

DOVERIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL AND STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT**

Prepared by Derbyshire Dales District Council

On behalf of

Doveridge Parish Council

January 2017

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report Doveridge Neighbourhood Plan

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the contents of the Doveridge Neighbourhood Plan (hereafter known as DNP) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment in accordance with European Directive 2001/42/EC and the associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.2 Doveridge has resolved to support the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan that will guide development and land use in the whole of the Parish of Doveridge for the period 2016-2033. The Neighbourhood Plan is intended to complement the policies in the adopted Derbyshire Dales Local Plan and the emerging Revised Derbyshire Dales Local Plan.
- 1.3 The Doveridge Neighbourhood Area is the same as the area defined by the Doveridge Parish Boundary; however as the majority of the population live within the village of Doveridge, the Neighbourhood Plan focuses mostly on the settlement itself. The designation of the area as a Neighbourhood Area was approved under the District Council's Scheme of Officer Delegation on 8th October 2015.
- 1.4 The Doveridge Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Doveridge Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) and aims to provide the Parish Council and local community with a greater and more positive influence upon how the area develops over the plan period to 2033. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has undertaken consultations with the local community throughout the preparation of the DNP to ensure that local views can shape and influence the scope and content of the Plan. The DNP has been drafted in the context of the outcomes of public consultation and evidence gathering and also within the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Policy Practice Guidance (NPPG), the saved policies of the 2005 Derbyshire Dales Local Plan and the evidence base reports used to support the emerging revised Derbyshire Dales Local Plan.
- 1.5 The purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is to seek to positively influence the land use planning policies in the Parish of Doveridge. As a result of community engagement and consultation the key issues and themes for the Neighbourhood Plan were identified which have informed the vision and aims for the Plan. The vision for the Neighbourhood Plan is:

“To enable sustainable growth and development, preserve and enhance the quality of life for the community, and protect and enhance environmental quality, including special historical and natural characteristics of the neighbourhood.”

1.6 The Neighbourhood Plan aims are as follows:

- To create a sustainable, thriving and prosperous parish that supports an excellent quality of life for all its residents whilst maintaining its sense of community and welcoming newcomers and visitors;
- To ensure the area is safe from flood risk, is adaptable to climate change and has the lowest carbon dependence possible;
- To preserve the high quality natural environment and protect nature and wildlife interests and green space;
- To promote the parish of Doveridge as a long term living and working settlement that meets the needs of all ages of residents and encourages businesses and employment opportunities.

1.7 Further information on the DNP and work undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) is available on the Neighbourhood Plan tab of the Doveridge Parish Council web site at <http://www.doveridge-village.org/doveridge-neighbourhood-plan/>

1.8 Derbyshire Dales District Council is in the process of preparing a revised Derbyshire Dales Local Plan. The Derbyshire Dales Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination on 19th December 2016. The emerging Derbyshire Dales Local Plan has been subject to both Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The emerging Local Plan and accompanying assessments are available to view from the following link: <http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/planning-a-building-control/local-plan-2015-16/evidence-base>

1.9 The legislative background set out in the following section outlines the Regulations that require the need for a screening exercise to be undertaken. Section 4 provides a screening assessment of the likely significant effects of the DNP and determines whether a full SEA is required. Section 5 outlines the outcomes of the screening exercise and sets out whether a SEA is deemed necessary.

2. Legislative Background

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC, which was transposed into English Law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and programmes Regulations 2004 or SEA Regulations.
- 2.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Authorities to produce Sustainability Appraisals (SA) for all local development documents to meet the requirements of the EU Directive on SEA.
- 2.3 However, the 2008 Planning Act amended the requirement to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal for only development plan documents (DPD's), but did not remove the requirement to produce a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). A Neighbourhood Plan is not a development plan document and therefore does not legally require a sustainability appraisal. Where appropriate, however an SEA assessment still needs to be undertaken in line with the SEA regulations.
- 2.4 The SEA Directive only requires SEA where plans and programmes are likely to have significant environmental effects, screening is therefore needed to determine whether such plans are likely to have significant environmental effects. Advice within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) reaffirms that it is considered best practice to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into an SA. The NPPF further advises that assessments should be proportionate and should not repeat policy assessment that has already taken place.
- 2.5 Guidance contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states that there is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal, however where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may fall within the scope of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and require a strategic environmental assessment. The NPPG further advises that whether a neighbourhood plan requires a strategic environmental assessment, and (if so) the level of detail needed will depend on what is proposed, a strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example where:
 - A neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
 - The neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by proposals in the Plan
 - The neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local plan.

(NPPG ID Reference 11-046-20150209)

- 2.6 To fulfil the legal requirement to identify whether the DNP requires a SEA a 'screening' assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Annex II of the European Directive 2001/42/EC provides the criteria for determining the likely significance of the environmental effects of plans to be implemented in the screening exercise. Screening of the DNP has been undertaken and the outcomes provided in section 5. It is recognised best practice that the findings of the screening exercise must be subject to consultation with the SEA bodies – Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The views of the SEA bodies have been sought on the conclusions of the screening exercise of the DNP.
- 2.7 It is demonstrated through the assessment against the significance criteria in the SEA Directive and Regulations set out in section 4 of this report that the impacts of the DNP will not result in significant environmental effects.

3. Criteria for Assessing the Effects of Neighbourhood Plans

3.1 To determine whether the DNP may have significant environmental effects, its scope and content should be assessed against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, these regulations implement the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive in England. Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below:

The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular to:

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

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

- The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects
- The cumulative nature of the effects
- The trans- boundary nature of the effects
- The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)
- The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected.)
- The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to – special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, intensive land use, the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.

(Source: Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC)

4. Assessment

- 4.1 Table 1 below sets out the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment and the results of the assessment of the DNP. The table below has been used to determine whether the DNP is likely to have significant effects on the environment. If the plan is not likely to have significant effects, SEA is not required under the Directive.

Significance Criteria set out in SEA Directive (Annex ii) and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	Impact of the Doveridge Neighbourhood Plan
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:	
(a) The degree to which the plan or programmes sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	The DNP would, if adopted, form part of the Statutory Development Plan and as such would contribute to the framework for future development consents for projects. Should the DNP be adopted its policies would form part of the Development Plan and be used to inform decisions on development proposals and planning applications. However, the DNP would sit within a wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG); the emerging revised Derbyshire Dales Local Plan; and the adopted Local Plan.
(b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	In a number of instances the DNP policies complement strategic aims and policies contained within the emerging revised Derbyshire Dales Local Plan. The DNP is considered unlikely to influence other Plans or Programmes within the Statutory Development Plan.
(c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The DNP aims to provide sustainable development, seeking to preserve and enhance the character of the natural, built and historic environment within the DNP area. The DNP includes ten key policies which seek to deliver the aims and vision of the Neighbourhood Plan. Three of the policies directly relate to and seek to address the environmental impact of development, particularly housing development (R1, D1, NE1). These policies

	<p>of the DNP seek to ensure that future development preserves and enhances the rural character of the settlement, responds to the distinct character of Doveridge and strives to ensure that high design standards are adhered to, for instance that new development takes advantage of topography, landscape and site orientation. Policy NE1 of the DNP relates solely to the natural environment and aims to preserve and enhance the natural assets and wildlife of the area in order to protect the areas distinctive local character. In addition to policy D1 which requires development to have good access to public transport and other measures to reduce car dependency, Policy T1 promotes sustainable transport requiring development proposals to facilitate choice, including sustainable means of transport, in the interests of sustainability.</p> <p>The DNP also includes policy CF1 and CF2 which seek to maintain and improve community facilities within the parish and ensure that new development does not adversely impact upon the valuable existing community facilities such local allotments, village hall, local shop etc. The principle of seeking to protect and enhance community facilities will contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development and contribute towards the social well-being of the community.</p> <p>The proposed neighbourhood plan policy on housing mix (H1) aims to ensure that new development meets the housing needs of the local community, thus ensuring that a range of homes are provided. Policy BE1 and BE3 seek to address the economic and social dimensions of sustainable development, aiming to sustain and enhance the range of employment opportunities within the parish through support for the growth of existing and new businesses and encouraging homeworking.</p> <p>The proposed policies draw upon the work undertaken through consultation on the</p>
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	<p>Neighbourhood Plan and also from the evidence base documents prepared to support the preparation of the Local Plan, notably the Landscape Sensitivity Study (Wardell Armstrong 2015). It is considered that the DNP is likely to support policies in the emerging revised Derbyshire Dales Local Plan which has been subject to comprehensive Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment and therefore promote sustainable development.</p>
<p>(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and</p>	<p>Doveridge is situated to the south of the District and approximately 3kms to the east of Uttoxeter. The village is quite rural in character despite its proximity to the A50. The surrounding landscape is predominantly flat; however it falls towards the River Dove to the west and south west of the village. Land surrounding the village is considered to be of high landscape sensitivity.</p> <p>The estimated resident population of Doveridge is 1,350 (2011 Census). It is estimated that there are less than six employment generating premises providing employment within the village and from this perspective the village acts as a commuter village primarily to Uttoxeter. The village has a reasonable level of services and facilities including a community hall, convenience store, post office, primary school and public house. There are no GP or pharmacy facilities within the village. Consequently a degree of out commuting to nearby Uttoxeter and Ashbourne is required to access a wider range of services and facilities and employment opportunities. Public transport services operate 7 days a week.</p> <p>The River Dove provides a dominant feature within the Neighbourhood Plan area, and comprises a prominent feature of the landscape on the western and southern sides of the village where the associated flood plain extends to the settlement boundary.</p>

	<p>The A50 dual carriageway runs east to west to the north of the settlement through a substantial cutting. Noise and amenity issues have been raised as a result of the settlements location and proximity to the A50.</p> <p>Doveridge is a settlement with a long history, the oldest parts of the village are in the west extending eastwards along High Street. The village does not include a designated Conservation Area but includes a number of listed buildings with historical importance. The evolution of the village has seen more recent housing development to its periphery, however the centre of the village remains relatively compact and clustered around a network of narrow lanes particularly on the southern side of Derby Road. Many of the narrow lanes are flanked by mature hedgerows and numerous Tree Preservation Orders are present within the village.</p>
<p>(e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management of water protection)</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is not directly relevant to the implementation of European legislation.</p>
<p>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular to:</p>	
<p>(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</p>	<p>The DNP if adopted is considered likely to have modest and longstanding positive environmental effects. Positive effects are predicted to be achieved through particular policies in the Plan, notably upon the design and appearance of development, the protection and enhancement of valuable community services and facilities and promoting and enhancing sustainable transport options, through walking, cycling and public rights of way, and ensuring provision is made for pedestrians and cyclists to access key services and facilities in the village. The policy on the natural environment will have associated beneficial effects, through the requirement for new</p>

	<p>development to maintain or improve biodiversity and wildlife, and the protection and enhancement of natural assets to protect the distinctive local character of the area. Further positive effects are predicted through the requirement for housing schemes to provide a mix of housing types and tenures to meet local needs and also the policy to sustain and enhance employment opportunities within the village. The requirement to incorporate high speed broadband connectivity will further provide positive social and economic benefits for the plan area.</p>
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects;	<p>It is intended that the environmental effects will have positive, cumulative benefits for the area, for example through the protection and enhancement of the areas distinctive local character – with associated benefits for biodiversity, promoting energy efficiency and the protection of the countryside through policies to ensure development preserves and enhances the areas local distinctiveness (i.e. landscape and settlement character and patterns).</p>
(c) The trans boundary nature of the effects;	<p>There are no trans-boundary issues across member states. Any effects on adjoining Derbyshire Dales parishes are likely to be positive, for instance through the protection of countryside, open spaces, settlement and landscape character and through the promotion of high quality design in new development.</p>
(d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example due to accidents);	<p>In undertaking the screening exercise no significant risks to human health or the environment have been identified. The vision and policies of DNP are likely to have positive effects and improve human health by supporting the protection and enhancement of open spaces, community facilities and promoting walking and cycling and access to the countryside. The policy requirement for new development to ensure streets, spaces and paths are overlooked by active frontages to provide natural surveillance (D1) will ensure that the design and layout of new development creates safe and attractive communities.</p>
(e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects	<p>The DNP area covers the parish of Doveridge, which at the 2011 census had a</p>

<p>(geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);</p>	<p>population of 1,350. The DNP area includes the settlement of Doveridge and the surrounding countryside, which is predominately in agricultural use.</p> <p>The DNP is predicted to directly affect the immediate population of the designated neighbourhood area, accordingly the magnitude, spatial extent and geographical area likely to be affected by the DNP is comparatively small, particularly when compared to the scale likely to be effected by the emerging revised Derbyshire Dales Local Plan for instance.</p>
<p>(f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) Intensive land use; and 	<p>The DNP covers the civil parish of Doveridge, comprising the settlement of Doveridge, and surrounding countryside. The parish is rich in natural, environmental and heritage assets. With regard to the historic environment the area does not include a designated Conservation Area, however there are 25 listed buildings in Doveridge settlement itself, notably including St Cuthbert's Church which is Grade I and four Grade II* buildings comprising Dove Bridge, Home Farmhouse, Lower Street Farmhouse and The Manor House. All listed entries are recognised for the contribution they make both individually and to the street scene. In respect of other environmental assets the DNP area does not include any areas designated as SSSI's, however local wildlife sites are present within the designated area, notably at Eaton Wood and near Sedsall Rough. These sites have been designated by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as they provide areas of ecological significance and importance for natural habitats. Numerous individual and group Tree Preservation Orders are present within the village, seeking to protect local tress, woodland and hedgerows that make an important contribution to the beauty, diversity and distinctiveness of the area. The emerging Derbyshire Dales Local Plan and saved Local Plan policies include policies for the protection and enhancement of landscape character, biodiversity, geological interests and the built and</p>

	<p>historic environment. The proposed policies within the DNP will reinforce these policies with no significant negative effects. Environmental quality is not predicted to be exceeded or negatively impacted.</p>
<p>(g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	<p>The DNP area comprises the settlement of Doveridge which has a history dating back to before the Domesday Book. The surrounding countryside includes areas of high landscape sensitivity. The landscape character of the area contributes significantly to the distinctive and visual amenity of the DNP area and surrounding hinterland. The DNP area falls within the Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands and Trent Valley Washlands landscape character type. In addition there are numerous Derbyshire Local Wildlife Sites in the neighbourhood area. The emerging Derbyshire Dales Local Plan and saved Local Plan policies include policies for the protection of landscape character, the countryside, natural, heritage environmental assets. The DNP will reinforce these policies with no significant negative effects.</p>

Table 1 – Determination of the likely significance of environmental effects

5. Screening Outcome

- 5.1 As a result of the assessment set out in Section 4 - Table 1 it is considered unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Doveridge Neighbourhood Plan as submitted and assessed as part of this screening exercise (DNP – Submission Version October 2016), that have not been covered in the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment of the emerging Revised Derbyshire Dales Local Plan, which has recently been submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. As such it is concluded that the DNP does not require a full SEA to be undertaken. **The assessment shows, that in the view of the District Council, the impacts of the DNP will not result in significant environmental effects and therefore there is no need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and European Directive 2001/42/EC.**
- 5.2 This screening assessment has been sent to the three statutory SEA consultation bodies – Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The screening outcome is subject to comment from the SEA Bodies. The response received from the SEA bodies will be provided to the DNP group and may result in revisions to this screening exercise being necessary.
- 5.3 It should be noted that if the issues, policies and objectives of the DNP should change from those within the October 2016 version of the DNP as screened then a new screening process will need to be undertaken to determine whether such revisions and amendments result in a SEA being required.
- 5.4 Despite the screening outcome concluding that a SEA of the DNP is not required, the neighbourhood plan group may wish to carry out a ‘sustainability appraisal’ of the plan and its policies. As part of the assessment of the DNP the qualifying body must demonstrate how the plan will contribute to achieving sustainable development, and a sustainability appraisal may be a useful approach for doing this.
- 5.5 A sustainability appraisal may help DNP group to demonstrate the neighbourhood plan is sustainable and may make it more likely that it will be supported by the Examiner who will check it for compliance. The key stages for sustainability appraisal involve; considering whether the plan has been prepared to take account of effects on the environment and economy and improves the area for the community. Further information and advice on sustainability appraisal can be obtained from

the Planning Advisory Service and from the online National Planning Practice Guidance.