

Hambleton Conservation Area Appraisal Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
Strategic Environmental Assessment - Screening

In reference to:

SCHEDULE 1 (9(2)(a) and 10(4)(a)) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment:

Criteria:

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

Response:

1. (a) This draft Conservation Area Appraisal SPD is an assessment of each market town Conservation Area's special architectural or historic interest, and is based on a careful, clear and objective analysis. It puts forward a comprehensive appraisal of the character of each Conservation Area and a sound basis for use in Development Management and for developing initiatives to improve each area.
- (b) The document is supplementary to the over-arching Hambleton LDF Core Strategy and the Development Policies DPDs and does not put forward new policies, only expands or provides further detail to policies in the adopted DPDs.
- (c) The SPD conforms to the Policy DP28 (Conservation) of the adopted Development Policies DPD that in turn conforms to Policy CP16 (Protecting and Enhancing Natural and Man-Made Assets) of the adopted Core Strategy DPD. Both DPDs have been subject to Sustainability Appraisals (including Strategic Environmental Assessments) and promote sustainable development.
- (d) The draft SPD has regard to environmental problems outlined in the parent Core Strategy and Development Policies DPDs, eg. amenity.
- (e) The draft SPD is compliant with the Local Development Framework and assists in its implementation through planning legislation and Development Management.

Criteria:

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to -
 - (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;

- (b) the cumulative nature of the effects;
- (c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects;
- (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);
- (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
- (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to –
 - (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
 - (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or
 - (iii) intensive land-use; and
- (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Response:

2. (a) The SPD will firstly define and record the special interest and understanding of the Conservation Area. The document will increase public awareness of the aims and objectives of the Conservation Area designation and stimulate interest in the protection of its character. The SPD is aimed at members of the public interested in conservation issues, residents of Conservation Areas, applicants for planning permission, their agents and architects, Development Management Planners and others involved in proposals for works within a Conservation Area. The SPD will also assist Development Management in the determination of planning applications, Conservation Area Consents and Listed Building Consent applications, resulting in permanent effects.
- (b) Implementation of the good design guidance offered within Annex A of the SPD is cumulatively likely to bring about increased sustainable development, working towards the Hambleton LDF vision of creating sustainable, prosperous, safe, healthy and vibrant communities.
- (c) The guidance offered within the SPD and Annex A of the SPD is only aimed at development within the five market town Conservation Areas within Hambleton.
- (d) There are no risks to human health or the environment.
- (e) The draft Conservation Area Appraisal SPD affects households within all five market town Conservation Areas of Northallerton (362), Stokesley (406), Bedale (261), Easingwold (594) and Thirsk (1347) within the Hambleton District.
- (f) The SPD is applicable to the five heavily used Market Town Conservation Areas, currently subject to extensive pressure from new domestic and commercial development. The SPD identifies the need to maintain the existing cultural heritage within these areas, whilst enhancing local environmental quality standards.
- (g) The guidance offered within the SPD will raise awareness of the importance of the five locally designated Conservation Areas, focusing attention on issues of key visual characteristics and historical associations, and wider landscape quality.

Determination:

In accordance with Regulation 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the above screening opinion, and response received from the three statutory consultees (English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England), it is considered that preparation of an SA/SEA is not required in this instance.