

**Charnwood Borough Council**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening  
Report**

**and**

**Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report**

**(May 2016)**

**Thurcaston and Cropston Neighbourhood Plan**

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report seeks to determine whether the Thurcaston and Cropston Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and will require a strategic environmental assessment (SEA). It will also assess the likelihood of the proposals within the Plan having an adverse impact upon internationally designated wildlife sites, as required by the European Habitats Directive.

1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Assessment requirements are prescribed by the European Directive 2001/42/EC. The requirements have been introduced into the planning system by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations).

1.3 As regards the Habitats Regulations, Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 requires, as a basic condition, that the making of a neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect upon a European site.

## 2. The Thurcaston and Cropston Neighbourhood Plan

2.1 The Thurcaston and Cropston Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the community to generate a vision for the Parish and create distinct planning policies for the use and development of land at the neighbourhood level which will realise that vision.

2.2 The Vision for the plan was based on local consultation and is to *“maintain and enhance the good quality of life, community spirit and attractive natural and built environment in Thurcaston and Cropston Parish now and for future generations”*.

2.3 The key issues identified by the community have been used as the basis for policy areas to realise the Vision. These areas seek to:

- Ensure that development takes place in the most sustainable locations;
- Encourage the right types of development that meets local needs;
- Protect and wherever possible enhance important buildings and structures;
- Protect important community facilities that are special to the local community;
- Promote good design;
- Ensure that the community continues to have good access to the surrounding countryside and green spaces;
- Protect open spaces that are important to the community and/or wildlife;
- Seek ways of addressing the problems of traffic congestion and speed on our roads and the lack of parking and;
- Improve pedestrian and cycle connections within the Plan area and into the surrounding areas.

2.4 The policies which have been included in the plan to address these areas are:

*Policy T&C1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development*

When considering development proposals, the Plan will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in national and Borough-wide plans and policies.

*Policy T&C2: General Policy Principle*

Where there are no policies in this Plan relevant to a planning application or development proposal, the provisions of relevant national and Borough-wide plans and policies apply.

*Policy T&C3: Thurcaston Limits to Development*

Within the defined Limits to Development for Thurcaston as shown on the Proposals Map, development proposals for infill development and the conversion of existing buildings will be looked on sympathetically where it:

- a) Is small scale, and reflects the size, character and level of service provision of Thurcaston;
- b) Meets a clearly identified need for Thurcaston or the wider Parish;
- c) Retains existing natural boundaries such as trees, hedges and streams which either contribute to visual amenity or are important for their ecological value;
- d) Maintains important views and vistas, especially those identified in the Thurcaston Conservation Area Appraisal;
- e) Preserves the physical and visual separation of Thurcaston and Cropston;
- f) Retains and where possible, enhances the distinctive qualities of the special and attractive landscape in which Thurcaston is situated;
- g) Preserves and, where possible, enhances the setting of any heritage asset, where the setting of that heritage asset would be affected by the proposal;
- h) Preserves and where possible, enhances Thurcaston Conservation Area, where relevant;
- i) Does not reduce garden/green space to an extent where it adversely affects the special character of the Parish or the amenity of the proposed occupiers of the new development or adjacent properties/uses;
- j) Does not adversely affect neighbouring properties uses by way of privacy, daylight, noise, visual intrusion or amenity;
- k) Does not increase the need to travel by car; and
- l) Any traffic generation and parking impact created does not result in an unacceptable direct or cumulative impact on congestion or road and pedestrian safety.

*Policy T&C4: Broadnook Development*

The Plan recognises that part of the major Broadnook Development identified in the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy is located within the Parish. In

this location Policy CS20 and other relevant policies of the Core Strategy will be applied. In addition, the Plan requires that part of the Broadnook development in the Parish:

- a) That a landscaping area, including tree planting, of at least 25m depth should be provided between the railway line and new housing to provide a soft landscaped edge to the development and to preserve and enhance bio-diversity as well as acting as a wildlife corridor;
- b) Important ponds, trees and hedgerows should be retained;
- c) The density of the dwellings to the edge of the residential development adjacent to the open landscape should be reduced and no more than two storeys in height to create a gradual transition from built area to more open green space and should generally be designed to be sensitive to the existing and adjoining uses and minimise visual impact;
- d) A mix of housing types and sizes to meet the current and future needs of people in the Parish and the wider area be provided; and
- e) Vehicular access and movements should be via and along the A6.

*Policy T&C5: Development in the Countryside*

Land outside the defined Thurcaston Limits to Development and Broadnook Development (see Proposals Map) is identified as countryside, which will be protected for the sake of its intrinsic character and beauty. In areas designated as Countryside, development will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances in accordance with national and Borough-wide planning policies.

*Policy T&C6: Small Infill and Redevelopment Sites*

Development proposals for small (5 or below) infill and redevelopment sites for new housing within the defined Limits to Development for Thurcaston as shown on the Proposals Map will be sympathetically considered where they are in accordance with relevant policies in the Plan, especially T&C3 and relevant Borough-wide policies.

*Policy T&C7: Housing Mix*

New housing development proposals should provide for a recognised housing need in the Parish. Priority should be given to smaller homes, especially for young families and young people and for older people who wish to downsize.

*Policy T&C8: Affordable Housing*

Development proposals for new housing comprising 5 or more homes should provide at least 30% high quality affordable housing in Thurcaston and 40% in Cropston to meet a clearly identified local need and in accordance with policies contained in the Charnwood Core Strategy. Priority should be given to residents of the Parish in the allocation of affordable housing.

*Policy T&C9: Community Facilities*

Development proposals that result in the loss of, or have a significant adverse effect, on a community facility will not be supported, unless the building or facility is replaced by an equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in an equally suitable location or it can be clearly demonstrated that the service or facility is unviable or is no longer required by the community.

*Policy T&C10:* Small scale proposals to enhance the provision of community facilities to meet an identified local need will be viewed positively.

*Policy T&C11: Assets of Community Value*

Development proposals that will result in either the loss of an Asset of Community Value or adversely affect an Asset of Community Value will not normally be permitted unless the Asset is replaced by an equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in an equally suitable location, or it can be clearly demonstrated that it is unviable.

*Policy T&C12: Design*

Development proposals should respond positively to their context and reinforce a sense of place. We will require new developments to:

- a) Respect and enhance the character of the area, having regard to scale, density;
- b) Massing, height, landscape, layout, materials and access arrangements;
- c) Protect the amenity of people who live or work nearby and those who will live in the new development;
- d) Function well and add to the quality of an area, not just in the short term, but over the lifetime of the development;
- e) Provide attractive, well managed and safe public and private spaces;
- f) Provide well defined and legible streets and spaces that are easy to get around for all, including those with disabilities;
- g) Reduce their impacts upon and be resilient to the effects of climate change in accordance with relevant borough-wide planning policies; and
- h) Where in Thurcaston or Cropston Conservation Area, or an area that affects their setting, will be required to have regard to the guidelines set out in the Thurcaston and Cropston Conservation Area Character Appraisals.

*Policy T&C13: Important Local Green Spaces*

Development proposals that would result in the loss of, or have an adverse effect on, an identified Local Green Space (See Proposals Map) will not be supported, other than in very special circumstances in accordance with Borough-wide and national planning policies.

*Policy T&C14: Other Important Green Spaces*

The other sites identified in the Environmental Inventory (available on the Parish Council website) and shown on the Proposals Map have been identified 'of being high environmental and community significance', particularly for biodiversity.

Development proposals that would affect these sites should seek to protect and enhance their identified significant features.

*Policy T&C15: Ridge and Furrow Fields*

The Ridge and Furrow fields will be identified as non-designated heritage assets in accordance with national planning policy. There will be a strong presumption against development, or other activity, that destroys or damages an identified 12 surviving areas of Ridge and Furrow earthworks as shown on the map below.

*Policy T&C16: Other Historical and Archaeological Sites*

There will be a strong presumption against development, or other activity, that destroys or damages the identified sites, as shown on Proposals Map and the map below, containing earthworks and other features of historical and archaeological significance. An archaeological assessment or field evaluation will be required to be submitted with the planning application.

*Policy T&C17: Biodiversity*

- a) Development proposals that cannot avoid (through, for example, locating to an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigate, or, as a last resort, compensate for, the loss of a locally or nationally identified site of biodiversity value should not be permitted;
- b) Development proposals that conserve or enhance biodiversity, and incorporate biodiversity in and around them, will be encouraged; and
- c) Where a development proposal will affect a protected species, a suitable survey should be undertaken prior to development in accordance with Natural England Standing Advice, and under Natural England's guidance, and any mitigating actions required by Natural England will be undertaken.

*Policy T&C18: Zones of Separation*

To retain the physical and visual separation between the Villages, the following areas of open land between:

- The built-up areas of Thurcaston and Cropston and the Anstey parish boundary;
- The built-up areas of Cropston and Rothley; and
- The built up areas of Thurcaston and Cropston

will be designated as Zones of Separation as shown on the Proposals Map. Development proposals in the identified gaps between villages should be located and designed to maintain, and wherever possible, enhance the separation of the villages.

*Policy T&C19: Important Trees and Hedgerows*

Development proposals that may damage or result in the loss of trees and hedgerows of good arboricultural, biodiversity and amenity value should ensure that the identified trees and hedges are protected and integrated into the design

and management of the development and enhanced wherever possible. Proposals should be accompanied by a tree survey (of at least currently BS5837 standard or subsequent) that establishes the health and longevity of any affected trees.

*Policy T&C20: Traffic Management*

- a) New development proposals within the Parish will only be permitted where it will not cause a significant increase in the volume of vehicular traffic within the Villages of Thurcaston and Cropston; and
- b) The direction of vehicular traffic away from the Parish road network will be supported.

*Policy T&C21: Congestion, Speeding and Parking*

- a) Traffic management plans are to be provided for any new residential development in excess of 5 units and funded by the developer; and
- b) At least two off-street car parking spaces shall be provided within the curtilage for each new dwelling of up to three bedrooms to be located on the main road network of the Parish. Three such spaces should be provided for four-bedroom or larger dwellings.

*Policy T&C22: Footpaths and Cycle Ways*

The Plan will encourage the introduction of a new cycle way on Cropston Road including through developer contributions in line with location D in figure 3.

*Policy T&C23: Developer Contributions*

Financial contributions towards off-site provision of neighbourhood infrastructure obtained either through the Community Infrastructure Levy or negotiated planning obligations will, as appropriate, be used for the following:

- a) Improvements and enhancement to community facilities as outlined in Chapter 8;
- b) Improvements to traffic management as described in Chapter 11; and
- c) Enhancements to the network of footpaths and cycle ways as outlined in Chapter 11.

### 3. Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.1 The SEA Directive aims to ensure a high level of protection for the environment and to integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of plans. The Directive seeks to promote sustainable development by ensuring that an SEA is undertaken for any plans which may have a significant effect on the environment.
- 3.2 To establish if a plan needs to be accompanied by a full SEA, a “screening” assessment is undertaken against a series of criteria set out in the SEA Directive. This screening process is shown in Figure 1, which follows, and demonstrates how a plan can be assessed against the SEA Directive criteria.

*Figure 1: Application of criteria of the SEA Directive to Plans*

3.3 The assessment below in Figure 2, has provided answers to the questions posed in the flow diagram in Figure 1. If the steps shown in Figure 1 are followed then the requirement for an SEA can be determined.

*Figure 2: Assessment of the characteristics of the Thurcaston and Cropston Neighbourhood Plan*

| Assessment Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Y/N | Assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 and adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan is allowed under The Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared by Thurcaston and Cropston Parish Council (as the relevant body) and will be made by Charnwood Borough Council as the local authority. The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans is subject to the following regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and,</li> <li>ii. The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012.</li> </ul> |
| 2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Y   | The Neighbourhood Plan is optional under the provisions of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Localism Act 2011; however, if “made” it will form part of the development plan for the Borough and must meet statutory requirements. Therefore, it is important that the screening process considers whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and thus if an SEA is required under the Directive.<br><br>On that basis, a Yes answer is provided to the question.                                                                                          |
| 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 1) to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a)) | Y   | The Neighbourhood Plan could potentially set the framework for future development consent of projects in the EIA Directive, notably through the location of housing which may fall under 10(b) of Annex II of the Directive. (See Appendix 1).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

| Assessment Criteria                                                                                                                                                                     | Y/N      | Assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>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(a))</p> | <p>N</p> | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will not have a significant effect upon any European (Natura 2000) site. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report was undertaken as part of the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy preparation process. The final report, published in March 2013, concluded that the Core Strategy <i>“is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site, including River Mease SAC and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.”</i></p> <p>Charnwood Borough does not have any European sites within its boundaries; however, two sites are examined further in the Screening Report. The River Mease SAC lies to the west of the Borough and the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site lies to the east.</p> <p>The HRA Screening Report found the Core Strategy unlikely to have a significant effect upon these sites due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) A lack of pathway for effects arising from development in Charnwood to reach and affect the River Mease SAC; and</li> <li>ii) The level of management measures implemented by Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust in partnership with Anglian Water for the Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site.</li> </ul> <p>The HRA Screening Report concluded that the Core Strategy is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.</p> |

| Assessment Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Y/N | Assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |     | <p>It is considered that the Neighbourhood Plan would not affect any European site, including the two identified, beyond those impacts already acknowledged in the HRA Screening Report undertaken in 2013 for the Core Strategy. Therefore, it is considered that an Appropriate Assessment is not required.</p> <p>The Charnwood Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report can be viewed at Appendix 2.</p> |
| <p>5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a Plan subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)</p>                                                                        | Y   | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan involves the determination of the use of small sites at a local level.</p> <p>A small section of the strategic North of Birstall Sustainable Urban Extension (Broadnook), as allocated in the Core Strategy, is located within the Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate the site but simply recognises this existing allocation.</p>                                                        |
| <p>6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)</p>                                                                             | Y   | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will be used in the determination of planning applications.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>7. Is the Neighbourhood Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget Plan OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 3.8, 3.9)</p> | N   | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not have a sole purpose which falls within any of these categories.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)</p>                                                                                                                                                    | N   | <p>The Thurstaston and Cropston Neighbourhood Plan will cover a relatively self-contained area which considers no additional sites beyond those proposed in the Core Strategy. The small section of Broadnook within the Parish already allocated was thoroughly assessed during the Examination of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Alongside the Broadnook site, small</p>                                                             |

| Assessment Criteria | Y/N | Assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                     |     | <p>scale development within the settlement limits for Thurstaston is supported, in accordance with the Core Strategy.</p> <p>The development will not impact upon any European sites, any national ecological sites or landscape designations. The Plan seeks to preserve heritage assets, landscape, and biodiversity and will not cause increased flood risk.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan has undertaken a detailed, Parish-wide environmental and ecological survey to assist in the preparation of the Plan. This has resulted in the protection of areas identified as having historic, ecological or biodiversity assets. Historic assets are protected and the Conservation Areas are safeguarded with enhancements being sought.</p> <p>Development is contained within the settlement limits, apart from the strategic site at Broadnook, allocated through the Core Strategy. Whilst some may occur on greenfield rather than brownfield land, these are in the most sustainable locations. The level of development proposed is low and whilst there will inevitably be some limited impact upon the environment this will be minimal and localised and, therefore, could not be considered significant.</p> <p><i>See more detailed Assessment of Significance of Effects on the Environment in Appendix 3.</i></p> |

3.4 As a result of the assessment above it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Thurstaston and Cropston Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Draft at the date of this assessment that were not considered during the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy. Therefore, the Thurstaston and Cropston Neighbourhood Plan will not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

3.5 The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) will be consulted on this Screening Report and responses will be made available.

3.6 A new screening assessment will be undertaken to determine whether an SEA is required if the issues addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan change

#### 4. Habitats Regulations Assessment

4.1 Alongside the SEA screening process there is a need to assess whether the Neighbourhood Plan would have an adverse impact upon internationally designated wildlife sites, as required by the European Habitats Directive.

4.2 The Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy was accompanied by a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report to examine whether the plan would have a significant effect upon any European (Natura 2000) site. The final report, published in March 2013, concluded that the Core Strategy *“is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site, including River Mease SAC and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.”*

4.3 There are no European sites within the boundaries of Charnwood Borough; however, the Screening Report did examine the River Mease SAC, which lies to the west of the Borough, and the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, which lies to the east.

4.4 The HRA Screening Report considered that the Core Strategy would be unlikely to have a significant effect upon these sites due to:

- i) A lack of pathway for effects arising from development in Charnwood to reach and affect the River Mease SAC; and
- ii) The level of management measures implemented by Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust in partnership with Anglian Water for the Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site.

4.5 The HRA Screening Report concluded that, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, the Core Strategy is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site.

4.6 The Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in conformity with the Core Strategy. Given this requirement and the limited scale of development proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to Broadnook which was identified in the Core Strategy, it is not considered that the Neighbourhood Plan will further affect any European site in addition to the impacts identified in the HRA Screening Report undertaken in 2013 for the Core Strategy. Therefore, it is considered that an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

4.7 The Charnwood Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report can be viewed as Appendix 2.

## 5. Conclusion

5.1 The Thurcaston and Cropston Neighbourhood Plan has been considered against the European requirements for both environmental and habitat assessments as is required by the relevant legislation.

5.2 The Strategic Environmental Assessment screening process determined that it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Thurcaston and Cropston Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Draft. On this basis a full SEA will not be required to be undertaken.

5.3 An HRA Screening Report was undertaken for the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy which concluded that, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects; it would not be likely to have a significant effect upon any European site. As the scale of development proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan is limited, the previously assessed strategic site at Broadnook aside, it is not considered that there will be any further affect upon any European site; therefore, it is considered that an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Annex I Projects**

1. Crude-oil refineries (excluding undertakings manufacturing only lubricants from crude oil) and installations for the gasification and liquefaction of 500 tonnes or more of coal or bituminous shale per day.
2. Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more, and nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors (except research installations for the production and conversion of fissionable and fertile materials, whose maximum power does not exceed 1 kilowatt continuous thermal load).
3. (a) Installations for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuel  
(b) Installations designed:-
  - for the production or enrichment of nuclear fuel,
  - for the processing of irradiated nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste,
  - for the final disposal of irradiated nuclear fuel,
  - solely for the final disposal of radioactive waste,
  - solely for the storage (planned for more than 10 years) of irradiated nuclear fuels or radioactive waste in a different site than the production site.
4. (a) Integrated works for the initial smelting of cast-iron and steel  
(b) Installations for the production of non-ferrous crude metals from ore, concentrates or secondary raw materials by metallurgical, chemical or electrolytic processes.
5. Installations for the extraction of asbestos and for the processing and transformation of asbestos and products containing asbestos: for asbestos-cement products, with an annual production of more than 20 000 tonnes of finished products, for friction material, with an annual production of more than 50 tonnes of finished products, and for other uses of asbestos, utilization of more than 200 tonnes per year.
6. Integrated chemical installations, i.e. those installations for the manufacture on an industrial scale of substances using chemical conversion processes, in which several units are juxtaposed and are functionally linked to one another and which are:
  - i) for the production of basic organic chemicals;
  - ii) for the production of basic inorganic chemicals;
  - iii) for the production of phosphorous-, nitrogen- or potassium-based fertilizers (simple or compound fertilizers);
  - iv) for the production of basic plant health products and of biocides;
  - v) for the production of basic pharmaceutical products using a chemical or biological process;
  - vi) for the production of explosives.
7. (a) Construction of lines for long-distance railway traffic and of airports with a basic runway length of 2,100 m or more;  
(b) Construction of motorways and express roads  
(c) Construction of a new road of four or more lanes, or realignment and/or widening of an existing road of two lanes or less so as to provide four or more lanes, where such new road, or realigned and/or widened section of road would be 10 km or more in a continuous length.
8. (a) Inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic which permit the passage of vessels of over 1 350 tonnes;  
(b) Trading ports, piers for loading and unloading connected to land and outside ports (excluding ferry piers) which can take vessels of over 1 350 tonnes.
9. Waste disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment as defined in Annex IIA to Directive 75/442/EEC (3) under heading D9, or landfill of hazardous waste (i.e. waste to which Directive 91/689/EEC (4) applies).
10. Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment as defined in Annex IIA to Directive 75/442/EEC under heading D9 of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 tonnes per day.
11. Groundwater abstraction or artificial groundwater recharge schemes where the annual volume of water abstracted or recharged is equivalent to or exceeds 10 million cubic metres.
12. (a) Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where this transfer aims at preventing possible shortages of water and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 100 million cubic metres/year;

(b) In all other cases, works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where the multi-annual average flow of the basin of abstraction exceeds 2 000 million cubic metres/year and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 5 % of this flow.

In both cases transfers of piped drinking water are excluded.

13. Waste water treatment plants with a capacity exceeding 150 000 population equivalent as defined in Article 2 point (6) of Directive 91/271/EEC (5).
14. Extraction of petroleum and natural gas for commercial purposes where the amount extracted exceeds 500 tonnes/day in the case of petroleum and 500 000 m<sup>3</sup>/day in the case of gas.
15. Dams and other installations designed for the holding back or permanent storage of water, where a new or additional amount of water held back or stored exceeds 10 million cubic metres.
16. Pipelines for the transport of gas, oil or chemicals with a diameter of more than 800 mm and a length of more than 40 km.
17. Installations for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs with more than:
  - (a) 85 000 places for broilers, 60 000 places for hens;
  - (b) 3 000 places for production pigs (over 30 kg); or
  - (c) 900 places for sows.
18. Industrial plants for the
  - (a) production of pulp from timber or similar fibrous materials;
  - (b) production of paper and board with a production capacity exceeding 200 tonnes per day.
19. Quarries and open-cast mining where the surface of the site exceeds 25 hectares, or peat extraction, where the surface of the site exceeds 150 hectares.
20. Construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kV or more and a length of more than 15 km.
21. Installations for storage of petroleum, petrochemical, or chemical products with a capacity of 200,000 tonnes or more.

## **Annex II Projects**

1. Agriculture, silviculture and aquaculture
  - (a) Projects for the restructuring of rural land holdings;
  - (b) Projects for the use of uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agricultural purposes;
  - (c) Water management projects for agriculture, including irrigation and land drainage projects;
  - (d) Initial afforestation and deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use;
  - (e) Intensive livestock installations (projects not included in Annex I);
  - (f) Intensive fish farming;
  - (g) Reclamation of land from the sea.
2. Extractive industry
  - (a) Quarries, open-cast mining and peat extraction (projects not included in Annex I);
  - (b) Underground mining;
  - (c) Extraction of minerals by marine or fluvial dredging;
  - (d) Deep drillings, in particular:
    - geothermal drilling,
    - drilling for the storage of nuclear waste material,
    - drilling for water supplies;
  - (e) Surface industrial installations for the extraction of coal, petroleum, natural gas and ores, as well as bituminous shale.
3. Energy industry
  - (a) Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water (projects not included in Annex I);
  - (b) Industrial installations for carrying gas, steam and hot water; transmission of electrical energy by overhead cables (projects not included in Annex I);
  - (c) Surface storage of natural gas;
  - (d) Underground storage of combustible gases;
  - (e) Surface storage of fossil fuels;
  - (f) Industrial briquetting of coal and lignite;
  - (g) Installations for the processing and storage of radioactive waste (unless included in Annex I);

- (h) Installations for hydroelectric energy production;
- (i) Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms).

#### 4. Production and processing of metals

- (a) Installations for the production of pig iron or steel (primary or secondary fusion) including continuous casting;
- (b) Installations for the processing of ferrous metals:
  - (i) hot-rolling mills;
  - (ii) smithies with hammers;
  - (iii) application of protective fused metal coats;
- (c) Ferrous metal foundries;
- (d) Installations for the smelting, including the alloyage, of non-ferrous metals, excluding precious metals, including recovered products (refining, foundry casting, etc.);
- (e) Installations for surface treatment of metals and plastic materials using an electrolytic or chemical process;
- (f) Manufacture and assembly of motor vehicles and manufacture of motor-vehicle engines;
- (g) Shipyards;
- (h) Installations for the construction and repair of aircraft;
- (i) Manufacture of railway equipment;
- (j) Swaging by explosives;
- (k) Installations for the roasting and sintering of metallic ores.

#### 5. Mineral industry

- (a) Coke ovens (dry coal distillation);
- (b) Installations for the manufacture of cement;
- (c) Installations for the production of asbestos and the manufacture of asbestos-products (projects not included in Annex I);
- (d) Installations for the manufacture of glass including glass fibre;
- (e) Installations for smelting mineral substances including the production of mineral fibres;
- (f) Manufacture of ceramic products by burning, in particular roofing tiles, bricks, refractory bricks, tiles, stoneware or porcelain.

#### 6. Chemical industry (Projects not included in Annex I)

- (a) Treatment of intermediate products and production of chemicals;
- (b) Production of pesticides and pharmaceutical products, paint and varnishes, elastomers and peroxides;
- (c) Storage facilities for petroleum, petrochemical and chemical products.

#### 7. Food industry

- (a) Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats;
- (b) Packing and canning of animal and vegetable products;
- (c) Manufacture of dairy products;
- (d) Brewing and malting;
- (e) Confectionery and syrup manufacture;
- (f) Installations for the slaughter of animals;
- (g) Industrial starch manufacturing installations;
- (h) Fish-meal and fish-oil factories;
- (i) Sugar factories.

#### 8. Textile, leather, wood and paper industries

- (a) Industrial plants for the production of paper and board (projects not included in Annex I);
- (b) Plants for the pre-treatment (operations such as washing, bleaching, mercerization) or dyeing of fibres or textiles;
- (c) Plants for the tanning of hides and skins;
- (d) Cellulose-processing and production installations.

#### 9. Rubber industry - Manufacture and treatment of elastomer-based products.

#### 10. Infrastructure projects

- (a) Industrial estate development projects;

- (b) Urban development projects, including the construction of shopping centres and car parks;
- (c) Construction of railways and intermodal trans-shipment facilities, and of intermodal terminals (projects not included in Annex I);
- (d) Construction of airfields (projects not included in Annex I);
- (e) Construction of roads, harbours and port installations, including fishing harbours (projects not included in Annex I);
- (f) Inland-waterway construction not included in Annex I, canalisation and flood-relief works;
- (g) Dams and other installations designed to hold water or store it on a long-term basis (projects not included in Annex I);
- (h) Tramways, elevated and underground railways, suspended lines or similar lines of a particular type, used exclusively or mainly for passenger transport;
- (i) Oil and gas pipeline installations (projects not included in Annex I);
- (j) Installations of long-distance aqueducts;
- (k) Coastal work to combat erosion and maritime works capable of altering the coast through the construction, for example, of dykes, moles, jetties and other sea defence works, excluding the maintenance and reconstruction of such works;
- (l) Groundwater abstraction and artificial groundwater recharge schemes not included in Annex I;
- (m) Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins not included in Annex I.

11. Other projects

- (a) Permanent racing and test tracks for motorised vehicles;
- (b) Installations for the disposal of waste (projects not included in Annex I);
- (c) Waste-water treatment plants (projects not included in Annex I);
- (d) Sludge-deposition sites;
- (e) Storage of scrap iron, including scrap vehicles;
- (f) Test benches for engines, turbines or reactors;
- (g) Installations for the manufacture of artificial mineral fibres;
- (h) Installations for the recovery or destruction of explosive substances;
- (i) Knackers' yards.

12. Tourism and leisure

- (a) Ski-runs, ski-lifts and cable-cars and associated developments;
- (b) Marinas;
- (c) Holiday villages and hotel complexes outside urban areas and associated developments;
- (d) Permanent camp sites and caravan sites;
- (e) Theme parks.

13. Any change or extension of projects listed in Annex I or Annex II, already authorised, executed or in the process of being executed, which may have significant adverse effects on the environment; Projects in Annex I, undertaken exclusively or mainly for the development and testing of new methods or products and not used for more than two years

## **Appendix 2**

Web link to the Draft Charnwood Core Strategy: Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Record (2013) [here](#).

### Appendix 3

#### The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 Schedule 1 – Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

| <b>Significant effect criteria</b>                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Assessment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The characteristics of the plans, having regard to:                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| - 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; | <p>The Thurcaston and Cropston Neighbourhood Plan would form part of the statutory development plan if made; therefore, it would contribute to the future development consent of projects. However, the Neighbourhood Plan sits within a wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the adopted Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan helps to set a framework for projects which are local in nature and have limited resource implications. The framework for the strategic development at Broadnook has already been set by the Core Strategy.</p> |
| - the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;                                                                                     | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will be in conformity with the NPPF and the policies will conform to the strategic policies in the adopted Core Strategy. The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to influence other plans or programmes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| - the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;                                         | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will contain policies which relate to environmental considerations such as biodiversity, the historic environment and sustainability. These policies will follow national and local policies as required by the Basic Conditions. The Neighbourhood Plan will also be required to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development to be approved at Examination and be “made” by the Borough Council. Development would also be subject to the policies in the Charnwood Core Strategy and therefore all environmental considerations will be covered.</p>                                |

| Significant effect criteria                                                                                                                                        | Assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>- environmental problems relevant to the plan; and</p>                                                                                                          | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan has undertaken a Parish-wide environmental and ecological survey through fieldwork and a desk study so that any local environmental issues can be addressed in the plan.</p> <p>Alongside part of the nationally designated Bradgate Park and Cropston Reservoir SSSI, the Parish also contains some sites and habitats of local and District importance for biodiversity. The survey work has allowed identification of additional sites which also make a contribution to biodiversity.</p> <p>The area contains no national landscape designations and the survey work has allowed the identification of Local Green Spaces and other Important Local Sites.</p> <p>There is a concentration of Listed Buildings in both the Thurcaston and the Cropston Conservation Areas and the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to preserve and enhance these buildings and the wider Conservation Areas, along with other heritage assets outside these areas. The Neighbourhood Plan also seeks to protect archaeological assets which have been identified, notably ridge and furrow field systems.</p> <p>There are areas of flooding within the Parish but development will be directed away from these towards areas in Flood Zone 1.</p> |
| <p>- the relevance of the plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection).</p> | <p>The Thurcaston and Cropston Neighbourhood Plan is not directly relevant to any of these. The Neighbourhood Plan has to be in conformity with the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has had regard to European Community legislation on the environment and therefore this legislation will not be relevant for the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| Significant effect criteria                                                                                                                                               | Assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</p>                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</li> </ul>                                                | <p>Additional proposals beyond the strategic Broadnook development are not specifically identified through the Neighbourhood Plan. However, there is the potential for development to take place within the identified settlement boundaries for Thurcaston which will be of a local scale.</p> <p>Overall the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have modest positive environmental effects given the additional protection provided to sites of environmental and historic importance within the Parish.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the cumulative nature of the effects;</li> </ul>                                                                                 | <p>The strategic development at Broadnook has been assessed through the Core Strategy. The cumulative effects of potential further development which may occur will be limited due to their local nature, only comprising small scale infill development within the Thurcaston Limits to Development.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the transboundary nature of the effects;</li> </ul>                                                                              | <p>The Broadnook proposal has already been allocated in the Core Strategy. The scale of any other development would have extremely limited impact upon surrounding parishes. Development which occurs through the Plan would be small scale and focussed upon the village of Thurcaston.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);</li> </ul>                                                 | <p>There are no significant risks to human health or the environment. The Plan may improve human health by protecting areas which are important to the local community for recreation along with providing suitable homes to meet local needs.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);</li> </ul> | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan relates to the parish of Thurcaston and Cropston with the strategic Broadnook site allocated via the Core Strategy. The Plan is concerned</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

| Significant effect criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | with small-scale infill development concentrated within the settlement boundary for Thurcaston. Therefore, the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects are likely to be small.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p>- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</li> <li>• exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;</li> <li>• intensive land-use; and</li> </ul> | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan offers an opportunity to enhance the natural environment and cultural heritage of the area through the policies it contains.</p> <p>There are some locally and nationally designated ecological sites within the parish. However, the Plan allocates no sites for development and potential development will be focussed within the settlement boundary to Thurcaston with no effect upon these sites. There are listed buildings and two Conservation Areas within the parish. The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies which seek to preserve and enhance heritage assets and development would be required to take these assets into account.</p> |
| <p>- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>There are no areas or landscapes with recognised status which will be impacted upon by the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |