

**Midridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan**  
Strategic Environmental Assessment &  
Habitat Regulations Assessment  
Screening Report

**Submission Draft**

**July 2024**

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## Screening Summary

**Table 1: Summary of Neighbourhood Plan**

Name of Neighbourhood Plan	Middridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2023 – 2038 (Pre-Submission Draft)
Geographic Coverage of the Plan	Middridge Parish (approx. 322 hectares)
Key topics/scope of Plan	To protect and enhance the valued rural setting, open spaces and built assets which contribute to character of Middridge village

**Table 2: Summary of SEA Screening Opinion**

Name and job title of officer undertaking screening opinion	Nadia Wetherell – Senior Sustainability and Climate Change Officer, Durham County Council
Date of initial assessment	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
Date of final assessment following checks on revisions made to the Plan	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
Conclusion of assessment	SEA is not required
Reason for conclusion	Middridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development and its proposed policies seek to provide protection of rural character and setting of the parish, locally valued green spaces and community assets. Therefore, the Neighbourhood Plan is not considered likely to have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

**Table 3: Summary of HRA Screening Opinion**

Name and job title of officer undertaking screening opinion	Nadia Wetherell – Senior Sustainability and Climate Change Officer, Durham County Council
Date of initial assessment	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
Date of final assessment following checks on revisions made to the Plan	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
Conclusion of assessment	The Neighbourhood Plan will not incur likely significant effects to the UK's national site network. Appropriate Assessment is not required.
Reason for conclusion	The policies are protective in nature and will not lead to built development.

**Table 4: Summary of Consultation**

Statutory Consultee: Natural England	No comments received
Statutory Consultee: Environment Agency	Agree that SEA is not required (2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2024)
Statutory Consultee: Historic England	No comments received

## 1. Introduction

This screening report is required to determine whether the Middridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with European Directive 2001/42/EC and the associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

This report will also determine whether the Neighbourhood Plan requires an Appropriate Assessment as part of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with European Directive 92/43/EC and the associated Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019)

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

SEA is required for plans and programmes which are likely to have significant environmental effects. SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of plans and programmes and aims to:

- Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

In some limited circumstances, neighbourhood plans may have significant environmental effects and may therefore require SEA. To determine whether a plan is likely to have significant environmental effects a 'screening' assessment is undertaken, the requirements for which are set out in regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations.

If SEA is required, it can be undertaken in conjunction with a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which takes account of social and economic effects in addition to environmental effects. There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a SA as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, a qualifying body must demonstrate how its plan or order will contribute to achieving sustainable development, which a SA will usefully provide.

### Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Legislation requires the assessment of the likely effects of plans, alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on sites that host species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive or make an important contribution to the overarching aims of the Wild Birds Directive. The sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) that form part of the UK's national site network (previously referred to as Natura 2000 sites).

The Middridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to HRA to determine (through a screening process) whether the Plan is likely to have a significant effect on a SAC or SPA. If likely significant effects cannot be screened out then an Appropriate Assessment will need to be undertaken. In these cases, the parish council or neighbourhood forum will need to provide such information as Durham County Council may reasonably require to undertake the appropriate assessment.

## 2. SEA Screening Opinion

This section presents the SEA screening opinion assessment which is undertaken in two parts. The first part will assess whether the plan requires SEA (as per the flow chart which follows). 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.<sup>1</sup>

The statutory consultation bodies (Historic England, Environment Agency and Natural England) have been consulted to seek their view on whether they agree with the conclusion of this screening opinion. The Environment Agency have confirmed that they agree that SEA is not required. No comments have been received from either Historic England or Natural England.

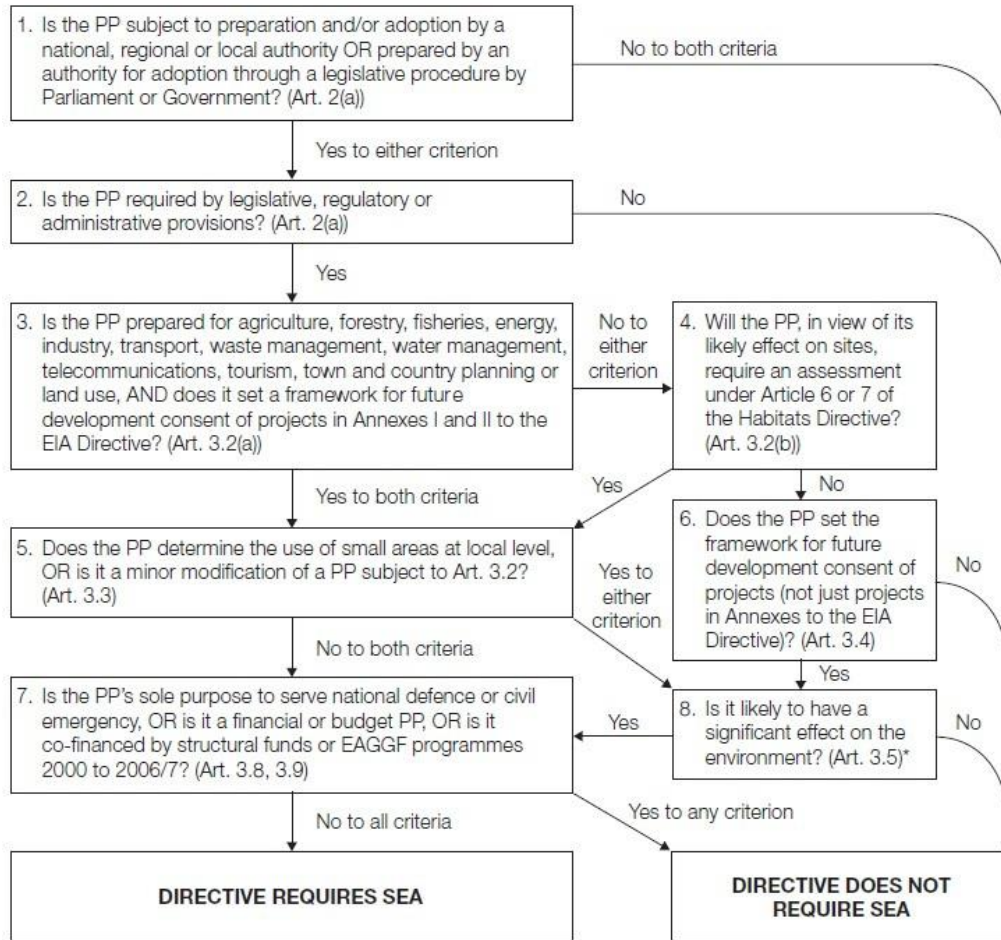
The following flowchart outlines the criteria to be considered and process to follow when formulating a screening opinion for SEA:

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<sup>1</sup> [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#)

**Figure 1 Application of the SEA Directive to Plans and Programmes<sup>2</sup>**

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.

The flowchart in figure 1 has been followed and the outcomes are presented in the following tables.

**Table 4: Establishing the need for SEA**

Stage	Answer	Reason
1. Is the PP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2 (a))	Yes	The Middridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan is not a Development Plan Document, however if the document receives a 50% or more 'yes' votes through a referendum it will be adopted by Durham County Council.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2 (a))	No	Communities have a right to be able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, however communities are not

<sup>2</sup> Image source: former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005) [A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#)

Stage	Answer	Reason
		required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. This plan however is subject to 'provisions' that require it to be prepared in a formal way and if adopted would form part of the statutory development plan. Therefore, it is considered necessary to answer the following questions to further establish if SEA is required.
3. Is the PP required 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))	No	The Neighbourhood Plan is prepared for town and country planning or land use but it does NOT set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive.
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art.3.2(b))	No	See HRA screening assessment in section 3 of this report.
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)	Not Applicable	As the answer to question 4 is 'No' the next applicable question following the flowchart is question 6.
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)	Yes	The Neighbourhood Plan sets policies which planning applications within the Middridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan area must adhere to.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve 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)	Not Applicable	As the answer to question 6 is 'Yes' the next applicable question following the flowchart is question 8.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art 3.5)	No	Please see tables 5 and 6

**Table 5: Likely Significant Effects on the Environment – Characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan**

<b>SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes regulations</b>	<b>Assessment Commentary</b>
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	The Neighbourhood Plan would, if made form part of the statutory Development Plan and as such does contribute to the framework for future consent of projects, albeit these will be localised in nature and are likely to have limited resource implications.
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to be in general conformity with the relevant Development Plan. Therefore, the Neighbourhood Plan should not significantly influence other plans and programmes.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	<p>It is a condition of Neighbourhood Planning that Neighbourhood Plans are to demonstrably contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development. The Neighbourhood Plan aims to promote sustainable development through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The protection of an area of countryside from development that would dimmish the rural character of Middridge village or the physical separation between Middridge village and neighbouring settlements</li> <li>• The identification and protection of valued local green spaces</li> <li>• The identification and protection of valued village assets.</li> </ul>
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change</li> <li>• Within Groundwater Source Protection Zone 3</li> <li>• Southern extent of Parish falls within Flood Zone 3 (high probability) and parts of the parish have a high risk of surface water flooding</li> <li>• Nutrient Neutrality Constraints – Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/Ramsar</li> </ul>
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 Neighbourhood Plan is not directly connected to the implementation of European Community legislation



**Table 6: Likely Significant Effects on the Environment – Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected**

<b>SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes regulations</b>	<b>Assessment Commentary</b>
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Once made the Neighbourhood Plan and its policies will be in effect until 2038 i.e. a period of 14 years. However, the Plan does not allocate any land for development and will therefore not have any direct, permanent effects. Rather, the Plan establishes, through its policies, general criteria for testing purposes which seek to protect rural setting, green spaces, and locally valued assets. The Neighbourhood Plan is therefore highly unlikely to result in either temporary or permanent significant adverse environmental effects. The Neighbourhood Plan will also be subject to monitoring to ensure that a review of the Plan can be triggered in the event of non-delivery of its objectives or undesired or unintended consequences.
The cumulative nature of the effects	No cumulative effects are anticipated.
The trans boundary nature of the effects	There are no known trans-boundary effects associated with implementing the policies within the Middridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	The provisions within the Plan do not provide unacceptable risks to human health or the environment.
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The Parish Neighbourhood Plan area covers an area of approximately 322 hectares with a population of 414 persons which predominantly reside within Middridge village. Any effects would be highly localised in nature and limited to the neighbourhood plan area.
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <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>	The neighbourhood plan area is assessed as being of medium-high environmental value, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 nationally designated geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</li> <li>• 1 Conservation Area covering Middridge Village</li> <li>• Part of the historic route of the Stockton to Darlington railway line</li> </ul>

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes regulations	Assessment Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Area of Higher Landscape Value is defined to the north of the parish</li> <li>• Adjacent to Byerly Local Nature Reserve</li> </ul> <p>The area does fall within the Tees and Cleveland coast nutrient neutrality catchment, meaning that new development in the area will need to be designed alongside suitable mitigation measures to ensure nutrient pollution levels to the associated rivers and coast do not worsen. However, the Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land for development.</p>
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	There are no nationally protected landscape within the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, the area proposed in the Plan to protect rural setting may contribute towards protecting the locally defined area of higher landscape value.

### SEA Screening Conclusion

Middridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development and its proposed policies seek to provide protection of rural character and setting of the parish, locally valued green spaces and community assets. Therefore, the Neighbourhood Plan is not considered likely to have a significant adverse effect on the environment. The Neighbourhood Plan does not require SEA.

### 3. HRA Screening Opinion

HRA Screening is fundamentally a risk assessment to determine whether a subsequent more detailed stage of assessment, known as 'appropriate assessment' is required. The screening assessment involves an assessment of relevant SAC or SPA sites that could be affected directly or indirectly by the Neighbourhood Plan and its proposals.

#### Relevant Sites

In line with the agreed methodology of the HRA of the County Durham Plan, all sites within 20km of the plan area (in this case the neighbourhood plan area) should be considered for inclusion within the HRA screening exercise. In addition, sites outwith the 20km radius that are ecologically / hydrologically linked or are likely to be subject to increased recreational pressure should also be considered. The sites falling within the 20km radius include:

- Thrislington SAC (at approximately 8km from the centre point of the neighbourhood plan area)
- North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (both at approximately 18km from the centre point of the neighbourhood plan area)

Figure 1: Map showing Thrislington SAC and parts of the North Pennine Moors SAC within the 20km radius

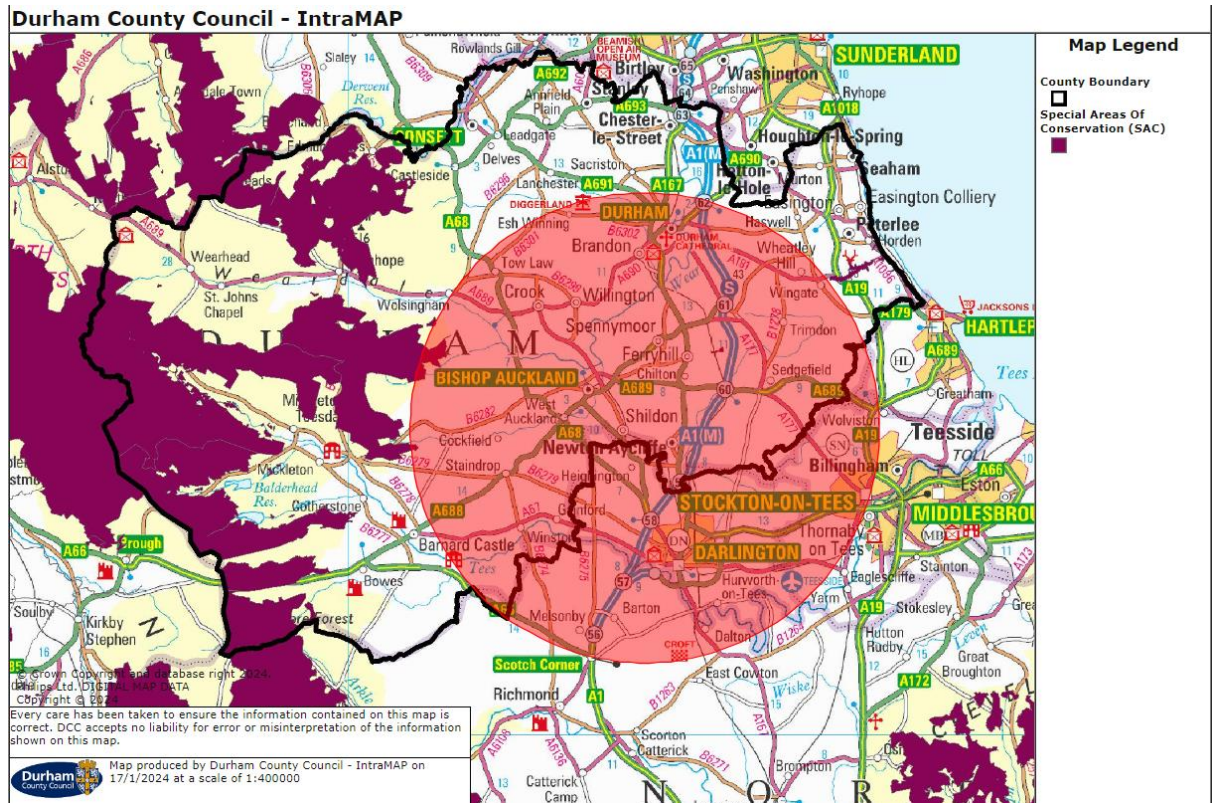
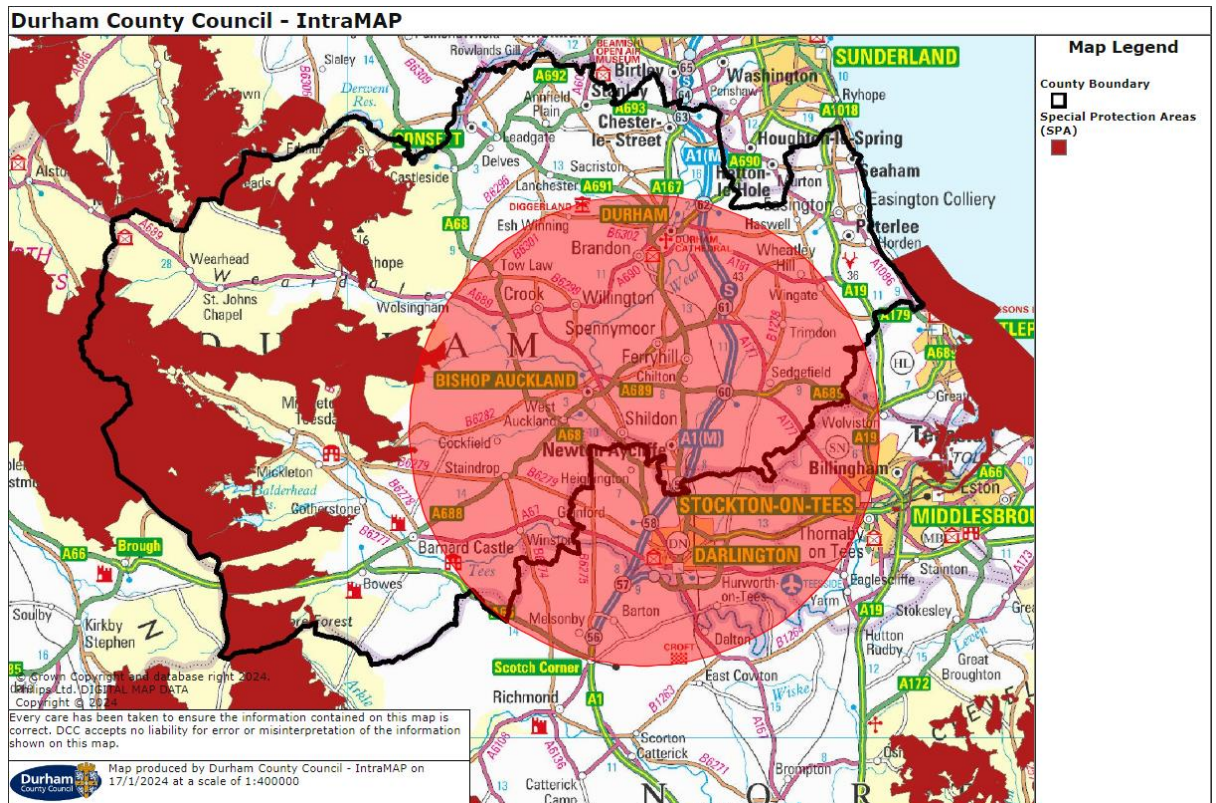


Figure 2: Map showing the extent of the North Pennine Moors SPA within the 20km radius



In addition to the designated sites it is also important to consider potential impacts to functional land. Functional land is essentially land that forms an essential part of a species lifecycle, i.e. land used for roosting, foraging or shelter but not necessarily designated or protected.

In relation to potential areas functionally linked to the North Pennine Moors SPA the following information and research on the qualifying features and their breeding habits will be used to consider any effects of the plan:

- Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apicaria*) – Research has determined that breeding of this species occurs almost exclusively outside of enclosed land.<sup>3</sup> However Time budgets and foraging of breeding golden plover (2001, Whittingham, M.J et al) noted the relative importance to breeding adult golden plover of enclosed fields up to 4km from the nest and up to 2km from the moorland boundary in County Durham.<sup>4</sup> These fields are thought to provide better foraging sites than moorland habitat particularly during the incubation stage, with higher densities of earthworms, as well as ensuring that predators aren't attracted to active nesting sites. Applying the precautionary principle, a 2km buffer from the boundary of the North Pennine Moors SPA has therefore been applied in order to identify potential functionally linked land for this species.
- Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) are all included as qualifying features, however due to their relatively low populations (high persecution rates) and large territories, it is considered inappropriate to attempt to calculate the functional requirements of the species outside of the designated site boundary. Indeed, it is apparent that with respect to Hen harrier – due to the relatively high success rates of foraging within moorland, that populations breeding within this habitat type are unlikely to stray outside for foraging purposes. (Redpath, S. et al 2001)<sup>5</sup>

The following map (produced for the HRA of Durham County Council's Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document, 2022) therefore shows a 2km potential functional land buffer for the North Pennine Moors SPA and Golden Plover. This falls outside the Middridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan area boundary but within the 20km screening assessment radius.

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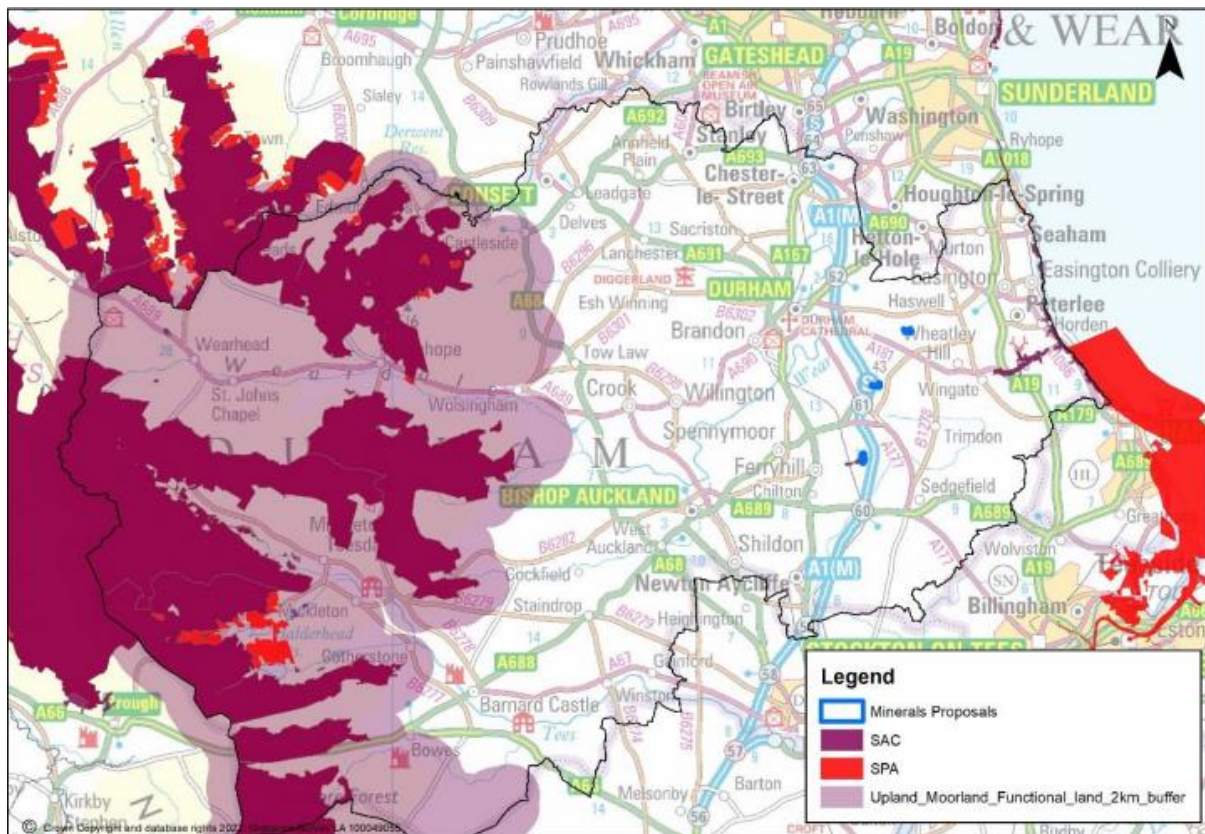
<sup>3</sup> Whitfield, D.P&Thomas, C.J.(2006) Analysis of a survey of golden plover around the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands Special Protection Area. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No.181 (ROAME No. F01LB205/5). Whittingham, M.J et al. (2002) Nest-site selection by golden plover: why do shorebirds avoid nesting on slopes? *Journal of Avian Biology*. Whittingham, M.J et al (2001) Habitat selection by golden plover *Pluvialis apicaria* chicks *Journal of Basic and Applied Ecology*. Whittingham MJ et al. (2000) Time budgets and foraging of breeding golden plover *Pluvialis apicaria*. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. Dr Derek A. Ratchliffe (1976) Observations on the Breeding of Golden Plover in Great Britain *Bird Study* 23:2, 63-116.

<sup>4</sup> Time budgets and foraging of breeding golden plover *Pluvialis apicaria* - Whittingham - 2000 - *Journal of Applied Ecology* - Wiley Online Library.

<sup>5</sup> Redpath, S et al. (2001) Hen harrier foraging success in relation to land use in Scotland.



Figure 3: Map showing application of 2km functional land buffer



In relation to relevant sites outwith the 20km radius, as mentioned in Tables 5 and 6, the Neighbourhood Plan area is also situated within the Tees and Cleveland coast nutrient neutrality catchment. Therefore, the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/Ramsar (SPA) which is in an unfavourable condition due to nutrient enrichment is also included within the screening exercise.

An overview of the relevant sites included within the screening exercise is provided within Appendix A.

### Assessment of Effects

Following the identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites to the neighbourhood area, it is then necessary to determine whether any or all of the proposals in the Plan can be eliminated on the basis that they cannot have any conceivable effect on the relevant sites, e.g. if it is a general policy statement. The following preliminary assessment categories have therefore been assigned to the Plan policies as appropriate:

Table 7 Categorisation of Likely Effects

Category	Sub Category	Description
1. No negative effect	A	Policy or measure will not lead to built development. For example it relates to settlement boundaries, green infrastructure, design or other qualitative criteria, or it is not a land-use planning policy

Category	Sub Category	Description
	B	Policy or measure may encourage new development but due to development type, distance from relevant sites and / or absence of connected impact pathways no negative effect is likely to occur.
	C	Policy or measure supports or may encourage new development that has the potential for adverse effects. However, additional wording can be added to the draft to safeguard against such and enable policy or measure to be screened out.
	D	Policy intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures may have a positive effect on a relevant site.
	E	Policy intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a relevant site.
	F	Policy would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on relevant sites and associated sensitive areas
	G	Policy is similar to existing Development Plan policy which has already been assessed as having no likely significant effects
2. No significant effects	-	No significant effect either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, because effects are trivial or minimal.
3. Likely significant effect alone	-	Policy could impact upon a relevant site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or Significant effect alone ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected. Alternatively, it may increase disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressure.
4. Likely significant effect in combination	-	The policy would have no significant effect alone but the cumulative effects when combined with those of other policies or projects are likely to be Significant.

An assessment of likely significance has been undertaken for all policies within the Neighbourhood Plan resulting in the following categories and sub categories being assigned:

**Table 8 Categorisation of Middridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policies**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>North Pennine Moors SAC</b>	<b>North Pennines Moors SPA</b>	<b>Thrislington SAC</b>	<b>Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA / Ramsar</b>
MNP1: Protected Rural Setting	1A	1A	1A	1A
MNP2: Local Green Spaces	1A	1A	1A	1A
MNP3: Valued Village Assets	1A	1A	1A	1A

### HRA Screening Conclusion

The findings of the assessment show that the Middridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan (Pre-Submission Draft) will have no effect upon the relevant protected sites. The policies are protective in nature and will not lead to built development. As written, the policies can be eliminated from further Likely Significant Effects screening and Appropriate Assessment.

## Appendix A: Overview of Relevant UK National Site Network Sites

### North Pennine Moors SAC

The North Pennine Moors (along with the North York Moors) hold much of the upland heathland of northern England. At higher altitudes and to the wetter west and north of the site complex, the heaths grade into extensive areas of blanket bogs. The site is considered as supporting the major area of blanket bog in England. A significant proportion remains active with accumulating peat, although these areas are often bounded by sizeable zones of currently non-active bog, albeit on deep peat.

#### Qualifying Features

- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*: Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath
- European dry heaths
- *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands
- Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia*
- Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands; Montane acid grasslands
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone
- Blanket bogs
- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*); Hard-water springs depositing lime
- Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens
- Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galepsietalia ladani*); Acidic scree

#### Key Environmental Conditions to Maintain

- Control of grazing
- Appropriate moorland management including management of scrub/tree/bracken encroachment
- Limited air pollution
- No drainage of wet areas
- Maintenance of water quality – organics/silt from physical disturbance
- Limited erosion by human impacts (e.g. recreation)
- Very little peat extraction

### North Pennine Moors SPA

The habitat of North Pennine Moors SAC supports breeding pairs of Hen harrier, Merlin, Peregrine falcon, European Golden plover, Dunlin and Eurasian curlew.



### **Qualifying Features**

- *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Breeding)
- *Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding)
- *Falco peregrinus*; Peregrine falcon (Breeding)
- *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Breeding)
- *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Breeding)
- *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (Breeding)

### **Key Environmental Conditions to Maintain**

- No loss of area of habitat
- Grazing to maintain suitable moorland
- Control of erosion and peat extraction
- Diversity, age and structure of vegetation
- Food availability (birds, day flying moths, small mammals, soil and ground surface invertebrates)
- Open landscape
- Lack of disturbance and persecution (moor burning, vehicles, stock, dogs and walkers)

## Thrislington SAC

Thrislington contains one of the most important stands of primary Magnesian Limestone grassland in Britain. Although comparatively small it nonetheless contains the largest of the few surviving examples of these blue-moor-grass – small scabious (*Sesleria caerulea* – *Scabiosa columbaria*) grasslands.

### **Qualifying Features**

- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)(dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone).

### **Key Environmental Conditions to Maintain**

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate; and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats; and
- The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely.

## Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/Ramsar

The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) is a 12 km<sup>2</sup> complex of coastal habitats centred on the Tees estuary. These include sandflats, mudflats, rocky foreshore, saltmarsh, sand dunes, wet grassland and freshwater lagoons. Together they support internationally important populations of breeding and non-breeding waterbirds. The SPA is a complex of discrete sites, with additional non-designated areas also used for foraging and roosting.

The designated stretch within County Durham's administrative boundary is approximately 1km in length and covers an area of approximately 22 hectares. The area is located between Crimdon Dene and Hartlepool Borough Council's administrative boundary and predominantly consists of coastal sand dunes and sand beaches.

### Qualifying Features

Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA supports breeding little tern (*Sterna albifrons*) and passage sandwich tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*). It also supports wintering knot (*Calidris canutus islandica*), redshank (*Tringa totanus totanus*), and an assemblage of over 20,000 wintering waterfowl. The 2001 SPA review identified an internationally important population of passage ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*).

The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar is designated for the following features:

- Knot, (*Calidris canutus islandica*) - Wintering
- Redshank, (*Tringa tetanus*) - Passage
- Sandwich tern, (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*, syn. *Sterna sandvicensis*) – Passage
- Waterbird assemblage – Wintering

### Key Environmental Conditions to Maintain

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate; and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features,
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features,
- The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely,
- The population of each of the qualifying features, and
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.