse gas emissions

In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that Newcastle-under-Lyme has had marginally higher emissions than the regional average in the West Midlands since 2006. Overall, between 2006 to 2014, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough has seen a reduction of 23% total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The West Midlands has seen a 21% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the same period. Figure 4.2 presents these trends.

**Figure 4.2 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates - Total (kilotonnes) (from 2006 to 2014) for Newcastle-under-Lyme & All local authority districts in West Midlands<sup>15</sup>**

Total CO <sub>2</sub> emissions				
Period	kilotonnes			
	Newcastle -under- Lyme	Minimum for All local authority districts in West Midlands	Mean for All local authority districts in West Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in West Midlands
2006	1,054	445	1,045	2,283
2007	1,042	422	1,038	2,511
2008	1,014	409	994	2,267
2009	918	365	912	2,131
2010	943	382	942	2,134
2011	887	348	887	2,118
2012	908	371	901	1,957
2013	899	363	891	1,983
2014	810	332	830	1,933

## Summary of future baseline

Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including fluvial flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.

In terms of climate change mitigation, per capita emissions are assumed likely to continue to decrease as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies become more widely adopted. However increases in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan Area may lead to increases in overall emissions.

<sup>15</sup> Local Government Association (2016) Newcastle-under-Lyme Carbon Dioxide Emissions [online] available at: [http://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lqastandard?mod-metric=440&mod-period=9&mod-area=E07000192&mod-group=AllDistrictInRegion\\_WestMidlands&modify-report=Apply](http://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lqastandard?mod-metric=440&mod-period=9&mod-area=E07000192&mod-group=AllDistrictInRegion_WestMidlands&modify-report=Apply)

## 4.3 Key headline issues

- The built up parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area falls entirely within Flood Zone 1, and so development is unlikely to be affected by fluvial flood risk.
- Newcastle-Under-Lyme has higher CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than the rest of the districts in the West Midlands until 2014.

## 4.4 Scoping outcome

The SEA Topic 'Climatic Factors' has been **SCOPED-IN** to the SEA as climate change is an important national and local priority. Although the influence of the Neighbourhood Plan may be limited in some respects, there is the potential to explore how resilience to climate change can be enhanced as well as contributing towards climate change mitigation.

## 4.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Climatic Factors SEA theme?

The SEA topic 'climatic factors' has been 'scoped-in' to this SEA and will therefore be a focus of the appraisal framework. **Table 4.1** presents the SEA objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan in relation to this theme. The questions are focused on those issues that the Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to influence. Certain issues will be dealt with by the Core Strategy and / or is out of the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is therefore not appropriate to include appraisal criteria that cover these elements.

SEA objective	Supporting questions
Contribute to climate change mitigation	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote high quality design?</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</li> <li>• Reduce the need to travel?</li> </ul>
Support the resilience of Loggerheads to the potential effects of climate change	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area?</li> <li>• Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change?</li> </ul>

**Table 4.1** SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Climatic Factors

## 5 Landscape and Historic Environment

### Focus of theme:

- Landscape and townscape character
- Designated and non-designated sites, areas and features
- The setting of heritage assets
- Archaeological features

### 5.1 Policy context

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
- Heritage assets should be recognised as an 'irreplaceable resource' that should be conserved in a 'manner appropriate to their significance', taking account of 'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits' of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Set out a 'positive strategy' for the 'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment', including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- Develop 'robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics'.
- Consider the effects of climate change in the long term, including in terms of landscape. Adopt 'proactive strategies' to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England<sup>16</sup> sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

The joint Core Spatial Strategy Policy CSP2<sup>17</sup> 'Historic Environment' seeks to ensure both councils will preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the historic heritage of the City and the Borough including buildings, monuments, sites and areas of special archaeological, architectural or historic interest.

This policy seeks to ensure that sites and areas of particular heritage value are safeguarded for the future and enhanced both for their own heritage merits and as part of wider heritage regeneration proposals. Conservation areas and building that are statutorily listed have some protection under the Planning Acts and National Planning Policy guidance to ensure preservation. However, sites and areas of heritage importance, including buildings in a local list, are not so protected and the design guidance to be set out through the Design Supplementary Planning

<sup>16</sup> HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/publications/6763.aspx](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx)

<sup>17</sup> Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy (2009) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: [https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IMCE/Planning/Planning\\_Policy/SpatialStrategy/Core%20Strategy%20Final%20Version%20-%2028th%20October.pdf](https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IMCE/Planning/Planning_Policy/SpatialStrategy/Core%20Strategy%20Final%20Version%20-%2028th%20October.pdf)



Document will seek to preserve their local architectural or historic interest through the Development Control process.

This policy will be implemented in the following ways:

- Through the application of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Conservation and Heritage Guidance Supplementary Planning Document.
- Through the production of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.
- Through the up to date record of historic assets and a list of locally listed buildings for each respective local authority area
- Each Council will make financial provision to help conserve its historic heritage through an annual allocation to its Conservation and Heritage Fund for grants to repair and restore historic buildings.
- The compilation and maintenance of a “Buildings at Risk” Register, which will highlight priorities for action for buildings of special architectural or historic interest or unlisted buildings in a conservation area. Where such buildings are at risk each Council will seek to help owners to use and maintain their property through a combination of advice, grant assistance and, if necessary, take action to ensure repairs/urgent works are undertaken under Section 48.

## 5.2 Baseline summary

### Summary of current baseline

#### Historic Environment

##### Conservation areas

Within the Neighbourhood Plan area there are two designated conservation areas: Muccklestone village, located to the north west of Loggerheads village, and part of the Shropshire Union Canal, which forms the far south western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

The nearest conservation area outside the Neighbourhood Plan area is Maer village, which is approximately 1km to the east of the parish. A large part of this has been categorised as a Grade II Registered Park and Garden.

##### Landscape character

The Planning for Landscape Change Supplementary Planning Document (adopted 2000) aims to ensure that landscape factors are adequately taken into consideration during the plan making and decision making processes; in order to protect and enhance the landscape across Staffordshire. This categorises the landscape areas that need to be conserved, enhanced, maintained, regenerated or restored (Figure 5.2). Character areas include:

- Landscape areas to the south of the neighbourhood area generally need to be conserved. (including a small area to eastern of Loggerheads up to Ashley)
- Landscape areas on the western corner of loggerheads need to be restored.
- Landscape areas to the north and east of Ashley need to be maintained.
- Areas of landscape enhancement form the north east boundary of the area.

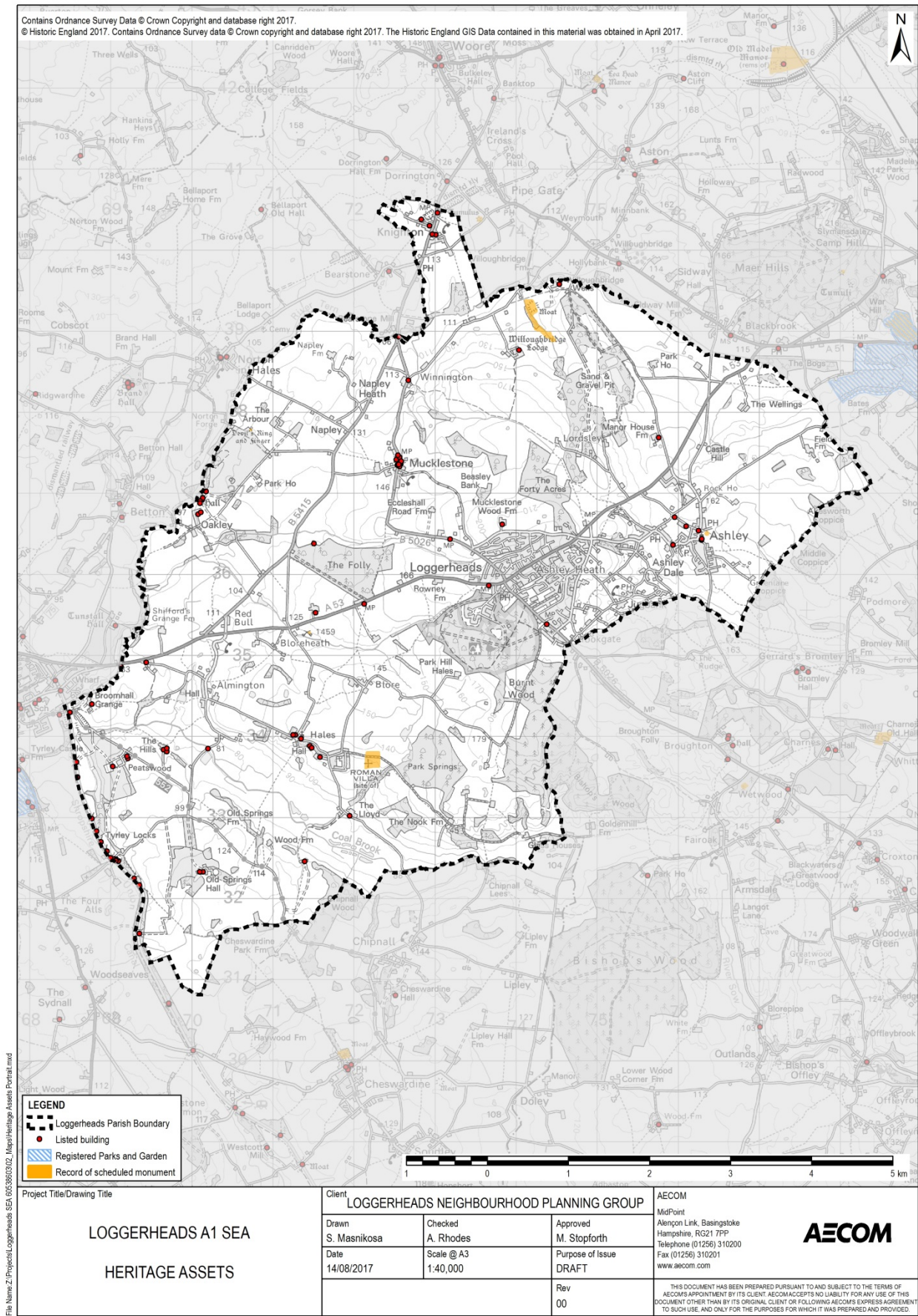
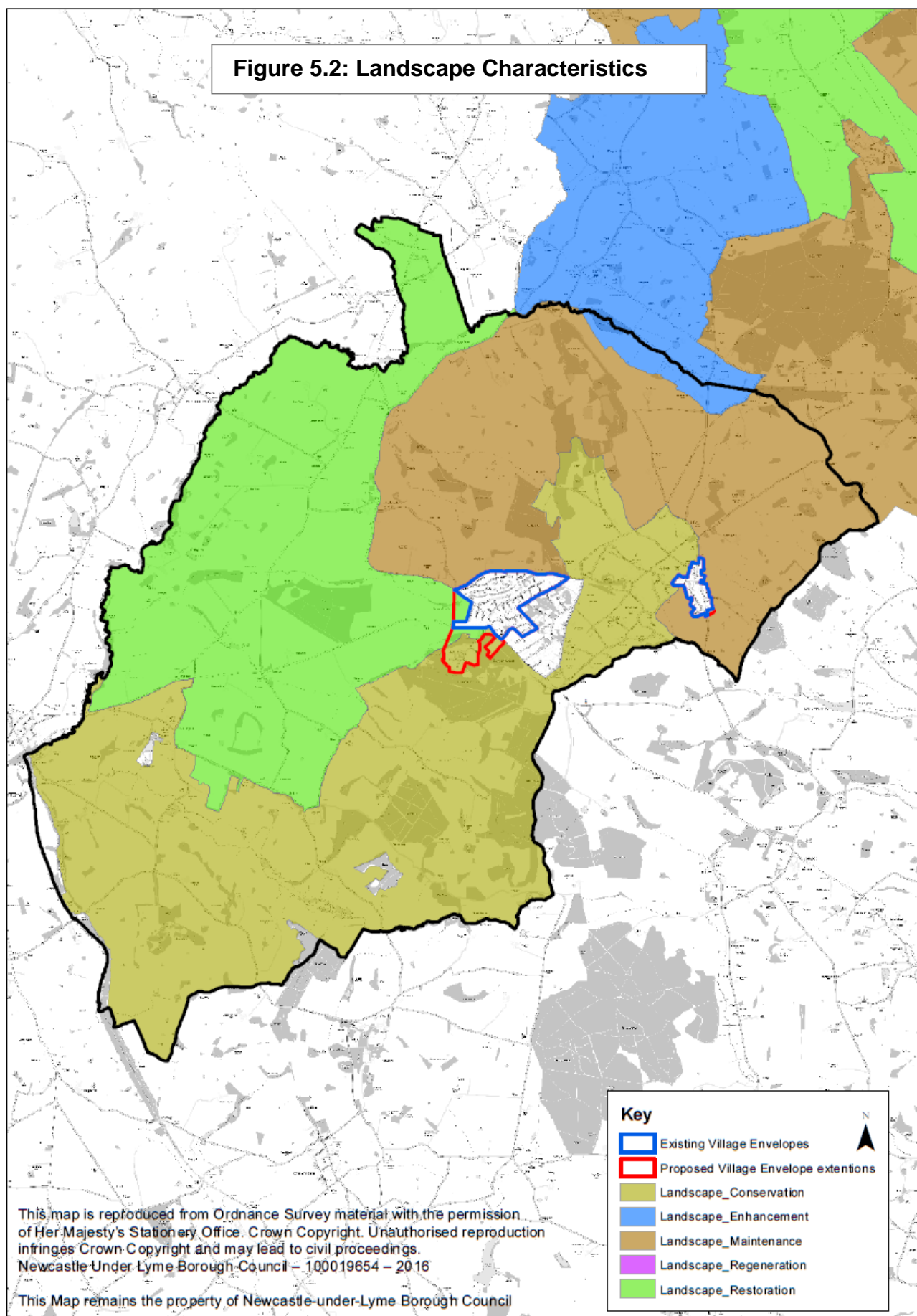


Figure 5.1: Map of designated heritage assets in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area



**Figure 5.2:** Loggerheads landscape characteristics



## Scheduled monuments

There are two scheduled monuments located within the Neighbourhood Plan area (Figure 5.1). The Hales Roman Villa scheduled monument is located to the south east (approximately 1.5KM) of Loggerheads village, near Hales Hall (Hamlet). Also there is a scheduled monument (.i.e. Moated site, four ponds/bays and associated enclosure at Willoughbridge Park) located in the northern part of the area.

There are two other scheduled monuments located outside the Neighbourhood Plan area (approximately 1.5km and 3km) to the north east. There is also an ancient battle site at Blore Heath.

## Listed buildings

There are 76 Grade II Listed Buildings scattered throughout the Neighbourhood Plan area.

There are four Grade II\* Listed buildings located within the area, which includes Willoughbridge Lodge (located to the north east of Muckleston), Oakley Hall, Pair of Sphinxes Framing East Entrance (west of Muckleston), Church of St Mary (Muckleston) and Church of St John (Ashley). These Grade II\* structures are located respectively approximately 2.2km north, 3km north west, 1.5 km west and 1.3km to the north west of Loggerheads. In this context there are likely to be limited views or inter-visibility between Loggerheads and the Grade II\* Listed buildings.

**Table 5.1** below shows the number of listed buildings and scheduled monuments in Loggerheads Parish.

*Table 5.1 Heritage Assets in Loggerheads<sup>18</sup>*

Number of Listed Buildings	
Grade I	0
Grade II*	4
Grade II	72
Total	76
Number of Scheduled Monuments	2

## Summary of future baseline

New development in Loggerheads has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and visual impact. However, new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset, and in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area there is opportunity for new development to enhance the historic setting of the village and better reveal assets' cultural heritage significance.

Existing historic environment designations will support a level of protection for key features and areas of historic environment interest in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

<sup>18</sup> Historic England Heritage Counts (2015) [online] available from: <http://hc.historicengland.org.uk/local-authority-profiles/>

## 5.3 Key headline issues

- There are 76 Listed Buildings and structures within the Neighbourhood Plan area and two scheduled monuments.
- Whilst there are no landscapes designated nationally for their sensitivity or importance, landscape has been characterised locally, with a focus on 'conservation' and 'enhancement' at identified development sites.

## 5.4 Scoping Outcome

Landscape and the historic environment has been scoped in to the SEA. Areas identified for development are partly covered by committed development, and heritage impacts are not considered to be significant. However, further development could potentially affect landscape and villagescape character (whether this be positive or negative). These issues should be explored through the SEA.

## 5.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Landscape and Historic Environment SEA theme?

Table 5.2 presents the SEA objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the Plan in relation to this theme.

**Table 5.2:** SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Landscape and Historic Environment

SEA objective	Supporting questions
	Will the option/proposal help to:
Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of the built and natural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment?</li> <li>• Contribute to better management of heritage assets or tackle heritage at risk?</li> <li>• Identify and protect / enhance features of local importance?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li> <li>• Improve linkages between residential areas and open space?</li> </ul>

## 6 Land, Soil and Water Resources

### Focus of theme:

- Soils resource
- Soil quality
- Waste management
- Watercourses
- Water availability
- Water quality

### 6.1 Policy context

The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy<sup>19</sup> presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is currently seeking to establish 'Significant Water Management Issues' within catchments with a view to presenting second River Basin Management Plans to ministers in 2015. The plans will seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance soils. The value of best and most versatile agricultural land should also be taken into account.
- Prevent new or existing development from being 'adversely affected' by the presence of 'unacceptable levels' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate 'despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate'.
- Encourage the effective use of land' through the reuse of land which has been previously developed, 'provided that this is not of high environmental value'. Whilst there is no longer a national requirement to build at a minimum density, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to 'set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances'.
- Produce strategic policies to deliver the provision of a variety of infrastructure, including that necessary for water supply.

<sup>19</sup> European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm)

- With regards to waste, the NPPF does not contain any specific waste policies as waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan.

Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England<sup>20</sup>, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper<sup>21</sup>, which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England<sup>22</sup> recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

## 6.2 Baseline summary

### Summary of current baseline

#### Quality of agricultural land

The Agricultural Land Classification classifies land into six grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3 are the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 4 and 5 are of poorer quality.

In terms of the location of the best and most versatile agricultural land, Figure 6.1 below outlines its distribution in the Neighbourhood Plan area. There are parcels of land classified as Grade 2 agricultural land mainly to the west of the Neighbourhood Plan area and a small pocket to the east of the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary. Most of the land within the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary was classified as Grade 3 agricultural land prior to 1988. As such it is uncertain whether this is land classified as the best and most versatile (i.e. Grade 3a agricultural land), or land which is not classified as such (i.e. Grade 3b agricultural land).

#### Recycling centres

There are no recycling centres within the plan area.

<sup>20</sup> Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf>

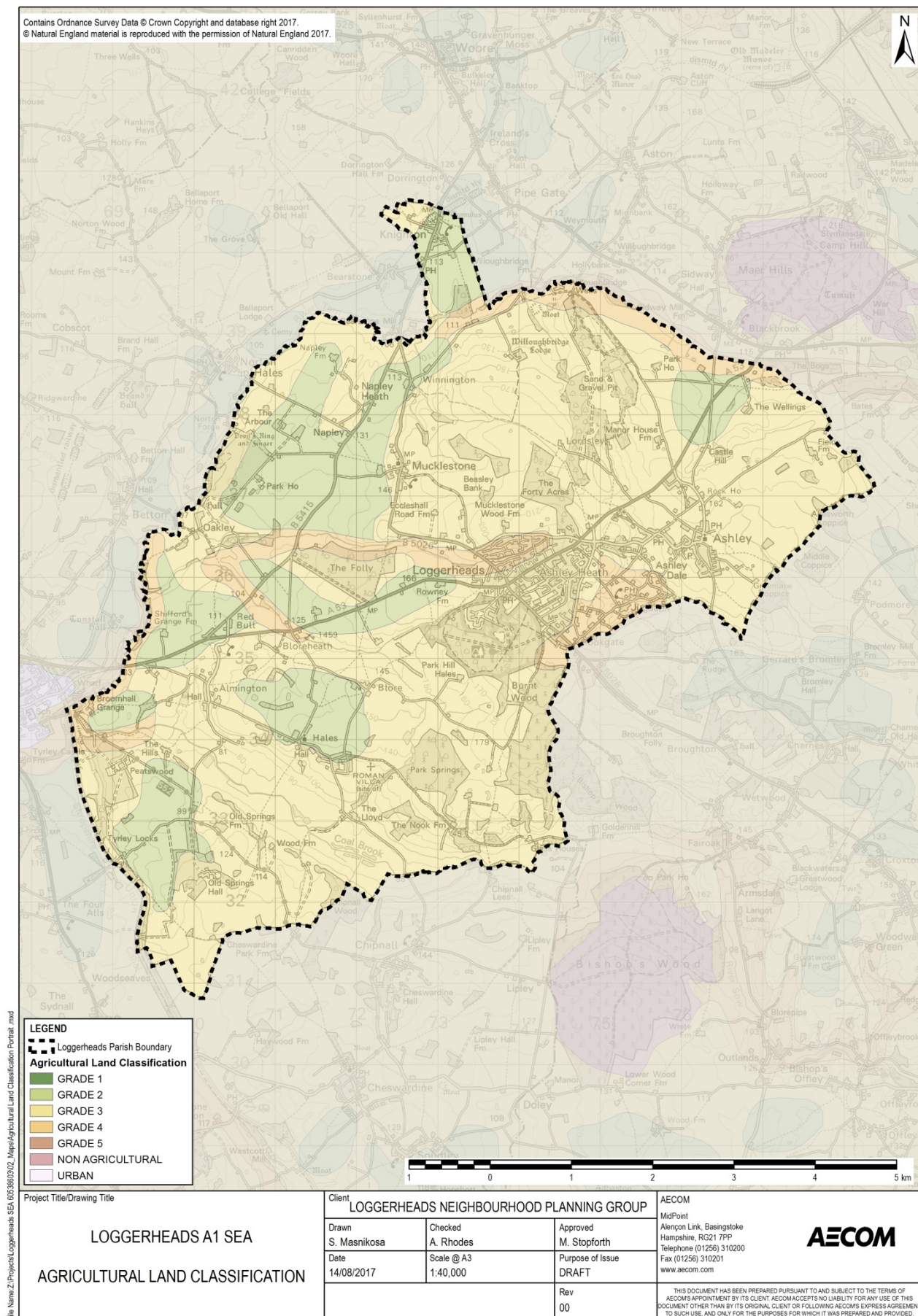


Figure 6.1: Loggerheads Agricultural Land Classification



## Watercourses

The natural watercourses within the Neighbourhood Plan area comprise: the Coal Brook, which rises at a spring near Bishop's Wood in the east of the Neighbourhood Plan area and flows under the canal aqueduct to join the River Tern at Market Drayton; the Tadedale Brook (formerly Bloredeale Brook) which rises to the east of Loggerheads and joins the River Tern near Shifford's Grange; and the Hempmill Brook which flows through the Blore Heath Loggerheads battle site and also joins the Tern. The River Tern flows from its source at Maer in the neighbouring parish to the east and extends some 30 miles to join the River Severn near Attingham.

The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwaters have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwaters are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. The whole of the Neighbourhood Plan area includes a surface water and groundwater NVZ; however permissions have already been granted for development within these areas without issues raised.

Parts of the plan area also fall within areas identified as Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ), as illustrated in Figure 6.2 below.

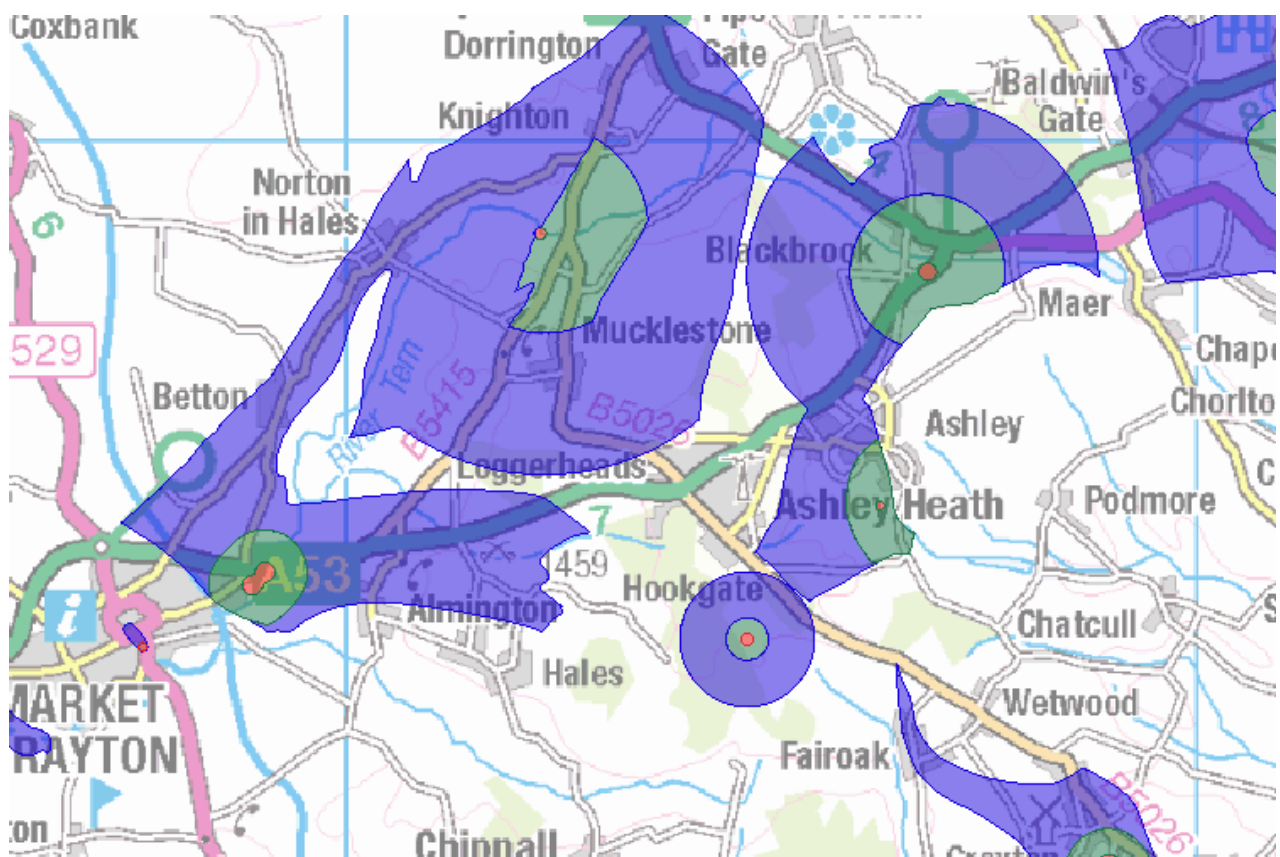


Figure 6.2: Loggerheads Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ)

## Summary of future baseline

Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates. It is likely that recycling rates will continue to rise, although the rates may slow down after 'quick wins' have been achieved.

In terms of water quality, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. Water quality could be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and physical modifications to water bodies. There are plan policies within the Core Strategy (namely CSP3 –

Sustainability and Climate Change) that ought to control these potential risks from new development though.

Water availability in the wider area may be affected by regional increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

## 6.3 Key headline issues

- The only agricultural land in the Plan area is within areas already permitted or allocated for development. No further agricultural land is likely to be affected by the Plan.
- The plan area contains areas that fall within a groundwater protection zone, and the whole area is identified as a groundwater and surface water nitrate vulnerable zone.

## 6.4 Scoping outcome

The topic of 'soil' has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA as the Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on soil / agricultural land.

The topic of 'waste' has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA as the Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on levels of recycling and reuse. Residents already receive kerbside collection services for paper, card, tins, glass bottles and jars and plastic. There are also a number of sites that the public can take additional recyclable materials and a household waste recycling centre is accessible by car.

The topic of water quality has been **'SCOPED IN'** to the SEA as there are areas within the Parish that fall within a groundwater SPZ and nitrate vulnerable zones. It is possible that development could affect water quality in such areas.

## 6.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Land, Soil and Water Resources theme?

For the SEA Topic 'land, soil and water resources' only water quality has been scoped in to the SEA. **Table 6.1** presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the Plan in relation to this theme.

*Table 6.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Land, Soil and Water Resources*

SEA objective	Supporting questions
Protect ground and surface water quality.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect groundwater quality in the SPZ?</li> <li>• Minimise water consumption?</li> <li>• Reduce surface water pollution through the use of SuDS?</li> </ul>

# 7 Population and Community

## Focus of theme:

- Population size
- Age structure
- Deprivation
- House prices and affordability
- Education and skills

## 7.1 Policy context

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- To 'boost significantly the supply of housing', local planning authorities should meet the 'full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing' in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.
- With a view to creating 'sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities' authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.
- In rural areas, when exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise standards and address the connections between people and places.
- The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' is of 'great importance' and there is a need to take a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

## 7.2 Baseline summary

### Summary of current baseline

#### Population

According to census data in 2011 the total population of Loggerheads was 4,480. The population of Loggerheads saw an increase of 6.4% between 2001 and 2011, as shown in Table 7.1 below. Between 2001 and 2011 Loggerheads' population increased in line with the average across England and at a significantly higher rate than the rest of the borough.

**Table 7.1: Population growth 2001 – 2011**<sup>23</sup>

Date	Loggerheads	Newcastle-under-Lyme	West Midlands	England
<b>2001</b>	4,193	122,048	5,267,308	49,138,831
<b>2011</b>	4,480	123,871	5,601,847	53,012,456
<b>Population Change 2001-2011</b>	+ 6.4%	+ 1.5%	+ 6.4%	+ 7.9%

#### Age structure

The age structure of Loggerheads in comparison to Newcastle-Under-Lyme, West Midlands and national averages is shown in Table 7.2.

**Table 7.2: Age Structure (2011)**<sup>24</sup>

	Loggerheads	Newcastle-Under-Lyme	West Midlands	England
<b>0-17</b>	19.6%	19.3%	22.2%	21.4%
<b>18-24</b>	6.7%	11.1%	9.5%	9.4%
<b>25-44</b>	19.2%	24.4%	26.3%	27.5%
<b>45-64</b>	34.3%	27%	25.2%	25.4%
<b>65-84</b>	17.8%	15.9%	14.7%	14.1%
<b>85+</b>	2.2%	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%
<b>Total population</b>	<b>4,480</b>	<b>123,871</b>	<b>5,601,847</b>	<b>53,012,456</b>

Whilst Loggerheads had a slightly higher proportion of residents within the 0-17 age range than borough averages, the proportion of residents within the 18-24 and 25-44 age groups is significantly lower than borough, regional and national averages. In contrast, the proportion of residents 45+ in Loggerheads is higher than borough, regional and national averages. As such the population of the Neighbourhood Plan area overall has an older profile than all comparators.

<sup>23</sup> ONS Mid-year population estimate, available at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesanalysis>

<sup>24</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Age structure



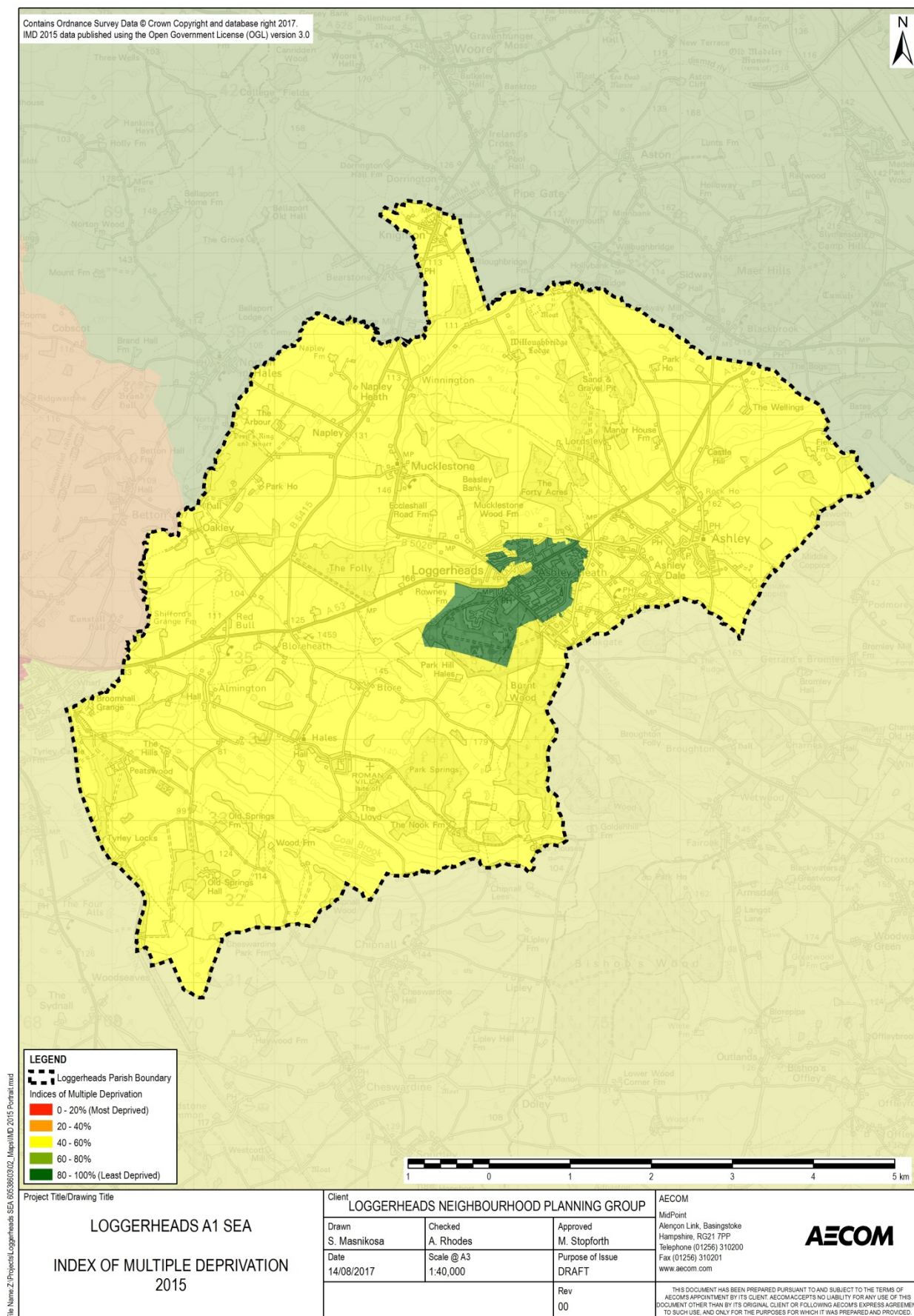


Figure 7.1: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015

## Index of Multiple Deprivation and earnings

In relation to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015, as highlighted in Figure 7.1 below, the whole of Loggerheads Parish is within the 40% least deprived areas within the country, with small pockets being within the 80% least deprived areas.

Weekly household earnings are above those of the regional and national earnings, as shown in Figure 7.2 below.

Weekly household earnings (£)

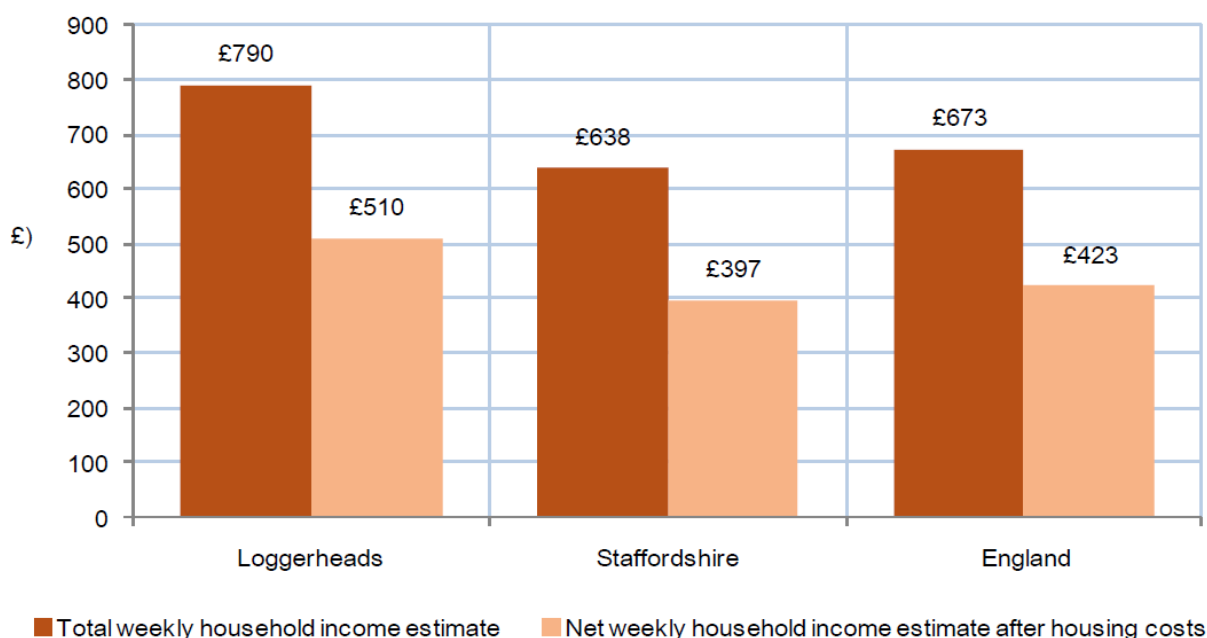


Figure 7.2: Weekly Household Earnings (2011)<sup>25</sup>

## Housing tenure

In 2011, a considerably higher proportion of residents own their houses than the local, regional and national averages. There were also a lower proportion of households which were classified under shared ownership, socially rented, privately rented, or living rent free.

Table 7.3: Housing Tenure (2011)<sup>26</sup>

	Loggerheads		Newcastle- Under-Lyme	West Midlands	England
	Numbers	%	%	%	%
<b>All Categories</b>	1,806				
<b>Owned (Total)</b>	1,507	83.4	69.1	64.9	63.3
<b>Shared Ownership</b>	4	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.8
<b>Socially Rented</b>	114	6.3	18.7	19.0	17.7
<b>Private Rented</b>	153	8.5	10.5	14.0	16.8
<b>Living Rent Free</b>	28	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.3

<sup>25</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Household income

<sup>26</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011 Housing Tenure

## Education

Taken from the 2011 Census, Loggerheads has a significantly lower proportion of people with no qualifications compared to local, regional and national averages. The proportion of people within the Neighbourhood Plan area with Level 4 and above qualifications is much higher than the local, regional and national average. This highlights that people in Loggerheads are generally educated to a higher level than the surrounding area and nationally.

**Table 7.4: Qualifications (2011)**<sup>27</sup>

	Loggerheads		Newcastle- Under-Lyme	West Midlands	England
	<i>Numbers</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>All Categories</b>	3,724				
<b>No Qualifications</b>	627	16.8	26.8	26.6	22.5
<b>Level 1 Qualification</b>	410	11	12.7	13.7	13.3
<b>Level 2 Qualification</b>	588	15.8	15.7	15.4	15.2
<b>Level 3 Qualification</b>	504	13.5	14.5	12.3	12.4
<b>Level 4 Qualification and above</b>	1,316	35.3	22.5	23.3	27.4
<b>Apprenticeships and Others</b>	279	7.5	7.9	8.7	9.3

## Employment

The Neighbourhood Plan area has a higher proportion of economically inactive residents (retired) and a higher proportion of people who are self-employed and work from home than borough, regional and national averages. Loggerheads also has a lower proportion of people who are unemployed compared to borough, regional and national averages.

**Table 7.5: Employment (2011)**<sup>28</sup>

	Loggerheads		Newcastle- Under-Lyme	West Midlands	England
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>All Categories</b>	3,380				
<b>Economically Active Total</b>	<b>2,254</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>69.9</b>
<i>Part Time</i>	440	13	14	14	19.6
<i>Full Time</i>	1,185	35.1	38	37	55.2
<i>Self Employed with Employees</i>	135	4	2	2	3.1
<i>Self Employed without Employees</i>	313	9.3	6	6	10.7
<i>Unemployed</i>	92	2.7	4	4	6.3
<i>Full Time Student</i>	89	2.6	4	3	4.9
<b>Economically Inactive Total</b>	<b>1,126</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>30.1</b>

<sup>27</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011 Qualifications

<sup>28</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011 Employment

## Summary of future baseline

With the high proportion of residents over the age of 45 in Loggerheads, there is likely to be continued growth and an ageing population. This has the potential to place pressures on services and facilities. The suitability (e.g. size and design) and affordability of housing for local requirements depends on the implementation of appropriate housing policies through the local plan and Neighbourhood Plan.

## 7.3 Key headline issues

- The population of Loggerheads Parish has increased significantly higher than borough averages between 2001 and 2011 (6.8%).
- The age profile of the Neighbourhood Plan area is older than borough, regional and national averages.
- The age profile of the parish has become recently become older. This will have implications for community provision and the provision of suitable housing to meet specialist needs.

## 7.4 Scoping Outcome

Due to an ageing population within Loggerheads, there is likely to be an increased need for the provision of specialist housing. There will be also a need to meet the housing needs of other groups within the Neighbourhood Plan area, including relating to family housing. As such the topic 'population' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA.

## 7.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Population and Community theme?

The topic 'population' has been 'scoped-in' to the SEA. **Table 7.** presents the SEA objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the Plan in relation to this theme.

*Table 7.6: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Population and Community*

SEA objective	Supporting questions
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, suitable housing which meets the needs of occupiers.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support enhancements to the current housing stock?</li> <li>• Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction?</li> <li>• Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?</li> </ul>



## 8 Health and Wellbeing

### Focus of theme:

- Health indicators and deprivation
- Influences on health and well being

### 8.1 Sustainability context

Key messages from the **NPPF** include:

- The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.
- A core planning principle is to 'take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities'
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Set out the strategic policies to deliver the provision of health facilities.
- Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives<sup>29</sup>, the 'Marmot Review' investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: *"overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities"*.

The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act (2012) transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

Newcastle-under-Lyme's Sustainable Community Strategy identifies a clear link between the provision of high quality public open spaces and recreational facilities, and the health and well-being of the community. The provision of good quality parks and green space is an essential element in creating sustainable communities.

The Core Spatial Strategy (2009) states that quality and quantity of the plan area's natural assets will be protected, maintained and enhanced (CSP4) and that the loss of irreplaceable natural assets will not be accepted. The plan area's open space, sports and leisure assets will be enhanced, maintained and protected (CSP5). All development planned and delivered through the Core Spatial Strategy should avoid and mitigate adverse impacts, and wherever possible enhances, the plan area's distinctive natural assets, landscape character, waterways, network of

<sup>29</sup> The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf>

urban green corridors and priority species and habitats identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

#### Newcastle-under-Lyme Leisure Needs Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy (2006)

An assessment of sport and leisure facility needs within the Borough was undertaken to identify local needs for provision, and opportunities for enhancement, development or replacement of current facilities. A number of recommendations were made for various activities relating to maintaining current provision (supply of greens, playing areas) with view to increasing provision in the long term. These include improving the publishing of information at sites in relation to opportunities to play and leisure (e.g. bowls) and ensure information is provided about all green space sites available; updating areas (Bowls greens, tennis) every two years with quality assessments; and including sustainability objectives in relation to health and well-being and recreational facilities in future sustainability assessments.

With regard to the local community wellbeing, it is interesting to note that National Government have recently released a new policy called: Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation.

Within this document the role of local government is referred to as follows:

*"Local authorities have, and will continue to have, an absolutely crucial role to play in delivering sport and physical activity opportunities".*

The document goes on to add:

*"Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies have highlighted physical inactivity as an issue that needs to be tackled and agreed approaches to tackling it. Local authorities also have responsibility for wider policy areas which can have a significant impact on the physical activity of the local population".*

Within the Strategy Sport England's remit has been broadened so that it becomes responsible for sport outside school from the age 5 rather than 14.

The Government says, *"creating a more active society is not a choice, it is a necessity when we face an aging population and a range of health challenges across the life course, including rising obesity amongst children and adults, and the increase in a range of long-term conditions such as diabetes".*

## 8.2 Baseline summary

### Summary of current baseline

#### Health indicators and deprivation

There is a higher than average percentage of residents with a limiting long-term illness (aged 16-64) in the Neighbourhood Plan area. There is a medical centre in Ashley which does not have capacity to register all residents; as a consequence many are forced to register with Market Drayton Primary Care Trust (7km distant and in Shropshire) or Madeley Health Centre (11km distant). Most patients have to wait in excess of two weeks for non-urgent Doctor appointments. Additionally, because patients are being treated by Shropshire Health they are required to travel excessive distances for hospital appointments e.g. to Oswestry for Orthopaedic care. All of this is compounded by poor public transport links. Additional capacity is therefore required in the area, either by increasing the Ashley capacity or with an additional facility to service the Loggerheads community.

#### Influences on health and wellbeing

Access to open space and green infrastructure is widely recognised to have a positive effect on the health of communities by facilitating increased outdoor activity levels. Loggerheads currently has one football pitch, located in the Burnt Wood, a cricket pitch at Hales and no other recreational space apart from a number of small play areas for children under 11, located in Ashley, Knighton, Almington and Loggerheads. The nearest sporting and leisure facilities are located in Market Drayton, 7km from Loggerheads, with only one bus per hour between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Taking into account current population trends, there is deemed to be a shortfall of at least 25 acres of recreational amenity space.

### Summary of future baseline

It is likely that, with increased population growth, there will be a higher demand for health, recreational and leisure facilities within the Neighbourhood Plan area. In the absence of new facilities being secured, it is possible that access to leisure facilities will be affected.

## 8.3 Key headline issues

- Loggerheads has a higher number of residents with a limiting long-term illness.
- Medical centres in the area are already at over-capacity.
- Leisure facilities are lacking within the parish of Loggerheads.

## 8.4 Scoping Outcome

The SEA topic 'health' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as the Plan has the potential to help tackle the lack of leisure facilities and improve future health and wellbeing within the parish, as well as encouraging active travel, and better links between urban areas and green infrastructure.

## 8.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Health and Wellbeing theme?

The topic 'health' has been 'scoped-in' to the SEA. **Table 8.1** presents the SEA objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the Plan in relation to this theme.

*Table 8.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Health and Wellbeing*

SEA Objective	Supporting questions
Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents by enhancing the quality and accessibility of open space, facilities for recreation and transport links.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote availability and accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?</li> <li>Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?</li> <li>Improve access to health facilities?</li> </ul>

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## 9 Transportation

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### Focus of theme:

- Transportation infrastructure
- Traffic flows and congestion
- Accessibility
- Car ownership
- Travel to work
- Parking

### 9.1 Sustainability context

European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth. It states that developments should be located and designed where practical to:

- Accommodate the efficient delivery of good and supplies;
- Give priority to pedestrians and cycle movements, and have access to high quality public transport facilities;
- Create safe and secure layouts which minimize conflict between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians, avoiding street clutter and where appropriate establishing home zones;
- Incorporate facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles; and
- Consider the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of transport.

On a more local level, the emerging Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Integrated Transport Strategy 2015-2026 is being developed to help guide Staffordshire to achieve the following vision in line with the national agenda;

- Be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth
- Be healthier and more independent
- Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community

## 9.2 Baseline summary

### Summary of current baseline

#### Road network

Loggerheads is served by two major A road, the A51 and the A53. There is a road safety hot spot at the cross-roads of Newcastle Road (A53) with Mucklestone Wood Lane and Gravelly Hill.

#### Rail network

There are no railway stations in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The closest station to loggerheads is at Stoke-on-Trent, which is 20km away and has direct services to a range of destinations nationally, including London, Birmingham, Manchester and Bristol. Crewe and Nantwich station are also used to serve the neighbourhood plan area.

#### Bus network

Loggerheads is served by one main bus service between Market Drayton and Newcastle-under-Lyme. Whilst services are hourly to Market Drayton and Newcastle-under-Lyme during the day up until 7pm, services are limited in the evening and at weekends. There is another part time bus service that runs two days a week between Market Drayton and Stafford,

#### Availability of cars and vans

Both the Neighbourhood Plan area and the borough exhibit car ownership which is above the England and Wales average, with a significantly lower proportion of households without cars or vans. In this context the percentage of households with two or more car/vans per household is significantly higher in Loggerheads compared to local and national averages. This suggests a higher level of car dependency.

**Table 9.1: Car and Van Ownership, 2011**<sup>30</sup>

	Loggerheads		Newcastle-Under-Lyme		England
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
<b>No cars or vans in household</b>	135	7.5	11,632	22.1	25.8
<b>1 car or van in household</b>	574	31.8	22,475	42.7	42.2
<b>2 cars or vans in household</b>	753	41.7	14,283	27.2	24.7
<b>3 cars or vans in household</b>	243	13.5	3,178	6	5.5
<b>4 or more cars or vans in household</b>	101	5.6	1,006	1.9	1.9

<sup>30</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011 Car and Van ownership



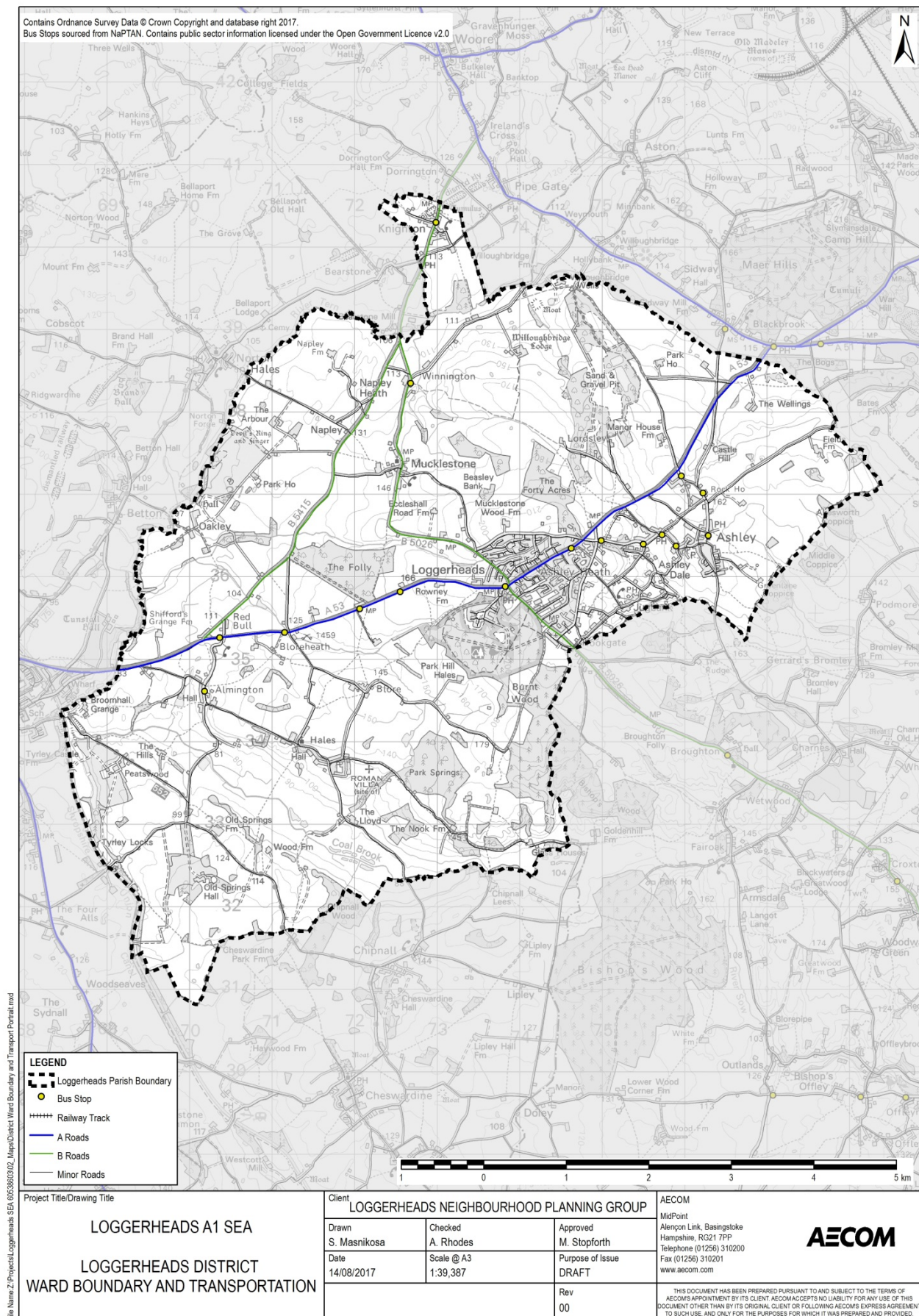


Figure 9.1 Loggerheads Road and Rail Network

## Travel to work

Aligning with the relatively high rates of car and van ownership highlighted in Table 9.1 above, a higher proportion of residents in employment use private transport to travel to work. As shown in table 9.2 below, over 82% of journeys to work are made by private vehicle compared to the England and Wales average of 76%. This is also demonstrated at the local authority level (82%). Commuting via public transport however accounts for less than the England and Wales average (5.4% compared to 10.5%). This is comparable to the proportion in the borough.

**Table 9.2: Method of Travel to Work (aged 16-74 in employment), Census 2011<sup>31</sup>**

	Loggerheads		Newcastle-Under-Lyme		England (%)
	Number	%	Number	%	
<b>Car/ van/ taxi/ motorcycle</b>	1,764	82.2	38,910	82.0	76.4
<b>Public transport</b>	47	5.4	2,333	4.8	10.5
<b>On foot</b>	419	4.9	3,851	8.1	6.9
<b>Bicycle</b>	82	1.0	645	1.4	1.9
<b>Work from home</b>	240	2.8	1,562	3.3	3.5
<b>Other</b>	23	0.3	175	0.4	0.4

## 9.3 Summary of future baseline

Public transport usage has the potential to remain relatively low compared to private car use in the area, although there is potential to increase sustainable transport use and active travel such as cycling.

There is potential for the number of people working from home in Loggerheads to significantly increase due to modern working patterns such as agile and flexible working.

Whilst negative effects of new development on the local transport network are likely to be in part mitigated by provisions in the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Integrated Transport Strategy 2015-2026 and other plans and strategies, overall increases in car use may arise as a result of growth in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

## 9.4 Key headline issues

- Whilst bus services to Market Drayton, Stone and Newcastle-under-Lyme are relatively frequent during the day, they are poor during the evening and at weekends.
- Loggerheads has a significantly higher level of car and van ownership than borough and regional averages.
- A higher proportion of people travel to work by car than the borough and national average.

<sup>31</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011 Method of Travel to Work (aged 16-74 in employment)



## 9.5 Scoping Output

The SEA topic 'accessibility' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA, as the Plan has the potential to improve walking and cycling networks in the Neighbourhood Plan area and enhance conditions for sustainable transport use. There is also need to support enhancements to active travel which the Neighbourhood Plan may have the potential to influence.

## 9.6 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Transportation theme?

The topic 'accessibility' has been 'scoped-in' to the SEA. Table 9.3 presents the SEA objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the Plan in relation to this theme.

*Table 9.3: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Transportation*

SEA Objective	Supporting questions
Reduce the need to travel and support modal shift to active and sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling and public transport.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable transport infrastructure improvements?</li> <li>• Increase the range, availability and affordability of sustainable travel choices i.e. public transport, walking, cycling?</li> <li>• Promote sustainable patterns of land use and development that reduce the need to travel and reliance on the private car?</li> <li>• Promote car-share schemes and/or working from home?</li> </ul>

# 10 SEA Framework and Methodologies

## 10.1 The SEA Framework

The SEA framework has been established through the identification of key issues and environmental objectives as part of the scoping exercise. This draws upon the baseline position and policy context that has been prepared for a range of SEA topics (as set out in Chapters 3-9).

The framework consists of a set of headline objectives and ancillary questions, which will be used to appraise the environmental effects of the draft Neighbourhood Plan (and any reasonable alternatives).

**Table 10.1** below outlines the full SEA Framework, which brings together the objectives and questions that have been set out at the end of each SEA topic chapter. The framework focuses on those issues that have been identified as the most important to consider in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan; but acknowledging the limited influence that the Neighbourhood Plan can have in some areas.

**Table 10.1:** *The SEA Framework*

SEA Objective	Supporting questions ( <i>Will the option/proposal help to...</i> )
Protect and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support connections between habitats in the Plan area?</li> <li>• Support continued improvements to the designated sites in the Plan area?</li> <li>• Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</li> <li>• Support access to interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</li> <li>• Better manage public access to SSSIs</li> </ul>
Contribute to climate change mitigation	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote high quality design?</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</li> <li>• Reduce the need to travel?</li> </ul>
Support the resilience of Loggerheads to the potential effects of climate change	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area?</li> <li>• Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change?</li> </ul>

SEA Objective	Supporting questions <i>(Will the option/proposal help to...)</i>
Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of the built and natural environment.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment?</li> <li>• Contribute to better management of heritage assets or tackle heritage at risk?</li> <li>• Identify and protect / enhance features of local importance?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li> <li>• Improve linkages between residential areas and open space.</li> </ul>
Protect ground and surface water quality.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect groundwater quality in the GPZ?</li> <li>• Minimise water consumption?</li> <li>• Reduce surface water pollution through the use of SUDS?</li> </ul>
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, suitable housing which meets the needs of occupiers.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support enhancements to the current housing stock?</li> <li>• Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction?</li> <li>• Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?</li> </ul>
Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents by enhancing the quality and accessibility of open space, facilities for recreation and transport links.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote availability and accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?</li> <li>• Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?</li> <li>• Improve access to health facilities?</li> </ul>
Reduce the need to travel and support modal shift to active and sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling and public transport.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable transport infrastructure improvements?</li> <li>• Increase the range, availability and affordability of sustainable travel choices i.e. public transport, walking, cycling?</li> <li>• Promote sustainable patterns of land use and development that reduce the need to travel and reliance on the private car?</li> <li>• Promote car-share schemes and/or working from home?</li> </ul>

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# 11 Next Steps

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## 11.1 Subsequent stages for the SEA process

Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage in a six-stage SEA process:

- Screening (NPPG Stage A)
- Scoping (NPPG Stage B)
- Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan (NPPG Stage C)
- Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalization (NPPG Stage D/E)
- Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making/SEA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring') (NPPG Stage F)

The next stage will involve exploring and appraising (if necessary) reasonable alternatives for the Plan. This will involve considering alternative policy approaches for the Neighbourhood Plan. The findings of the appraisal of any reasonable alternatives will be fed back to the Neighbourhood Steering Group so that they might be taken into account when preparing the draft plan.

Once the draft ('pre-submission version') plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, it will be appraised against the SEA Framework 'as a whole' to identify significant effects, potential mitigation and enhancement measures. The findings will be documented in an Environmental Report, which will be published for consultation alongside the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Following consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan / Environmental Report, the plan will be finalised and submitted to Newcastle-under-Lyme Council for subsequent Independent Examination.

## 11.2 Consultation on the Scoping Report

Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies.

The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.

Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues and the proposed SEA Framework.

## 11.3 Download and viewing details

The Scoping Report can be downloaded at:

<http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk/Pages/105/Loggerheads+Neighbourhood+Plan>

Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:

Ian McCluskey, *Senior Sustainability Consultant, AECOM Ltd, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bridgewater House, Manchester, M1 6LT* Email address: [ian.mccluskey@aecom.com](mailto:ian.mccluskey@aecom.com)

All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SEA process where appropriate.

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