

**Screening Statement on the determination of the need for a
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations
2004 and European Directive 2001/42/EC for the Morland
Neighbourhood Development Plan**



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Summary

Following consultation with the statutory bodies, Westmorland and Furness Council (the 'Council') determines that Morland Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Introduction

1. An initial screening opinion was used to determine whether or not the contents of the emerging Morland Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2011/42/EC (the Directive) and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).
2. Any land use plan or programme 'which sets the framework for future development consent of projects' must be screened according to a set of criteria from Annex II of the Directive and Schedule 1 of the Regulations. These criteria include exceptions for plans 'which determine the use of a small area at local level' or which only propose 'minor modifications to a plan', if it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.
3. The SEA screening process is concerned with whether a neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant environmental effect. Within this context, wider considerations of the draft neighbourhood plan's potential conformity with the Basic Conditions are not considered and as a consequence, the council is required to consider the proposals in the plan as they are, not as they may be modified (if necessary) to meet the Basic Conditions.
4. The initial screening opinion was subject to consultation with Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The results of the screening process are detailed in this Screening Statement.

The Screening Process

1. Using the criteria set out in Annex II of the Directive and Schedule 1 of the Regulations, a Screening Opinion determines whether a plan or programme is likely to have significant environmental effects.
2. The extract from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' in Appendix 1 provides a flow diagram to demonstrate the SEA screening process.
3. Table 1 in Appendix 1 sets out the criteria from the Practical Guide, along with an assessment of the Morland NDP against each criterion to ascertain whether a SEA is required.
4. Also, part of the screening process is the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening, which can be found in Appendix 2, and the assessment of likely significance effects on the environment, which can be found in Appendix 3.
5. These two assessments feed into Table 1 and the SEA screening opinion.

Morland Neighbourhood Development Plan

6. The Morland Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) contains the following objectives:
 - a. Objective 1 – Design and Local Character: to ensure that all new development, through design and use of materials, respects and enhances the traditional character of the parish, particularly the village character.
 - b. Objective 2 – Open Countryside and Environment: to protect and maintain open spaces within and on the edges of the village which are an essential part of the character of the parish.
 - c. Objective 3 – Housing: to manage future housing development in Morland Parish to levels of development that meet local needs and support the community, while enhancing the character of the parish.

- d. Objective 4 – Community Facilities, Employment and Business: to maintain existing employment operations/businesses and encourage new ones appropriate to the character of the parish in order to maintain existing services.
- 7. The Morland NDP will seek to ensure that Morland maintains and enhances its historic character, with particular reference to its village character area, and provides sustainable development to meet the needs of its community.
- 8. The NDP does not allocate specific sites for housing but supports small-scale sensitive windfall development within the settlement. New housing is limited to infilling or rounding off, as defined in Local Plan Policy LS1.
- 9. There is no evidence to suggest that the affordable housing or local occupancy requirements for Morland differ significantly from those applying across the wider district. Therefore, no modification of Local Plan Policies LS1, HS1 and HS2 is proposed. It is therefore concluded that the implementation of the Morland NDP would not result in likely significant effects on the environment.

Consultation Responses

- 10. The screening opinion was sent to Natural England, The Environment Agency and Historic England on 28 January 2026 for a four-week consultation period. The responses in full are presented in Appendix 4.
- 11. The Environment Agency confirmed their agreement, that the Morland NDP does not require an SEA.
- 12. Historic England confirmed their agreement, that the Morland NDP does not require an SEA.
- 13. Natural England confirmed their agreement, that the Morland NDP does not require an SEA.

Conclusion

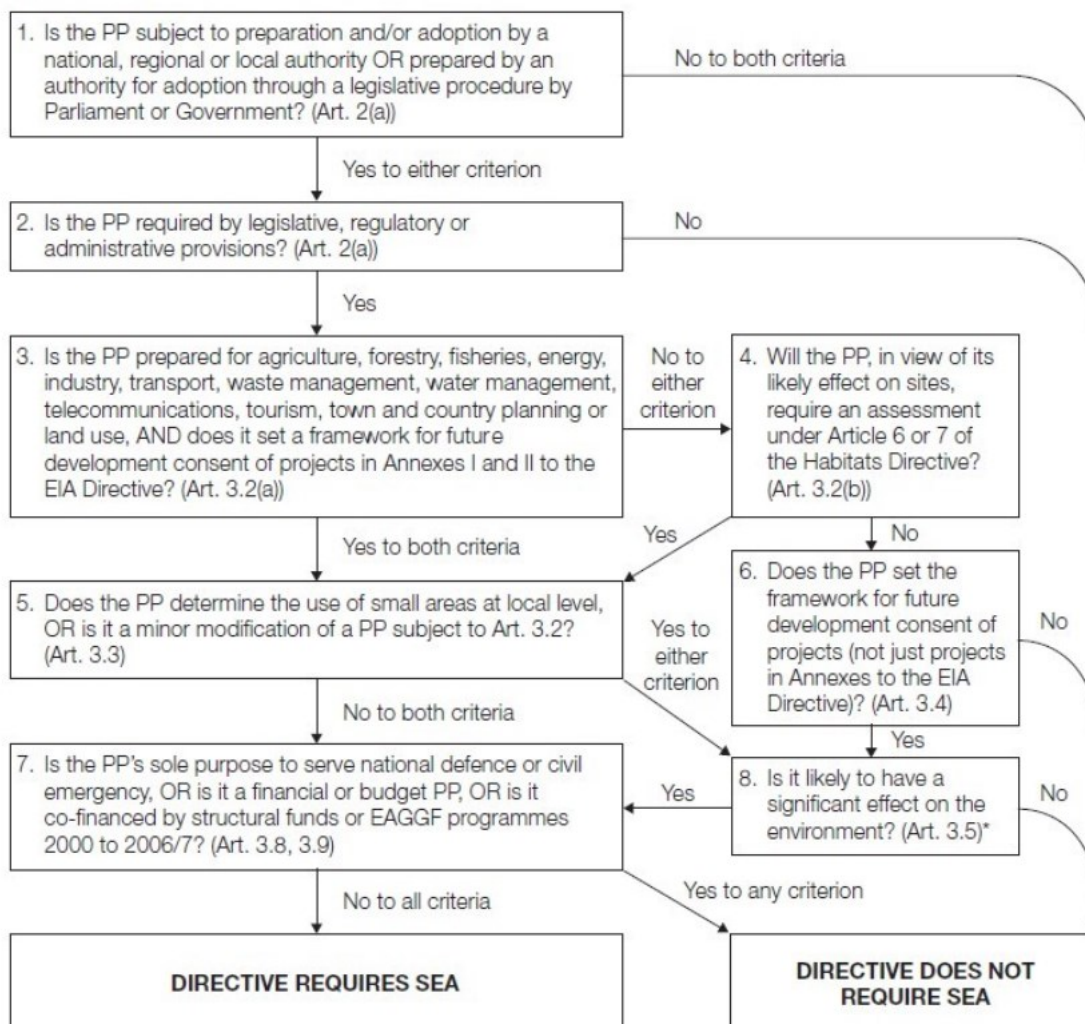
- 14. As a result of the screening undertaken by the Council, the following determination has been reached.

15. The Morland NDP is unlikely to have significant effects on Nationally Significant Site Network sites, therefore, an Appropriate Assessment for the Morland Neighbourhood Development Plan is not required.
16. Based on the assessment presented in Appendices 1 & 3, the Morland NDP is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.
17. The Morland NDP therefore does not require a Strategic Environment Assessment.

Appendix 1 - Extract from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (DCLG) (2005)

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.



Table 1: Application of SEA Directive as shown in Appendix 1

Stage	Y/N	Explanation
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan 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 of and adoption of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by the Morland NDP Steering Group, a working group who report to the Morland Parish Council (as the “relevant body”) and will be “made” by Westmorland and Furness Council as the local authority. The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans is subject to the following regulations: • The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. • The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012. • The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015. • The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. • The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. • The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	Whilst the Neighbourhood Development Plan is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it will, if “made”, form part of the Development Plan for the District. 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.

Stage	Y/N	Explanation
		National Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraph: 051 Reference ID: 41- 051- 20150209) sets out that draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan 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 (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	N	The Morland NDP is prepared for town and country planning and land use and will not set out a framework for future development of projects that would require an EIA.
4. Will the Neighbourhood Plan, 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	The Morland NDP is unlikely to have significant effects on Nationally Significant Site Network sites. See Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion for the Morland NDP in Appendix 2.

Stage	Y/N	Explanation
5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan 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 Morland NDP will determine the use of sites/small areas at a local level.
6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	When made, the Morland NDP will include a series of policies to guide development within the village. This will inform the determination of planning applications providing a framework for future development consent of projects.
7. Is the Neighbourhood Plan'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	N/A.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	The NDP is not likely to have significant effects on the environment. See assessment of the likely significance of effects on the environment in Appendix 3.



Appendix 2 - Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Assessment for the Morland Neighbourhood Development Plan

Introduction

1. The Local Authority is the “competent authority” under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and needs to ensure that Neighbourhood Plans have been assessed through the Habitats Regulations process. This looks at the potential for significant impacts on nature conservation sites that are of European importance¹, also referred to as Nationally Significant Site Network [NSN] (previously known as Natura 2000 sites).
2. This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan that will be in general conformity with the strategic policies within the development plan² (the higher level plan for town and country planning and land use). This Screening Assessment uses the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Eden Local Plan³ as its basis for assessment. From this, the Local Authority will determine whether the Morland Neighbourhood Development Plan is likely to result in significant impacts on NSN sites either alone or in combination with other plans and policies and, therefore, whether an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ is required.

Legislative Basis

3. Section 63 of the Habitats Regulations requires that:

“A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which—

- a) is likely to have a significant effect on a Habitats site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and
- b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,
- c) must make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications of the plan or project for

¹ Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for other species, and for habitats, Ramsar Sites and potential SPAs and SACs.

² Eden Local Plan 2014 to 2032.

³ Eden District Council, Local Plan 2014-32 Habitats Regulations Assessment Proposed Submission Draft.

that site in view of that site's conservation objectives.

[...]

In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 64, the competent authority may agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the Habitats site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be)."

4. Regulations 105-106 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 state:

"105. - (1) Where a land use plan –

is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

- (a) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.*
- (2) The plan-making authority must for the purposes of the assessment consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to any representations made by that body within such reasonable time as the authority specifies.*
- (3) The plan-making authority must also, if it considers it appropriate, take the opinion of the general public, and if it does so, it must take such steps for that purpose as it considers appropriate.*
- (4) In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 107, the plan-making authority must give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be).*
- (5) A plan-making authority must provide such information as the appropriate authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the discharge by the appropriate authority of its obligations under this Chapter.*
- (6) This regulation does not apply in relation to a site which is -*
 - (a) a European site by reason of regulation 8(1)(c), or*
 - (b) a European offshore marine site by reason of regulation 18(c) of the Offshore Marine Conservation Regulations (site protected in accordance with Article*

5(4) of the Habitats Directive).

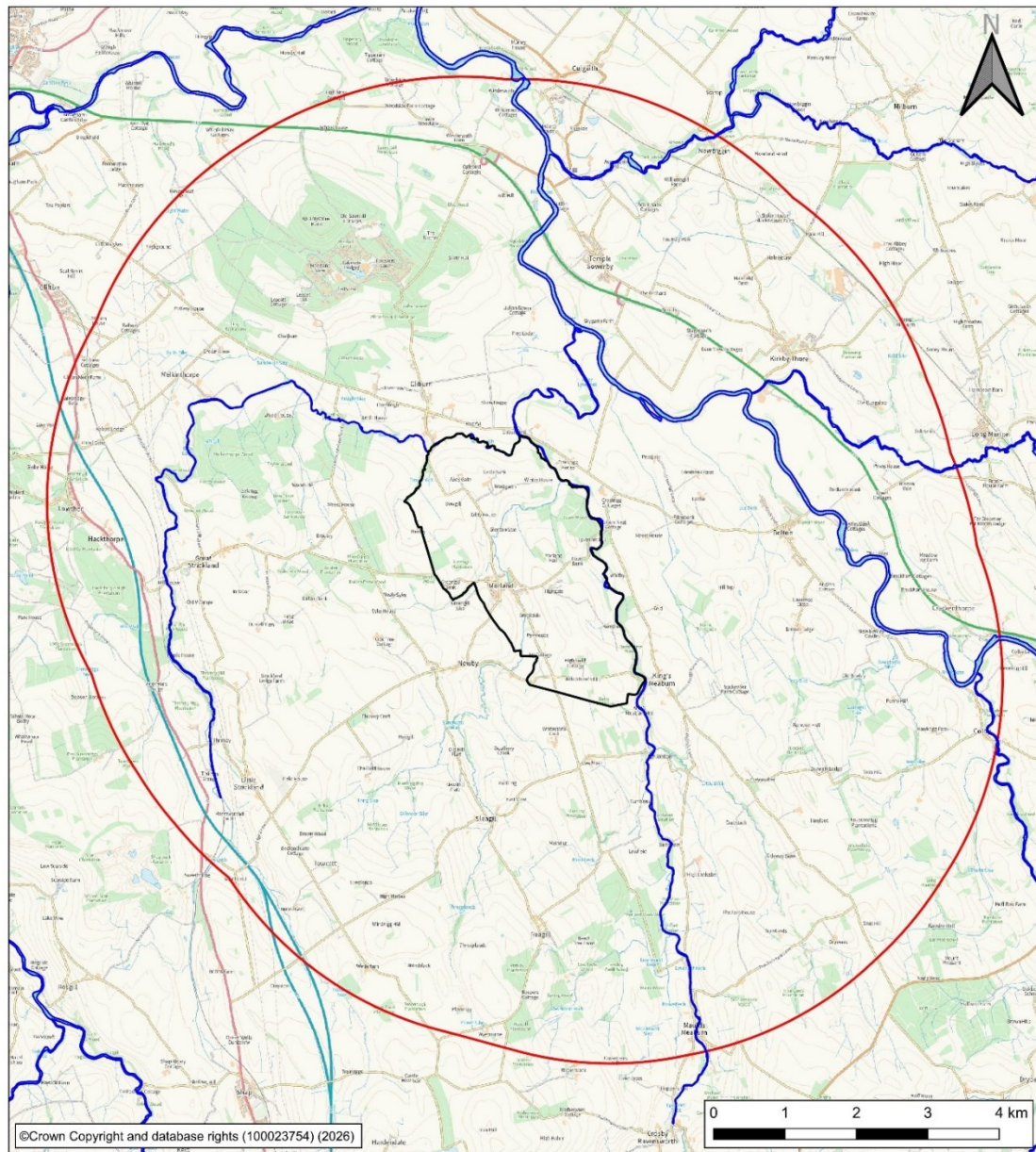
106. (1) *A qualifying body which submits a proposal for a neighbourhood development plan must provide such information as the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment under regulation 105 or to enable it to determine whether that assessment is required.*
- (2) *In this regulation, “qualifying body” means a parish council, or an organisation or body designated as a neighbourhood forum, authorised for the purposes of a neighbourhood development plan to act in relation to a neighbourhood area as a result of section 61F of the TCPA 1990 (authorisation to act in relation to neighbourhood areas)(159), applied by section 38C of the 2004 Planning Act (supplementary provisions)(160).*
- (3) *Where the competent authority decides to revoke or modify a neighbourhood development plan after it has been made, it must for that purpose make an appropriate assessment of the implications for any European site likely to be significantly affected in view of that site’s conservation objectives; and regulation 105 and paragraph (1) apply with the appropriate modifications in relation to such a revocation or modification.*
- (4) *This regulation applies in relation to England only”.*

European Sites

5. A screening distance, or zone of influence, of 5km from the neighbourhood plan boundary has been used to identify European sites which could be affected by the impact of the plan policies.
6. The following European sites lie wholly or partly within 5km of the Morland Neighbourhood Plan area and have been taken into consideration. Site assessment sheets for each NSN site are presented in Appendix A.

Site Type	Site Name	Area (Ha)	Location
SAC	River Eden	12,163.75	Within Neighbourhood Plan Area

Map of Morland Parish – showing the zone of influence and the River Eden SAC



Key	
	Morland Parish boundary
	Special Areas of Conservation: River Eden
	Zone of Influence (5km)
Scale: 1:50,250@A3 Date: 27.01.2026 EB/AD/Policy	



Impact Pathways Considered

7. Early advice from Natural England on the Westmorland and Furness Local Plan HRA has advised the following impact pathways should be taken into consideration and these have been the primary considerations in relation to the Morland Neighbourhood Plan:

Impact Pathway	Description	Features Potentially affected
Air pollution – atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Natural England highlights traffic-related nitrogen emissions as a key HRA issue, particularly for habitats within 200m of roads with increased traffic and vulnerable to nitrogen deposition or acidification. Impacts from new, upgraded or busier roads should be assessed using traffic projections, the 200m criterion and local air quality modelling. Other pollution sources (e.g. agriculture or combustion) may require assessment up to 15km. The Local Plan HRA screened the River Eden for further assessment due to the possible effect of air pollution. It found that the ecological effects of the predicted increases in NOx concentrations and nutrient nitrogen deposition would either be negligible or that any small effects would be highly unlikely to result in a deterioration in the condition of the qualifying features and as such the in-combination effects of planned growth would not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the River Eden SAC. As the Morland Neighbourhood Plan is not setting out any site allocations and therefore growth, above that which was assessed as part of the Local Plan, effects in relation to air pollution can be screened out of further assessment.	H3130 Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels

Impact Pathway	Description	Features Potentially affected
	As the Morland Neighbourhood Plan is not setting out any site allocations and therefore growth, above that which was assessed as part of the Local Plan, effects in relation to water pollution can be screened out of further assessment.	
Water pollution	All four internationally designated freshwater sites in the area are sensitive to phosphorus, making this a key HRA focus for housing growth and strategic mitigation. The three river SACs are also vulnerable to drainage, abstraction, floodplain development, energy schemes (e.g. hydropower), physical modifications and redundant structures. Additional phosphorus arising from new housing or overnight accommodation typically enters nearby watercourses via wastewater discharges, septic systems, or surface water runoff. The occurrence of excessive nutrients in the waterbody can impact on the competitive interactions between high plant species and between higher plant species and algae, which can result in a dominance in attached forms of algae, and a loss of characteristic plant species. Changes in plant growth and community composition can have implications for the wider food web, and the species present. Increased nutrients and the occurrence of eutrophication can also impact on the dissolved oxygen levels in the waterbody, also impacting on biota within the river or lake.	H3130 Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, H3260 Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot, H91E0 Alder woodland on floodplains, S1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, S1095 Sea lamprey, S1096 Brook lamprey, S1099 River lamprey, S1106 Atlantic salmon, S1163 Bullhead, S1355 Otter

Impact Pathway	Description	Features Potentially affected
	Any new overnight accommodation that discharges wastewater to the River Eden catchment could have potential significant effects on the River Eden SAC and such development will be required to demonstrate nutrient neutrality in order to demonstrate that there is no adverse impact on the site. As the Morland Neighbourhood Plan is not setting out any site allocations and therefore growth, above that which was assessed as part of the Local Plan, effects in relation to water pollution can be screened out of further assessment.	
Recreational disturbance	Recreational pressure from increased housing can affect habitats and species, particularly birds. Where in-combination effects are likely, a strategic recreational solution is required. The HRA of the Local Plan 2014-32 sets out that the potential for effects depends upon the scale of development proposed and the features for which the site is designated. However, as a conservative estimate, it is assumed that any development within 5 km of a sensitive site could have impacts due to recreation. Where site specific information indicates that development beyond 5 km could produce recreation impacts, this will be taken into account. The most recent HRA of the Local Plan 2014-32 states: “Eden is a popular tourist destination with a robust network of public footpaths. The River Eden SAC is the most likely to be affected by	

Impact Pathway	Description	Features Potentially affected
	increased recreation pressures that any increased population may bring. There are a number of existing footpaths and advertised tourist and recreation opportunities along the Eden from its source in the Mallerstang valley to its passage into the neighbouring Carlisle City Council authority. There is limited data available on the use of public footpaths and rights of way and as a consequence it is difficult to quantify any increases which may be expected as a result of increased development within the District. However, within the proposed developments there are requirements for green infrastructure to encourage use of designated areas. The River Eden itself does not flow through Penrith but does through Appleby and Kirkby Stephen where footpaths and walks are already in place along the banks of the river. The majority of all other European sites lie away from centres of population and proposed allocations. It is not possible to predict any increase in visitor numbers to protected sites which may occur as a result of the proposed increased development. Developments brought forward through the lifetime of the Local Plan will be expected to consider impacts on any European Sites which may be affected by development."	

Impact Pathway	Description	Features Potentially affected
	As the Morland Neighbourhood Plan is not setting out any site allocations and therefore growth, above that which was assessed as part of the Local Plan, effects in relation to recreational disturbance can be screened out of further assessment.	
Physical modification	No policies for hydro schemes or other development likely to result in physical modification of the River Eden SAC are included in the Morland Neighbourhood Plan therefore effects in relation to recreational disturbance can be screened out of further assessment.	
Invasive species	No development requiring landscaping is included in the Neighbourhood Plan and no proposals to modify banks of watercourses that are tributaries of the SAC are included. The plan encourages native planting as does the Westmorland and Furness Design Guide: <i>CODE GHS 3.6 Existing Trees, Woodlands, and Hedgerows: Development proposals must: a) retain and protect existing trees and hedgerows and, where removal is unavoidable, compensatory planting and replacement of trees should be provided at an appropriate ratio; and b) include a variety of native species in new planting to enhance biodiversity and contribute to the overall green infrastructure network.</i> To reduce non-native planting and consequently reduce the impacts of invasive species.	

Impact Pathway	Description	Features Potentially affected
Functionally Linked Land	Land outside designated sites that supports qualifying species must be considered in HRAs. For example, some Solway Firth SPA species use land up to 20km away. Sites with a strong, regular functional link pose a higher risk; allocations affecting them may be unsound without clear mitigation and could require removal if no alternatives exist. Where links are weaker, development may proceed if effective mitigation is secured through Plan policy and at the project stage. Loss of habitat from outside of the boundaries of the River Eden SAC could still affect the integrity of that site if it occurs in an area used by the qualifying species of the site (e.g. for off-site breeding, foraging or roosting). The River Eden SAC has the following qualifying features that could travel outside of the site to make use of other areas of habitat: • White-clawed crayfish (limited but mobile) • Sea lamprey • Brook lamprey • River lamprey • Atlantic salmon • Bullhead • Otter As the Morland Neighbourhood Plan is not proposing any site allocations and therefore growth, above that which was assessed as part of the Local Plan, potential loss of or damage to off-site habitats associated with River Eden SAC can be screened out of further assessment.	

Screening Assessment

River Eden SAC

Morland Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Impact Pathways	Potential for Likely Significant Effect	Rationale
MNP1 – Village Design and Local Character	None	No	Policy solely for the conservation or enhancement the built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to cause likely significant effects to the River Eden SAC, the qualifying features of River Eden SAC, or the conservation objectives of River Eden SAC.
Policy MNP2 – Local Green Spaces	None	No	Policy solely for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment will not be likely to cause any likely significant effects to the River Eden SAC, the qualifying features of River Eden SAC, or the conservation objectives of River Eden SAC.
Policy MNP3 – Parking Provision	None	No	Policy that would have no effect because the policy itself does not make provisions for development, with provisions for development made through other policies that are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on to the River Eden SAC, the qualifying features of River Eden SAC, or the conservation objectives of River Eden SAC.
Policy MNP4 – Employment and Business	None	No	Policy solely for the conservation or enhancement the built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to cause likely significant effects to the River Eden SAC, the qualifying features of River Eden SAC, or the conservation objectives of River Eden SAC.

Morland Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Impact Pathways	Potential for Likely Significant Effect	Rationale
Policy MNP5 - Halmshaw's Garage Site	None	No	Policy solely for the conservation or enhancement the built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to cause likely significant effects to the River Eden SAC, the qualifying features of River Eden SAC, or the conservation objectives of River Eden SAC.
Policy MNP6 – Non-Designated Heritage Assets	None	No	Policy solely for the conservation or enhancement the built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to cause likely significant effects to the River Eden SAC, the qualifying features of River Eden SAC, or the conservation objectives of River Eden SAC.

Conclusion

8. The Morland Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant effects on NSN sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, therefore, an Appropriate Assessment for the Morland Neighbourhood Plan is not required.

Appendix A

National Site Network (NSN) site under consideration	River Eden SAC
Conservation Status	Unknown
Characteristics of NSN Site(s) A brief description of the NSN Site should be produced, including information on:	
EU code of NSN Site	UK0012643
European Site size	2463.23Ha
Component SSSIs	River Eden and Tributaries SSSI

Key features of the European Site including the primary reasons for selection and any other qualifying interests	Annex I Habitats as Primary Reason Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>). (Alder woodland on floodplains)* Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i>. (Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels) Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation. (Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot) Annex II – Species as Primary Reason Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>
Vulnerability of the European Site – any information available from the standard data forms on potential effect pathways See full details in Site Improvement Plan	Agricultural management practices Physical modification Changes in species distributions Forestry and woodland management Disease Hydrological changes Water pollution Spread of invasive species Air pollution – atmospheric nitrogen deposition
European Site conservation objectives – where these are readily available	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 and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species

	• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
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Appendix 3 - Assessment of the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

1. Characteristics of the Plan, having regard 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;	The Morland NDP would, if adopted, form part of the Statutory Development Plan and as such does contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects. However, the Plan will sit within the wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework and the strategic policies of the Eden Local Plan 2014-2032.
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	A Neighbourhood Development Plan must be in conformity with the Local Plan for the District. It does not influence other plans. The Morland Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to influence other Plans or Programmes within the Statutory Development Plan.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	National policy requires a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread through plan-making, including the Morland Neighbourhood Plan. A basic condition of the Morland NDP is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Within this wider context the Morland NDP itself is likely to have some positive effects. It is noted that the Morland NDP objectives do relate to the three pillars of sustainable development, these include: a. To protect the character of the village and surrounding countryside. b. To protect the natural environment by preserving and enhancing public open spaces. c. To ensure any further development contributes positively to the existing settlements. However, given the nature and scale of the proposals in the Plan, the effects are not likely to be significant.

1. Characteristics of the Plan, having regard to:	
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	The environmental impacts of the proposals within the Morland NDP are not likely to be significant as the plan does not allocate sites. The Morland NDP area contains the following environmental designations: - SSSI - SAC - BAP Priority Habitats - Ancient Woodland - Traditional Orchards - Tree Preservation Orders There are the following SACs and SPAs within 5km of the Morland NDP. These are as follows: - River Eden SAC - Within Plan Area There are also the following SSSI's located within the following distances of the Morland NDP area: - River Eden SSSI - Within Plan Area - Cliburn Moss SSSI - 1.2 km - Temple Sowerby Moss SSSI - 2.7 km - Udford Low Moss SSSI - 5.3 km - Burrells Quarry SSSI - 6.5 km - Crosby Ravensworth Fell SSSI - 6.7 km - Cowraik Quarry SSSI - 7.9 km - Crosby Gill SSSI - 8.1 km - Wan Fell SSSI - 8.2 km

1. Characteristics of the Plan, having regard to:	
	- Butterwick Meadows SSSI - 8.5 km - Appleby Fells SSSI - 8.8 km - Moorhouse and Cross Fell SSSI - 8.9 km - Wet Sleddale Meadows SSSI - 10 km - Great Asby Scar SSSI - 10.2 km - Shap Fells SSSI - 10.9 km - Orton Pastures SSSI - 11.2 km - Swindale Meadows SSSI - 11.9 km - Sunbiggin Tarn & Moors and Little Asby Scar SSSI - 12 km - Newton Reigny Moss SSSI - 12.5 km - Little Asby Inrakes and Outrakes SSSI - 13.3 km - Raisbeck Meadows SSSI - 13.7 km - Town End Meadows, Little Asby SSSI - 13.9 km - Lazonby Fell SSSI -15 km - Hallinhag Wood SSSI -15.4 km - Hollin Hill SSSI - 15.6 km - Ewefell Mire SSSI - 15.7 km - Shap Fell Road Cuttings SSSI - 15.9 km - Bretherdale Meadows SSSI - 16.2 km - Hellbeck Wood SSSI - 16.3 km - Gowbarrow Park SSSI - 16.7k km

1. Characteristics of the Plan, having regard to:	
	Given the NDP is not allocating sites, the amount of potential infill sites within the village and their relationship to the designations within the NDP area the proposals in the plan are unlikely to significantly affect these designations. The Plan's objectives are to conserve the parish settlement, its character and setting.
(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).	The Morland NDP has been judged not to have an impact on community legislation.
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;	The Morland NDP will help guide the location and appearance of development in the parish until 2032, which is in line with national guidance. The Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have modest but enduring positive environmental effects. The effects are not likely to be reversible as they relate to development. The main influence will be on developments such as householder and small-scale infill development, which could impact the character and appearance of listed buildings and their setting. The Plan does not allocate sites for development. It seeks to influence infill and redevelopment within the existing settlements in accordance with policies in the existing development plan.

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:	
	The effects will be of a local scale and the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will add local detail to existing development plan policies. No development is proposed near sensitive locations that would cause likely significant effects.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	It is intended that the positive social effects of supporting sustainable development will have positive cumulative effects for the area. However, given the nature and scale of the proposals in the plan these are not likely to be significant.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The effects of the Plan are unlikely to ⁴ have transboundary impacts.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	The policies in the Plan are unlikely to present risks to human health or the environment.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects. (Geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The Morland NDP relates to the parish of Morland. The Morland NDP does not seek to allocate development sites and therefore the magnitude and spatial extent of the Plan is likely to be limited.

⁴ Transboundary effects are understood to be in other Member States.

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:	
(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 intensive land-use; and	The impacts of the proposals within the Morland NDP due to special characteristics, environmental standards or intensive land use are not likely to be significant as the plan does not allocate sites. The Morland NDP area contains the following environmental and cultural designations: - SSSI - SAC - BAP Priority Habitats - Ancient Woodland - Traditional Orchards - Tree Preservation Orders There are the following SACs and SPAs within 5km of the Morland NDP. These are as follows: - River Eden SAC - Within Plan Area Given the NDP is not allocating sites, the amount of potential infill sites within the village and their relationship to the designations within the NDP area the proposals in the Plan are unlikely to significantly affect these designations. The Plan's objectives are to conserve the parish settlement, its character and setting.
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	The Neighbourhood Plan area does not overlap with any areas of recognised national, community, or international protection. Therefore, no effects are anticipated on such protected landscapes.

Appendix 4 - Statutory Consultee Responses

Historic England

Morland Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion 28 January 2026

We write in response to your e-mail of 28 January 2026, seeking a formal Screening Opinion from Historic England as to whether SEA is required for Morland Neighbourhood Plan. As the public body that advises on England's historic environment, we are pleased to offer our comments.

For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine the advice given 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 at this time within the Screening Report.

The Neighbourhood Plan area includes a number of designated heritage assets including listed buildings. There are also likely to be other features of local historic, architectural or archaeological value.

In the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 [Annex II of the SEA Directive], and on the basis of the information supplied, we concur that the draft plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects upon the historic environment, and so Historic England are of the view that SEA is unlikely to be required.

We would like to stress that this opinion is based on the information made available on 28 January 2026. To avoid any doubt, this decision does not preclude Historic England providing further advice on later stages of the SEA process, should this be required, nor objecting to specific proposals that may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan), where we consider that these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.

The views of all statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for SEA is made.

Historic England strongly advises that the conservation and archaeological staff of the

Westmorland and Furness Council and the Westmorland and Furness Council's Historic Environment Service are closely involved throughout the preparation of the plan and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on: local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the HER (formerly SMR); how policies or proposals can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of historic assets.

We request that you please send Historic England a copy of the determination as required by Reg 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Natural England

Morland Neighbourhood Plan - SEA/HRA Screening Assessment

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 28 January 2026.

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.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that:

- **significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely; and,**
- **significant effects on Habitats sites¹, either alone or in combination, are unlikely.**

The proposed neighbourhood plan is unlikely to significantly affect any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection areas (SPA), Ramsar wetland or sites in the process of becoming SACs or SPAs ('candidate SACs', 'possible SACs', 'potential SPAs') or a Ramsar wetland. The plan area is unlikely to have a significant effect on a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coast, and is unlikely to impact upon the purposes for which these areas are designated or defined.

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 is contained within the [Planning](#)

¹ Habitats sites are those referred to in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (Annex 2 - glossary) as "any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites"



[Practice Guidance](#). This identifies three triggers that may require the production of an SEA:

- 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.

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require an SEA. Further information is included in Natural England's [standing advice](#) on protected species.

Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant an SEA. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission [standing advice](#).

We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a SEA is necessary.

Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If a SEA is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.

Please send any new consultations, or further information on this consultation to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk



Environment Agency

Screening Statement on the determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and European Directive 2001/42/EC for the Morland Neighbourhood Development Plan

Thank you for consulting us on the above, which was received on 28 January 2026.

We have reviewed the document as submitted in so far as it relates to our remit and we agree with your conclusions that the Morland Neighbourhood Plan does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.