

# Woore Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Report

Prepared by Woore Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, January 2018

## Contents

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Woore Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Report .....  |  |
| Abbreviations:.....  |  |
| 1.0 Introduction .....   |  |
| 1.1 Requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) .....   |  |
| 1.2 Requirement for HRA .....  |  |
| 1.3 Legislative Background .....   |  |
| 1.4 The Shropshire Council Core Strategy and SAMDEV .....  |  |
| 1.5 Screening Process .....  |  |
| 1. Summary of the Screening Assessment .....   |  |
| 2.1 Plan Context.....  |  |
| 2.3 Aims of the Plan: .....  |  |
| 2.4 Objectives .....   |  |
| 2.5 Designated sites within the neighbourhood area: .....  |  |
| 2.6 Policies .....   |  |
| 3.0 Screening Assessment.....  |  |
| 3.1 Assessment 1: Does the Neighbourhood Plan require a SEA? .....   |  |
| 3.2 Assessment 2: Is the Neighbourhood Plan likely to have a Significant Effects on the Environment? ..... |  |
| 3.3 Determining whether the WNP is likely to have a significant effect on Designated Sites .....           |  |
| 3.4 Assessment 2: Is the Neighbourhood Plan likely to have a Significant Effects on the Environment? ..... |  |
| 4.0 Screening Conclusion .....   |  |
| 4.1 Monitoring of WNP Policies .....   |  |
| 5.0 Appendixes .....   |  |
| 5.1 Appendix A: Responses from Statutory Consultees: .....   |  |
| Appendix B: Location of European Sites in Relation to WNP .....  |  |
| Appendix C: Local Environmental Designations in Relation to WNP .....                                      |  |
| Appendix D: Designated Historic Assets in Relation to WNP .....  |  |

## Abbreviations:

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| SC      | Shropshire Council                                      |
| SAMDEV: | Site Allocations and Management of Development Document |
| WNP:    | Woore Neighbourhood Plan                                |
| WNA:    | Woore Neighbourhood Area                                |
| NP:     | Neighbourhood Plan                                      |

## 1.0 Introduction

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a way of ensuring the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before any such decisions are made. The need for environmental assessment of plans and programmes is set out in the EU Directive 2001/42/EC – known as the SEA Directive. Under this Directive, Neighbourhood Plans may require SEA – but this will depend on the content of each Neighbourhood Plan. The SEA Directive makes SEA a mandatory requirement for:

*Plans which are prepared for town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive; or Plans which have been determined to require an assessment under the Habitats Directive.*

A screening of a draft plan must be undertaken by the responsible authority prior to adoption or submission to the legislative procedure. In this case the 'responsible authority' is Woore Parish Council who are providing a screening opinion on the Woore Neighbourhood Plan (WNP) to determine if SEA is required. If it is concluded that an SEA is required, Woore Parish Council are responsible for its production and it must form part of the material that is consulted on once the formal consultation stage is reached.

The main determining factor as to whether SEA is required on a Neighbourhood Plan is if it is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Those Neighbourhood Plans containing land allocations for development, which are not included in the local authority's plan, are likely to require SEA. Neighbourhood Plans which do not contain such allocations (or simply reflect allocations already identified as part of a local authority plan) are less likely to require SEA.

If SEA is required, Woore Parish Council may consider voluntarily expanding the scope so that it covers wider economic and social issues. The advantage of undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal is that it can demonstrate the impact of the Neighbourhood Plan on social, economic and environmental factors and therefore demonstrate to an examiner that the Plan that has been prepared is the most sustainable given all alternatives.

### 1.1 Requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Where a neighbourhood plan could have significant environmental effects it may require a SEA.

Whether a neighbourhood plan requires SEA and (if so), the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft neighbourhood plan. SEA may be required for example when:

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

### 1.2 Requirement for HRA

In the context of neighbourhood planning, a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required where a Neighbourhood Plan is deemed likely to give rise to significant effects on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites), as a result of the plan's implementation. If no significant effect is deemed likely, HRA is not required. Where HRA is undertaken, it is good practice to identify sites within 10-15km of the plan/project boundary and include them in a HRA.

### 1.3 Legislative Background

The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal is the [European Directive 2001/42/EC](#) which has subsequently been transposed into English law by the [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#), or SEA Regulations. The government has produced guidance in relation to these regulations, entitled '[A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#)'.

Schedule 2 of the [Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) Regulations 2012](#) makes provision in relation to the Habitats Directive. The Directive requires that any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a European site must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. To achieve this, paragraph 1 prescribes a basic condition that the making of a neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site. Paragraphs 2 to 5 of the Schedule amend the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 so as to apply its provisions to neighbourhood development orders and neighbourhood plans. In particular, paragraph 4 inserts new regulation 78A which provides that a neighbourhood development order may not grant planning permission for development which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

Schedule 3 of the [Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) Regulations 2012](#) makes provision in relation to the [Environmental Impact Assessment \(EIA\) Directive](#). The Directive requires that EIA development must be subject to a development consent process. To enable this, Schedule 3 prescribes a basic condition that applies where development which is the subject of a proposal for a neighbourhood development order is of a type caught by the EIA Directive, and applies to the relevant provisions of the [Town and Country Planning \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) Regulations 2011\(3\)](#) ("the EIA Regulations") with appropriate modifications ([regulation 33](#) and paragraphs [1 to 4 and 6 of Schedule 3](#)). Paragraphs 5 and 7 to 13 of Schedule 3 correct errors in the EIA regulations.

This report seeks to determine if the WNP is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

### 1.4 The Shropshire Core Strategy and SAMDEV (Site Allocations and Management of Development Plan

The basic conditions require Neighbourhood Plans to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority.

The Shropshire Core Strategy was adopted on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and sets the strategic approach to development across the county.

SAMDEV was adopted on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015, and sets out proposals for the use of land and policies to guide future development in order to help to deliver the Vision and Objectives of the Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy and SAMDEV were subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal which included SEA. This ensured that no likely significant negative effects would arise from the implementation of the Core Strategy or SAMDEV. Only two of the Final Core Strategy policies had negative effects which needed to be minimised. Policy CS16 (Tourism, culture and leisure) may increase the need for people to travel. This could be offset by improvements to the public transport system. Policy CS20 (Strategic planning for minerals) could have an increasingly negative effect on climate change. This could be reduced by promoting the sustainable transport of minerals – by rail for example. The WNP has no policies relating to these Core Strategy policies.

### 1.5 Screening Process

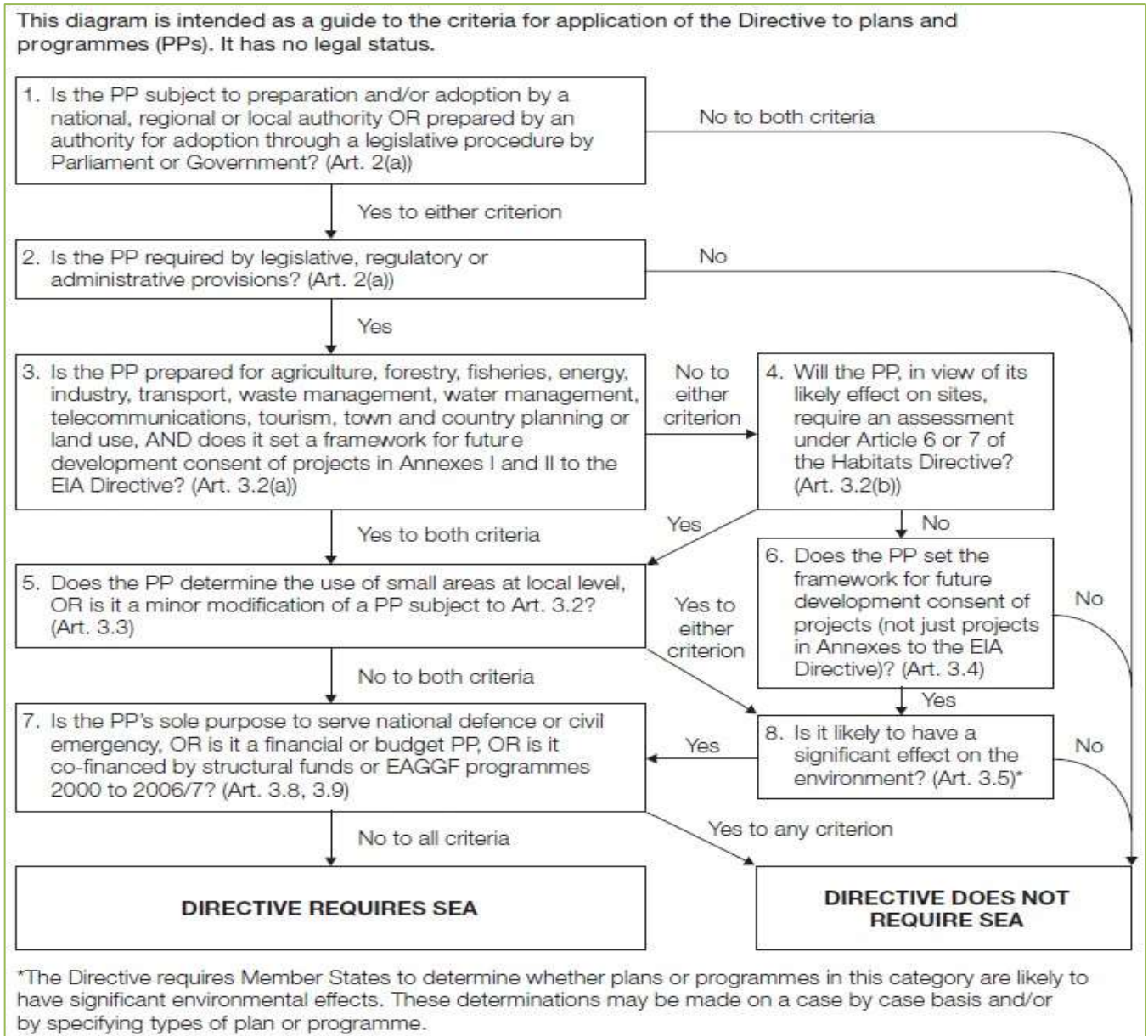
Woore Parish Council has requested a SEA screening opinion of its Neighbourhood Plan. It is the qualifying body's responsibility to undertake an assessment of whether their proposed policies are likely to have 'significant environmental effects'.

The screening opinion assessment is undertaken in two parts: the first part will assess whether the plan requires SEA (as per the flow chart which follows); and the second part of the assessment will consider

whether the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, using criteria drawn from [Schedule 1 of the EU SEA Directive](#) and the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (see section 5).

The three statutory consultation bodies (English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England) have been consulted to establish whether the Woore Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA and whether the plan may have a 'significant environmental effect' on the environment. Should it be concluded that SEA is required Woore Parish Council will need to undertake a SEA with a SEA Scoping Report exercise as the first stage.

The government guidance '[A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#)' sets out the following approach to be taken in determining whether SEA is required:



## 1. Summary of the Screening Assessment

| Summary  |  |
|--|--|
| Name of Neighbourhood                                      | Woore Neighbourhood Plan   |
| Geographic Coverage of                                     | The Parish of Woore  |
| Key Topics/scope of the Plan                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting the rural character of Woore and sensitive gaps between settlements</li> <li>Meeting local housing and development needs whilst ensuring local infrastructure remains able to support additional growth and encouraging the local economy</li> <li>Protecting green spaces and enhancing the natural environment</li> </ul>  |
| Key Issues   | Rural community hub, sustainable development, impact on the environment  |
| Summary of Screening opinion                               |  |
| Name and job title of person undertaking screening opinion | Lucy Hughes, Community Led Planning Officer, Cheshire Community Action, on behalf of Woore Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  |
| Date of assessment   | January 2018   |
| Conclusion of assessment                                   | SEA is not required  |
| Reason for conclusion                                      | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not propose to allocate specific sites for future development, and promotes criteria based policies that seek to shape future development proposals, on a small scale basis, that reduce and manage impact on the environment (both natural and built).</p> <p>Two sites are proposed for allocation as Local Green Space on the site of existing areas of Open Space. Whilst these allocations are likely to have a positive effect on the environment, the effect is not considered to be significant.</p> <p>Designated sites within the neighbourhood area: There are no European Designated Sites within the Neighbourhood Area. There are five RAMSAR sites within a 15km radius of the neighbourhood area (see appendix C).</p> <p>Designated heritage assets within the neighbourhood area: There are ten Grade II Listed buildings in the neighbourhood area (see appendix D). There are three scheduled monuments in the Neighbourhood Area (see appendix D). No other heritage designations are present.</p> <p>Flood Risk zones within the neighbourhood area: There are no major rivers in the in the neighbourhood area, and the area is in flood zone 1.</p> <p>Effect on the Environment: As a lower tier plan all development proposals will be subject to assessment against higher tier policies, plans and legislation that seek to protect locally, nationally and internationally designated sites. The content and broad approach of the plan is not considered to have a significant effect on the environment, or a significant adverse effect on designated sites. The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan seek to safeguard existing assets and the plan does not introduce policies which would significantly change the status of land beyond the planning framework in place. Therefore SEA is not required.</p> |
| Statutory Consultee  | Summary of Comments  |
| English Heritage   | SEA is not required  |
| Environment Agency   | SEA is not required  |
| Natural England  | SEA is not required  |

## **2.1 Plan Context**

Woore is a rural parish located in the north east corner of Shropshire. The Core Strategy highlights that the overall strategic approach is of focussing growth in Shropshire's county town, market towns and key centres whilst enabling some controlled development in rural areas to maintain local sustainability will remain as the preferred development strategy. In smaller rural areas (including community hubs and clusters) development is proposed to be managed in future through criteria based policies, with the delivery of local housing appropriate to the role, size and function of each settlement.

The adopted SAMDEV plan highlighted that Woore, Irelands Cross and Pipe Gate are a Community Hub, which are the focus for new housing in the rural area. SAMDEV noted that the Parish has provided for significant housing growth through the North Shropshire Local Plan, with housing development on two significant sites providing 75 homes. The SAMDEV plan states that there is limited potential for future development of approximately 15 dwellings over the plan period to 2026 which will be delivered through limited infilling, conversions and small groups of houses which may be acceptable on suitable sites within the villages, avoiding ribbon development along the A51. Any development must respect the sensitive gap between Woore, Irelands Cross and Pipe Gate.

The Woore Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate specific sites for development and instead identifies a series of criteria based policies against which development proposals should be assessed within the neighbourhood area. Such criteria are designed to ensure the delivery of sustainable development to meet the objectives of the Woore Neighbourhood Plan.

Two sites are proposed for allocation as Local Green Spaces which is on existing areas of Open Space. Sensitive gaps are designated to maintain the established pattern of development and the distinctive identities of Woore, Irelands Cross and Pipe Gate, and a development boundary, based on the former North Shropshire Local Plan boundary, has been drawn.

Planning applications within the Woore Neighbourhood Area will be assessed against the policies in the WNP, development plan policies and other material planning considerations. As specific development sites have not been identified in the WNP or in SAMDEV in this location, no assessment of potential development sites has been undertaken as part of the WNP process.

## **2.3 Aims of the Plan:**

The WNP document sets out how Woore Parish Council intend to ensure the community retains its close relationship with the countryside and valued local environment and achieving a thriving community and rural economy through appropriate development.

The WNP out a series of criteria based policies that will be used to ensure the delivery of the vision and objectives and guide individual development management decisions. An assessment of these policies impact on European sites has been carried out and concludes that no likely significant adverse impact will arise.

## **2.4 Objectives**

In order to deliver their vision, the WNP has set out the objectives which seek to

- Ensure any new housing developments be relatively small, unobtrusive and reflect local needs
- Maintain the rural character of the Parish of Woore respecting the sensitive gaps between settlements
- Support a thriving village centre and enhance the rural economy
- Improve the local infrastructure

- Protect and enhance community services and amenities
- Protect and enhance the natural environment

## **2.5 Designated sites within the neighbourhood area:**

There are no European Designated Sites within the Neighbourhood Area.

## **2.6 Policies**

The WNP contains a number of policies that will be used to ensure the delivery of the above objectives and guide individual development management decisions. An assessment of these policies impact on European sites has been carried out and concludes that no likely adverse impact will arise. The full assessment and table of policies is included at Table 3 below:

The following sections assess whether the plan requires SEA due to its content and whether it is likely to give rise to a significant effect on designated sites or the environment.



## 3.0 Screening Assessment

### 3.1 Assessment 1: Does the Neighbourhood Plan require a SEA?

| Stage   | Y/N | Reason  |
|---|-----|---|
| 1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) 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 will be prepared by Woore Parish Council (as the 'relevant body') and will be 'made' by Shropshire 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.  |
|   |     | GO TO STAGE 2   |
| 2. Is the NP 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', form part of the Development Plan for the Borough. 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.  |
|   |     | GO TO STAGE 3   |
| 3. Is the NP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste 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 NP is being prepared for town and country planning, local transport and land use as it makes proposals to manage the development of land for housing and employment uses. As such, the NP contains a framework for future development consent of urban development projects (listed as 10(b) in Annex II of the EIA Directive). The NP does not specifically allocate any land for development purposes.  |
|   |     | GO TO STAGE 5   |
| 4. Will the NP, 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))   | N   | No, the policies in the plan are criteria based and unlikely to directly affect designated sites.   |
| 5. Does the NP determine the use of small areas at local level OR is it a minor modification of a plan or programme subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)   | Y   | The NP intends to support small scale development for residential, recreation and economic development. There is therefore the potential for an effect on the environment resulting from policies in the plan. However, policies are criteria based and do not instigate changes to land use directly. The sites proposed as Local Green Spaces are existing open spaces, and whilst this status will be enhanced, the policy principal in place here already seeks to retain the land for recreation uses and therefore the change cannot be considered significant. Additionally The Neighbourhood Plan sits within the wider framework of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the adopted Shropshire Core Strategy and SAMDEV therefore the Neighbourhood Plan will help to set the framework for projects that are localised in nature and are likely to have limited resource implications. |
|   |     | GO TO STAGE 8   |
| 6. Does the NP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)   | Y   | Yes, the NP contributes to establishing a local policy framework within which planning consent will be considered for a wide range of development proposals. Whilst the NP may establish very local criteria to enable development within criteria based parameters, higher tier policies, plans and legislation exist to ensure that the NP is used within a framework with sufficient protection for environmental considerations.  |
| 7. Is the NP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget plan or programme, OR is it co- financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 3.8, 3.9)   | N   | The NP does not fall into any of the criteria listed.   |



|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art 3.5)  | N | See Assessment 2: Likely significant effects on the environment |
| On the basis of criterion 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 above, it is necessary to assess whether the neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. This assessment is undertaken through Assessment 2 below. |   |   |

### 3.2 Assessment 2: Is the Neighbourhood Plan likely to have a Significant Effects on the Environment?

The EIA Regulations include thresholds under which development proposals are not required to be screened to determine whether an EIA should be required. These are:

- The development includes more than 1 hectare of urban development which is not dwelling house development
- The development includes more than 150 dwellings
- The overall area of the development exceeds 5 hectares.

Under these thresholds there is no obligation to screen urban development projects for EIA.

The neighbourhood plan does not include more than 1 hectare of non-residential development; it does not allocate sites for more than 150 dwellings and the overall area of the development does not exceed 5 hectares

The WNP does not exceed any of the thresholds identified in the EIA regulations. It is therefore reasonable to suggest that the effects of the plan on the environment, in general, cannot be significant. However there may be specific features or special characteristics in this location upon which the plan may have a significant effect. It is therefore important to understand if there is any specific reason the plan could be considered to give rise to a significant effect on the environment. Using Schedule 1 of the SEA regulations, the following assessment has been undertaken to determine if there is any other reason why the WNP may give rise to a significant effect on the environment.

| Issue   | Effect?                  | Reasons   |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Biodiversity</b>   | 1. No significant effect | The policy framework provided by the neighbourhood plan, alongside existing policy held in the Core Strategy and SAMDEV provides sufficient protection. No proposed policies are likely to give rise to a substantially negative impact on biodiversity and natural assets.   |
| <b>Population</b>   | 1. No significant effect | Woore Parish has a population of 1069 people (2011 Census). The policies in the neighbourhood plan are unlikely to exert a significant impact on population/demographic change but do seek to ensure that local housing needs are met.  |
| <b>Human health</b>   | 1. No significant effect | The Index of Multiple Deprivation shows Woore to be generally affluent with 0.2% of households experiencing multiple deprivations compared to the England average of 0.5%. 0 households are in the most 20% deprived in England, and 7.4% of households are in income deprivation, compared to 13.5% in England. 14.2% of the population have a limiting long term illness, compared to 12.8% in England. The neighbourhood plan introduces positive criteria based policies to assist in delivering the type of development that will assist in addressing some of these issues such as local housing need and protection of open spaces and recreation facilities. However the policies included are unlikely to have a significant effect beyond the local area. |
| <b>Fauna</b>  | 1. No significant effect | Designated sites are subject to existing protection via other policies. The neighbourhood plan does not introduce policies that are likely to harm local fauna.   |
| <b>Flora</b>  | 1. No significant effect | Designated sites are subject to existing protection via other policies. The neighbourhood plan does not introduce policies that are likely to harm local flora.   |
| <b>Soil</b>   | 1. No significant effect | Agricultural land classification grades 2 and 3 are present within the neighbourhood area. The neighbourhood plan does not introduce policies that are likely to harm soil or highly graded agricultural land.  |
| <b>Water</b>  | 1. No significant effect | Flood zone one is present throughout the neighbourhood area. The policies proposed are unlikely to exert a significant impact on the existing approach to development in areas of flooding, and flooding issues are addressed by policies in the wider development plan/other legislation.  |
| <b>Air</b>  | 1. No significant effect | There are no air quality management areas in the WNP designated area. The policies contained in the plan are unlikely to significantly impact on air quality.   |
| <b>Material assets</b>  | 1. No significant effect | There is one area of historic landfill within the neighbourhood area, at Pipe Gate, which ceased in 1990. There is one disused railway by Knighton. The policies in the plan do not address such issues and are therefore unlikely to result in a significant effect on the environment. No other material assets are present.  |
| <b>Landscape</b>  | 1. No significant effect | WNP policies seek to ensure that new development does not adversely affect local landscape character and the rural setting of the parish, and identifies sensitive gaps to maintain the pattern of development. Whilst development would have an impact on the local landscape, that impact is likely to be localised and specific to Woore Parish.   |
| <b>Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage</b> | 1. No significant effect | There are a number of heritage assets in Woore Parish. Policies in the Development Plan seek to protect heritage assets, and therefore the policies overall are unlikely to enable the delivery of new development which would not already be possible under the existing local framework. As such the NP policies are unlikely to have a significant effect on heritage assets directly or on the approach taken to heritage assets in the development planning process.   |

### 3.3 Determining whether the WNP is likely to have a significant effect on Designated Sites

| Woore NP Objective  | Woore NP Policy                                      | Effect on European Designation |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 1: To ensure that any new housing developments will be relatively small, unobtrusive and reflects local needs | HOU1. Scale of New Housing                           | 2. No significant effect       |
|   | HOU2. New Housing Location                           | 1. No negative effect 1B       |
|   | HOU3. Design   | 1. No negative effect 1A       |
| 2: To maintain the rural character of the Parish of Woore respecting the sensitive gaps between settlements   | GAP1. Sensitive Gaps                                 | 1. No negative effect 1B       |
| 3: To support a thriving village centre and enhance the rural economy   | ECON1. Rural Economy                                 | 1. No negative effect 1B       |
| 4: To improve the local infrastructure  | INF1. Parking  | 1. No negative effect 1A       |
|   | INF2. Communications Infrastructure                  | 1. No negative effect 1B       |
| 5: To protect and enhance community services and amenities  | COM1. Community Facilities                           | 1. No negative effect 1B       |
|   | COM2. Recreation, Play and Outdoor Sports Facilities | 1. No negative effect 1B       |
|   | COM3. Local Green Spaces                             | 1. No negative effect 1B       |
| 6: To protect and enhance the natural environment   | ENV1. Footpaths/Sustainable Transport                | 1. No negative effect 1B       |
|   | ENV2. HS2  | 1. No negative effect 1B       |

| Category                                     | Description   |
|--|---|
| 1A. No negative effect                       | Policy will not lead to development. For example it relates to design or other qualitative criteria, or it is not a land-use planning policy.   |
| 1B. No negative effect                       | Policy intended to conserve or enhance the nature, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European Site.   |
| 1C. No negative effect                       | Policy would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through other policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European Sites and associated sensitive areas. |
| 1D. No negative effect                       | Policy is similar to, or compliant with, The Shropshire Core Strategy or SAMDEV policy which has been assessed as having no negative effects by a HRA/SA.   |
| 2. No significant effect                     | No significant effect either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, because effects are trivial, minimal or mitigated through other policies in combination.   |
| 3. Likely significant effect alone           | Policy could indirectly affect a European Site, because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it, or it may increase disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressure.         |
| 4. Likely significant effects in combination | The policy alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if the effects are combined with the effects of other policies or proposals provided for or coordinated by the relevant plans or projects the cumulative effects would be likely to be significant.                                  |

### 3.4 Assessment 2: Is the Neighbourhood Plan likely to have a Significant Effects on the Environment?

| Characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan, having regard to:   | Woore Parish Council assessment  | Likely significant effect? |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| The degree to which the Plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources. | The NP would, if made, form part of the statutory Development Plan and as such does contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects. The NP is expected to determine the use of small areas at a local level. No new residential or other development is specifically identified to be delivered in an identified location. The NP sits within the wider framework of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), the Shropshire Core Strategy (2011) and SAMDEV (2015), therefore the projects for which this NP helps to set a framework are localised in nature and may have limited resource implications.   | N                          |
| The degree to which the Plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.   | The NP must be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework. The policies within the NP should also be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Shropshire Core Strategy and SAMDEV. The Core Strategy sets out the strategic spatial strategy for Shropshire, and SAMDEV sets out the proposals for the use of land and policies to guide future development. The conclusions reached in the NP may exert a limited degree of influence over the formation of future strategic and non-strategic policies in any reviews of the Development Plan. However, the scope to depart from conclusions reached in the NP remains available to plan makers addressing issues relevant to this location and therefore the influence is limited. | N                          |
| The relevance of the Plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.  | The NP is expected to work to protect and enhance the natural environment of the area within a wider policy framework including, but not limited to the NPPF, and the Shropshire Core Strategy and SAMDEV. The NP addresses a series of local environmental issues. Draft policies have been identified to provide a sustainable level of growth within the parish and recognise the granting of recent consents to achieve this. In combination with other plans and legislation, it is considered that the NP will integrate environmental considerations and promote sustainable development.   | N                          |
| Environmental problems relevant to the Plan.   | There are no environmental problems relevant to the Plan. Where relevant, future development proposals will need to consider the impact of the plan on flood risk, designated sites and other primary and secondary impacts on the environment.  | N                          |
| The relevance of the Plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).       | The NP is not directly relevant to the implementation of European legislation, although it will need to take the impact of the Water Framework Directive into account.   | N                          |
| The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects of the Plan.   | Whilst development may take place which is informed by the NP, the NP does not assist in instigating development directly through allocation of sites. There are therefore likely to be short-term effects resulting from activity associated with the development of small scale, un-allocated sites within the WNA.  | N                          |
|  | There may also be longer-term effects relevant to changes in land use which may be positive but on a limited scale may have a negative impact on environmental factors. The plan seeks to establish a local framework to address such issues and also relies on higher tier plans and policies to deliver mitigation of such negative impacts.   | N                          |
|  | Where proposals are received to develop small scale sites in accordance with draft NP policies, such proposals will also be subject to national and local policies in regard to environmental protection and mitigation of impacts.  | N                          |
| The cumulative nature of the effects of the Plan.  | The NP does not seek to bring forward allocation of development sites therefore there whilst there may be an effect arising from development within the plan period, such effects are likely to be limited and positively influenced by the NP policy framework.   | N                          |
| The trans-boundary nature of the effects of the Plan.  | The plan is localized to Woore Parish and therefore there are not expected to be any significant trans-boundary effects.   | N                          |

|   |  |                                       |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).   | There are no significant risks to human health. Indeed, the NP is likely to improve human health through positive assertions on protection of the landscape, sustainable transport housing and recreation.   | N                                     |
| The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected) by the Plan.   | Woore Neighbourhood Plan covers the parish of Woore, of about 1600 hectares. The NP is likely to affect a resident population of approximately 1069 people over the life of the Plan across a parish located in a rural area. The population within the parish is expected to grow slightly due to recently approved and developed planning applications.  | N                                     |
| The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected by the Plan due to: Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or intensive land use | The neighbourhood area contains a number of cultural, natural and environmental assets both within and in proximity to the plan area however the limited levels of development proposed and existence of other mitigating policies seek to minimise impact here. The NP sets out to deliver new development within locations close to the village and as infill/redevelopment within the existing built environment. The gives special recognition to the role that the surrounding countryside plays in terms of recreation and contributing to the character of the village. Given that the County is generally rural in nature, and Woore Parish is predominantly a rural parish with a wealth of biodiversity and natural habitats, most proposed development will have an impact on the environment in the wider sense, and in some cases in a specific, locationally based sense that cannot yet be identified or assessed. Higher tier policies exist to offer adequate protection to the existing natural, cultural and environmental assets within and adjacent to the plan area. | N                                     |
|   | The draft NP does not exceed environmental quality standards or limit values.  | N                                     |
|   | Specific sites are not identified for development and an assessment has therefore not been undertaken to ensure that those sites selected make the best and most efficient use of land – Future development proposals will be assessed against other policies within the Development Plan (which, in totality, seek to mitigate against the over-development of land).   | N                                     |
| The effects of the Plan on areas or landscapes which have recognised national, community or international protection status.  | There are areas of ancient woodland, traditional orchards, good quality semi improved grassland and deciduous woodland within and adjacent to the Woore Neighbourhood Plan Area. Policies are included in the Plan which seek to protect the landscape character and setting of the Parish.  | N                                     |
|   | The plan area does not include designated landscapes however introduces policies that protect the landscape setting.   | N                                     |
|   | The location of these sites within the neighbourhood plan area makes their presence relevant however the plan does not proposed additional levels of growth/development locations which would give rise to a significant impact on the environment.  | N                                     |
| <b>Assessment 2 Conclusion</b>  | <b>The WNP is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.</b>  | <b>Directive does not require SEA</b> |

## **4.0 Screening Conclusion**

The assessment concludes that the WNP is unlikely to have a significant effect on designated sites and therefore HRA is not required.

The Woore Neighbourhood Plan includes policies that support small scale development at a scale in conformity with the approach taken by the Core Strategy and SAMDEV. It introduces criteria based policies (which are yet to be finalised) that address local issues but which do alter the status of land to a degree which would have a significant effect on the environment.

There are designated Ramsar sites within 15km proximity of the plan but the effects of the plan on these sites is not considered to be significant. The WNP also seeks to ensure that any new development is addressed sensitively in the context of evidence prepared in relation to natural and landscape assets thus incorporating environmental protection in general and at specific designated locations.

As a result of the Screening Assessment, it is concluded that implementation of the WNP is unlikely to significantly affect the environment and unlikely to adversely affect a designated site, and as such SEA and HRA is not required.

### **4.1 Monitoring of WNP Policies**

Whilst Woore Parish Council is committed to the delivery of the objectives held within the WNP, there may be circumstances where development will not come forward entirely as anticipated. Shropshire Council, as part of its monitoring of the Development Plan, including this neighbourhood plan, monitor performance through a Monitoring Report produced annually. The WNP will also be monitored through this process. Generally, the outcome of the monitoring process will inform whether specific intervention actions should be pursued in the WNP. If these actions fail to address under performance then other complementary plans and strategies should be reviewed.

## 5.0 Appendixes

### 5.1 Appendix A: Responses from Statutory Consultees:

#### 1. Historic England:

Mr Malcolm Blake  
Woore Parish Council

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6887

Our ref: PL00290162  
7 February 2018

Dear Mr Blake

#### **WOORE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- SEA AND HRA SCREENING**

Thank you for your consultation and the invitation to comment on the SEA/HRA Screening Document for the above Neighbourhood Plan.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage.

Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request. On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of the 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with your view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. Regarding HRA Historic England does not disagree with your conclusions but would defer to the opinions of the other statutory consultees.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at:

[<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/)

I trust the above comments will be of help in taking forward the Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Boland  
Historic Places Advisor  
[peter.boland@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:peter.boland@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

cc:



## 2. Environment Agency:

Cllr Blake  
Chairman  
Woore Parish Council

**Our ref:** SV/2016/109232/OR-01/IS1-L01

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 26 February 2018

Dear Cllr Blake,

### **Re: SEA Screening Assessment, Woore Neighbourhood Plan, Shropshire / draft Woore Neighbourhood Plan**

Thank you for your consultation on the Pre submission draft in line with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and SEA screening.

#### **Draft Plan – regulation 14:**

We do not make comments on a draft plans at the regulation 14 (non-statutory) stage.

We do not offer detailed bespoke advice on policy but advise you ensure conformity with the local plan and refer to guidance within our proforma guidance (latest copy attached).

If site allocations were in Flood Zone 3 or 2 we may seek to advise further upon the draft being formally consulted upon it by the Local Planning Authority.

#### **SEA Screening:**

The 'Summary of screening opinion' and reason for conclusion confirms that the Neighbourhood Plan area is within Flood Zone 1 (low probability of fluvial flooding). However, some potential development areas for example land adjacent to tree view paddock is potentially at flood risk given that the ordinary watercourse is un-modelled based on the scale and nature of the stream and receiving catchment (less than 3km<sup>2</sup>).

Notwithstanding the above, we note that the Woore Neighbourhood Plan "does not allocate specific sites for development and instead identifies a series of criteria based policies against which development proposals should be assessed within the neighbourhood area".

We concur with the SEA screening document final conclusion that a "Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required"; noting NPPG Paragraph: 046 Reference ID: 11-046-20150209 which states:

*"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 the 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](#)*”

We would only make substantive further comments on the plan if you were seeking to allocate sites in flood zone 3 and 2 (the latter being used as the 1% climate change extent perhaps).

I trust that the above is of assistance.

Yours faithfully

**Mark Davies**  
**Planning Specialist**

Direct dial 01743 283405

### 3. Natural England:

"McLean Grady (NE)" <[Grady.McLean@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Grady.McLean@naturalengland.org.uk)>

**To:**

"Stephen Clifford, Woore Neighbourhood Planning Team" <[stephen.clifford@wooreparishcouncil.org](mailto:stephen.clifford@wooreparishcouncil.org)>

**Sent:**

Tue, 6 Mar 2018 10:22:24 +0000

**Subject:**

RE: Woore Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Consultation (Reg 14) and Draft SEA

Hi Stephen

I can confirm that we have no comments to make.

Regards

Grady McLean

Lead Adviser – Planning

West Midlands Area

Natural England

Parkside Court,

Hall Park Way

Telford,

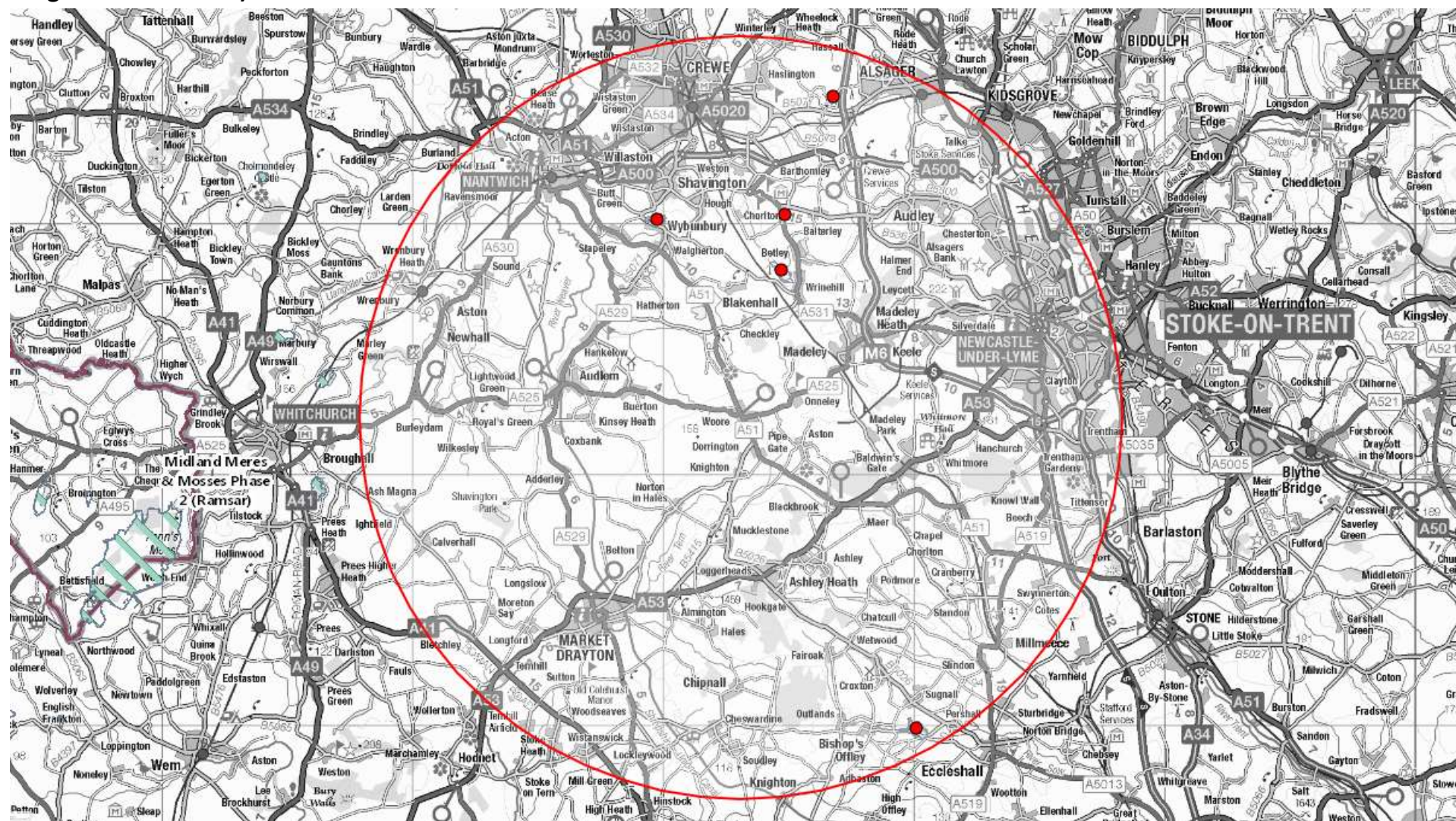
TF3 4LR

020 802 61266 (new number)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/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.**

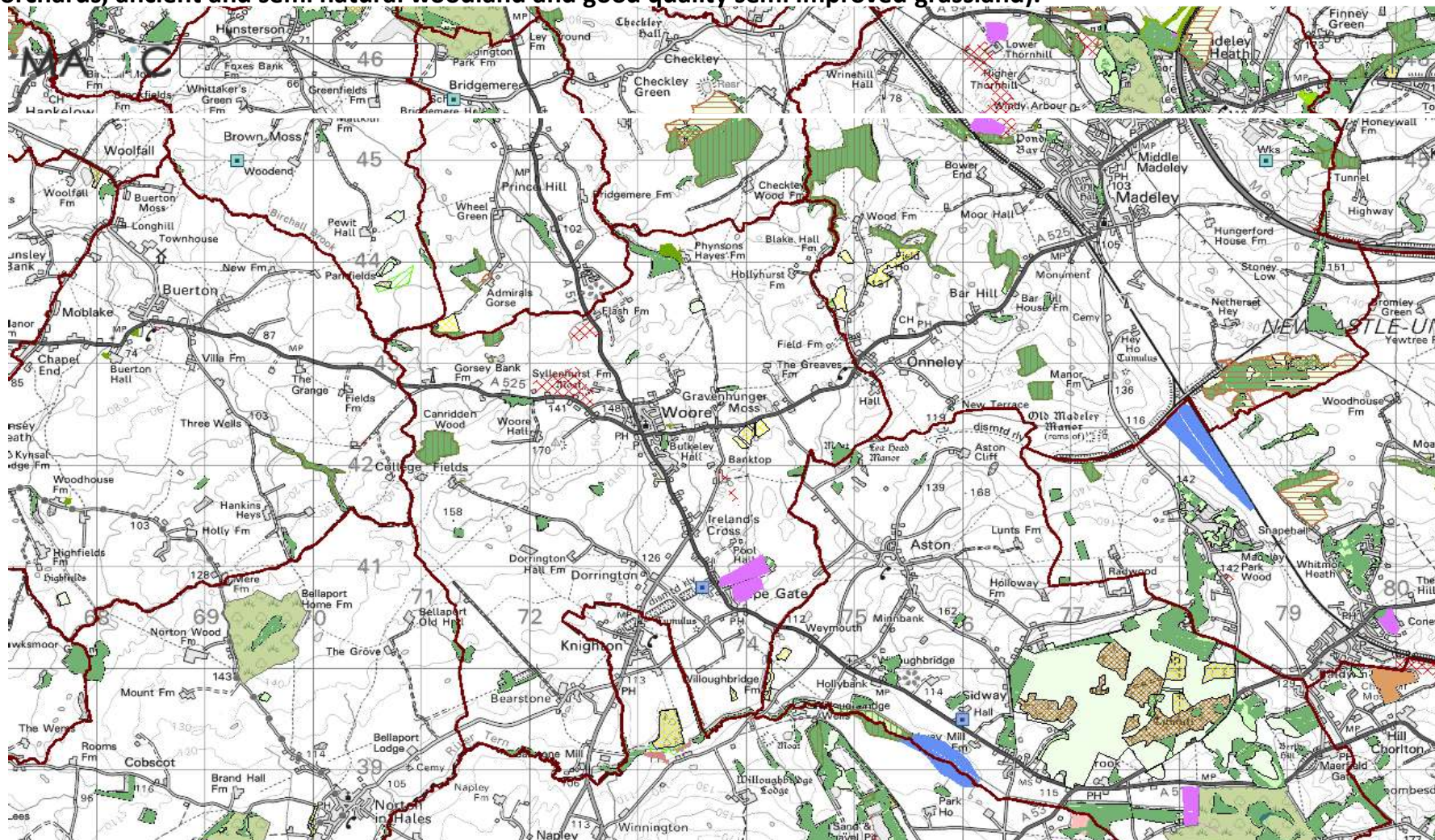
**Appendix B: Location of European Designated Ramsar Sites in Relation to WNP (highlighted in red and within 15km of Woore Neighbourhood Area)**






c) Crown Copyright and database rights 2018. Ordnance Survey 100022861.



**Appendix C: Local Environmental Designations in Relation to WNP (Including ancient woodland, deciduous woodland, traditional orchards, ancient and semi natural woodland and good quality semi improved grassland).**



c) Crown Copyright and database rights 2018. Ordnance Survey 100022861.

-  Priority Habitat Inventory - Good quality semi-improved grassland (Non Priority) (England)
-  Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England)
-  Priority Habitat Inventory - Traditional Orchards (England)



## Appendix D: Designated Historic Assets in Relation to WNP

▲ Listed Building      ■ Scheduled Monument

