



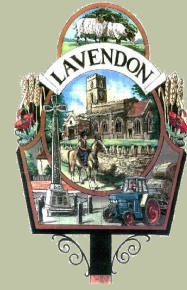
LAVENDON PARISH COUNCIL

# Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan 2019 to 2031



Basic Conditions Statement, June 2019

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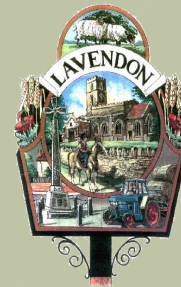
## LAVENDON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

# Contents

1.	Introduction	4
2.	Background	6
3.	Assessment of the Basic Conditions	7
4.	Conclusion	13

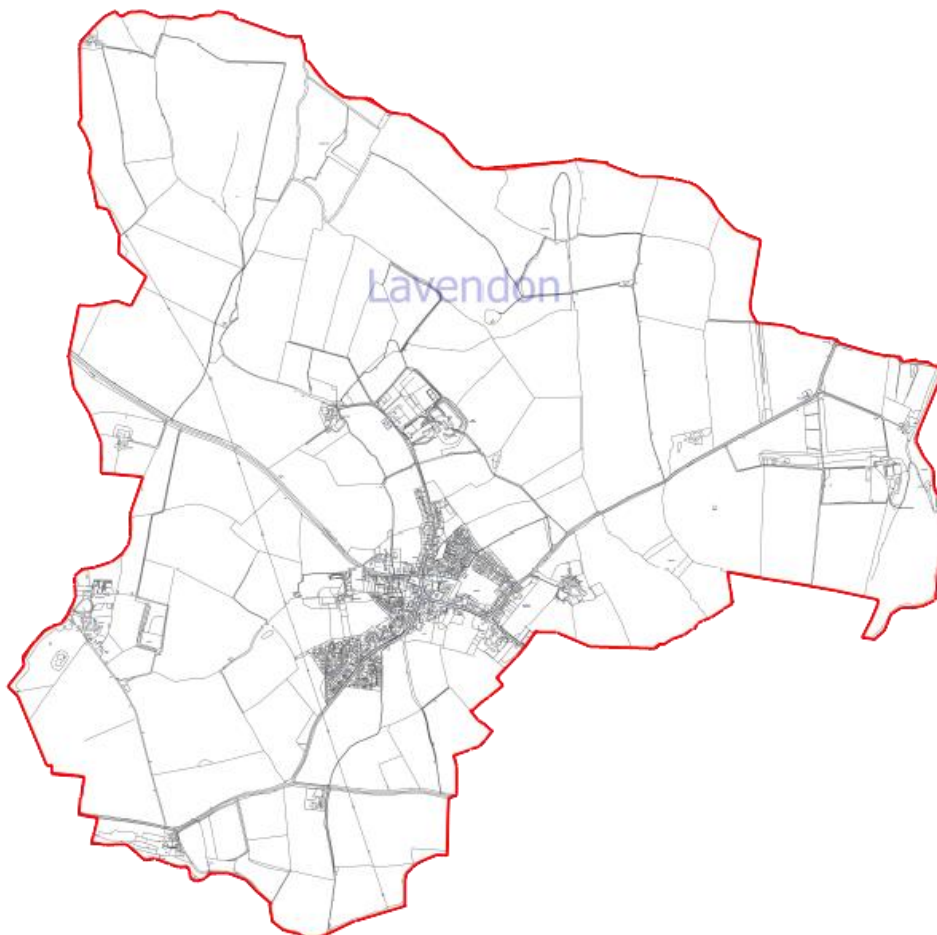
# Annex

Annex 1: Screening Statement for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment



# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This statement has been prepared by Lavendon Parish Council [the Parish Council] in support of the formal submission of the Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan [the Neighbourhood Plan] to the Local Planning Authority, Milton Keynes Council [MKC]. The submission has been made under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, 2012 [the Regulations].
- 1.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Parish Council who are the designated qualifying body for the Neighbourhood Area covering the whole of the Parish of Lavendon. The Neighbourhood Area was approved by MKC on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017. The Neighbourhood Plan area can be seen below:



*Figure 1: The designated Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan area.*

- 1.3 The policies described in the Neighbourhood Plan relate to the development and use of land in the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area only. No other Neighbourhood Plan covers this area. The plan period of the Neighbourhood Plan is from 2018 to 2031 and it does not contain policies relating to excluded development in accordance with the Regulations.
- 1.4 The Statement addresses each of the 'basic conditions' required of the Regulations and explains how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act, as applied to neighbourhood plans by Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 1.5 A Neighbourhood Plan will be considered to have met the basic conditions if:
- a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan,
  - b) the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
  - c) the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area),
  - d) the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with retained EU obligations,
  - e) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.
- 1.6 In addition, Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (various Amendments) Regulations 2018) sets out a further Basic Condition in addition to those set out in the primary legislation, namely that:

*"The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017."*



## LAVENDON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

# 2. Background

- 2.1 The decision to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan was made by the Parish Council in August 2017. A Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) was formed by the Parish Council, comprising Parish Councillors and members of the local community.
- 2.2 Authority to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan was delegated to the NPSG to make day-to-day decisions on the content and policies. However, as the qualifying body, the Parish Council approved the Regulation 15 Submission Version Neighbourhood Plan on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019.
- 2.3 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to the National Planning Policy Framework, February 2019 and the strategic policies of the new Milton Keynes Local Plan 'Plan:MK', adopted on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 covering the period to 2031.
- 2.4 The Parish Council has worked closely with officers of Milton Keynes Council during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan and the policies of 'Plan:MK' have been properly understood.
- 2.5 The Steering Group has also benefited from the professional planning and design advice of Chris Akrill BA (Hons) Dtp MRTPI of Town Planning Services Limited.



### 3. Assessment of the Basic Conditions

3.1 The basic conditions against which a Neighbourhood Plan should be assessed are as follows:

a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan

3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Planning Policies for England. The table below briefly summarises how the national policies and guidance have been taken into account for each planning policy in the Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan.

NP Policy		NPPF Main Ref.	Comment
E1	Access to the Countryside	NPPF 91, NPPF 92, NPPF 102,	Encourages access to the countryside for walking and cycling, sport and recreation. Social sustainability and well-being.
E2	Biodiversity Offset and Development	NPPF 170, NPPF 174, NPPF 175	Protection and enhancement of the natural environment and bio-diversity improvements. Environmental sustainability.
E3	Trees and Hedgerows	NPPF 170, NPPF 174	Protection of natural features and mitigation of bio-diversity lost from development. Environmental sustainability.

NP Policy		NPPF Main Ref.	Comment
E4	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	NPPF 148, NPPF 149, NPPF 150	Encourages renewable and low carbon energy projects. Climate change.
CD1	Conservation and Heritage	NPPF 184, NPPF 185	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment and heritage assets.
CD2	High Quality Design	NPPF 124, NPPF 125, NPPF 126, NPPF 127	Promoting good, high-quality design. Achieving well-designed spaces.
FR1	Development and Flood Risk	NPPF 155, NPPF 163	Promoting sustainable drainage schemes and the enhancement of the natural environment. Climate change and environmental sustainability.
FR2	Delivery of New Flood Storage Ponds	NPPF 148, NPPF 156	Reducing flood risks in the village and the enhancement of the natural environment. Climate change and environmental sustainability.
HT1	Transport Highways and the Environment	NPPF 102	Reducing the impact of traffic on the village, encouraging well connected spaces and transport choices. Promoting sustainable transport.
HT2	Village Highway Enhancement	NPPF 102	Reducing the impact of traffic on the village, encouraging well connected spaces and transport choices. Promoting sustainable transport.
HT3	Parking	NPPF 105	Promoting good, high-quality design. Achieving well-designed spaces.
CF1	Community Facilities	NPPF 92	Protecting community facilities for future generations. Promoting healthy and safe communities. Social sustainability.



NP Policy		NPPF Main Ref.	Comment
CF2	Community Open Space	NPPF 92	Planning positively for the provision of community facilities. Promoting healthy and safe communities. Social sustainability.
H1	Development Strategy	NPPF 117, NPPF 118	Making effective use of land, protecting the open countryside and promoting good design. Planning positively for the delivery of new homes. Environmental sustainability and achieving well-designed spaces.
H2	Windfall Development	NPPF 70	Making effective use of land, protecting the open countryside and promoting good design. Planning positively for the delivery of new homes. Environmental sustainability and achieving well-designed spaces.
H3	Integration of New Housing	NPPF 91	Encourages integration and promoting healthy and safe communities. Social sustainability and well-being.
H4	Harrold Road New Housing Allocation	NPPF 68, NPPF 69	Planning positively for the delivery of new homes. Promoting good design and enhancement of the natural environment. Environmental sustainability and achieving well-designed spaces.
BE1	Business and Employment	NPPF 80, NPPF 83	Encouraging business and employment. Supporting a prosperous rural economy.

## b) the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development

- 3.3 The NPPF states in paragraph 7 that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (NPPF, Para. 8).
- 3.4 The strategic objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan comprise a balance of economic, social and environmental roles.
- 3.5 The economic role has been met by supporting the creation of new job opportunities and businesses. Furthermore, the Neighbourhood Plan makes a modest allocation for new housing in the village, which when constructed will add to the local economy.
- 3.6 The social role includes the support for community facilities within the village, ensuring that policies are inclusive and provide for a balanced range of housing. The Neighbourhood Plan has also allowed a new community open space to be secured, which will provide opportunities for outdoor sport and informal recreation. Encouragement is also given to improving access to the countryside, recognising the social benefits of engaging with the environment around us.
- 3.7 The environmental role has been delivered by the protection of the natural environment and historic environment, including the Conservation Area, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings. New development is required to demonstrate that good design, energy efficiency, sustainable drainage, and minimising adverse impacts have been taken into account. The Neighbourhood Plan also includes policies that seek to deliver net gains to the biodiversity of the Parish and protect natural features such as mature trees and hedgerows.

## c) the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area)

- 3.8 The strategic policies in the Development Plan are set out in the adopted Plan:MK, dated March 2019.

NP Policy		Plan M:K Policy	Comment
E1	Access to the Countryside	SD1	Place-Making Principles for Development.
E2	Biodiversity Offset and Development	SD1, NE3	Place-Making Principles for Development, Biodiversity and Geological Enhancement.

NP Policy		Plan M:K Policy	Comment
E3	Trees and Hedgerows	SD1, NE3	Place-Making Principles for Development, Biodiversity and Geological Enhancement.
E4	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	SC1, SC3	Sustainable Construction, Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation.
CD1	Conservation and Heritage	HE1	Heritage and Development.
CD2	High Quality Design	SD1, D1, D3	Place-Making Principles for Development, Designing a High-Quality Place, Design of Buildings.
FR1	Development and Flood Risk	SD1, FR1	Place-Making Principles for Development, Flood Risk
FR2	Delivery of New Flood Storage Ponds	SD1, FR1	Place-Making Principles for Development, Flood Risk
HT1	Transport Highways and the Environment	CT2	Movement and Access.
HT2	Village Highway Enhancement	CT2	Movement and Access.
HT3	Parking	CT2	Movement and Access.
CF1	Community Facilities	SD1, L2, CC3	Place-Making Principles for Development, Protection of Open Space and Existing Facilities, Protection of Community Facilities.
CF2	Community Open Space	SD1, L4, CC4	Place-Making Principles for Development, Public Open Space Provision in New Estates, New Community Facilities.
H1	Development Strategy	DS1, DS2, DS5	Settlement Hierarchy, Housing Strategy and Open Countryside.

NP Policy		Plan M:K Policy	Comment
H2	Windfall Development	DS2	Housing Strategy.
H3	Integration of New Housing	DS2, SD1	Housing Strategy, Place Making Principles for Development.
H4	Harrold Road New Housing Allocation	DS2, D2	Housing Strategy, Creating a Positive Character.
BE1	Business and Employment	DS3	Employment Development Strategy.

d) the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with retained EU obligations

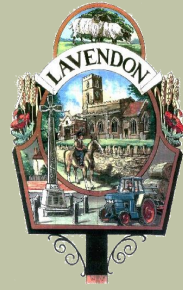
- 3.9 Milton Keynes Council considered that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was not required because the Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant impact upon the environment. In addition to SEA, a Habitats Regulations Assessment identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. If it is considered that there is likely to be a significant effect on a European site, then an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan for the site must be undertaken. Milton Keynes Council have concluded that:

*“Given the role of Neighbourhood Plans and the scale of development likely to be proposed in the Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered that Appropriate Assessment of the plan is not required.”*

- 3.10 A copy of the Screening Statement for SEA and Appropriate Assessment from Milton Keynes Council dated April 2019 is appended to this document at Annex 1.
- 3.11 The Parish Council considers that the Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan has had regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act 1998. The Plan has been subject to extensive engagement with those people local to the area who could be affected by its policies and their views have been taken into account in finalising the Plan.

e) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan

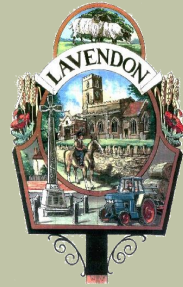
The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the prescribed conditions set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the Localism Act 2011.



## LAVENDON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

# 4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the TCPA 1990 are considered to be met by the Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies contained therein.
- 4.2 It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan complies with Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.



LAVENDON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

# **Annex 1:**

Screening Statement for Strategic Environmental  
Assessment and Appropriate Assessment

Milton Keynes Council, April 2019

**Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan**  
**Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement**  
**Appropriate Assessment Screening**  
**April 2019**

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 What is the screening statement?**

1.2 This report has been produced to determine the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

1.3 This document also addresses the need for Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with European Directive 92/43/EEC, commonly known as the Habitats Directive.

**1.4 What is the Neighbourhood Plan trying to achieve?**

1.5 The Neighbourhood Area covers the whole of the Lavendon Parish Council Area (see Appendix 1), which is a rural parish set in attractive landscape and with considerable heritage assets, including four scheduled monuments and a conservation area.

1.6 The plan allocates a small housing site for up to 8 dwellings on the edge of the village.

1.7 The plan is available online on the Lavendon Parish council website at:  
<https://lavendonpc.org/neighbourhood-plan/>

**2. Policy context**

2.1 Plan:MK was formally adopted in March 2019. Plan:MK provides the statutory land use planning framework for Milton Keynes.

2.2 Although the Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Plan:MK, it can promote more development, but must not propose less. It will also provide a more local context to the non-strategic policies of the Local Plan.

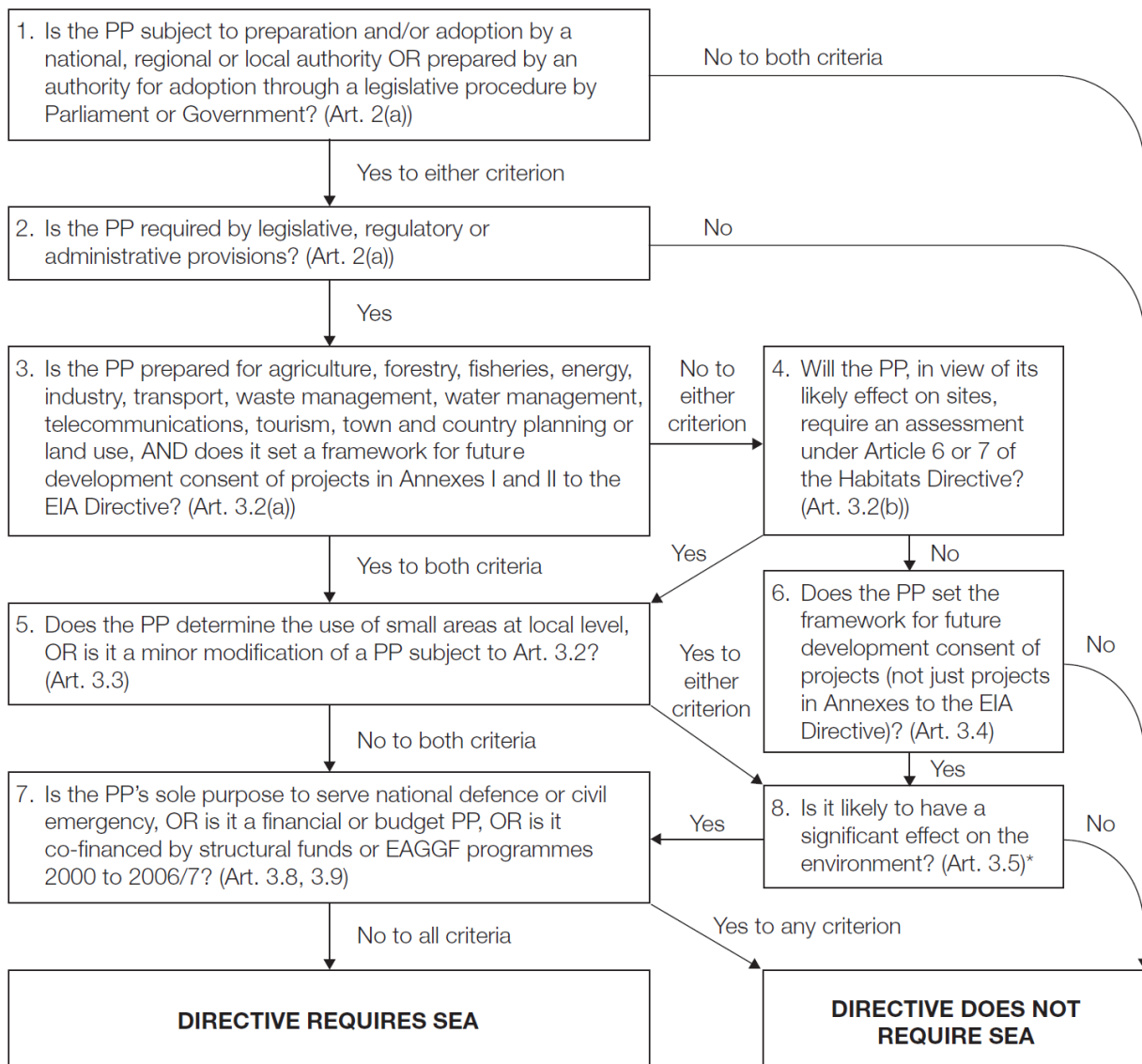
2.3 The Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to public consultation in accordance with the relevant regulations prior to its adoption.

### 3. SEA Screening

3.1 The requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is set out in the “Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004”. There is also practical guidance on applying European Directive 2001/42/EC produced by the ODPM (now DCLG)<sup>1</sup>. These documents have been used as the basis for this screening report.

3.2 Neighbourhood Plans must be screened to establish whether or not they will require Strategic Environmental Assessment. The ODPM practical guidance provides a checklist approach based on the SEA regulations to help determine whether SEA is required. This guide has been used as the basis on which to assess the need for SEA as set out below.

Figure 1: Establishing the need for SEA



\*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.

<sup>1</sup> A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005) (ODPM)



Figure 2: Establishing the need for SEA of the Neighbourhood Plan

Stage	Answer	Reason
<b>1. Is the NP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament of Government? (Article 2(a))</b>	Yes	It will be prepared by the Parish Council and adopted by Milton Keynes Council under the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.
<b>2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Article 2(a))</b>	Yes	Although there is no requirement to produce Neighbourhood Plans, they are subject to formal procedures and regulations laid down by national government. In light the European Court of Justice ruling in the Case C-567/10 it is considered that this means the NP is 'required'.
<b>3. Is the NP 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 to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a))</b>	No	The NP is prepared for town and country planning purposes but does not explicitly set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive.
<b>4. Will the plan in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats directive?</b>	No	An Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken for Plan:MK and that has also concluded that the local plan will not require assessment under the Habitats Directive.  The relatively small level of additional development likely to arise from the Neighbourhood Plan means that it is unlikely to require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive.
<b>6. Does the plan set the framework for future development consent of projects?</b>	Yes	The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a framework for future development consent of projects in the area.
<b>8. Is the NP likely to have a significant effect on the environment?</b>	See results of Figure 3: Determining the likely significance of effects	

Figure 3: Determining the likely significance of effects

<b>SEA Directive Annex II: Criteria for determining likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)</b>		
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>✓/x/ ?</b>	<b>MKC Comment</b>
<b><i>The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:</i></b>		
<b>1a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources</b>	✓	The NP will set a framework for future development projects, in terms of location, nature and scale/size. However, the plan will need to be in general conformity with higher level plans so the scope of the plan to fully influence projects and activities is somewhat limited.
<b>1b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy</b>	✓	The NP will form part of the statutory development plan for MK with the same status in decision making as development plan documents.
<b>1c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</b>	✓	Sustainable development will be at the heart of NPs and policies could make a significant contribution to promoting sustainable development, particularly ensuring any greenfield allocations are planned in a sustainable way.
<b>1d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme</b>	X	None
<b>1e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).</b>	X	The NP is unlikely to be directly relevant in regard to this criterion.
<b><i>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</i></b>		
<b>2a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects</b>	X	In the case of new land allocations it is highly probable that policies will lead to development that will have an irreversible impact on the environment. Aside from any new land allocations, any effects of the plan are likely to be reversible, as they will influence the general evolution of the townscape, which has been subject to ongoing change over 100s of years.
<b>2b) The cumulative nature of the effects</b>	X	The cumulative impacts of the effects of the plan on the environment are not expected to be any greater than the individual parts.
<b>2c) The trans-boundary nature of the effects</b>	X	Any impacts are only likely to be felt by the local area.
<b>2d) The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)</b>	X	It is unlikely that the nature of any development proposed would impact on human health. Any development is likely to be for housing and ancillary uses.

<b>2e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)</b>	X	The effects of the plan are unlikely to be felt in a spatial area wider than the plan area. The plan is also unlikely to affect any population outside the plan area.
<b>2f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</b> <b>I. special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,</b> <b>II. exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values</b> <b>III. intensive land-use</b>	✓/?	The NP covers a rural area and the village contains a defined Conservation Area. The Plan includes design policies to preserve and enhance the heritage assets of the area. The proposed housing allocation is located close to the scheduled monument at Uphoe Manor Farm. Housing in this location is unlikely to be of such impact on the setting as to result in substantial harm to the setting of the scheduled monument.  Overall, it is considered that the value and vulnerability of the plan area is unlikely to be affected by those elements of the Neighbourhood Plan policies.
<b>2g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status</b>	X	There are no areas or landscapes with these designations in Milton Keynes.

#### 4. SEA Conclusion

- 4.1 The Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan will provide a planning policy framework to be used when considering planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 4.2 The Plan's effects are unlikely to have any significant impacts beyond the Neighbourhood Area and it is considered that overall the plan will not have significant effects on the environment. It is, therefore the opinion of Milton Keynes Council that the Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan does not need to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.

#### 5. Consultation on SEA Screening Opinion

- 5.1 The three statutory bodies for the purposes of SEA Screening are English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England. These three bodies were consulted on the draft Screening Opinion and the following comments were received:

**Historic England:** The National Heritage List for England has one Grade I and 23 Grade II listed building records and four scheduled monument records for Lavendon parish. In addition, the Screening Report refers to a Conservation Area. The Plan area has, therefore, a sensitive historic environment, which could be affected by development in accordance with the policies and proposals of the Plan, depending, of course, on what those policies are.

We note that the current version of the Plan allocates one site for development – Land off Harrold Road. We note that the Council's draft Screening Opinion recognises that this site is "close to the scheduled monument at Uphoe Manor Farm", but concludes "Housing in this location is unlikely to be of such impact on the setting as to result in substantial harm to the setting of the scheduled monument".

This may or may not be the case – the Council does not explain how it has reached this conclusion and it may be considered as prejudging the outcome of Strategic Environmental Assessment or a Heritage Impact Assessment. (It should also be noted that less than substantial harm is still harm and could be significant i.e. the harm does not have to be substantial to be significant).

However, the issue is not the impact on the setting per se but the impact on the significance of the monument, and on the appreciation of that significance, from development within its setting. We will need to assess this when commenting on the Plan itself but our preliminary view is that the development of the proposed site would not be likely to have a significant impact on the significance of the scheduled monument or the appreciation of that significance.

Accordingly, at this stage, based on the information currently available to us, we do not consider that Policy H4, nor the other policies and proposals of the Plan, will lead to any significant effects on the historic environment. Accordingly, we agree with the Council's provisional conclusion that the Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan does not need to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.

However, we may wish to revise this opinion when we have assessed the potential impact on the significance of the potential development of Land at Harrolds Road on the scheduled monument at Uphoe Manor Farm and on the appreciation of that significance and/or should the policies or proposals of the Plan change prior to being made.

**Natural England:** No response.

**Environment Agency:** We agree that an SEA is not required.

### **SEA Screening Conclusion**

**Having screened the Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan and consulted with Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency, it is the view of Milton Keynes Council that the Plan's effects are unlikely to have any significant impacts beyond the Neighbourhood Area and it is considered that overall the Plan will not have significant effects on the environment. It is, therefore, concluded that the Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan does not need to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.**

## **6. Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening**

- 6.1 Legal protection is afforded to habitats and species of European importance through Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna - known as the 'Habitats Directive'. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive require AA of plans to be undertaken. This involves assessing the contents of plans to ensure that their policies and proposals maintain the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. The assessment must determine whether the plan would adversely affect the nature conservation objectives of each site. Where negative effects can be identified, other options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.
- 6.2 The application of the precautionary principle through the Habitats Directive means that plans can only be permitted once it is shown that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites. In the rare case of there being no alternatives available or

over-riding reasons of public interest why a plan needs to be implemented, plans that do have negative impacts may still be approved.

## **7. Screening for Appropriate Assessment**

- 7.1 The first stage in carrying out an Appropriate Assessment for the Habitats Directive is screening, by determining whether the plan is likely to have any significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- 7.2 The Neighbourhood Plan will be in general conformity with Plan:MK which itself was screened for Appropriate Assessment. The screening process for Plan:MK demonstrated that Milton Keynes lies in an area void of any Natura 2000 sites. The nearest European site is the Chiltern Beechwoods to the south of the Borough although it was determined that the site would not be affected by Milton Keynes planning policy due to the distance of the site from Milton Keynes and there being no obvious impact pathways.
- 7.3 An Appropriate Assessment has been published for Plan:MK ([http://miltonkeynes.objective.co.uk/portal/planmk/plan\\_mk\\_submission/planmk\\_sa\\_hra?pointId=1510067377589](http://miltonkeynes.objective.co.uk/portal/planmk/plan_mk_submission/planmk_sa_hra?pointId=1510067377589)) which covers the period to 2031. This considers the impact of the Local Plan on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and concludes that “development in the Milton Keynes Local Plan will not have a likely significant effect on any internationally important wildlife sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. These conclusions are based on the findings of the AA screening which concludes that no Natura 2000 sites are located within the district and no impact pathways have been identified linking Natura 2000 sites outside of the district e.g. Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar to development within Milton Keynes Borough. Therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.”

## **8. Appropriate Assessment Conclusion**

- 8.1 Given the role of Neighbourhood Plans and the scale of development likely to be proposed in the Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered that Appropriate Assessment of the plan is not required.

## **9. Contact**

Further information can be obtained from:

Development Plans  
Planning and Transport  
Civic Offices  
1 Saxon Gate East  
Central Milton Keynes  
MK9 3EJ

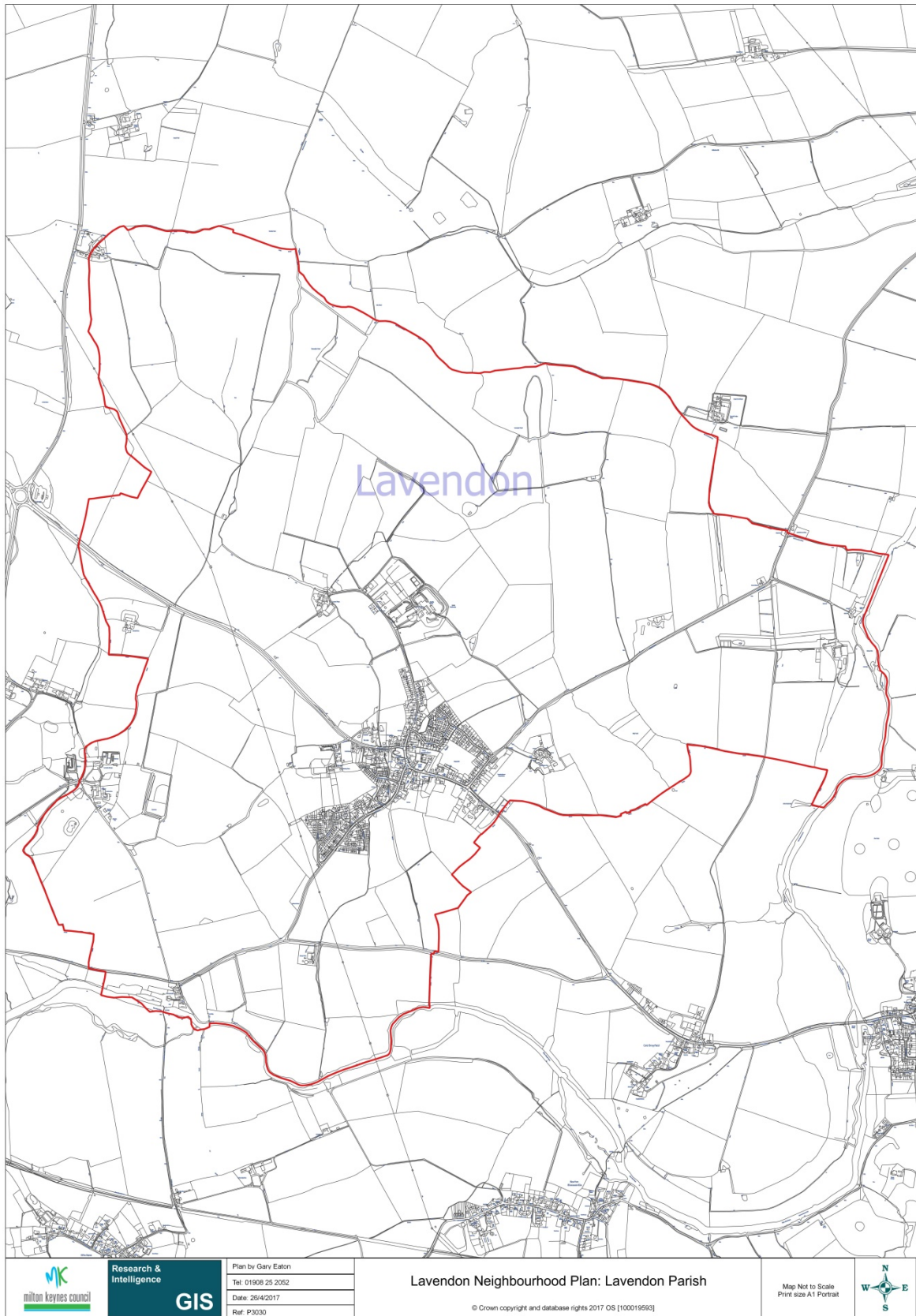
W: [www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/planning-policy](http://www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/planning-policy)

T: 01908 691691

E: [neighbourhoodplanning@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplanning@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

# Appendix 1

## Map of Lavendon Neighbourhood Area





LAVENDON PARISH COUNCIL



Prepared with the support of Town Planning Services

The Exchange, Colworth Park, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire, MK44 1LZ

01234 924 920

[www.townplanning.services](http://www.townplanning.services)

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