

Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment
Screening Report

March 2018

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to determine whether or not the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) through a process known as SEA screening.

The SEA screening was consulted upon between 2nd January and 9th February 2018 with the statutory consultation bodies, which include Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency, in accordance with regulation 9(2) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004). The responses are presented in Appendix A.

This document presents the final SEA screening report following the consultation. It provides an outline of the emerging Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan and environmental characteristics of the plan area, explains the legislative background to SEA screening, before providing an account of the SEA screening exercise for the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan.

2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND TO STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

European Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment ('SEA Directive') introduces the need to undertake a strategic environmental assessment ('SEA') during the development of some plans and programmes. The main purpose of SEA, according to Article 1 of the SEA Directive, is:

“to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development”.

The SEA Directive is transcribed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which establishes the requirement to undertake a sustainability appraisal ('SA') for some documents used for planning purposes. The SA process incorporates the requirement for SEA, but typically has a broader scope and considers the social and economic issues in addition to the environmental effects.

The requirement to undertake an SA of supplementary planning documents (SPD) was removed by the Planning Act 2008. However, the need to establish whether the planning document requires an SEA, through the SEA Directive, remains.

Articles 2 and 3 of the SEA Directive explain which plans and programmes require SEA. The Government's Planning Practice Guidance suggests that an SPD will only require an SEA “in exceptional circumstances...if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already have been assessed during the preparation of the Local Plan”.

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 amends the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 to provide clarification on the SEA related documents which must be submitted alongside neighbourhood planning proposals. Regulation 2(4) of the amendment regulations 2015 adds to the list of documents that a neighbourhood planning group must submit to a local planning authority with a proposal for a neighbourhood plan, which is presented in regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. The additional document which must be submitted is either an environmental report, should an SEA be required, or a statement of reasons why an environmental assessment is not required.

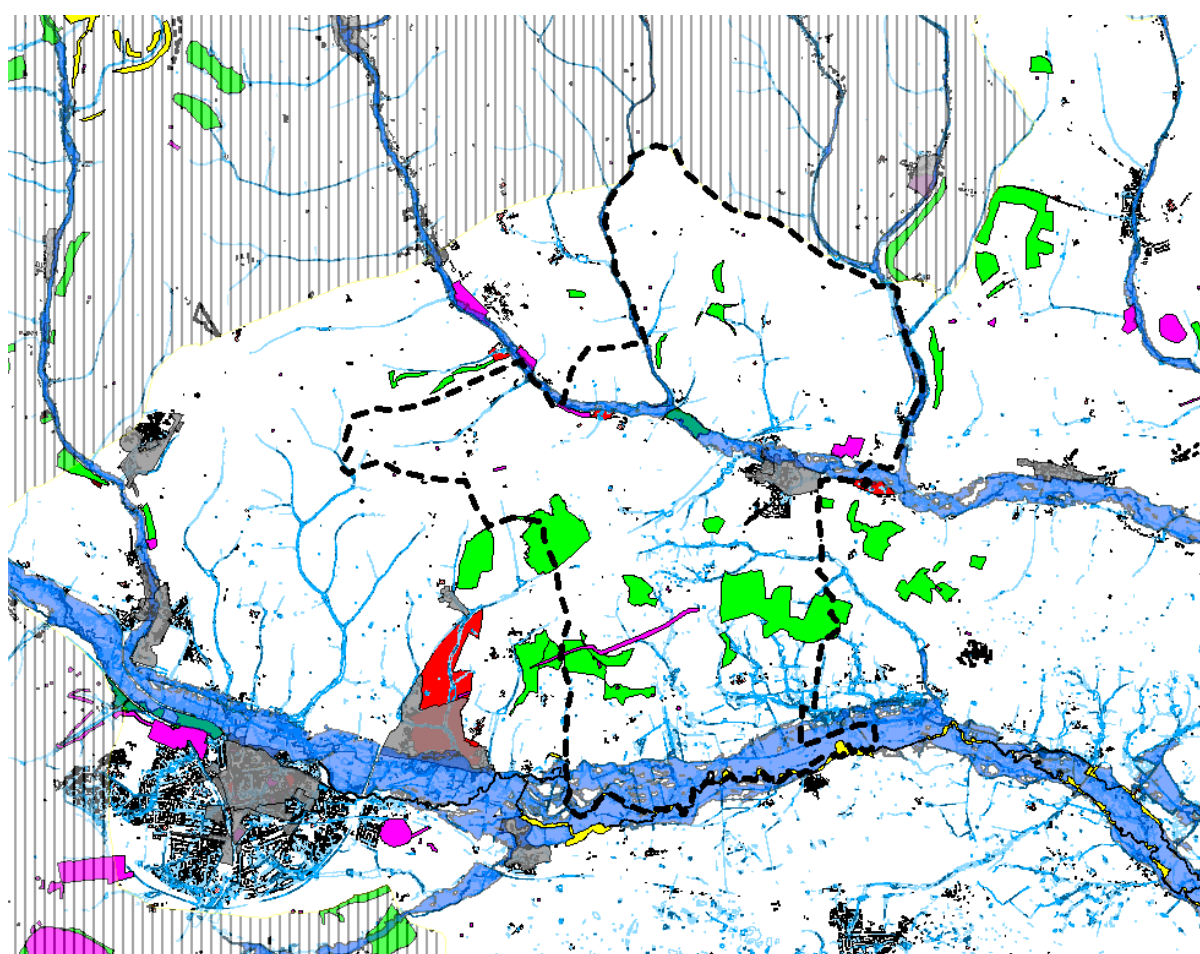
3. THE PUDDLETOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PUDDLETOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area occupies an area of approximately 29km² (2,900ha) and a population of approximately 1,452¹.

The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area and surrounding areas include a number of environmental designations, particularly relating to wildlife, landscape, heritage assets, and flooding, indicating the importance and sensitivity of the plan area from an environmental perspective (Figure 3.1).








Figure 3.1: Environmental designations within the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area (shown within the black dashed line)



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¹ Source: 2014 mid year estimates, Office for National Statistics

Legend

	Conservation Area
	Scheduled Monument
	Historic Gardens
	AONB
	Site of Nature Conservation Interest
	Site of Special Scientific Interest
	High Flood Risk Zone

The Dorset AONB lies adjacent to the northern boundary of the plan area, and occupies areas to north, west and south of the plan area.

The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan includes the following Scheduled Monuments:

- “Deserted Village of Bardolfeston”
- “Medieval settlement immediately west of Waterston House”
- “Bowl barrow on Little Puddle Hill, 920m north west of Fidler's Green Farm”
- “Bowl barrow 450m north west of Duck Dairy House”
- “The Rainbarrows, a group of three bowl barrows on Duddle Heath”
- “Three bowl barrows on Puddletown Heath, 550m south west of Beacon Corner”
- “Two bowl barrows 320m south west of Laycock Dairy Farm”
- “Four Bowl Barrows at the Easter”
- “Bowl barrow 75m south east of Laycock Dairy Farm”
- “Round barrow North of Boswell's Plantation”
- “Roman road over Thorncombe Wood and Black Heath”

The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan includes the Puddletown Conservation Area. In addition there are Listed Buildings within the plan area including the Grade I listed ‘Waterston Manor’ and ‘Church of St Mary’, and the historic garden at Waterston Garden.

The areas surrounding the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area is also rich in heritage assets, such as the Grade I Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Historic Gardens at Kingston Maurward approximately 1km to the west of the site, the Grade I Listed Building and Historic Gardens at Stafford House approximately 550m to the southwest of the site, and the Grade II* Listed Building and Historic Garden at Athelhampton on the eastern boundary (note: the Historic Garden at Athelhampton narrowly passes into the eastern section of the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan Area).

The wildlife designations within the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area include the River Frome Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a major chalk stream which supports an wide range of aquatic and bankside vegetation, rare and scarce aquatic invertebrates, a characteristic assemblage of breeding riverside birds and a range of fish species which includes some of particular importance in a European context.

The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area also includes 7 Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) which are areas of local wildlife importance (Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2: The Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) within the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area

Name of SNCI	Area	Description
Hills Coppice	7.7ha	Ash/hazel coppice with a good ground flora
Home Eweleaze	2.3ha	West-facing chalk bank
Stafford Park Copse	4.1ha	Mixed plantation and semi-natural woodland
Yellowham Wood	49.8*	A large mainly deciduous woodland with a rich flora and butterfly populations
Illesington Wood	82.2ha*	A very large woodland, mostly deciduous with a rich ground flora
Puddletown Forest	26.1ha	Areas of open managed heathland
Duddle Heath	16.6ha	A large area of heathland restoration
Druce Watermeadows	7.7ha	Old watermeadows with a relic flora

* Only partly within the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan Area

The plan area includes a high risk flood zone on the southern site boundary, associated with the River Frome, and across the middle of the plan area which runs in an east to west orientation, associated with the River Piddle.

THE SCOPE OF THE PUDDLETOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan is at an early stage of development, with evidence currently being collected to facilitate the development of the plan.

Whilst specific details of the contents of the plan are not known at this stage, early indications are that the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan will allocate development sites to provide in the region of between 115 to 145 dwellings in the period up to 2036.

The West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan already provides a policy framework which the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan must conform with. The purpose of the policies in the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan is to seek to deliver development against the draft vision, principles and objectives specific to the area which are presented in this section.

The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan has the following draft vision:

“In 2036 Puddletown will be a safe, thriving, well-connected and sustainable village, maintaining its character and sense of community spirit, and encompassing a wide range of age and income groups.”

The draft principles of the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan are that Puddletown will:

- Be a **well-connected** village, served by a range of bus services, public footpaths, bridleways and cycle way designed to meet the needs of the people of Puddletown.
- Be a **traffic friendly and traffic safe** village, encompassing sufficient public and private car parking to meet its needs and ensuring that traffic speed is maintained at a safe level.
- Continue to **develop its housing stock** at a pace commensurate with the desire to keep the village thriving, but not greater than that undertaken in the period 1997-2017.
- Have a **mixed housing stock**, including the development of significant quantities of affordable housing. New housing developments must be in line with the character of the village, with minimal further infilling, and the avoidance of urban sprawl.
- Seek to encourage **new and existing local businesses** so as to increase the number of local jobs; this will include an increase in the number of shops and services, such as a café.
- Maintain and improve the opportunities for **social interaction** within the village, addressing all age groups.
- Be **environmentally safe and friendly**, providing adequate flood defences, maintaining green spaces and protecting ecological habitats.
- Have an underpinning **infrastructure to meet the needs** at the heart of our community, including but not limited to, schools, doctors, vets, broadband, children play areas and a shop, post office and pub.
- Be a **safe and secure** place to live.

The draft objectives of the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan are:

Transport

- **Buses:** To have a bus system with sufficient options to meet the needs of the people of Puddletown.
- **Public Rights of Way:** To have a series of interconnected public rights of way (public footpaths, bridleways, cycle ways) that provide the people of Puddletown with access to the surrounding countryside and sites of natural and archaeological interest.

Traffic

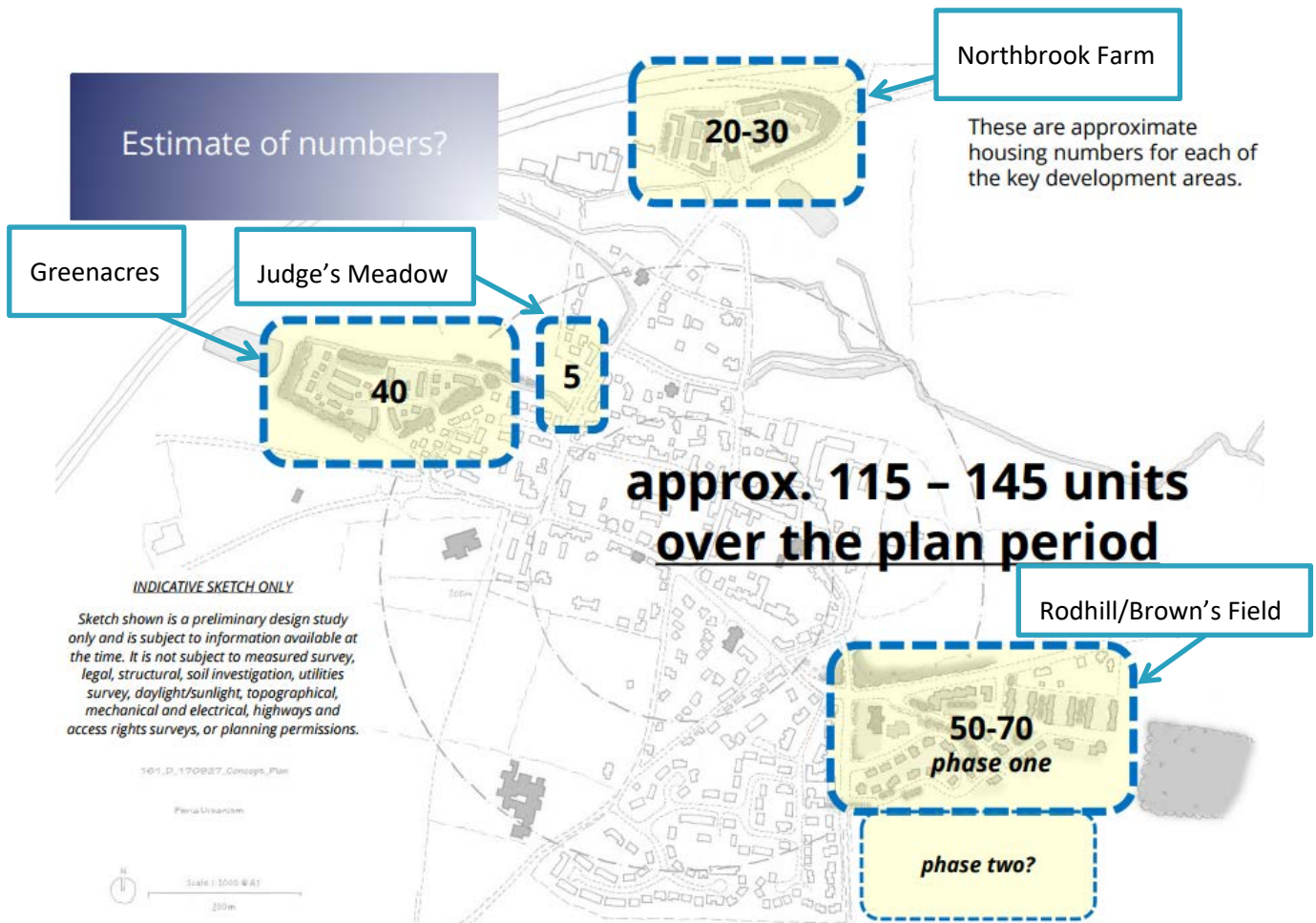
- **Car Parking:** To have sufficient public and private parking so as to minimise congestion and to maximise safety, particularly along the High Street, alongside the Green, and outside the two schools.
- **Speed:** To ensure that traffic speed is reduced through the village by implementing various traffic calming measures.
- **Pedestrian Crossings:** To construct new pedestrian crossing in order to allow the safe crossing at sites near the shop and the First School.
- **Noise Abatement:** To construct various measures to minimise the traffic noise from the bypass.

Housing

- **Development Rate:** To continue housing development at a pace commensurate with the desire to keep the village thriving, but not greater than that undertaken in the period 1997-2017. It is proposed that the total number of dwellings to be included in

the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan should be between approximately 115 and 145 over the planning period 2018 – 2036. This number is in line with the rate of development of dwellings seen in Puddletown over the past 10 years. Housing development should take place throughout the planning period allowing sustained, steady growth.

- **Development Areas:** Substantial development (developments greater than 2 dwellings, including the conversion of existing buildings) should only take place in identified areas; these will be defined in the Neighbourhood Plan. The following possible development areas have been proposed by developers / landowners:



None of these development sites have yet been prioritised / selected by the Neighbourhood Plan. Any new developments must be linked into the village, with good pedestrian, bicycle and road routes.

- **Social Investment:** To ensure that companies leading future housing development also contribute to the social [infrastructure] development of the entire village.
- **Lower cost housing for local needs:** 50% of housing development should be available to people with a local connection. A significant proportion of this housing should be of an inter-generational design serving both young (starter homes) and older generations (including down-sizing). The inter-generational starter homes to be built at a cost of £115k.
- **Housing Quality:** To ensure that all new housing developments meet a set of design criteria that will maintain the character of the village.

- **Infilling and Sprawl:** To minimise the rate of infilling in future housing development, and to ensure that any future housing development maintains the integrity of the village and does not result in sprawl.
- **Services:** To ensure that any future development does not put undue pressure on the current Puddletown services (especially the schools and the surgery), and that any significant developments contribute to developing those services to meet the additional needs.
- **Private Parking:** To ensure that all future housing developments have sufficient private car parking, with at least two car parking spaces per new dwelling [and additional parking for visitors.]

Business

- **New Businesses:** To encourage new businesses into Puddletown in order to improve the sustainability of the village, to improve local job opportunities and also to improve the social opportunities for villagers (this could include a café, a dentist and a bakery).
- **Dedicated Business Area:** To identify and allocate a dedicated business area to encourage and house new businesses.
- **Tourism:** To maximise the benefit to the village from locally located tourist opportunities, including archaeological sites, architectural buildings of interest and the links to Thomas Hardy.

Society

- **Social Opportunities:** To increase the number of, and to make better use of existing facilities that offer social interaction within the village. This should target all age groups, and should encourage inter-age community.
- **Groups and Classes:** To increase the number of groups and classes which address all age groups.
- **Community:** To maintain the sense of community and vibrancy to be found in the village.

Environment

- **Flood Risk:** To protect the people and buildings of Puddletown from the flooding of the Rivers Piddle and Frome.
- **Environmental Protection:** To ensure that the environment and ecological habitats within the Puddletown and area parish are properly protected and enhanced.
- **Green Spaces:** To ensure that the green spaces within the village of Puddletown are retained and properly maintained to the benefit of the people of Puddletown.
- **Renewable Energy:** To encourage the use of local, small scale renewable energy schemes within Puddletown parish.

Infrastructure

- **Current Infrastructure:** To ensure that better use is made of current infrastructures, and that all infrastructure use is maximised for the benefit of the people of Puddletown.
- **Public Car Park:** To build a public car park(s) in Puddletown to alleviate road congestion and parking chaos.

- **Public Toilets:** To build a set of public toilets to serve Puddletown and its visitors.
- **Rubbish Bins:** To increase the number of rubbish bins within the village of Puddletown.
- **Street Maintenance:** To improve street maintenance and road markings in order to improve road safety.
- **Public Space:** To create a public space to serve the people of Puddletown (for example a set of allotments or a public orchard).
- **Broadband:** To ensure that the broadband supplied to Puddletown is technologically current and the best available.

Safety

- **Puddletown Forest:** To improve public safety in the environs of Puddletown Forest, with particular reference to theft and molestation.
- **Unlit Lanes:** To improve lighting in the unlit lanes of Puddletown.

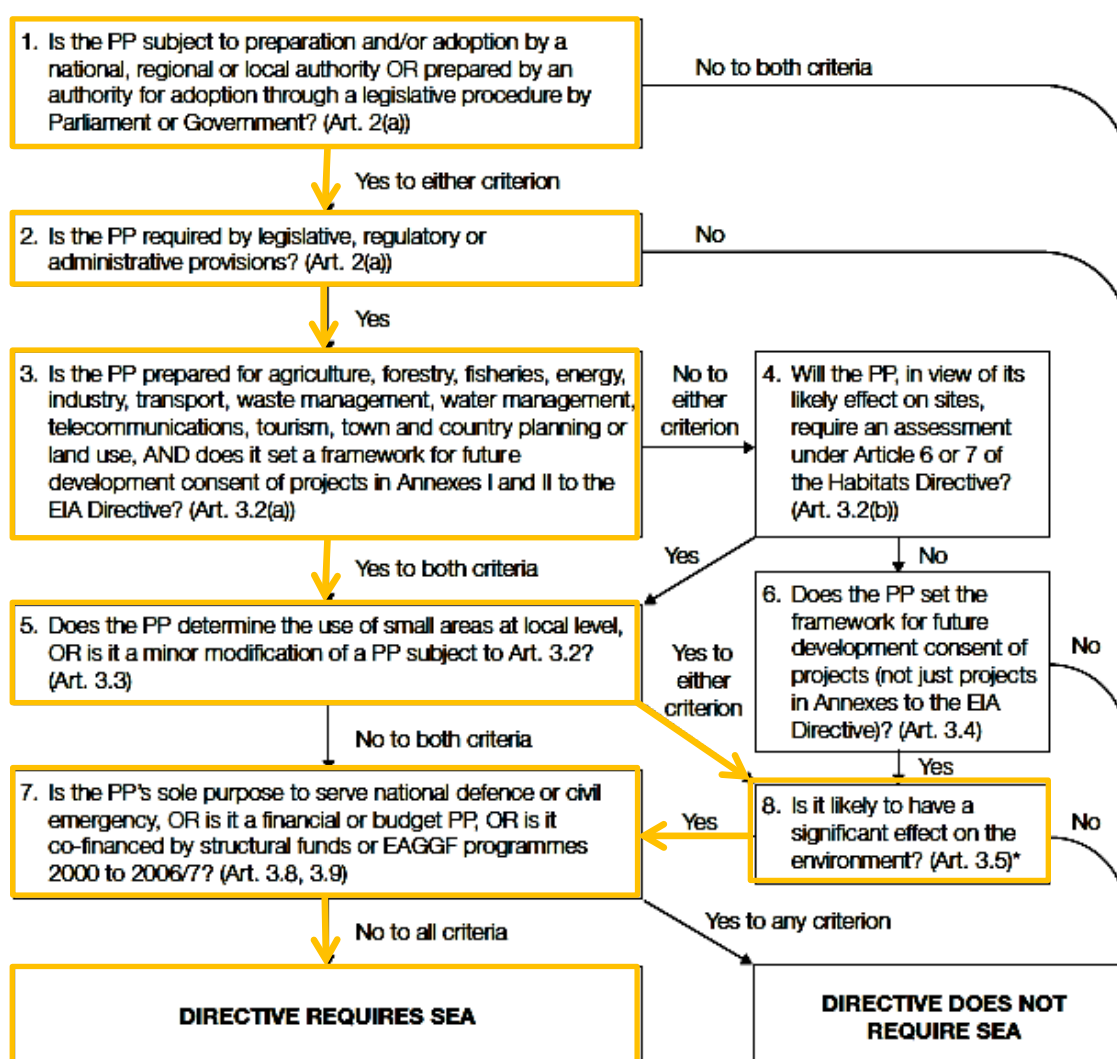
4. SEA SCREENING OF THE PUDDLETOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

This Chapter provides an account of the SEA screening exercise for the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan.

Articles 2 and 3 of the SEA Directive provide the legislative framework for defining the types of plan and programme that require SEA.

The SEA screening process is summarised in diagrammatic form in the flowchart shown in Figure 4.1². The screening for the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan is highlighted in orange and justification for the decisions made at each stage in the SEA screening process is given in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.1: A diagram summarising the SEA screening process with the SEA screening for the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan outlined in orange.



*The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.

² Diagram taken from the Government guidance on the Strategic Environmental Assessment regulations titled 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive', published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005

Figure 4.2: a summary of the justification made for the decisions during the SEA screening for the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan.

Question in SEA screening flow chart (Figure 4.1)	Response
1. Is the PP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament of Government?	YES The intention is for the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan to be adopted by West Dorset District Council, a local authority, through a legislative procedure.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	YES The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan would be a Statutory document, prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive?	YES The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan is a document prepared for town and country planning purposes, and may indicate where future development which falls under Annex II of the EIA Directive which includes urban development projects under paragraph 10(b) takes place.
5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2?	YES The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan determines the use of small areas at a local level.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment (Article 3.5)?	YES Justification for this decision is given later in this chapter.

IS THE PUDDLETOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LIKELY TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT?

The final question in the SEA screening process presented in Figures 4.1 and 4.2 for the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan was question 8: Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?

In asking this question, the SEA Directive refers to Article 3.5, which states that the relevant criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive shall be taken into account when determining whether there are likely to be significant effects. Therefore, the criteria in Article 3.5 have been taken into consideration when determining whether the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA, as presented in Figure 4.3.

Figure 4.3: The assessment of the likely significance of effects of the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan (Taken from Annex II of the SEA Directive)

Criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive	Response	Is there a significant effect?
(1) Characteristics of the plan and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:		
a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size, and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	The framework for development projects within the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area is set by the West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan ('Local Plan'), which provides the overarching policy for the location, size and nature of development projects in this area. The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan builds upon this framework by providing further details of development projects within this area, potentially allocating land for 115 to 145 additional dwellings.	No
b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted alongside its parent document, the Local Plan. It will expand upon the existing policies in the Local Plan and provide supplementary information on a local scale rather than influencing the Local Plan.	No
c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	Any development which comes forward through the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to the environmental considerations of the Local Plan, the aim of which is to achieve sustainable development.	No
d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	The environmental problems within the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area are not considered exclusive to the area, and are similar to those considered and addressed in the Local Plan.	No
e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of community legislation	The implementation of community legislation is unlikely to be significantly compromised by the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan.	No

on the environment (e.g plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).		
(2) Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:		
a) The probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of the effects.	It is anticipated that the plan period will be until 2036. Whilst some effects of the plan may be irreversible, it is not considered probable that the plan will have significant effect since it is only likely to bring forward in the region of 115 to 145 additional dwellings over this period.	No
b) The cumulative nature of the effects.	<p>The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area is located adjacent and to the south of the Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan area and adjacent and to the east of the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan Area.</p> <p>The Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan was examined on 8th November 2016, with the recommendation that the plan should proceed to referendum, subject to modification. If the neighbourhood plan is supported by a local referendum, it will be used to make decisions on planning applications. The Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan is likely to allocate two sites, which in total would result in less than 50 additional dwellings coming forward.</p> <p>The Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan is in it's infancy at the time of writing, with the neighbourhood plan area having been designated recently on 12th September 2017. At this stage there is no indication of the scale of the development which this neighbourhood plan would bring forward.</p> <p>In terms of planning permissions for development in the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan Area, there is outstanding permission for 12 dwellings in Puddletown. This is unlikely to result in significant environmental impacts.</p> <p>The other existing or approved development, through neighbourhood plans and planning permissions, are considered unlikely to result</p>	No

	significant environmental effects.	
c) The transboundary nature of the effects.	The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant transboundary effects, beyond the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area, due to the nature and scale of the proposals.	No
d) The risks to human health or the environment (e.g due to accidents).	The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to introduce significant risks to human health and the environment, for example due to accidents, in light of the scale and type of development.	No
e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area occupies approximately 29km ² and holds a population of 1,452 people according to the 2014 mid-year estimates. The spatial extent of the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area and the magnitude of the population affected are not considered of a significant scale for the purposes of SEA.	No
f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:	The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area and its surroundings contain environmental designations which reflect its special natural characteristics and rich cultural heritage.	Yes
i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	<p>The special natural characteristics of the plan area include River Frome Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a national wildlife designation. The SSSI is largely in an 'unfavourable' condition, with 8% of the SSSI area declining into an even poorer condition.</p> <p>The plan area also includes 7 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) which are of local importance to wildlife and are therefore less sensitive than the national wildlife designation. The SNCI within the plan area mainly comprise of woodland, heathland, and watermeadows.</p> <p>The special natural characteristics in those areas adjacent to the plan area include the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, an area of national importance for landscape, which forms part of the northern site boundary. The setting of the Dorset AONB designation may be vulnerable to new development, which has the potential to compromise the special qualities of this designation.</p>	

	<p>The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan Area and its surrounding areas is very rich in cultural heritage, including a series of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings (some of which are Grade I Listed), and Historic Gardens. These features are potentially vulnerable to development which comes forward through the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Heritage At Risk Register, published by Historic England who are the Government's advisors on heritage issues, lists some of the Scheduled Monuments within the plan area as vulnerable. These Scheduled Monuments are barrows, the condition of which are declining due to land management practices such as arable ploughing.</p>	
<p>ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values</p>	<p>The Council's air quality monitoring regime has not previously identified any exceedances in air quality standards in the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area. The proposals which are likely to come forward through the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan are unlikely to result in a significant increase in airborne contaminants due to the nature and scale of development, and therefore an exceedance in air quality standards is considered unlikely. The Council's air quality monitoring has identified air quality issues in Dorchester, approximately 3.5km to the west of the plan area, designating an air quality management area due to elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide due to vehicle emissions. The proposals which come forward through the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan are considered unlikely to exacerbate this existing air quality issue as a significant increase in traffic in this area of Dorchester is unlikely to result from the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Whilst there are areas of 'very good' grade agricultural land within the plan area, these more versatile and productive soils are located in the rural areas towards the north of the plan area, and are unlikely to be significantly affected by development within the settlement of Puddletown.</p> <p>The River Frome forms the southern boundary of the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area, and is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p>	<p>Yes</p>

		<p>due to diverse and rare aquatic plants at this site. Natural England, the Government's advisors on ecological issues, have undertaken condition assessments which have indicated that the River Frome SSSI has failed to meet 'favourable' status³ due to a range of factors, including elevated concentrations of nutrients in the river water. Furthermore, the River Frome runs into Poole Harbour, a European Wildlife Site which has failed to meet Water Framework Directive targets related to concentrations of nutrients such as phosphorus.</p>	
iii)	Intensive land-use	The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to bring forward development of an extent which would result in a significant intensification of land use in light of the scale of the development.	No
g)	The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	<p>The environmental designations within the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area and its surrounding areas of national, community or international protection status (see Chapter 3 for further details) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); • Site of Special Scientific Interest; • Scheduled Monuments; • Conservation Area; • Listed Buildings (including Grade I Listed Buildings); and • Historic Park and Garden. <p>The Dorset AONB, which recognises the national importance of the landscape in this area, is located adjacent and to the north, and to the west and south of the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area. The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan is considered unlikely to result in significant impacts upon the Dorset AONB, as the probable location of the development which comes forward will be associated with the settlement of Puddletown approximately 2.6km to the south of the Dorset AONB, and the protection provided by policy ENV1(i) of the Local Plan which prevents</p>	Yes

³ For information about the condition assessment, please see here:

[https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportConditionSummary.aspx?SiteCode=S2000220&ReportTitle=River Frome SSSI](https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportConditionSummary.aspx?SiteCode=S2000220&ReportTitle=River%20Frome%20SSSI)

	<p>development which results in harm to the character of the Dorset AONB.</p> <p>There are designated areas of wildlife importance on a local, national and European level within the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area and its surroundings. The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area is within the hydrological catchment of the Poole Harbour European Site, which has been affected by the input of phosphates from development. Further development has the potential to exacerbate these issues if left unmitigated, leading to impacts upon the European site. The southern section of the plan area is within the 500m buffer zone for the Dorset Heathlands European Site. The River Frome Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is located on the southern site boundary, is a nationally important wildlife designation as a chalk stream which supports a wide range of plant, invertebrate, bird and fish species, some of which are rare and scarce. The plan area also includes 7 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) which are local wildlife designations, mainly comprising of a variety of woodland, heathland and watermeadow habitats. There are two SNCI within close proximity to the settlement of Puddletown where some of the development which comes forward through the neighbourhood plan will be situated. In light of the scale of the development which is likely to be brought forward through the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan and the sensitivity of the plan area, it is considered possible that the plan will result in effects upon these wildlife designations.</p> <p>The heritage designations within the plan area include Listed Buildings (Some of which are Grade I listed), Scheduled Monuments, Historic Gardens and a Conservation Area at the settlement of Puddletown, all of which may be considered national designations. In light of the scale of the development which is likely to come forward through the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan and the sensitivity of the heritage assets in question, it is possible that significant impacts upon these assets may result.</p> <p>There are high risk flood zones associated with the</p>	
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	<p>River Frome on the southern boundary of the plan area and the River Piddle in the middle of the plan area, which have been derived nationally. The development which comes forward through the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan may be affected by the flood zones.</p>	
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5. CONCLUSION

Having considered the environmental sensitivity of the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan area, particularly with respect to cultural heritage, flooding and biodiversity, and the scale of development which the plan is likely to come forward, it is considered that the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to result in significant effects on the environment.

The consultation bodies, which comprise Natural England, Historic England, and the Environment Agency, were consulted on the SEA screening report in accordance with regulation 9(2) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004). The consultation bodies, whose responses are presented in Appendix A, agreed with the findings of this report which determines that the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan is likely to result in significant environmental impacts. Therefore, in conclusion, an SEA is required in this instance.

APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Mr Oliver Rendle - Environmental
Assessment Officer
West Dorset District Council
Planning Policy Division
Stratton House
High West Street
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1UZ

Our ref: WX/2006/000265/OR-
18/IS1-L01
Your ref: SEA
Date: 09 February 2018

Dear Mr Rendle

Puddletown Strategic Environmental Assessment

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the above mentioned Strategic Environment Assessment Screening Report. Apologies for the delay in responding.

We have considered the information within the document and from our remit can agree with the conclusions that the plan could impact on sensitive areas, such as flood risk, and therefore could, if your Authority determine, require a full SEA.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL HOLM
Planning Advisor - Sustainable Places



Environment Agency
Rivers House, Sunrise Business Park, Higher Shaftesbury Road, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 8ST.

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

End

Date: 02 February 2018

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 234927



FAO: Oliver Rendle

By email only

Planning Ref: Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening report

Location:

Dear Mr Rendle

Thank you for your consultation on the above, dated and received by Natural England on the 2nd January 2018.

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening report for the Puddletown Area Neighbourhood Plan.

Where Neighbourhood Plans could have significant environmental effects, they may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-neighbourhood-plans>

While Natural England cannot give a legal opinion of the requirement for an SEA, given the housing allocations being brought forward by the Puddletown NP, and the natural and cultural assets in or adjacent to the plan area, the conclusion that a full SEA will be required would appear the best decision. Natural England, therefore, concur with the recommendation for a full SEA.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise. In the meantime, if you have any queries please get in touch with us.

For any queries regarding the advice in this letter only, please contact Matt Low [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] For any new consultations and to provide further information relating to this consultation please send your correspondence to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk .

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Yours sincerely



Matt Low
Natural England
Dorset, Hants and Isle of Wight Area Team
Dorset Coast Team

Oliver Rendle

From: Stuart, David [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2018 15:00
To: Oliver Rendle
Subject: Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan: SEA screening report

Dear Oliver

Thank you for your consultation on the SEA Screening Report for the emerging Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan.

This is to confirm that based on the information within the Report we agree with its conclusion that a full SEA is necessary.

Kind regards

David

David Stuart | Historic Places Adviser South West
[REDACTED]

Historic England | 29 Queen Square | Bristol | BS1 4ND
<https://historicengland.org.uk/southwest>



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From: Oliver Rendle [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 January 2018 11:30
To: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk; Low, Matthew (NE) [REDACTED]; South West Casework; Stuart, David; Holm, Michael [REDACTED]
Cc: Terry Sneller; [REDACTED]
Subject: Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan: SEA screening report

Dear All,

I am writing to consult you on the attached Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening report for the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan (attached), in accordance with Article 3.6 of European Directive 2001/42/EC.

Please can you respond by Friday 26th January 2018 to allow for your responses to be taken into account and a decision to be made regarding the need for SEA.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this,