

**Bolton by Bowland and
Gisburn Forest
Neighbourhood Plan**

**Statement of Environmental
Particulars**

June 2016

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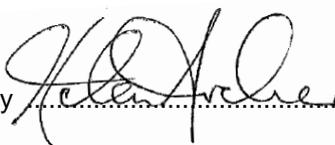
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Revision History

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Contract

This report describes work commissioned by Claire Parker from Kirkwells, on behalf of Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest and Sawley Parish Council, by an email dated 11th September 2015. Helen Archer of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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Purpose

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Abbreviations

HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
JBA	Jeremy Benn Associates
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
SEA.....	Strategic Environmental Particulars
SoEP.....	Statement of Environmental Particulars
SuDS.....	Sustainable Drainage Systems

1 Introduction

Kirkwells, on behalf of Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest and Sawley Parish Council, has prepared a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). As part of this process, JBA Consulting were appointed to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which considers the potential environmental effects of the NP. The Environmental Report sets out findings of the SEA and has been produced to meet the requirements of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (hereafter referred to as the 'SEA Regulations').

1.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.1.1 Purpose of the SEA

The aim of the SEA is to identify potentially significant environmental effects created as a result of the implementation of the plan or programme on issues such as "biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate, material assets including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors" (Annex 1(f), European Directive 2001/42/EC).

1.1.2 Legislative Regime

The European Directive 2001/42/EC requires that an Environmental Report be produced for those plans or programmes requiring SEA which includes information on the "relationship [of the plan or programme] with other relevant plans and programmes" (Annex I(a)), in addition to relevant "environmental protection objectives, established at international, [European] community or [national] level" (Annex I (e)).

The Directive was transposed into English legislation by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations'). The SEA Regulations form the basis by which all SEAs are carried out to assess the effects and impacts of certain plans and programmes on the environment. In conjunction with the SEA Regulations, an ODPM publication, A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, 2005) was issued.

1.2 Purpose of the Statement of Environmental Particulars

This Statement of Environmental Particulars is a statutory requirement under the SEA Regulations. This document has been prepared in compliance with these regulations and demonstrates how the NP SEA Environmental Report and consultation responses have been considered and taken into account in the finalised and approved NP.

2 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Strategy

Environmental considerations have been taken into account throughout the preparation of the NP, as follows:

- **NP Preparation** - The NP forms part of the statutory development plan for an area with environmental (including ecological, social, cultural and economic) receptors taking focal consideration in its development.
- **SEA** - Through the SEA process the NP objectives were assessed against SEA objectives to identify potential impacts (positive, negative or neutral) on the identified environmental receptors within the Boroughs. NP measures to be implemented under the NP objectives were also scrutinised to identify potential environmental impacts.
- **Habitat Regulations Assessment** - A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was undertaken due to the proximity of several European sites. Through this process, the potential impacts on these European sites from the NP alone, and in-combination with other plans and programmes, were identified.
- **Stakeholder Consultation** - at all relevant stages of the strategy preparation, SEA and HRA consultation has been undertaken with other risk management authorities, the requirement statutory consultees and also the general public.

3 Environmental Report

The SEA Environmental Report presented an in depth assessment of the SEA objectives (as shown in Table 3-1) against the objectives and actions as set out in the NP to identify aspects of the plan that may require revising, as a result of potential impacts suggested.

In brief, no negative environmental effects have been identified from the NP objectives. Many of the proposed NP objectives have the potential for both direct and indirect environmental benefits. The NP objective 6, in particular, has potential to provide a positive contribution to five of the ten SEA objectives, as it seeks to protect habitats and species, and maintains and enhances wildlife corridors. It also reduces flood risk, and mitigates climate change. There is opportunity that the NP could achieve a range of biodiversity benefits, including new habitat creation, enhancement of existing habitats and greater habitat connectivity.

In addition, the majority of objectives within the NP will contribute to the achievement of the SEA objectives that seek to protect the integrity of the Borough's urban and, in particular, rural landscapes. As a result, the NP is likely to have a significant positive effect on the local communities. At present, the potential effects associated with several of the NP objectives are neutral, given that they are employment or economy objectives rather than environmental objectives. There is a potential that the achievement of these NP objectives could result in physical interventions that could affect achievement of several of the SEA objectives, depending upon how they are implemented. These risks are directly associated with the type and scale of development or measures to achieve the social objectives, and their location in relation to important or sensitive environmental features. However, given that the NP includes objective 6, which seeks to deliver a range of environmental improvements, such interventions, if delivered in an inappropriate manner, would likely conflict with delivery of the NP. Therefore, the NP should ensure integration of its objectives across all underpinning actions so that delivery of individual measures does not conflict with achievement of the wider Plans objectives, but instead seeks to contribute towards these objectives at all stages of the Plans implementation.

Table 3-1: Summary of effects of NP objectives/measures on SEA objectives

Receptor	SEA Objective	Result / comment
Landscape	1	Protect the integrity of the Borough's urban and, in particular, rural landscapes. No adverse impacts on landscape character of the AONB, NCA or other locally important landscapes/features as a result of implementation of the NP. No reduction in the percentage of land classified within the parishes as open countryside as a result of development arising from NP implementation.
	2	Protect and enhance designated sites and BAP habitats and species in the Borough.
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	3	Maintain and enhance habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors within the Borough. Improved conservation status of designated nature conservation sites as a result of NP implementation. Increase in the area of good wildlife habitat, and land designated as nature conservation sites, as a result of implementation of the NP.
	4	Improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's rivers. No deterioration to the WFD status of water bodies within the parishes. Increase in the number of SuDS schemes within the parishes. No increase in the number of sites with high pollution potential (e.g. landfill sites, wastewater treatment works) at risk from flooding because of measures implemented from the NP.
Water environment	5	Do not inhibit achievement of the WFD objectives and contribute to their achievement where Increase in the percentage of water bodies within the parishes achieving 'Good' ecological status/potential. No deterioration to the WFD status of water bodies

Receptor	SEA Objective	Result / comment
		possible. within the catchment.
Soils and geology	6 Reduce the risk of soil erosion and pollution.	Minor increase in the area of agricultural, rural and greenfield land given over to development as a result of NP implementation (particularly in fulfilment of Policy BBGF1 which targets land at the settlement boundaries of Bolton by Bowland, Tosside and Holden). No increase in the number of sites with high pollution potential (e.g. landfill sites, wastewater treatment works) at risk from flooding because of measures implemented from the NP.
Historic environment	7 Preserve and where possible enhance important historic and cultural sites in the Borough.	No adverse impact on historic assets, or their setting, as a result of NP implementation. Increase in the number of historic assets protected/ conserved/ enhanced (e.g. removed from the Heritage at Risk Register) as a result of NP implementation.
Population	8 Protect and enhance social and community facilities within the Borough.	Increase in the number of green spaces protected/enhanced/created as part of NP implementation. Increase in the number of key services protected/enhanced/created as part of implementation of the NP.
Material assets	9 Protect and enhance the existing transport and infrastructure of the Borough.	Increase in the length of road infrastructure enhanced as part of implementation of the NP. Increase in the number of public transport initiatives enhanced/established within the parishes as a result of NP implementation. Increase in the length of footpaths within the parishes as a result of NP implementation.
Climate	10 Reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts and promote measures to enable adaptation to climate change impacts.	Increase in the number of sustainable transport initiatives established from the implementation of the NP. Increase in the number of renewable energy projects established within the Parishes because of Neighbourhood Plan implementation (taking into account the sensitivity of the landscape and designated nature conservation sites). Reduction in the number of residential properties and key services at risk of flooding as a result of NP implementation.

4 Consultation

The Draft NP was produced in June 2015 for the Steering Group following a formal consultation exercise with the public and other risk management authorities.

5 Adoption of Strategy

In order to adopt the final NP, Kirkwells have taken account of the following:

- the consultation responses to the NP and made changes in reaction to these responses
- the findings of the SEA Environmental Statement and responses from consultation
- the acceptance of the findings of the HRA by appropriate consultation bodies

6 Monitoring

The SEA Regulations require the Parish Councils to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan. The monitoring indicators and associated targets which relate to each NP objective will enable it to be monitored and any problems or shortfalls to be highlighted and remedied at an early stage. If failings are evident, it will be necessary for the Neighbourhood Plan to be revised so that the achievement of the SEA objectives is not compromised. Of note, it is unlikely that any effects, negative or otherwise, will be seen immediately and that the relative time scale for monitoring will vary for each indicator/target.

Figure 6-1 below illustrates the process that will occur to trigger action when adverse effects of the Neighbourhood Plan implementation are identified through the proposed monitoring programme detailed below.

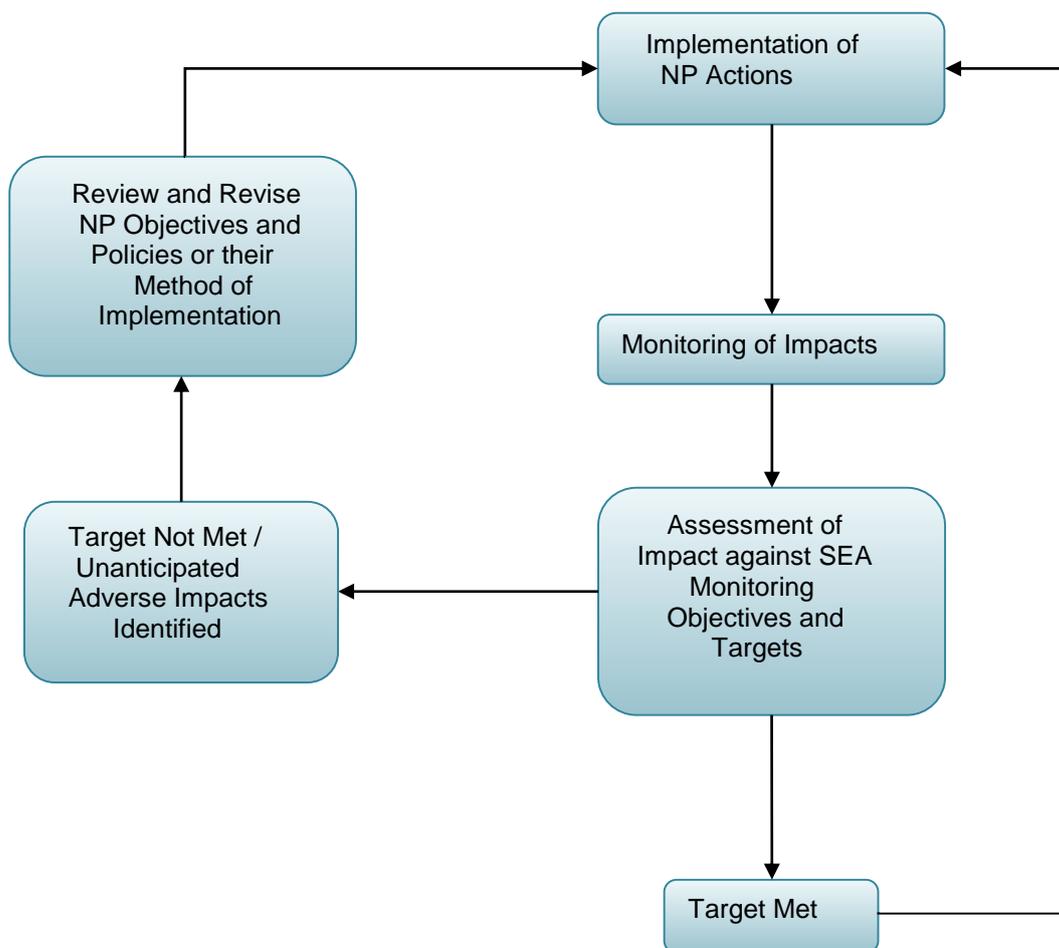


Figure 6-1: Process for ensuring adverse impacts of NP identified through SEA monitoring framework are mitigated/rectified

References

OPDM (2005). A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguide_sea.pdf. Accessed on 25/04/2016.

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