



**Strategic Environmental Assessment  
Screening Report**

**Lazonby  
Neighbourhood Development Plan**

**On Behalf of Lazonby Parish Council**

**June 2017**

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the contents of the draft Lazonby Neighbourhood Development Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.2 The purpose of the SEA is to provide a high level of protection to the environment and to integrate considerations of the environment into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development.
- 1.3 The purpose of the Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan is to provide detailed policy guidance in relation to General Development Principles, the Development of Greenfield Sites, Design, Landscaping, Trees, Views, Open Space, Play Areas, Footpaths, Cycleways, Housing, Employment, Farm Diversification, Tourism, Renewable Energy and Infrastructure.
- 1.4 The legislative background set out below outlines the regulations that require the need for this screening exercise. Section 3 provides a screening assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the draft plan and the need for a full SEA.

### **Legislative Background**

- 1.5 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations.
- 1.6 This report focuses on screening for SEA and the criteria for establishing whether a full assessment is needed.

## **2.0 Assessment**

- 2.1 Regulation 15 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, as amended, requires that certain specified information is provided alongside a draft neighbourhood plan when it is submitted to the local planning authority. In summary, this information is:

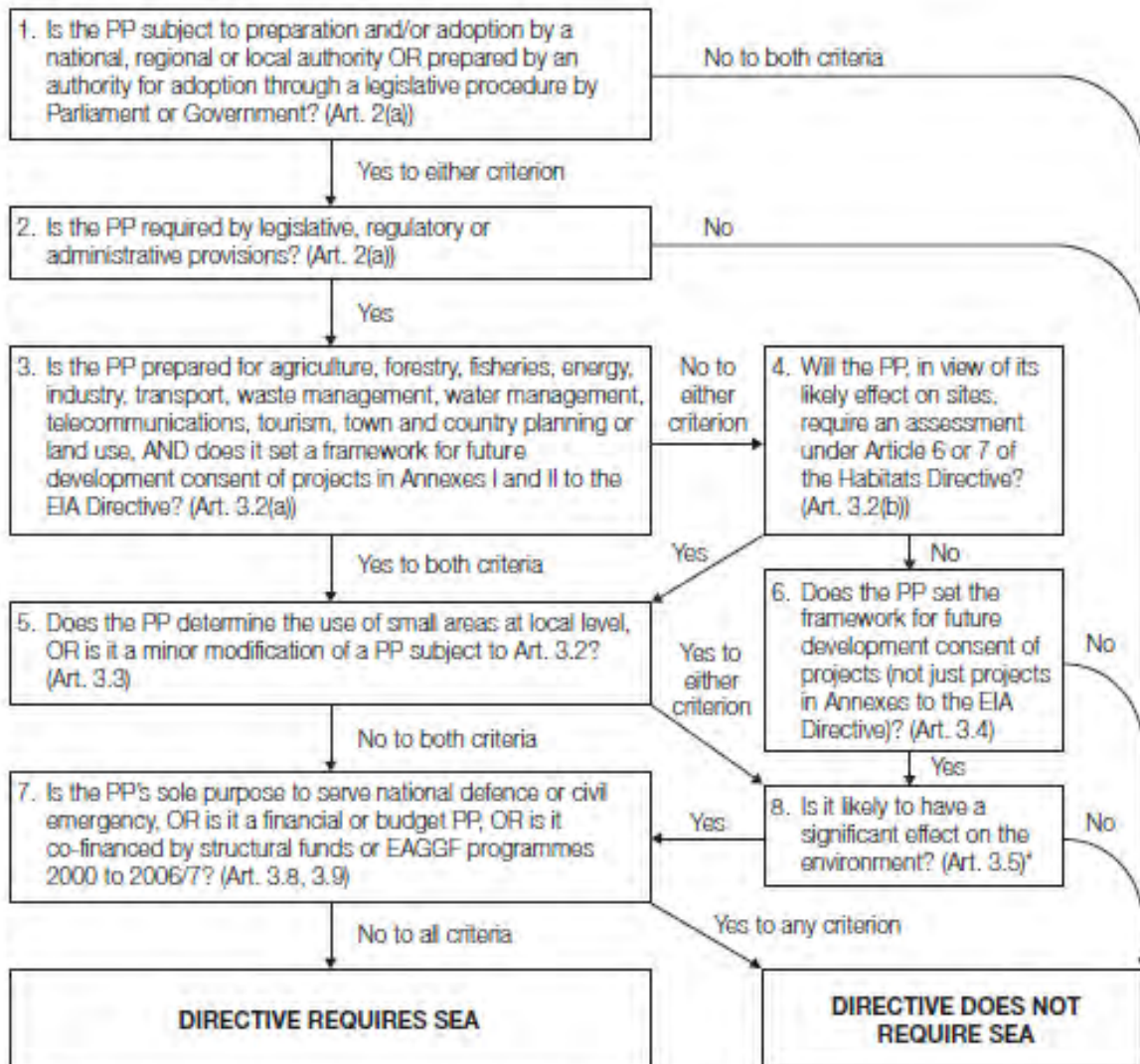
- A map or statement which identifies the area to which the proposed neighbourhood development plan relates;
- A consultation statement;
- The proposed neighbourhood development plan;
- A 'basic conditions statement'; and
- **(i) an environmental report; or**  
**(ii) a screening opinion indicating that an environmental report is not required**

2.2 The diagram overleaf illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required.

2.3 This assessment is therefore split into two parts. Part 1 runs the draft plan through the questions outlined in the diagram above and includes commentary of whether the need for SEA is triggered. Part 2 further assesses stage 8, on whether there is a likely significant impact. The screening opinion takes a 'precautionary approach' and when it is unclear as to how the Directive may be applied it is assumed that there are possible likely significant effects.

**Figure 2 – Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes**

This diagram is intended as a guide to the criteria for application of the Directive to plans and programmes (PPs). It has no legal status.



\*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.

## Part 1 – Application of the Directive to the draft NP

- 2.4 The Table below sets out the eight questions identified in the diagram above and provides an answer with regard to the proposed Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan.

Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the PP (plan or programme) 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 or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The preparation and adoption of the NP is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The NP has been prepared by Lazonby Parish Council (as the 'relevant body') and will be 'made' by Eden District Council as the local authority. The preparation of NPs is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012. <b>GO TO STAGE 2</b>
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	Whilst the NP is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act, as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it will, if 'made', be part of the statutory Development Plan, prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended. It is therefore important that the screening process considers whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive. <b>GO TO STAGE 3</b>
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? (Art 3.2(a))	Y	The draft plan is being prepared for town and country planning and land use purposes. It seeks to allocate land for future development and proposes policies which will shape future development proposals. As such, the draft plan contains a framework for future development consent of urban development projects (listed as 10(b) in Annex II of the EIA Directive). Although the draft plan is for small scale development, and it could be argued that it does not fit the

		definition of 'urban development project' a precautionary stance is taken at this stage to allow further assessment at Stage 8. <b>GO TO STAGE 4</b>
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	Not known.	A Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have impacts on sites covered by the Habitats Regulations.  A separate HRA screening assessment to ascertain whether an Appropriate Assessment is required under the Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, which relate to Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive has been prepared.
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? (Art. 3.3)	Y	The draft plan identifies land within the Neighbourhood Area for development. <b>GO TO STAGE 8</b>
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	Once 'made', a Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory Development Plan and will be used in the determination of planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area. Therefore, it sets the framework for future developments at a local level.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	N	The Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan will not deal with these issues.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)		See Part 2: Likely significant effects on the environment

## Part 2 – Likely significant effects on the environment

- 2.5 Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below, together with a commentary on whether the draft NP would trigger the need for a full assessment.

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

Criteria	Consideration	SEA?
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	<p>The framework for development within the Lazonby NP will be set by the Eden Local Plan (which determines the quantum of housing allocated to Lazonby) although the NP provides the detail regarding the location of that development. The draft NP promotes the development or redevelopment of several sites across the Lazonby Parish, all of which are less than 2 ha in size.</p> <p>Useful guidance on whether a scheme would trigger the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (if this was a planning application) is contained in Annex 1 of the 2015 EIA Regulations. These state that where a scheme is an urban development project a threshold of 5 hectares would apply and would indicate that a scheme <u>may</u> require EIA. In addition the 2015 EIA Regulations state that proposals for redevelopment are unlikely to require an EIA.</p> <p>Overall the plan promotes small scale development which would not exceed the threshold.</p>	N
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The Lazonby NP is expected to be adopted following the adoption of the Eden Local Plan 2014-32. The Lazonby NP will expand upon the policies in the Local Plan, allocating sites for development and providing supplementary information on a local scale rather than influencing the overall direction of the Local Plan.	N
The relevance of the plan or programme	The plan promotes development in what has previously been considered	N

for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	to be a sustainable location. Any development that comes forward through the Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to the environmental considerations of the Eden District Local Plan 2014 -2032.	
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	Due to the relatively small scale nature of the development proposed, it is considered that there are no significant environmental problems arising from implementation of this draft plan.	N
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)	The implementation of community legislation is unlikely to be compromised by the Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan.	N
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Consideration</b>	<b>SEA?</b>
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	It is considered highly improbable that the Lazonby neighbourhood Plan would result in significant effects in light of the nature and scale of the proposals. It is anticipated that the Plan will have a duration of 18 years from 2014 to 2032. Some effects of the plan are anticipated to be irreversible and may be negative in environmental terms.	N
The cumulative nature of the effects	There are not considered to be any cumulative effects arising from the Plan when considered together with other Development Plan proposals.	N
The transboundary	There are not expected to be any significant trans-boundary effects.	N



nature of the effects		
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	None identified.	N
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),	The Lazonby NP proposes a modest level of development in accordance with set out in the Eden Local Plan. It is not considered that this would give rise to any significant impacts.	N
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,</li> <li>- exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,</li> <li>- intensive land-use,</li> </ul>	<p>The Lazonby NP area contains a number of designated assets of national significance, including listed buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, a Conservation Area and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The River Eden SAC also forms the north-eastern boundary to the Parish (the impacts to which are considered in the HRA Screening Exercise). It is clear that the Neighbourhood Area contains a number of sensitive/potentially vulnerable receptors and it is possible these could be affected by the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the Lazonby NP will conform to the Local Plan, which provides protection to these environmental and cultural characteristics and may provide additional protection to ensure that they are not vulnerable to significant impacts from development.</p>	N

<p>The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	<p>The Lazonby NP area contains a number of important designations including ancient woodland, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and the River Eden SAC.</p> <p>The River Eden SAC and SSSI runs along the north eastern boundary of the Plan area. The implications for this are considered within the HRA screening report.</p> <p>Policy ENV1 of the Eden Local Plan seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment, biodiversity and geodiversity, including SACs and SSSIs. The Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan must be in conformity with the Local Plan, thus also preventing development which would adversely impact upon these designations.</p>	<p>N</p>
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### 3.0 Screening Outcome

- 3.1 The SEA Regulations require that the appropriate nature conservation body is consulted (Natural England) as well as the Environment Agency and Historic England. These three statutory consultation bodies were consulted on 5th April 2017 to determine if they agree with the screening outcomes of this report. Their Responses are summarised in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 In light of the District Council's findings and the responses from the statutory consultees it is concluded that, **it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the draft NP. As such, the Council does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.** However, if the Neighbourhood Plan is materially altered, this Screening Report may have to be revised.
- 3.3 This conclusion should be revisited at future stages, as EDC must decide whether the neighbourhood plan proposal is compatible with EU obligations when it takes the decision on whether the neighbourhood plan should proceed

to referendum; and when it takes the decision on whether or not to make the neighbourhood plan.

- 3.4 We would also advise you to have regard to the comments provided by Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre (provided at Appendix 2) who, at the request of Natural England, have been consulted. Their comments provide a biodiversity and nature conservation perspective on Lazonby Parish and it is recommended that their comments are borne in mind during the formulation of future development proposals.

## **Appendix 1 – Responses from Statutory Consultees**



Historic England

Rachael Armstrong  
Planning Officer (Policy)  
Eden District Council  
Mansion House  
Penrith  
CA11 7YG

Our ref: PL00078141 & PL00081858  
Your ref: E-mail 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017  
Telephone: 07500 121974

24<sup>th</sup> April 2017,



Dear Rachael,

**Re: SEA Screening Assessment and Draft Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan.**

I am writing in reply to your E-mail dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The Neighbourhood Plan Forum requests a formal Screening Opinion from Historic England in compliance with the *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004* based on a draft Neighbourhood Plan provided by yourself. The draft Opinion prepared for the Forum concludes that Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. We note that the Plan appears to propose no site allocations/policies which would have significant environmental effects upon the historic environment and as such we concur that in this regard Strategic Environmental Assessment is *not* required. Please note that Historic England is a statutory consultee in such matters and ought to be referred to at 3.1 of your Screening Assessment. Our national advice on Sustainability Appraisal and SEAs is set out here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

We have no record of previously being consulted on this Neighbourhood Plan by the Lazonby Forum as statutorily required at key stages. I have therefore read the draft plan you have sent and offer the following advice; please can you pass this letter onto the Forum's chair.

Having considered the proposals we do not consider that there is a need for Historic England to be involved in the development of the strategy for your area at this time. However in light of the heritage assets that are in the area, we consider that the conservation officer at Allerdale Council is the best placed person to assist you in the development of your Neighbourhood Plan. They can help you to consider how the strategy might address the area's heritage assets. I was disappointed when reading Section 6 (entitled "Design and Conservation") to find



Historic England, Suite 3.3, Canada House, 3 Chapstow Street, Manchester M1 5FW  
Telephone 0161 242 1416 [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.  
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available



no reference or policy relating to the Lazonby Conservation Area or its 7 (GdII) designated heritage assets, their significance, setting and future management.

You might also consider contacting the staff who look after the Historic Environment Record and give advice on archaeological matters. They should be able to provide details of not only any designated heritage assets but also locally-important buildings, archaeological remains and landscapes. Some Historic Environment Records may also be available on-line via the Heritage Gateway ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)). It may also be useful to involve local voluntary groups such as the local Civic Society, local history groups, building preservation trusts, etc. in the final production of your Neighbourhood Plan.

Your local authority might also be able to provide you with more general support in the production of your Neighbourhood Plan. National Planning Practice Guidance is clear that where it is relevant, Neighbourhood Plans need to include enough information about local heritage to guide planning decisions and to put broader strategic heritage policies from your local authority led local plan into action at a neighbourhood scale. If appropriate this should include enough information about local non-designated heritage assets including sites of archaeological interest to guide decisions.

Further information and guidance on how heritage can best be incorporated into Neighbourhood Plans has been produced by Historic England. This signposts a number of other documents which your community might find useful in helping to identify what it is about your area which makes it distinctive and how you might go about ensuring that the character of Lazonby is retained. These can be found at:-

<http://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/>

And;

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/ppa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>

If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours Sincerely



Darren Ratcliffe RIBA  
Historic Places Adviser



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Telephone 0161 242 1416 [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

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Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available



Ms R Armstrong  
Planning Officer (Policy)  
Eden District Council  
Mansion House  
Penrith  
Cumbria  
CA11 7YG

**Our ref:** NO/2013/104973/SE-  
04/SC1-L01  
**Your ref:** Lazonby Neighbourhood  
Plan  
**Date:** 11 April 2017

Dear Ms Armstrong

**Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report (March 2017)**

**Habitats Regulations Screening Report (April 2017)**

Thank you for your consultation request received on 5 April 2017 regarding screening of the above documents relating to the Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan for Strategic Environmental Assessment (under European Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and programmes Regulations 2004) and Appropriate Assessment (under the EU Habitats Directive).

The Environment Agency has reviewed the above reports and agrees with the screening outcomes concluded by Eden District Council.

Yours sincerely

**Jeremy Pickup**  
**Planning Advisor - Sustainable Places**

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

Environment Agency  
Ghyll Mount (Gillan Way) Penrith 40 Business Park, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 9BP.  
Customer services line: 03708 506 506  
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)  
End



Date: 21 April 2017  
Our ref: 212668  
Your Ref: Lazonby NP



Rachael Armstrong  
Planning Officer (Policy)  
Eden District Council

Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Rachael,

### **Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 which was received by Natural England on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

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 present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. We have reviewed your screening report in accordance with regulation 9 (2) (b) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) and provide the following advice;

#### **Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment**

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

#### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance<sup>1</sup>. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- A neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development,
- The neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan,
- The neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

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<sup>1</sup><http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/>



Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary. Additional guidance and sources of information are provided in Annex 1.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Colette Garner on 020822 57301. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Colette Garner  
Sustainable Development Advisor

## Annex 1 - Neighbourhood planning and the natural environment: information, issues and opportunities

### Natural environment information sources

The [Magic<sup>2</sup>](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/) website will provide you with much of the nationally held natural environment data for your plan area. The most relevant layers for you to consider are: Agricultural Land Classification, Ancient Woodland, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Nature Reserves, National Parks (England), National Trails, Priority Habitat Inventory, public rights of way (on the Ordnance Survey base map) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (including their impact risk zones). Local environmental record centres, such as Tullie House in Carlisle, may hold a range of additional information on the natural environment.

Priority habitats are those habitats of particular importance for nature conservation, and the list of them can be found [here<sup>3</sup>](#). Most of these will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. Your local planning authority should be able to supply you with the locations of Local Wildlife Sites.

National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each character area is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. NCA profiles contain descriptions of the area and statements of environmental opportunity, which may be useful to inform proposals in your plan. NCA information can be found [here<sup>4</sup>](#).

There may also be a local landscape character assessment covering your area. This is a tool to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identify the features that give it a sense of place. It can help to inform, plan and manage change in the area. Your local planning authority should be able to help you access these if you can't find them online.

If your neighbourhood planning area is within or adjacent to a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the relevant National Park/AONB Management Plan for the area will set out useful information about the protected landscape. You can access the plans on from the relevant National Park Authority or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website.

General mapped information on soil types and Agricultural Land Classification is available (under 'landscape') on the [Magic<sup>5</sup>](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/) website and also from the [LandIS website<sup>6</sup>](http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm), which contains more information about obtaining soil data.

### Natural environment issues to consider

The [National Planning Policy Framework<sup>7</sup>](#) sets out national planning policy on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. [Planning Practice Guidance<sup>8</sup>](#) sets out supporting guidance.

Your local planning authority should be able to provide you with further advice on the potential impacts of your plan or order on the natural environment and the need for any environmental assessments.

#### Landscape

Your plans or orders may present opportunities to protect and enhance locally valued landscapes. You may want to consider identifying distinctive local landscape features or characteristics such as ponds, woodland or dry stone walls and think about how any new development proposals can respect and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://web.archive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habitatsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

<sup>5</sup> <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework-2>

<sup>8</sup> <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/>



If you are proposing development within or close to a protected landscape (National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) or other sensitive location, we recommend that you carry out a landscape assessment of the proposal. Landscape assessments can help you to choose the most appropriate sites for development and help to avoid or minimise impacts of development on the landscape through careful siting, design and landscaping.

#### Wildlife habitats

Some proposals can have adverse impacts on designated wildlife sites or other priority habitats (listed [here](#)<sup>9</sup>), such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or [Ancient woodland](#)<sup>10</sup>. If there are likely to be any adverse impacts you'll need to think about how such impacts can be avoided, mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for.

#### Priority and protected species

You'll also want to consider whether any proposals might affect priority species (listed [here](#)<sup>11</sup>) or protected species. To help you do this, Natural England has produced advice [here](#)<sup>12</sup> to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected species.

#### Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services for society. It is a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, a store for carbon and water, a reservoir of biodiversity and a buffer against pollution. If you are proposing development, you should seek to use areas of poorer quality agricultural land in preference to that of a higher quality in line with National Planning Policy Framework para 112. For more information, see our publication [Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land](#)<sup>13</sup>.

## **Improving your natural environment**

Your plan or order can offer exciting opportunities to enhance your local environment. If you are setting out policies on new development or proposing sites for development, you may wish to consider identifying what environmental features you want to be retained or enhanced or new features you would like to see created as part of any new development. Examples might include:

- Providing a new footpath through the new development to link into existing rights of way.
- Restoring a neglected hedgerow.
- Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the site.
- Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.
- Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.
- Incorporating swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of new buildings.
- Think about how lighting can be best managed to encourage wildlife.
- Adding a green roof to new buildings.

You may also want to consider enhancing your local area in other ways, for example by:

- Setting out in your plan how you would like to implement elements of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy (if one exists) in your community.
- Assessing needs for accessible greenspace and setting out proposals to address any deficiencies or enhance provision.

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<sup>9</sup><http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences>

<sup>11</sup><http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

<sup>12</sup><https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

<sup>13</sup><http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012>

- Identifying green areas of particular importance for special protection through Local Green Space designation (see [Planning Practice Guidance](#)).<sup>14</sup>
- Managing existing (and new) public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g. by sowing wild flower strips in less used parts of parks, changing hedge cutting timings and frequency).
- Planting additional street trees.
- Identifying any improvements to the existing public right of way network, e.g. cutting back hedges, improving the surface, clearing litter or installing kissing gates) or extending the network to create missing links.
- Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g. coppicing a prominent hedge that is in poor condition, or clearing away an eyesore).

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<sup>14</sup> <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/>

Inbox - Rachael.Armstrong@eden.gov.uk - Microsoft Outlook

RE: Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan - Screening for SEA and AA - Message (HTML)

File Message McAfee E-mail Scan

Ignore X Delete Reply Reply All Forward IM More

Personal To Manager Done Move OneNote Mark Unread Categorize Follow Up Translate Find Related Zoom

Quick Steps Create New Actions Tags Editing Zoom

Follow up. Start by 06 June 2017. Due by 06 June 2017.  
This message is part of a tracked conversation. Click here to find all related messages or to open the original flagged message.

From: Plan Cons Area Team (Cumbria) (NE) <PlanConsAreaTeamCumbria@defra.gsi.gov.uk> Sent: Thu 01/06/2017  
To: Rachael Armstrong  
Cc: Kevin Hutchinson; Emily Baldasera  
Subject: RE: Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan - Screening for SEA and AA

Dear Rachael,

I apologise if my response dated 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017 was not sufficiently specific, but it is a standard letter that we are advised to use for low risk cases.


However, I have reviewed the original consultation and the SEA screening and HRA screening reports that were provided for the housing allocations in this plan in relation to protected sites, and can confirm that Natural England agrees with your conclusion that a full SEA is not required, and that there are not likely to be any significant effects on any protected sites. As you suggest in the HRA screening report, construction phase impacts can be mitigated through the planning application process to avoid any likely significant effects on the River Eden SAC.

I hope this answers your question.

Kind Regards,

Colette Garner  
Sustainable Development Advisor

Murley Moss  
Oxenholme Road  
Kendal  
Cumbria  
LA9 7RL



<http://www.gov.uk/natural-england>

**We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.**

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.  
Teleconference dial-in: 0800 5285280; or 0207 9790003 if calling from mobile. Access code: 7529907#

## Appendix 2 – Response from Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre

### THE PARISH OF LAZONBY

The Parish of Lazonby is of significant importance with regard to its habitats and biodiversity.

The following information includes details of biodiversity significance within the parish boundary and within a 2km buffer zone. This is because activities within the parish itself may have a negative or positive impact outside of the parish.

### AREAS OF SPECIAL CONSERVATION VALUE

#### COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES

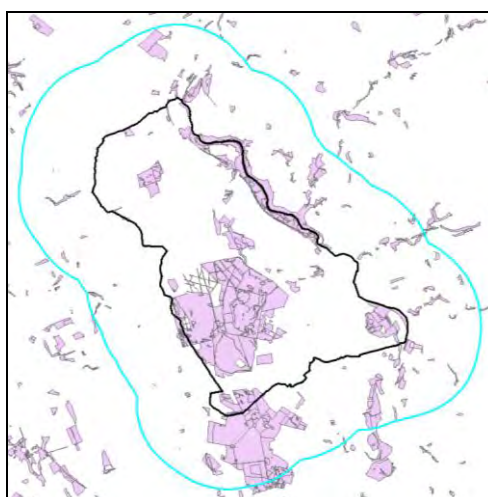
There are 4 county wildlife sites within the parish boundaries, with a further 5 within a 2k buffer of the parish boundary.

In the Parish	In the 2km Buffer zone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baron Wood</li><li>• Middleholme and Birks Moss</li><li>• Blazefell Quarries</li><li>• Edenlacy Marsh and the Glebe</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hanginbrow Wood</li><li>• Highflats</li><li>• Broad Wood</li><li>• Daleraven Beck</li><li>• Row Bank Fen</li></ul>

#### HABITATS

With the Parish and the 2km buffer there are a number of UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats.

- Hedgerows
- Ponds
- Woodland: Ancient woodland and semi natural woodland
- Upland and Lowland Heath
- Wet flushes
- Areas with special conservation



## GEOLOGICAL SITES

There are no sites of geological interest within the parish. Coombe Clints is on the boundary and Lacy's caves are within the buffer zone.



## SPECIES

34,673 species records recorded.

**Rare, Scarce and Protected:** 127 species recorded are on the UK BAP action plan list, eg Otter, Curlews.

**Non- native and Invasive species:** Within the species list are species that may be subject to control methods, eg Indian Balsam and Grey Squirrel.

## SITES OF INVERTEBRATE SIGNIFICANCE

- Coombs Woods
- Baron Wood
- Nunnery Walks
- Lazonby Fells
- Wann Fell
- Raven Beck
- Little Selkeld Viaduct Shingle
- Little Selkeld Landslip
- Great Selkeld Shingle Bank

