



Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan 2017 – 2033: Regulation 14 Submission

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): Screening Report – September 2018





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1. Introduction

1.1 The Purpose of This Report

This screening report is an assessment of whether or not the contents of the Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2033 Regulation 14 Submission document requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/ EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations.

1.2 The Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2033

The Neighbourhood Plan will set out planning policies for the Plan area and within the confines of the Neighbourhood Plan boundary as defined within the Plan and reiterated in Appendix 1 of this report. Once formally adopted, a Neighbourhood Plan carries the same legal weight as Local Development Plans adopted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in this case Braintree District Council.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan states that the Vision for the Plan is:

‘Kelvedon will continue to be a rural village, proud of its heritage and conserving the natural habitat for the benefit of the whole community. Our growth will be sustainable, well designed and attractive, so that the village remains a friendly, safe and tranquil place to live, with easy access to places of work and leisure for everyone.’

To deliver this Vision, the following Objectives have been established for the Plan:

Housing Objectives	To enable local people to stay in the village throughout their lifetime, as their needs change.
	To ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing to meet the needs of the Parish.
	To maintain a strong community by ensuring a mix of home types and integration between different types and tenures of housing within the village.
	Blend new housing into Kelvedon and ensure that the design and style of the new development reflects or improves upon the character of the local housing.
	Provide new housing as required by the Braintree Local Plan
Moving Around Objectives	Support measures to reduce traffic and congestion.
	Reduce commuter parking within existing residential roads and proposed developments
Health and Social Care Objectives	Kelvedon will have healthcare facilities which are of a sufficient standard and capacity to cater comprehensively for the needs of its existing and future populations.
	It must also be recognised and planned for, that a large part of the population are either ageing adults or younger children, which will place age-related needs on local healthcare delivery and care-giving facilities.



	The facilities will be accessible, local and adequately arranged to provide primary healthcare to a population whose demography is both growing in size and age
Education Objectives	Education provision to be in step with housing provision.
	Education provision to continue to be of good quality, appropriate for both the needs and location of the village.
Heritage Objectives	Maintain the character of Kelvedon and enhance the setting of the Conservation area and listed buildings through high quality design of the public realm along the High Street.
	Ensure that new development proposals reflect the local vernacular for layout, street scene and house styles.
	Recognise the importance of Local Heritage Assets to Kelvedon
	Support a new burial ground for the village
Natural Environment Objectives	To protect and enhance the various green spaces within and around the village
	Allow for new open spaces to be created to meet the requirements of the village
	That new development is well designed and integrated into existing green infrastructure.
	Make better use of the River Blackwater as a leisure resource whilst conserving and protecting the wildlife habitats.
	To ensure key views are respected
	To define a green space gap to prevent coalescence.
	Protect the provision of allotments within the village
Business and Retail Objectives	To maintain and support strong economic and social activity for Kelvedon.
	To sustain economic growth by enhancing employment opportunities in the Parish; having a thriving retail core and increased options for home working.
	To support superfast broadband and excellent mobile telephone provision, available to all residents and businesses.
	Ensure any development of business premises is done in an environmentally sensitive way.
	To support and retain the number and mix of independent shops in the village High Street.

1.3 The Braintree District Council Core Strategy (2011)

The adopted Braintree District Council Core Strategy (2011) contains current strategic planning policy for the District, including the Neighbourhood Development Plan area. The Core Strategy was originally adopted in 2011 and includes a number of policies related to a strategy for growth in the District, the delivery of growth and the provision of infrastructure. A Sustainability Appraisal was carried out for the Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy categorises Kelvedon as a 'Key Service Village'. The preferred 'Spatial Policy



Statement' for the District is to,

'Concentrate the majority of new development and services in the Main Towns of Braintree, Witham and Halstead, at new Growth locations at Braintree and Witham and in the Key Service Villages'.

The Strategy adds of Other Villages that,

'More limited development to serve the local area, or deal with specific local issues such as the regeneration of important sites, can be located in the Key Service Villages.'

Additionally, the Core Strategy adds that

'The Key Service Villages will be allowed to develop with growth already identified within existing development boundaries of around 600 dwellings including over 300 on regeneration sites in Sible Hedingham and Silver End and will continue to perform a useful role as local service centres for the surrounding rural areas and small villages, especially in the remoter parts of the District. In particular: Appropriate development in these villages will be supported and promoted, including the regeneration of specific and other partnership initiatives, to help secure their continued sustainability, make sure that jobs and services are kept and if possible improved and their historic character enhanced; appropriate market housing to help support these services will be developed on suitable sites in the villages; and affordable housing to serve local needs will be supported.'

Kelvedon is also identifies as a 'Local Centre' within the retail hierarchy. Local Centres are those which provide a range of small shops of a local nature, serving a small catchment, which typically might include a small supermarket, a newsagent, a sub-post office and a pharmacy. They are protected within the Core Strategy, with enhancements sought to provide small-scale shops, services and community facilities for local residents.

The Core Strategy also defines 'The Countryside' within the planning context of the District. The Countryside is the area outside town development boundaries and village envelopes. Core Strategy Policy CS5 – The Countryside indicates that uses of areas outside town development boundaries, village envelopes and industrial developments are controlled to uses appropriate for the countryside.

1.4 Pre-Submission Site Allocations and Development Management Plan (September 2014)

The Site Allocations and Development Management Plan (SADMP) was progressed in line with the Core Strategy (2011) as a Local Development Framework document. This Plan was withdrawn prior to submission due to matters concerning a need to re-address the Council's Objectively Assessed Housing Needs, however was subject to a full and rigorous process of plan-making over a number of years, including Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment). Although not formally adopted, Braintree District Council is of the view that those policies contained within the Plan are robust and should be given appropriate weight in all matters under consideration for the Council for use within development management decision making. The Pre-Submission Site Allocations document did not change the categorisation of Kelvedon within the settlement hierarchy from the adopted Core Strategy

The Plan identified a single allocation within Kelvedon - a Comprehensive Redevelopment Area at



'Land at the Railway Garage' under Policy ADM37. This Policy indicates that the land and adjoining the railway station at Kelvedon is allocated for mixed use, where a combination of employment, car parking and residential uses (32 dwellings identified) will be allowed.

1.5 The Emerging Braintree District Council Local Plan

Braintree District Council (BDC) submitted a new Local Plan to the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate in October 2017, with a Regulation 19 Plan having been consulted upon earlier in 2017. An Examination in Public for Section One of the Plan was undertaken in January 2018, with further hearing sessions in May 2018. The outcome of the examination to date is that further work is needed to justify the Council's preferred strategy, as evidenced by the Inspector's letter; however the examination is technically still ongoing. A decision on Section Two of the Plan is still pending. Sustainability Appraisals (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) have been carried out for the Local Plan as well as a Habitat Regulation Assessment / Appropriate Assessment. The level of 'weight' that can be attached to an emerging Local Plan varies from policy to policy; however, the NPPF states that decision-takers may give weight to relevant policies in emerging plans according to:

- the stage of preparation of the emerging plan (the more advanced the preparation, the greater the weight that may be given);
- the extent to which there are unresolved objections to relevant policies (the less significant the unresolved objections, the greater the weight that may be given); and
- the degree of consistency of the relevant policies in the emerging plan to the policies in the NPPF (the closer the policies in the emerging plan are to the policies in the NPPF, the greater the weight that may be given).

As the emerging Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in October 2017, following three stages of consultation, significant weight could be given to these emerging policies.

Detailed content regarding Kelvedon within the Neighbourhood Plan area

The emerging Local Plan includes Kelvedon with Feering as a Key Service Village and a Local Centre consistently with the village's classifications in previous Plans. The emerging Local Plan identifies a single site allocation without full planning permission, although outline planning permission has been granted under planning application 17/00418/OUT for 250 dwellings. This site would extend the settlement boundary. An additional site has been identified for a number of specialist housing units, within the previous (existing) settlement boundary. The details of these sites are identified in the following table.

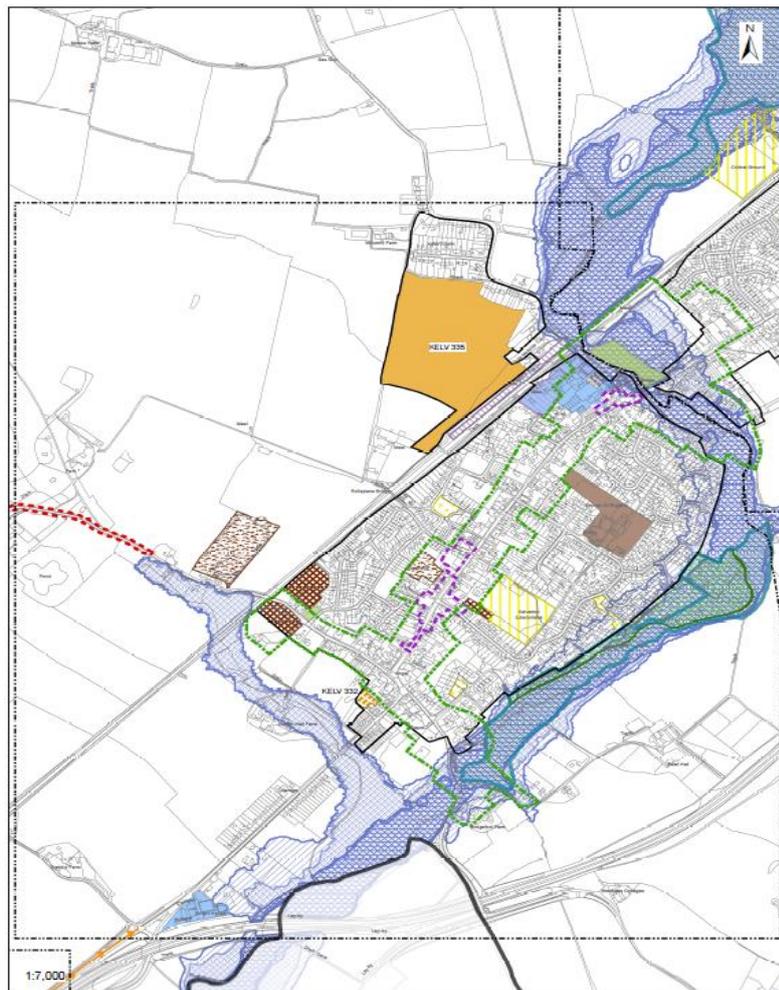
Table 1: Emerging Local Plan site allocation within the NP area

Local Plan site reference	Site Address	Indicative Capacity
KELV 335	Monks Farm land South East of Coggeshall Road, Kelvedon	300 dwellings identified in Local Plan.

Local Plan site reference	Site Address	Indicative Capacity
KELV 332	St. Dominic's care homes, The Cloisters (C2)	41 specialist housing units

The following figure shows a map of these sites.

Figure 1: Map showing emerging BDC Local Plan allocations KELV335 & KELV332



Source: Braintree District Council Regulation 19 Local Plan Section Two (2017)



2. Legislative Background

2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment states that,

'Environmental assessment is an important tool for integrating environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.'

(10) All plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors and which set a framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment(7), and all plans and programmes which have been determined to require assessment pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna(8), are likely to have significant effects on the environment, and should as a rule be made subject to systematic environmental assessment. When they determine the use of small areas at local level or are minor modifications to the above plans or programmes, they should be assessed only where Member States determine that they are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

(11) Other plans and programmes which set the framework for future development consent of projects may not have significant effects on the environment in all cases and should be assessed only where Member States determine that they are likely to have such effects.'

Neighbourhood Plans may influence frameworks for future development, or become used ancillary to those plans and programmes that do set such a framework, and as such it has been determined that the principle of the Neighbourhood Plan should be screened for the necessary application of the SEA Directive.

The Report from the Commission to The Council, The European Parliament, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions states, on the application and effectiveness of the Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Directive 2001/42/EC), that

'the following P&P, and modifications to them, are covered when prepared and/or adopted by an authority[2] and required pursuant to legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions:

- P&P prepared for certain sectors and which set the framework for future development consent in respect of projects under the Environmental Impact Assessment-EIA-Directive.*
- P&P requiring an assessment under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).*
- P&P setting the framework for development consent in respect of projects (not limited to those listed in the EIA Directive; see above) and determined by "screening" as being likely to have significant environmental effects.'*

This report represents this screening process in regard to the content and influence of the Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan.



2.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Under the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive, translated into English law by the Habitats Regulations (*The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*), a competent authority must carry out an assessment of whether a plan or project will significantly affect the integrity of any European Site, in terms of impacting the conservation objectives of any such sites.

HRA is the screening assessment of the impacts of a land use proposal against the conservation objectives of European sites. Specifically, it is to ascertain whether or not a proposal (either alone or in combination with other proposals) would potentially damage the internationally designated features of that site. European sites are also known as Natura 2000 sites.

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, state that submitted Plans need to be accompanied by a statement explaining how the proposed Plan meets the 'basic conditions' set out in Schedule 4B of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. These basic conditions include a requirement to demonstrate how the Plan is compatible with EU obligations, which includes the need to undertake a HRA.

This SEA Screening Report factors in the findings of the HRA / AA work undertaken at the Local Plan level for the emerging BDC Local Plan submitted to the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate in October 2017.

3. SEA Screening

3.1 When is SEA Required?

Planning Practice Guidance – Strategic environmental assessment requirements for neighbourhood plans (Paragraph: 026 Reference ID: 11-026-20140306) states that,

‘In some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This process is commonly referred to as a “screening” assessment and the requirements are set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of those Regulations.

One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the making of the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European Union obligations (including under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive).

To decide whether a draft neighbourhood plan might have significant environmental effects, it must be assessed (screened) at an early stage of the plan’s preparation according to the requirements set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These include a requirement to consult the environmental assessment consultation bodies.

Each consultation body will be able to advise on particular topics relevant to its specific area of expertise and responsibility, and the specific information that it holds.

Where it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), a statement of reasons for the determination should be prepared. A copy of the statement must be submitted with the neighbourhood plan proposal and made available to the independent examiner.’

Articles 2 and 3 of the SEA Directive set out the circumstances in which an SEA is required. Table 2 sets out the assessment of whether the principle of the Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA.

Table 2: Exploring whether the Principle of the Plan would warrant SEA

Q	Criteria	Response	Outcome	Commentary
1	Is the Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through legislative procedure by Parliament or Government	Yes	Go to question 2	The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for adoption through legislative procedure.
2	Is the Plan required by legislative, regulatory or <u>administrative provision</u> Typical characteristics of "administrative provisions" are that they are publicly available, prepared in a formal way, probably involving consultation with interested parties. The administrative provision must have sufficient formality such that it counts as a "provision" and it must also use language that plainly requires rather than just encourages a Plan to be prepared.	Yes	Go to question 3	The Neighbourhood Plan would be considered as falling within the category of an 'administrative provision'.
		No	DOES NOT REQUIRE SEA	
3	Is the 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 to the EIA Directive?	Yes to both criteria	Go to question 5	The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for town and country planning and sets a framework for future development consent.
		No to either criteria	Go to question 4	
4	Will the Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?	Yes	Go to question 5	See Section 2.2 of this Report.
		No	Go to question 6	
5	Does the Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a Plan likely to require assessment under the Habitats Directive?	Yes to either criteria	Go to question 8	The policies of the Neighbourhood Plan can be considered to determine the use of small areas at local level commensurate with their status in determining local planning applications.
		No to both criteria	Go to question 7	

Q	Criteria	Response	Outcome	Commentary
6	Does the Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in the Annexes of the EIA Directive)?	Yes	Go to question 8	N/A
		No	DOES NOT REQUIRE SEA	
7	Is the Plans sole purpose to serve 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	Yes to any criteria	DOES NOT REQUIRE SEA	N/A
		No to all criteria	REQUIRES SEA	
8	Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	Yes	REQUIRES SEA	Likely significant effects are explored in more detail elsewhere in this Screening Report.
		No	DOES NOT REQUIRE SEA	

The following section looks at the criteria for assessing the effects of the Neighbourhood Plan and the identified effects of the Neighbourhood Plan in line with the criteria. Crucially, it will determine whether there are any likely significant effects on the environment.



3.2 Criteria for Assessing the Effects of the Neighbourhood Plan

Criteria for determining the likely significant effects on the environment, referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below.

Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC – Significant Effects

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to

- the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
- the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
- the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
- environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
- 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).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to

- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
- the cumulative nature of the effects,
- the transboundary nature of the effects,
- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - * special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
 - * exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
 - * intensive land-use,
 - * the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

3.3 Likely Significant Effects on the Environment resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan

The following assessment will consider the likelihood of the Neighbourhood Plan (at the time of writing) to have significant effects on the environment.

Table 3: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on the Environment

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
<p>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.</p>	<p>The Plan sets out relevant policies which will be used to determine proposals for development within the Neighbourhood Plan area once adopted. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate land for development purposes, therefore the Neighbourhood Plan can not be seen at this stage to set a framework for projects and activities to a high degree.</p>
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan provides policies for the Plan area, relevant to a local level only. The Plan is in general conformity to adopted plan policies at the LPA level and those emerging within the new Local Plan. There is a possibility that the Neighbourhood Plan could be 'made' prior to the adoption of the emerging BDC Local Plan, therefore the degree to which the Plan could influence other plans including those in a hierarchy can be considered high.</p>
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plans are required to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The Neighbourhood Plan policies seek to ensure environmental considerations are taken into account. The Neighbourhood Plan is compatible and does not conflict with adopted policies at the District level which have been subject to a thorough process of plan preparation and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.</p> <p>The following policies exist within the Plan related to environmental protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy HO9 – High Quality Building and Design • Policy HE3 – Local Heritage Assets • Policy NE3 – Protection of Hedgerows and Biodiversity • Policy NE6 – Protection of Key Views • Policy NE8 – Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation <p>The policies contained within the Plan in isolation are considered to be sufficient to ensure that effects on the environment are minimised.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
Environmental problems relevant to the plan.	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan reflects a small area and the Plan's policy content seeks to address any perceived environmental issues.</p> <p>The policy content of adopted District level plans will additionally apply to any proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with additional weight given to the emerging policies within the BDC Local Plan Draft Publication (June 2017). Adopted and emerging policies have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment. The potential environmental problems relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large number of small and some relatively large areas on the Priority Habitat Inventory exist throughout the Plan area, including to the immediate east of the settlement boundary. This includes Woodland conifer, deciduous woodland and young trees woodland. • Also to the east of the settlement boundary lies the Brockwell Meadows Local Nature Reserve (LNR). • To the north east of the main built up area lies a Scheduled Monument – an Anglo-Saxon cemetery approximately 150m east of Easterford Mill. • The Plan area contains a significant amount of listed buildings, including the Grade I listed Parish Church of St Mary, the Grade I listed '1-5, High Street'. There are also a number of Grade II* listed buildings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Easterford Mill; ○ Numbers 180A, B and C and wing to east in Swan Street; ○ Chambers of Dormers Gables; ○ Orchard House Post Office; ○ Red House; ○ 26-30 High Street; ○ St Mary's House; and ○ Bridgefoot House. • The River Blackwater flows through the Plan area from the north west and flowing in a south-eastern direction along the extent of the settlement boundary / built up area. There are large areas of land within Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 associated with the river. • The A12 bisects the Plan area, and has associated noise implications at 75db and over along the road within the Plan area. • The Parish area includes predominantly grade 2 agricultural land to the west, although land is classified as Grade 3 to the east of the development boundary.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the	The content of the Neighbourhood Plan is not in conflict with those relevant planning documents within the wider district and county area related to waste

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)		Likelihood and summary of significant effects
implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).		management or water protection.
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects on the following factors:		The following impacts have been identified within this Screening Assessment:
Sustainability Theme	- Biodiversity	<p>No European or national wildlife designations exist within the Plan area; however there is a Local Nature Reserve (Brockwell Meadows) to the east of the settlement boundary. In broad compliance with the Plan's policies, any development that is acceptable in principle would not significantly impact on nature within the Plan area. Policy NE3 – Protection of Hedgerows and Biodiversity protects important natural features throughout the Plan area, and seeks suitable assessment work to accompany planning applications and inform mitigation measures.</p> <p>HRA / AA work undertaken at the Local Plan level indicates that there could be a potential pathway for development in the Plan area to impact on the SPA/SAC/Ramsar sites within the scope of the HRA as the Parish lies within the Zones of Influence. There are however no site allocations within the Plan area. Any proposals coming forward within the Plan period would have to adhere to Policy NE8 – Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation which seeks financial contributions to avoid adverse in-combination recreational disturbance effects on Habitats Sites. There will therefore be no impacts resulting from the Plan that would warrant the application of the SEA Directive and the undertaking of a SEA Environmental Report.</p>
	- Population	The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any sites for development purposes. Policy DC1 - Developer Contributions includes criteria as to the requirements for any planning applications regarding the impact on local infrastructure and to ensure the provision of certain infrastructure through contributions.
	- Human health	<p>The Plan seeks to protect and enhance green and recreational spaces within the Plan area through Policy NE1 – Existing Public Open Spaces and Policy NE2 – The Provision of New Recreational and Play Spaces in order to ensure that such space is preserved for the purposes of health and well-being.</p> <p>The combination of these policies suggests that no significant effects will occur upon Human health in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>The Plan area contains the A12 and GEML rail services with associated</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	noise implications. The Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to lead to activities or projects that would exacerbate such noise impacts of the A12 or the GEML, nor does it allocate and land for development purposes that would be subjected to existing conditions regarding noise.
- Fauna	Any impacts of development proposals on flora and fauna can be expected to be mitigated in line with Policy NE3 – Protection of Hedgerows and Biodiversity. It is possible that developments could be forthcoming within the Plan area that might have negative impacts on protected species; however these will also be mitigated through the approach of Policy NE3. Any possible such impacts cannot be identified as strategically significant to warrant Strategic Environmental Assessment at the Plan level. Such issues are more appropriate to be considered on a case-by-case application basis at the development management stage in consideration of Policy 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan and other development management policies at the LPA level.
- Flora	
- Soil	The majority of the Neighbourhood Plan area is within Grade 2 Agricultural Land ('very good'), with an area of Grade 3 Agricultural Land ('good to moderate') associated with land surrounding the course of the River Blackwater. Grade 2 Agricultural Land represents the best and most versatile agricultural land within the wider District. The Plan does not allocate any land for development purposes and as such there will be no impact on soils as a result.
- Water	The Neighbourhood Plan Area is not within any Groundwater (Source) Protection Zones. HRA / AA work undertaken at the Local Plan level indicates that there could be a potential pathway for development at Kelvedon to impact on the SPA/SAC/Ramsar sites within scope of the HRA as the Parish lies within the Zones of Influence. The Plan however does not allocate any land for development purposes or include any content that would lead or contribute to any deterioration of water quality. Therefore, the Plan will not have any impacts on water quality and any potential issues from development proposals would be dealt with suitably through adherence to policy at the District level.
- Air	The Plan does not seek to allocate any land for development that could increase the amount of transport movements within the Plan area or wider along the A120 corridor. Additionally, Policies MA1 – Traffic Congestion, MA2 – Traffic Calming, and MA3 – Transport and Access offer a strong stance on ensuring that the air quality does not deteriorate. Further, no allocations for development purposes are identified directly as a result of the Plan. The Plan will therefore not have any direct effects on air quality.
- Climatic factors	The majority of the Neighbourhood Development Plan area is within Flood Zone 1; however land within Flood Zones 3 and 2 exists associated with the

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>River Blackwater and surrounds the development boundary in the north, east and south. The Plan's Policy HO4 – Location / Sites where Development will be Permitted ensures that there would be no increase in flood risk from any forthcoming development in the Plan period and as such no significant effects have been identified.</p>
- Material assets	<p>The content of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is not considered to have any significant impacts on material assets due to the extent / size of the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Such issues are more appropriate to be considered on a case-by-case basis at the development management stage and in accordance with relevant development management policies at the District / LPA level.</p>
- Cultural heritage	<p>Approximately 100 Listed Buildings exist within the Neighbourhood Plan area and the majority of the High Street is a designated Conservation Area. The Plan does not allocate any land for development purposes and Policies HE1 – The High Street and HE3 Local Heritage Assets ensure protection and enhancement, with further consideration of a Local Heritage Asset list that could be extended to non-designated asset. There is therefore considered to be no likely significant effect on cultural heritage / the historic environment that would specifically warrant the application of the SEA Directive and a commitment to undertake a SEA.</p>
- Landscape	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan area is within the Blackwater River Valley and the Silver End Farmland Plateau as identified by the Braintree District Landscape Character Assessment (2006). The overall character is of shallow predominantly arable valley with a strong sense of tranquility in the north and a rural gently undulating farmland landscape in the south with long-distance views, multiple small woodlands and a dispersed settlement pattern.</p> <p>Policy NE6 - Protection of Key Views states that development proposals must set out details on how they take account of the key views, by way of their scale, height, position within the application site, the use of materials and external lighting. The selection of Key Views has been informed by the Kelvedon Community Survey results, the Kelvedon Settlement Fringes Landscape Area Evaluation study of 2015 and the Assessment of Key Views (2018). The Policy does not rule out any form of development but requires that its location, scale and design have given full consideration to the nature of Key Views and that the development will not obstruct or intrude into Key Views in a way that would undermine the contribution that they make to defining the character of Kelvedon Parish. To this extent, the Plan ensures that potential landscape implications of proposals are suitably considered. The Plan does not allocate any land for development purposes that would lead to any assessment of landscape harm at the Plan-level. There will therefore be no effects on landscape.</p>
The cumulative nature of	Environmental protection policies exist within the Plan for the purpose of

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
the effects.	ensuring that individual schemes are unlikely to result in inappropriate development. These elements of the Plan considered, cumulative significant effects on the environment can be ruled out.
The trans boundary nature of the effects.	<p>A large strategic site allocation within the emerging BDC Local Plan Section Two (2017) lies close to the Neighbourhood Plan boundary to the north east. This allocation is for up to 750 dwellings. The Sustainability Appraisal for the Local Plan (Section Two) indicates that this allocation assesses the cumulative effects on the environment of this allocation with that of land allocated for development within Kelvedon – it should be noted however that no development is allocated within the Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan and therefore trans boundary effects can be ruled out through identified / plan-led development.</p> <p>Policy NE8 Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation sets out a process for developer contributions to be sought to ensure that recreational pressures on Habitats Sites outside the Plan area are mitigated. Any such impacts are not as a result of the Plan, but of planned growth in the wider sub-regional / county ‘in-combination.’ The Plan therefore addresses trans boundary effects on biodiversity / Habitats Sites.</p> <p>Wider, trans boundary effects would have to be appropriately considered at the ‘project level’ in light of the fact that the Plan does not identify any allocations for development in the Plan area. There are no site allocations (or other content) within the Plan that would warrant the exploration of any trans boundary effects directly at the Plan level through the application of the SEA Directive.</p>
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).	There is limited risk to human health or the environment as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan. This is in consideration of the above screening requirements related to sustainability themes. The Neighbourhood Plan is primarily focused on protection and enhancement of the natural environment, whilst retaining the character of the Plan area.
The magnitude spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	The spatial extent of development resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan can be partly identified by the fact that no development is allocated. There is the possibility that effects on water quality could be experienced over a wide geographic area from non-plan-led development that could come forward within the Plan period, however it is considered that this is not needed to be explored at the Plan-level based on the fact that no allocations for development are made within the Plan.
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:	As highlighted above in the screening of the Plan per sustainability theme, the Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed as unlikely to have significant effects on environmental quality standards that would warrant further assessment through the application of the SEA Directive.
- special natural	



Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
<p>characteristics or cultural heritage</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exceeded environmental quality standards 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - intensive land use 	
<p>The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	<p>As highlighted above in the screening of the Plan per sustainability theme, the Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed as not having any significant effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>



4. Conclusions

4.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for town and country planning purposes and sets a framework for future development consent. The policies of the Neighbourhood Plan can be considered to determine the use of small areas at local level commensurate with their status in determining local planning applications.

Planning Practice Guidance on 'Strategic environmental assessment requirements for neighbourhood plans' (Paragraph: 046 Reference ID: 11-046-20150209) states that, '*A strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where:*

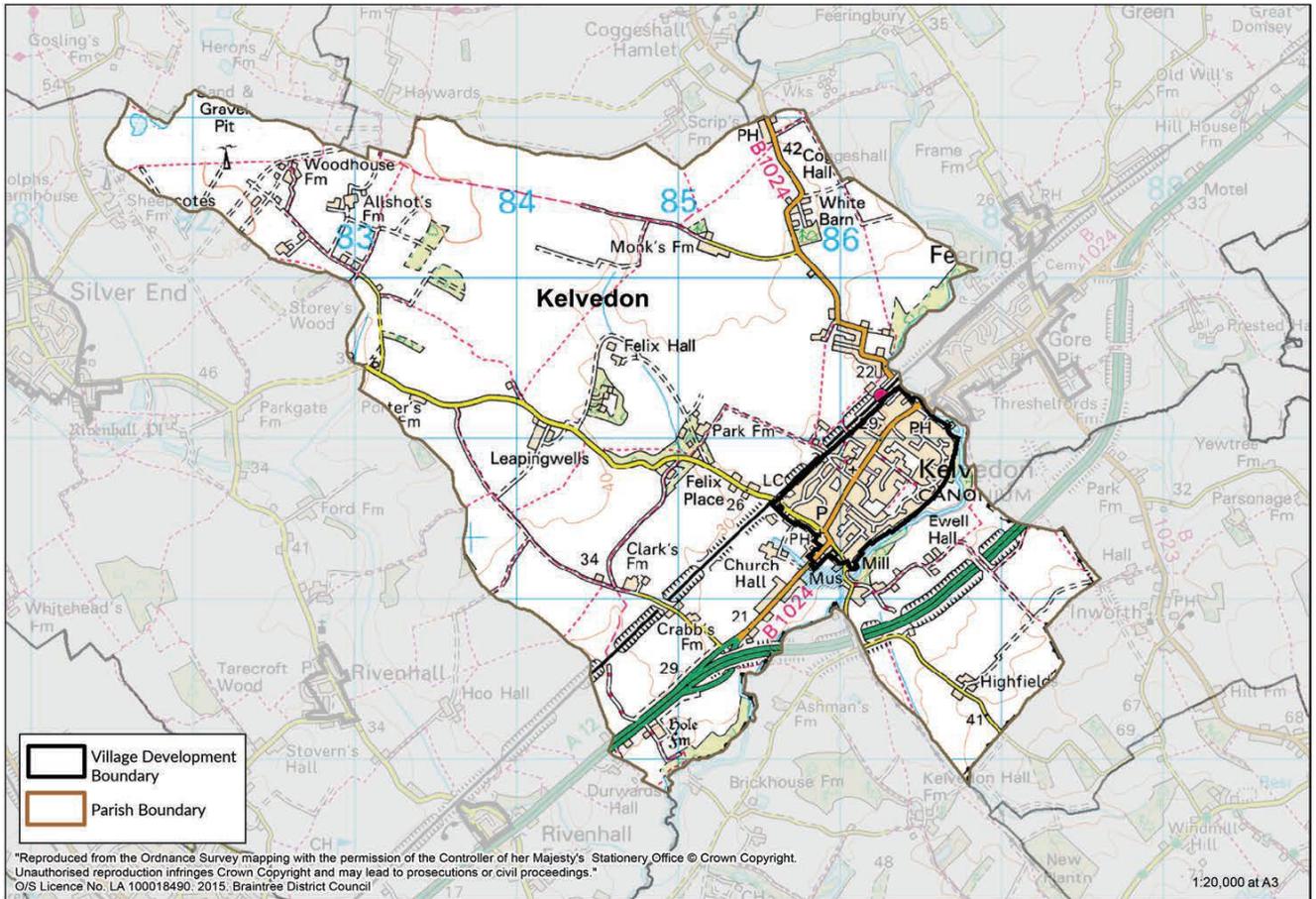
- *a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development*
- *the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.'*

The Neighbourhood Development Plan does not allocate land for development purposes, nor do the findings of this SEA Screening Report determine that any of the Plan's content would have any detrimental effect on any facet of the environment included within Annex II of SEA Directive. The Plan has a strong focus on the protection and enhancement of these facets of the environment should any proposals be forthcoming within the Plan area over the Plan period.

The content of the Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan has therefore been **screened out** for its requirement of Strategic Environmental Assessment in line with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC.

Appendix 1

The Neighbourhood Plan area for Kelvedon



Source: Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2033, 2018



Place Services

Essex County Council
County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH

T: +44 (0)333 013 6840

E: enquiries@placeservices.co.uk

www.placeservices.co.uk

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Essex County Council