



**Sedgeberrow
Parish Council**

Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan (SBNDP) to 2035

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report

May 2022

enfusion



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May 2022

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Non-Technical Summary (NTS)

(Available separately)

Contents:

**This is the NTS of the Environmental Report
The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP adopted 2016) &
Review (SWDPR to 2041) in preparation
The Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan (SBNDP)
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
Environmental Characteristics of the SBNDP Area
Key Environmental Issues, Problems and Opportunities
How has the Draft SBNDP been assessed?
What reasonable alternatives have been considered & addressed?
What are the likely significant effects of the Draft SBNDP?
How could negative effects be mitigated?
Were there any difficulties encountered?
How has the SEA influenced the Draft SBNDP?
Monitoring Proposals
Consultation & Next Steps**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 1.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a European requirement implemented in the UK through the SEA Regulations (2004)¹. SEA is a systematic process that seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment, and to contribute to promoting sustainable development by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing certain plans and programmes.
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) must be carried out during the preparation of a Local Plan as required by planning legislation² and the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 32 NPPF, updated 2021)³. Planning guidance advises that the purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through assessing the extent to which an emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic, and social objectives⁴.
- 1.3 Local Plans must also be subject to SEA and Government advises that an integrated approach is taken so that the SA process incorporates the requirements for SEA – and to the same level of detail. Planning guidance advises that SEA alone can be required in some limited situations where SA is not needed – usually only where either neighbourhood plans, or supplementary planning documents could have significant environmental effects.
- 1.4 SEA (and SA) is an iterative and ongoing process that informs the preparation of draft planning documents. The scope of the assessment is determined through establishing the characterisation of the area and investigating issues and objectives relevant to the plan area, helping to make the SEA process proportionate and relevant. Likely significant effects are identified and assessed for the emerging elements of the draft plan and judged against reasonable alternatives. Mitigation measures are suggested for any significant negative effects identified. The role of SEA is to inform the plan-maker; the SEA findings do not form the sole basis for decision-making – this is informed also by other studies and feedback comments from consultation.
- 1.5 There is a tiering of assessment processes that aligns with the hierarchy of plans – from international, national, and through to local. At each stage of plan preparation and consultation, the accompanying SEA (or SA incorporating SEA) is also published; comments received are taken into account and considered at the next stage of plan-making and assessment. It may be noted that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is applied to individual projects that are likely to have significant environmental effects

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/contents/made>

² Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

and in accordance with the EIA Regulations (2011, amended 2017). The findings of the SEA process can help set the scope for the lower tier project level EIA process.

- 1.6 There is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan (NP)⁵ to have a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) as they are unlikely to have significant effects since, they must be in conformity with higher level plans – in this case, the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)⁶. However, a qualifying body must demonstrate how its plan will contribute to achieving to sustainable development.
- 1.7 Government advises that in some limited circumstances, where a Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require an SEA since the Localism Act 2011 requires neighbourhood plans to comply with EU legislation. This is determined through a SEA Screening⁷ process. The Wychavon District Council as the responsible authority under the SEA Regulations undertook a Screening Determination for the Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan (SBN DP, December 2021).
- 1.8 This was sent for review and formal consultation with the statutory environmental bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England). It was determined that the draft SBN DP falls within the scope of the SEA Regulations as it proposes a mixed-use land allocation for development over and above those featured in the SWDP (adopted 2016) and which has not been subject to previous SA/SEA.
- 1.9 Planning guidance further advises that the SEA of a neighbourhood plan *“should only focus on what is needed to assess the likely significant effects of the neighbourhood plan. It should focus on the environmental impacts which are likely to be significant. It does not need to be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is considered to be appropriate for the content and level of detail in the neighbourhood plan.”*

The SWDP (to 2030, adopted 2016), The SWDP Review (to 2041, in preparation) and SA/SEA

- 1.10 The SBN DP needs to be in conformity with the higher-level development plan – the SWDP. It may be noted that the adopted SWDP was subject to SA/SEA during its preparation and examination. The SWDP is currently being reviewed and the initial stages of plan-making have been subject to SA/SEA⁸. This has included statutory SA/SEA scoping (2018)⁹ with baseline information, relevant policy review, identification of issues, and the preparation of a SA/SEA Framework of Objectives to form the basis for assessment. The Preferred Options (PO) stage of the SWDP has been subject to SA/SEA (February

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal#strategic-environmental-assessment-requirements-for-neighbourhood-plans>

⁶ <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-2016>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

⁸ <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-review/swdp-review-regulation-18-3-sa-consultation>

⁹ Lepus Consulting (2018) Sustainability Appraisal of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review, Scoping Report

2021)¹⁰ with formal consultation and this includes assessment of strategic locations, draft policies, and reasonable alternative potential site allocations.

The Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan (SBNDP)

- 1.11 The neighbourhood planning system was introduced by the Localism Act (2011) to give communities direct power to develop a shared vision and shape the development of their local area. A Neighbourhood Plan attains the same legal status as the Local Plan once it has been approved at referendum – and thus becomes part of the statutory development plan. Applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. A Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan in force if it is to meet with the basic conditions as set out in the Town & Country Planning Act (1990)¹¹.
- 1.12 The Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan (SBNDP) area covers the whole of the parish administrative area and was designated by Wychavon District Council (WDC) on 29 November 2019. Wychavon Council is the responsible authority for the SBNDP in accordance with the SEA Regulations. The Sedgeberrow Parish Council (SPC) is the qualifying body, as defined by the Localism Act (2011), and responsible for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. The SBNDP has been prepared on behalf of the SPC by a small Steering Group of residents and Parish Councillors – and guided by independent planning consultants BPA.
- 1.13 The plan making process¹² for the SBNDP has included wide and ongoing engagement and involvement with the local community, with surveys, events, information updates, and a dedicated website. An initial survey in 2020 identified that the local residents' greatest concern was loss of green space followed by over-development. Surveys have been conducted for residents and businesses, and to investigate options for the plan. The comments received from the surveys, together with various studies¹³, and including discussion with WDC and the progress of the SWDPR, have informed the development of the draft SBNDP (September 2021). This was published for Regulation 14 consultation¹⁴ between 17 September and 29 October 2021.
- 1.14 Comments made have been taken into account to help refine the SBNDP to the submission stage. The amended Plan is being submitted to WDC, together with supporting statements and evidence, including the SEA Report. If WDC are satisfied that the SBNDP has met legal requirements, the District Council will publish the Plan and invite representations from the public and statutory consultees. Any comments will then be taken into consideration at the next stage of plan-making with independent examination.

¹⁰ <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-review/swdp-review-regulation-18-3-sa-consultation>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#preparing-a-neighbourhood-plan-or-order>

¹² <https://sites.google.com/view/sedgeberrow-np>

¹³ <https://sites.google.com/view/sedgeberrow-np/the-plan/evidence-base>

¹⁴ <https://sites.google.com/view/sedgeberrow-np/the-plan/draft-plan>

1.15 The SBNDP (covering the period 2020 to 2035, submission draft April 2022) comprises sections 1-4 with an introduction, a description of the neighbourhood plan-making process, and the context for the plan. Section 5 presents the Vision, six Objectives (Housing, Built, Natural Environment, Traffic, Local Facilities) and three Policies (Housing, Local Green Space, and Flood Risk), with Section 6 covering monitoring and review, and supported by seven Appendices.

1.16 The three SBNDP Policies are as follows:

Housing Policy SB1 Land at Springfield Nurseries off Main Street (SWDPR PO Ref CFS0010) - 1.55 hectare site allocated for housing development for approximately 24 dwellings, subject to development principles (a)-(d) relating to requirements for local housing need with smaller family homes, affordable housing, provision of a community building with associated parking and adjacent public open space; and provision of off road parking.

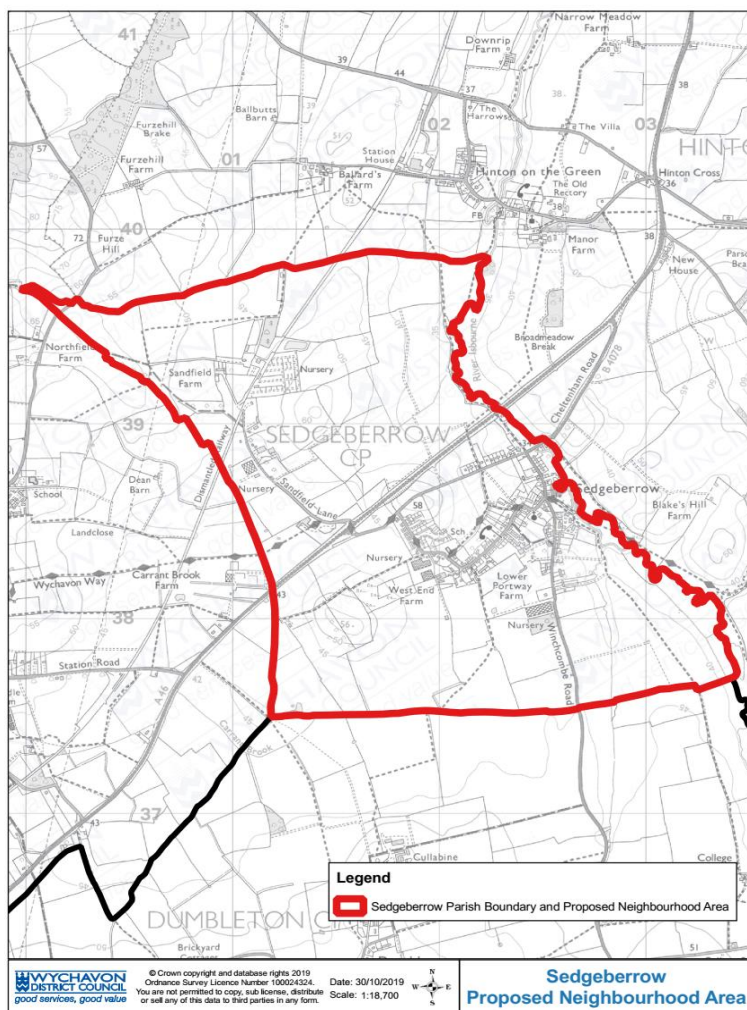
Local Green Space Policy SB2 – designates ten sites as Local Green Space (LGS) to be protected from development due to their particular local significance or community value.

Flood Policy SB3 – sets out requirements for new development in respect of waste/surface water; sustainable drainage measures; sustainable drainage design SuDS; flood attenuation areas; mitigation against increased flood risk; consideration of watercourses and infrastructure beyond the site boundary; water efficiency. The Policy is clear that proposals that do not satisfactorily demonstrate secure arrangements or prevention of flooding will not be supported.

1.17 Section 6 of the SBNDP explains that the plan will be monitored and reviewed if and when necessary. In the first instance, the Plan will be reviewed within 12 months of the adoption of the SWDPR (expected in 2023) and further policies are envisaged. As a minimum the Plan will be reviewed every three years.

1.18 The SBNDP is completed by appendices including the location of Policy SB1, Landscape Character Assessment Overview; Local Green Space Maps; Flood Risk Map; Glossary; Parish Aspirations and Actions; and the SWDPR PO Policy Map for Sedgeberrow. The location of the SBNDP area is as follows:

Figure 1.1: Location of Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan Area¹⁵



SEA Screening & Scoping

- 1.19 The proposed Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan (SBNP period to 2035) was screened by Wychavon District Council to determine whether the draft plan would need to be assessed through Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The SEA/HRA Screening Report (December 2021)¹⁶ concluded that the SBNP may require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken. This is because the Neighbourhood Plan proposes a mixed-use land allocation for development over and above those featured in the SWDP (adopted 2016).
- 1.20 No issues were raised by the Environment Agency (EA) or Historic England (HE) with regard to matters within their remit. However, Natural England (NE) recommended consultation with the Cotswolds National Landscape Board (CNLB) due to the potential for impact on the nationally designated

¹⁵ Wychavon Council SEA Screening Determination for the Sedgeberrow NP (December 2021)

¹⁶ Wychavon District Council SEA & HRA Screening Opinion Report (December 2021)

Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)¹⁷. The Cotswolds National Landscape Board were concerned about the potential visual effects of the proposed mixed-use allocation on views from the Cotswolds National Landscape and therefore, it was determined that a full SEA is required.

- 1.21 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) determines whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on an internationally designated site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The HRA screening (December 2021) by Wychavon Council concluded that the SBNDP does not require a full HRA Appropriate Assessment (AA) to be undertaken. There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the SBNDP Area, with Bredon Hill Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Dixton Wood SAC falling within a 20km radius.
- 1.22 The impact on these sites as a result of the land allocations contained within the SWDP has been assessed in the SWDP HRA AA, and although the draft SBNDP does deviate with one site allocation, the level of such allocation is considered small enough to conclude that it is unlikely to have a negative impact on any internationally designated wildlife sites. In addition, it is concluded that there will be no impact of the SBNDP, with particular reference to the proposed mixed-use allocation, on functionally linked land related to the Severn Estuary SPA/Ramsar/SAC – the River Isbourne is a tributary of the River Avon. Therefore, the scope of the SEA does not consider HRA/AA and internationally protected sites.
- 1.23 In accordance with good practice and to demonstrate compliance with the SEA Regulations, a SEA Scoping Report (April 2022)¹⁸ was prepared. This sets out the context for the SEA and explains that a pragmatic and proportionate approach has been taken to the scoping process, whilst still demonstrating compliance with SEA regulations and planning policy guidance. This is in consideration of the limited scope and scale of the likely proposed development to be determined through the SBNDP and the position of the SBNDP in the planning policy hierarchy whereby any planning application will need to be in conformity with the SWDP.
- 1.24 The SEA Scoping Report presents the policy context, baseline conditions, and key sustainability issues and objectives for the key topics relevant to the SBNDP and SEA. It outlines the approach to the SEA, including consideration of reasonable alternatives, the proposed SEA Framework, and likely contents of the Environmental Report (ER). The report explains that the SEA will test the do-nothing scenario as the SPC does have a choice to not prepare a neighbourhood plan. It proposed that the SEA utilises the SA/SEA framework¹⁹ that is being used for the SA/SEA of the SWDPR to ensure consistency and correlation with the assessment and plan-making processes.

¹⁷ <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/> nb: Cotswolds AONB renamed Cotswolds National Landscape in response to Glover Report

¹⁸ Enfusion for Sedgeberrow Parish Council Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan: SEA Scoping Report (April 2022)

¹⁹ <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-review/swdp-review-regulation-18-3-sa-consultation>

Consultation

- 1.25 The SBNDP SEA Scoping Report on the proposed approach and methods for testing the draft SBNDP was sent to the environmental bodies in April 2022 – Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England, and the Cotswolds National Landscape Board – in accordance with statutory requirements for a 5-week consultation period. It had been noted and appreciated that the statutory bodies have already provided advice at the SEA/HRA screening stage for the pre-submission draft SBNDP. The Environment Agency (EA) and Historic England (HE) are not concerned regarding matters within their remit.
- 1.26 Historic England confirmed that they had no substantive concerns about the SEA scoping. The Environment Agency reported that they considered the suggested environmental themes, SEA objectives and questions to appear reasonable for use in the SEA. They welcomed the assessment questions associated with SA/SEA Nos 5 & 6, and they confirmed that the proposed site is developable. Natural England had no further comment at the scoping stage. The Cotswolds National Landscape Board advised that the SEA Objective No 4 looked fine and that they would very much appreciate if the comments made on the NDP at the SEA screening stage would be addressed.

This Environmental Report

- 1.27 This SEA has been carried out in consideration of planning policy guidance²⁰, good practice and pragmatism, and taking into account proportionality - the status of the Neighbourhood Plan within the Local Plan hierarchy of documents and the tiering of assessment processes. This SEA has been undertaken in accordance with requirements of the SEA Regulations and has been aligned to be compatible with the wider SA/SEA process for the emerging new SWDPR.
- 1.28 Following this introductory section, the approach and methods used is outlined in Section 2, including the consideration of alternatives. The environmental characterisation is described in Section 3. The findings of the assessment are presented and discussed in Section 4. Monitoring proposals are indicated in Section 5, together with a summary conclusion and next steps in Section 6. Appendix I signposts how the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met, and in accordance with government guidance. Appendix II details the SEA of the four options A-D for site allocations, and Appendix III details the SEA of the three Policies, including one site allocation proposed by the Parish Council.
- 1.29 This SEA and Environmental Report have been prepared by independent SA/SEA and HRA specialists Enfusion Ltd <http://www.enfusion.co.uk/> on behalf of the Sedgeberrow Parish Council.

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

2.0 METHODS

Introduction & the SEA Process

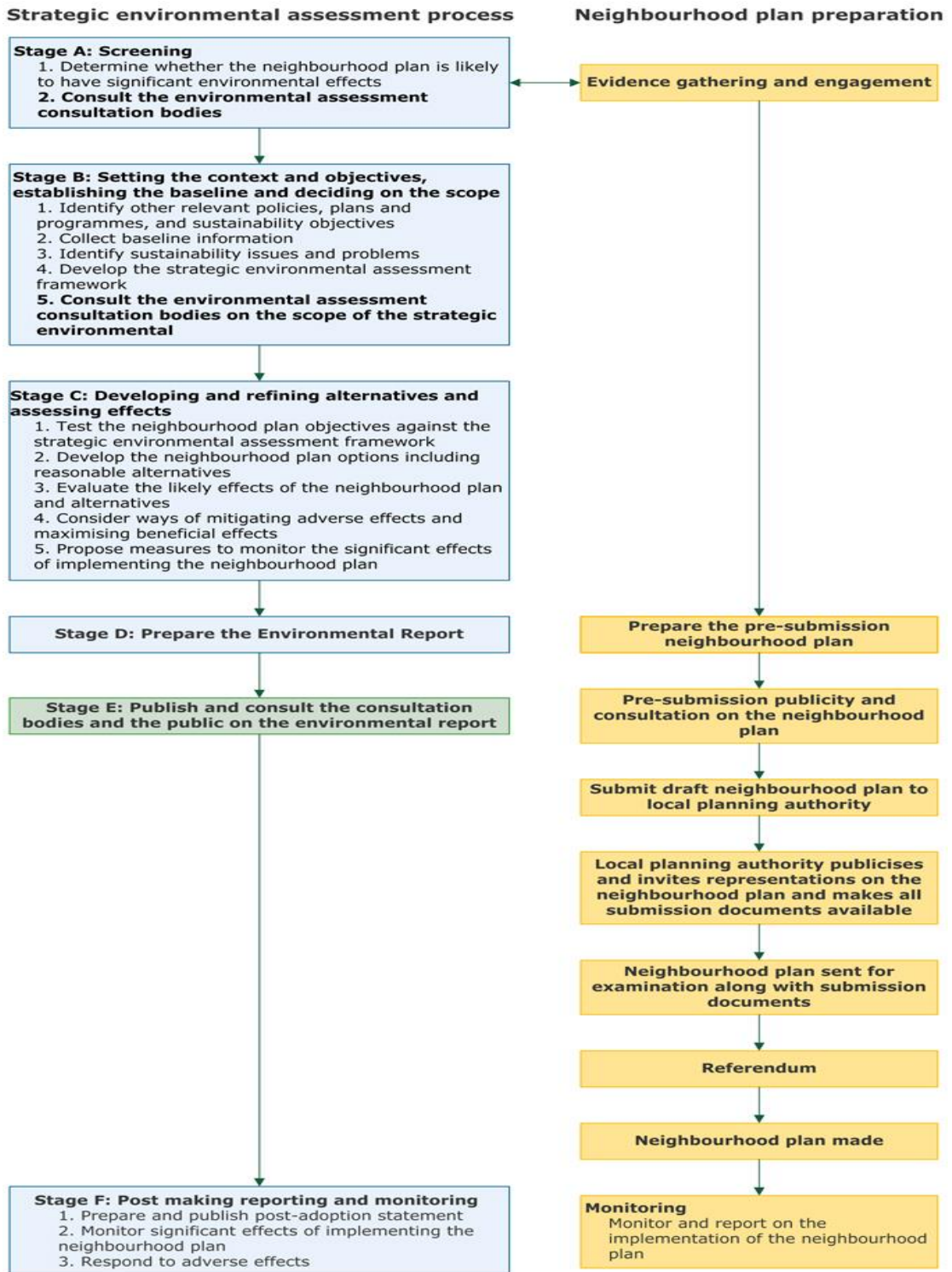


Figure 2.1: SEA and Plan-making Stages and Tasks

- 2.1 National Planning Practice Guidance²¹ sets out the key stages and tasks for SA/SEA and their inter-relationships with plan-making stages and tasks – as set out in the diagram previously. Stage A screens the plan for the requirement for any SEA. Stage B of the SEA process identifies the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report. It sets out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment; and identifies relevant environmental issues and objectives.
- 2.2 Stage C of the SEA process comprises the assessment of effects, including of any reasonable alternatives to the proposals in the draft plan; ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects are considered, and monitoring measures proposed. Stage D of the SEA process includes the preparation of the Environmental Report that must include certain information. Stage E considers representations made on the Environmental Report from the consultation bodies and the public. After examination and upon adoption of the plan (the NP is made), SEA Stage F includes the preparation of the post-adoption statement.
- 2.3 It is important to note that SEA is an iterative and on-going process. Government advises a pragmatic approach to SA/SEA for plan-making and suggests that the evidence base can be used for both processes. This Environmental Report (April 2022) is Stage D in the SBNDP SEA process and includes reporting on SEA Stages B-C.

Scoping & the SEA Framework

- 2.4 The use of an SEA Framework of objectives is an established method through which the sustainability and environmental effects of a plan can be described and assessed. The SA/SEA Framework²² was originally developed by for the South Worcestershire authorities from the analysis of policy objectives, baseline information, and key sustainability issues and opportunities identified in the SWDPR area. Each SA/SEA objective was further clarified through a number of decision-making criteria/questions to aid the appraisal process and aligned with indicators for monitoring purposes. The draft SA Scoping Report was formally consulted upon in compliance with the SEA Regulations and the final SA Scoping Report published in 2018. The SA/SEA framework is being used to assess the emerging SWDPR.
- 2.5 This SA/SEA framework remains valid and robust, and it is being used for the SEA of the Sedgeberrow NP for consistency with the assessments of the other plans in the SWDP planning framework. The SEA framework was used to test the proposed site allocation in the SBNDP – thus in a consistent and comparable manner to the SA/SEA testing of site options/allocations for the SWDPR. It was used to assess the SBNDP Objectives and the other two SBNDP

²¹ <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>

²² Lepus Consulting (2018) Sustainability Appraisal of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review, Scoping Report. See summary reported in <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-review/swdp-review-regulation-18-3-sa-consultation>

Policies. This SA/SEA framework also reflects an updated framework since the preparation of the adopted SWDP.

- 2.6 The SEA framework of objectives and decision-aiding sub-objectives/questions to assist the assessment is, as follows:

Table 2.1 SEA Framework

SEA Objective <i>(SEA Topic in italics)</i>	Decision-making criteria (will the option/proposal...?)
SA No 1: Minimise SW's contribution to climate change <i>(air, climatic factors, human health)</i>	Increase energy consumption or GHG emissions? Generate or support renewable energy?
SA No 2: Plan for the anticipated impacts of climate change <i>(water, climatic factors, human health)</i>	Increase the number of residents at risk of flooding? Increase the risk of flooding?
SA No 3: Protect, enhance and manage the flora, fauna, biodiversity and geodiversity assets of SW <i>(biodiversity, flora, fauna, human health)</i>	Result in a net loss or a net gain for biodiversity? Protect or enhance wildlife sites or biodiversity? Protect or enhance geodiversity?
SA No 4: Conserve, enhance & manage the character & appearance of the landscape & townscape, maintaining & strengthening their distinctiveness <i>(landscape)</i>	Protect and enhance the local landscape? Protect and enhance the local townscape?
SA No 5: Reduce waste generation, increase reuse & recycling of materials whilst minimising impacts of water, air & noise pollution <i>(human health)</i>	Increase waste production? Increase the risk of air, noise or water pollution? Increase the number of residents exposed to the risk of air, noise or water pollution?
SA No 6: Protect, enhance & ensure efficient use of SW's land, soils and water <i>(soil, material assets, water)</i>	Impact on demand capacity of local water sources? Use previously developed land or existing buildings? Result in the loss of local soils?
SA No 7: Provide a range of housing to meet the needs of the community <i>(population & human health)</i>	Ensure that residents will have the opportunity to live in a home which meets their needs? Result in the loss of, or otherwise impact on, any existing housing?
SA No 8: Safeguard & improve the physical and mental health of residents <i>(population & human health)</i>	Provide residents with adequate access to necessary health facilities & services? Encourage healthy lifestyles?

SA No 9: Conserve, enhance & manage sites, features, & areas of historic & cultural importance <i>(cultural heritage)</i>	Conserve heritage assets/the historic environment, including their setting? Enhance heritage assets/the historic environment, including their setting?
SA No 10: Improve the choice & efficiency of sustainable transport in SW & reduce the need to travel <i>(air, climatic factors, human health, material assets)</i>	Improve travel choice, reduce journey need and shorten the length & duration of journeys Improve accessibility to key services & amenities for existing & new residents?
SA No 11: Improve education, skills & qualifications <i>(human health)</i>	Raise educational attainment levels for residents in the plan area? Offer residents with frequent, affordable & sustainable access to educational facilities?
SA No 12: Support a strong, diverse, vibrant & sustainable local economy to foster balanced economic growth <i>(population & human health)</i>	Encourage sustainable economic growth? Ensure high and stable levels of employment?

- 2.7 The SEA Regulations require consideration of the objectives of other relevant Plans and Programmes (PP) during the SEA scoping stage. The PP review was undertaken and reported for the SA Scoping of the SWDR in 2018²³. Whilst it was considered that the other objectives identified remain relevant to the SEA of the SBNDP, the SEA Scoping Report took the opportunity to update the PP review to reflect the major changes in environmental and planning legislation and strategy.
- 2.8 The SEA Regulations require that the likely significant effects on the relevant aspects of the environment should be assessed and reported. The characteristics of the plan area should be described, including the likely evolution without the plan. Government advises a pragmatic approach to the collation, analysis and reporting of this baseline information - and much of it is shared between the plan-making and SA/SEA processes. The baseline characteristics for the South Worcestershire area were identified, and consulted upon, in the SA/SEA scoping 2018. Issues for sustainable development were identified and contributed to the preparation of the SA/SEA Framework of Objectives.

Assessing the Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan (SBNDP)

- 2.9 As explained previously, this SEA is part of an assessment tier that correlates with the hierarchy of plan-making and, in line with Government guidance, is proportionate to the stage of plan-making and assessment. The

²³ Lepus Consulting (2018) Sustainability Appraisal of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review, Scoping Report. See summary reported in <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-review/swdp-review-regulation-18-3-sa-consultation>

Neighbourhood Plan must be in conformity with the higher level Local Plan that must be subject to SA/SEA.

- 2.10 Therefore, the same SEA Framework of Objectives (Table 2.2) was used for the assessment of the draft Neighbourhood Plan and to demonstrate conformity with the higher-level SA/SEAs. This formed the basis for testing the emerging elements of the draft Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA Objectives, together with professional judgment.
- 2.11 The SBNDP Objectives were tested for compatibility with the SEA Objectives. The SBNDP Policies were tested using the SEA framework. In compliance with the SEA Regulations, the nature of the likely sustainability effects (including positive/negative, duration (short, medium or long term), permanent/temporary, secondary²⁴, cumulative²⁵ and synergistic²⁶) were described where possible and reported in the appraisal commentary, together with any assumptions or uncertainties, such as information gaps.
- 2.12 If necessary, the SEA made suggestions and recommendations to mitigate any potential negative effects or promote opportunities for enhancement. The assessment was undertaken using professional judgment, supported by the SBNDP baseline information and the wider SWDPR evidence base. The SEA is also required to consider the likely significant effects of the implementation of a plan as a whole.
- 2.13 Any gaps or difficulties, such as lack of information or uncertainty, were also reported. The assessment recognised six levels of significance in the same way as the SA/SEA of the higher-level SWDPR and as shown in the following table:

Table 2.2: Significance Key

	Description & Significance of Effect
++	Major Positive
+	Minor Positive
0	Negligible
+/-	Uncertain
-	Minor Negative
--	Major Negative

- 2.14 The Vision, Objectives, and the three draft SBNDP Policies were assessed, together with the implications for implementation of the Plan as a whole. Many of the issues and aspects of the draft Neighbourhood Plan are inter-related and the assessment sought to focus on the key matters, avoid duplication, and retain the readability of the report. For each environmental

²⁴ Any aspect of a plan that may have an impact (positive or negative), but that is not a direct result of the proposed plan.

²⁵ Incremental effects resulting from a combination of two or more individual effects, or from an interaction between individual effects – which may lead to a synergistic effect (i.e. greater than the sum of individual effects), or any progressive effect likely to emerge over time.

²⁶ These arise from the interaction of a number of impacts so that their combined effects are greater than the sum of their individual impacts.

topic and SEA Objectives, a narrative was provided describing any significant effects identified, the potential for mitigation of any significant adverse effects, and any suggestions for enhancing beneficial effects.

Consideration of Alternatives

- 2.15 The SEA Regulations require assessment of the likely significant effects of implementing the plan and “reasonable alternatives” taking into account “the objectives and geographical scope” of the plan and the reasons for selecting alternatives should be outlined in the Report. SA/SEA guidance²⁷ advises that “Reasonable alternatives are the different realistic options considered by the plan-maker in developing the policies in the plan. They need to be sufficiently distinct to highlight the different sustainability implications of each so that meaningful comparisons can be made.”
- 2.16 The Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan is limited in the extent that alternatives can be considered since it must be in general conformity with the SWDPR. The SPC does have the option of not preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and this do-nothing option was tested through SEA. The purpose of preparing the SBNDP is to address concerns, particularly for local housing, green space, and flood risk, and that are likely to exacerbate if some action is not taken (and ahead of the SWDPR). The SEA Regulations require consideration of the do nothing or “business as usual” scenario. Wherever possible and relevant, the SEA sought to consider the effects of doing nothing in the assessment of the draft plan and the implementation of the SBNDP.
- 2.17 **Development Site Options:** The SBNDP Steering Group, guided by Brodie Planning Associates, undertook a full assessment of all possible sites that might be available and suitable for new development located within the parish. Full details of all the site options and the selection process is set out in the SBNDP Housing Background Paper (2021)²⁸. The site selection process was informed by the local planning authority’s most recent Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA 2019)²⁹. The site selection process was also able to draw upon local knowledge and updated information.
- 2.18 In June 2020, Wychavon District Council provided an indicative housing need requirement for Sedgeberrow for the period 2021-2031 of less than 1 dwelling, and for the period 2031-2041 – 14 dwellings. These indicative requirements are considered to be a minimum and the SBNDP sought to identify sites to accommodate at least this number of dwellings. Whilst the adopted SWDP does not require the village to deliver a housing site, the emerging SWDPR and updated NPPF does support the identification of appropriate housing sites in the SBNDP area.
- 2.19 All known sites (suggested by community and landowners; published in the SWDPR SHELAA) were assessed using the same criteria to ensure a consistent

²⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

²⁸ <https://sites.google.com/view/sedgeberrow-np/the-plan/evidence-base/housing-background-paper>

²⁹ <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-review/swdp-review-evidence-base/strategic-housing-and-employment-land-availability-assessment/shelaa-site-assessments>

approach. Desk and site-based assessments were undertaken for 22 sites. The method included consideration of:

- the physical and policy landscape and environmental constraints to bringing the site forward;
- whether it was in the most sustainable location;
- its impact on the local setting; and
- whether there was a suitable means of providing access.

2.20 Seventeen sites were not progressed further as being unsuitable for development for a range of reasons, including flood risk, landscape impact and access constraints. Five sites were considered to have potential for development. One of the sites was presented in two ways – as a smaller cut of land or as a larger site that could deliver a larger number of homes alongside an area of public open space for recreation. Therefore, six sites were presented as four different options to the community, as follows:

Option A: Springfield Nursery Site, off Main Street. NP Ref 1 with the potential to deliver approximately 24 dwellings, land for a community building and associated parking and 0.5 hectares of open space for recreation.

Option B: Winchcombe Road Nursery. NP Ref 17 with the potential to deliver approximately 25 dwellings, land for a community building and associated parking and 0.8 hectares of open space for recreation.

Option C: Land off Winchcombe Road. NP Ref 4a with the potential to deliver approximately 29 dwellings and 0.65 hectares of open space for recreation.

Option D: 3 smaller sites spread across the village. NP Ref 4b (6 dwellings); NP Ref 9 (6-10 dwellings); and NP Ref 14 (6-10 dwellings).

2.21 These four options were shared with the community in a survey delivered to every household in November 2020. The community selected the Springfields Nurseries site (Option A) as their preferred option based on the majority of votes cast³⁰.

2.22 The SEA tested the four Options A-D that had been identified as suitable and deliverable in a comparable and consistent manner using the SEA framework of objectives. The SEA also tested the one option A selected as the preferred site allocation, as proposed in SBNDP Policy SB1 and as identified through the plan-making and community consultation processes.

2.23 **Local Green Space Options:** The SBNDP Steering Group, guided by Brodie Planning Associates, undertook a full assessment of all possible sites that might be suitable for local green space (LGS) within the parish. Full details of all the site options and the selection process is set out in the SBNDP Green Space Background Paper (2021)³¹. The SBNDP Group identified a comprehensive list of 16 green spaces in the parish, of which 10 sites were found to meet the

³⁰ <https://sites.google.com/view/sedgeberrow-np/the-plan/evidence-base/options-survey-results>

³¹ <https://sites.google.com/view/sedgeberrow-np/the-plan/evidence-base/green-space-background-paper>

criteria required for LGS as set out in the NPPF and PPG. These 10 sites were then subject to community consultation and then progressed further with community support to develop the SBNDP Green Space Policy SB2 including the 10 sites. Thus, a comprehensive site assessment and selection process was undertaken to identify those LGS sites that meet with national requirements and that are supported by the community.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES & BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS

Context

- 3.1 It is appropriate for the SEA of the SBNDP to use the relevant elements of the SA/SEA scoping for the SWDPR in order to help ensure consistency of assessment. However, since the scoping was reported in 2018 there have been significant changes to UK planning and environmental legislation and therefore, the opportunity has been taken to update the key relevant policy context. A pragmatic and proportionate approach has been taken to baseline information, noting that collected for the SA/SEA of the SWDPR, the evidence base for the SWDPR, and focusing on the local characterisation for the neighbourhood planning area including evidence gathered for the preparation of the SBNDP.

Review of Plans and Programmes (PPs)

- 3.2 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations to review and develop an understanding of the wider range of plans and programmes that are relevant to the Plan. The SBNDP has been prepared to be in conformity with the SWDP and the emerging SWDPR. The SA/SEA of the SWDPR investigated PPs in 2018. Therefore, the PPs have already been addressed in the higher-level plans and their SA/SEAs. However, in consideration of the significant changes to UK planning and environmental Policy context, as follows:

National

- 3.3 The **National Planning Policy Framework** (NPPF, updated 2021)³² requires consideration of all SEA topics. The **Public Health Strategy England 2020-2025**³³ aims to protect and improve health and reduce health inequalities.
- 3.4 The **Environment Act 2021**³⁴ will set statutory targets for recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, water, biodiversity, resource efficiency and waste management. It establishes Local Nature Recovery Strategies and a new system for biodiversity net gain from development projects. The Environmental Improvement Plan.
- 3.5 **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan** (2018)³⁵ sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years, including recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes. It embeds the principle of environmental gain for development. It includes policies for connecting people with the environment to improve their health and wellbeing.

³² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

³³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phe-strategy-2020-to-2025>

³⁴ <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2593>

³⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

- 3.6 **UK Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener** (2021) sets out approaches to keep the UK on the path to achieving net zero carbon by 2050. It builds on existing policies and supports Government's commitment to decarbonise the UK's electricity system by 2035. It introduces Regulations from 2025 through the Future Homes Standard to ensure all new homes in England are ready for net zero by having a high standard of energy efficiency and low carbon heating installed.
- 3.7 **Clean Air Strategy**³⁶ (2019) recognises that vehicles are not the only source of harmful emissions and aims for better cleaner technology and changes in behaviour. Local powers support the creation of Clean Air Zones to lower emissions from all sources of air pollution.

Local

- 3.8 The **adopted SWDP** (2016) includes key policies that directly relate to SEA topics, as follows:

Policy SWDP2 Development Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy

Policy SWDP3 Employment, Housing & Retail Provision

Policy SWDP4 Moving Around south Worcestershire

Policy SWDP5 Green Infrastructure

Policy SWDP6 Historic Environment

Policy SWDP8 Providing the Right Land & Buildings for Jobs

Policy SWDP14 Market Housing Mix

Policy SWDP15 Meeting Affordable Housing Needs

Policy SWDP21 Design

Policy SWDP22 Biodiversity & Geodiversity

Policy SWDP23 The Cotswolds & Malvern Hills AONB

Policy SWDP24 Management of the Historic Environment

Policy SWDP25 Landscape Character

Policy SWDP27 Renewable & Low Carbon Energy

Policy SWDP28 Management of Flood Risk

Policy SWDP31 Pollution & Land Instability

Policy SWDP 33 Waste

Policy SWDP38 Green Space

Policy SWDP39 Provision for Green Space & Outdoor Community Uses

Baseline Conditions & Likely Evolution without the SBNDP

- 3.9 The SEA Regulations require the collation of baseline information to provide a background to, and evidence base for, identifying sustainability problems and opportunities in the plan area. This then provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely effects of the plan. The aim is to collect only relevant and sufficient data on the present and future state of the plan area to allow the potential effects of the SBNDP to be adequately predicted. In consideration of the level of a neighbourhood plan and the limited scale of proposed development, a proportionate approach has been taken.

³⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019/clean-air-strategy-2019>

Climatic Factors, Water & Air

- 3.10 Wychavon District Council has developed an Intelligently Green Plan (2030)³⁷ that reflects the Worcestershire Energy targets comprising: the need to halve district wide carbon emissions; double the size of Wychavon's low carbon economy by 2030; treble the amount of renewable generation; and capture at least 500 tonnes of carbon per year by 2025 through restoring, enhancing and creating a range of habitats across the district. The SA/SEA of the SWDPR identified that small sites resulting in less than 0.1% increase in carbon emissions are likely to have a negligible impact across the Plan area. Development proposals that include generation or use of renewable energy would be likely to have a positive effect on climate change mitigation.
- 3.11 The north-eastern boundary of the Sedgeberrow parish area is made by the River Isbourne (tributary of the River Avon) which is subject to flooding such that there are areas of Flood Zones 2 & 3 (medium and high probability of flooding)³⁸. The area to the north-east of the village itself and the A46 benefits from flood defences. The SBNDP area is located within the Severn River Basin Management Plan³⁹ area and challenges remain overall for biodiversity, changes to water levels and flows, climate change, non-native invasive species, and pollution. Development proposals in medium or high-risk areas for flooding are likely to have minor-major effects for climate change adaptation and flood risk. Without the SWDP and the Neighbourhood Plan the risk of fluvial flooding posed by the River Isbourne could be an issue if new development is located within the flood zone. The SBNDP area is not within nor near any source protection zones. There is no Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) within the Sedgeberrow area.

Biodiversity & Geodiversity

- 3.12 There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within the SBNDP Area, with Bredon Hill SAC some 4km to the north-west and Dixton Wood SAC some 8km to the south-west of the village⁴⁰. The HRA screening concluded that the SBNDP does not require a full HRA Appropriate Assessment (AA) to be undertaken. The impact on these sites as a result of the land allocations contained within the SWDP has been assessed in the SWDP HRA AA, and although the draft SBNDP does deviate with one site allocation, the level of such allocation is considered small enough to conclude that it is unlikely to have a negative impact on any internationally designated wildlife sites and including any functionally linkages with the Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar. There are no nationally protected sites or habitats.⁴¹ There are no National Nature Reserves nor Local Nature Reserves; the parish area includes Priority Habitat of Traditional Orchard. Bredon Hill Site of SAC/Special Scientific

³⁷ <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-and-living/intelligently-green>

³⁸ <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/location>

³⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/severn-draft-river-basin-management-plan-summary-and-cross-border-catchments-england-and-wales/severn-draft-river-basin-management-plan-summary-and-cross-border-catchments-england-and-wales>

⁴⁰ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>

⁴¹ *ibid*

Interest (SSSI)⁴² outside the SBNDP area is an important site for fauna associated with decaying timber on ancient trees.

- 3.13 Sedgeberrow is a rural village with a long agricultural heritage, featuring agricultural and livestock farming, together with the traditional market gardens and orchards for which the Vale of Evesham is famous. The rural surroundings support a variety of wildlife including deer, badgers and foxes, and a large selection of native and migratory birds. The River Isbourne supports kingfishers, herons – and otters, which are an indication of good water quality. The open countryside with fields, green spaces, trees and hedgerows is important local biodiversity – and space for recreation and human wellbeing and health. The field patterns are predominantly small with areas of pasture providing important habitats. The wide network of footpaths provides important linkages for wildlife.
- 3.14 Without the SBNDP, the opportunities for prioritising and implementing biodiversity gain with its role in the local environment and community would not be fully realised.

Landscape

- 3.15 The SBNDP area does not contain, nor is within the boundaries of, any international or nationally designated sites⁴³. However, the nationally designated Cotswolds National Landscape is nearby with the escarpment rising some 2km to the south and west of Sedgeberrow and approximately 5.5 km to the east. It is situated between Bredon Hill to the north and the Cotswolds escarpment to the east of the nationally designated Cotswolds National Landscape⁴⁴. There are no scheduled monuments, registered battlefields, or registered parks and gardens.
- 3.16 The parish area is characterised⁴⁵ by two different landscape types: Principal Village Farmlands; and Village Claylands. There is concern of the loss and fragmentation of tree cover and hedgerows with changes in agricultural practices and new development. The Parish also benefits from a number of views of key landscape features beyond its boundaries; these play an important part in the area's historic setting, adding to the overall quality of the landscape character and sense of place. Bredon Hill outside the SBNDP area is an important view from various locations within the Parish. There are also stunning views of Blakes Hill, The Cotswolds rim, and the Vale of Evesham.
- 3.17 The Cotswolds National Landscape Board are concerned about the likely effects of proposed development on views from the Cotswolds National Landscape – the Wychavon Way on Bredon Hill and the Winchcombe Way on Dumbleton Hill – both approximately 2.5 km distance from proposed site allocation in the draft SBNDP. Without the SBNDP, the nationally and locally important landscapes and settlement identity could be adversely affected by new development.

⁴² <https://sac.incc.gov.uk/site/UK0012587>

⁴³ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>

⁴⁴ <https://www.cotswoldsoonb.org.uk/>

⁴⁵ Worcestershire County Council Landscape Character Assessment (2012)

Natural Resources

- 3.18 Agricultural land quality is recorded as good to moderate (Grade 3) within the SBNDP area⁴⁶; and much of the greenfield land is used for agricultural activities. There are no mineral safeguarding areas (MSAs)⁴⁷ in the SBNDP area.
Without the SBNDP, there could be some less efficient use of soil resources.

Housing, Employment, Education, Communities & Human Health

- 3.19 The 2011 census identified there were 845 residents in the Parish of Sedgeberrow living in 336 households. 20% of households were made up of single persons while 75% were described as one family households. Numbers are in line with Worcestershire where the majority of households are small in size being made up of 2 or less people. In 2011, over 25% of the community were aged over 60 years old. The 2016 mid-year estimates indicate that the population is similar in number at 843 with a larger proportion of people aged 45-59 than the Wychavon district as a whole.
- 3.20 The parish has a rich agricultural heritage with working farms and farmsteads, and a large horticultural nursery. There are also a number of small businesses in the area including gardening, hypnotherapy, farriers, beautician, childminders and a childcare nursery.
- 3.21 There is a primary school located within the village – Sedgeberrow CofE First School and others within about 2km to the south-west and in Evesham. There are secondary schools in Evesham. The village hall is a facility that is shared with the school but limited times out of school hours such that its use has been much depleted in recent years. The Queens Head is being refurbished as a bar and restaurant. There is a pop-up stall in Sandfield Lane selling locally grown seasonal produce. There is a monthly visit from a mobile library. In the north-west of the village is a plot of land dedicated to allotments, untended for some time but with recent interest. Glebe Meadow is green open space used for outdoor recreation; children's outdoor play areas are found here and at the Jubilee playground near the school. The nearest health centres/GPs are in Evesham, approximately 3 miles⁴⁸ to the north of the village.
- 3.22 Sedgeberrow is identified in the SWDP (2016) as a category 2 village that is defined as a settlement with at least two key services other than a parish/village hall and having access to a least a daily bus service to a town. As such, the settlement was considered to be relatively sustainable and two housing sites were allocated, one for 20 dwellings and under construction, the other for 8 dwellings and built out in 2019. The emerging SWDPR has re-categorised the village as a category 3 settlement as it has only one key service (primary school) and access to public transport.

⁴⁶ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/130044?category=5954148537204736>

⁴⁷ <https://gis.worcestershire.gov.uk/Website/MineralsLocalPlan/>

⁴⁸ measured using google maps <https://www.google.com/maps/>

- 3.23 The SWDPR PO identified a potential housing site in the village of Sedgeberrow to deliver up to 29 dwellings by 2041. The Parish Council and Wychavon District Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that the SBNDP will be the mechanism for identifying a housing site or sites in the parish before the submission version of the SWDPR is examined. In June 2020, Wychavon Council provided an indicative housing requirement for Sedgeberrow Parish of less than 1 dwelling for the period 2021-2041 and 14 dwellings for the period 2031-2041⁴⁹. Without the SBNDP, the detailed proactive community engagement to identify the preferred site allocation for new development to meet identified housing need would not be achieved.

Cultural Heritage

- 3.24 The Sedgeberrow area has a rich cultural and heritage environment, as evidenced with 12 Grade II Listed Buildings.⁵⁰ There are no scheduled monuments, registered battlefields or registered parks and gardens. Without the SWDP and the SBNDP the heritage assets and their settings could be affected adversely by the location of new development; development would be less likely to contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the historic character of the Plan area.

Transport & Accessibility

- 3.25 The village and rural area are close to the A46 with road access to nearby towns. Sedgeberrow is served by public transport with the No 540 bus service and a number of stopping points through the village – with several services a day Monday – Saturday.⁵¹ There is an excellent array of public footpaths throughout the SBNDP area and including the Wychavon and Isbourne Ways. The Wychavon Way⁵² is a waymarked 40 miles long-distance footpath maintained by a partnership between Wychavon District Council and Worcestershire County Council. Without the SWDP and SBNDP, opportunities to optimise sustainable movement may not be realised.

Key Environmental Issues & Opportunities

- 3.12 The key issues identified from the baseline characterisation and relevant plan objectives are summarised below:
- Identification of development site(s) to fulfil any further housing need - utilisation of the redundant nursery site that had been put forward
 - Protect and enhance Local Green Space
 - Avoid flood risk; optimise sustainable drainage & contribute towards climate change adaptation objectives
 - Erosion of important countryside surrounding the village of Sedgeberrow

⁴⁹ <https://sites.google.com/view/sedgeberrow-np/the-plan/evidence-base/housing-background-paper>

⁵⁰ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>

⁵¹ <https://busfines.org/services/540-evesham-beckford-bredon-fewkesbury>

⁵² https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/directory_record/2585/the_wychavon_way

- New development should be built to the highest possible environmental standards
- Protect and enhance the local natural environment, including local biodiversity and the important local landscape, and nearby Cotswolds National Landscape
- Preservation and enhancement of the rich cultural and heritage environment
- Maintain and enhance connectivity through the parish and minimise traffic problems
- Support and improve local facilities
- Support a thriving rural economy

4.0 SEA FINDINGS

SA/SEA of SWDP to 2030 (adopted 2016) & SWDPR to 2041 (in preparation)

- 4.1 The adopted SWDP (2016)⁵³ was subject to SA/SEA and HRA during its preparation and examination. The SWDP includes a wide range of Policies that provide protection and enhancement of environmental factors. The overall spatial approach in the SWDP seeks to avoid significant negative effects and promote positive effects, including through application of a settlement hierarchy. The SWDP is currently being reviewed and the initial stages of plan-making have been subject to SA/SEA⁵⁴. This SEA of the draft SBNDP has been aligned with the ongoing SA/SEA of the emerging SWDPR for compatibility and consistency, and particularly with regard to the proposed site allocation.

SEA of Development Options A-D

- 4.2 **Option A: Springfield Nursery Site, off Main Street. NP Ref 1:** 1.55 ha with the potential to deliver approximately 24 dwellings, land for a community building and associated parking, and 0.5 hectares of open space for recreation.

Option B: Winchcombe Road Nursery. NP Ref 17 with the potential to deliver approximately 25 dwellings, land for a community building and associated parking and 0.8 hectares of open space for recreation.

Option C: Land off Winchcombe Road. NP Ref 4a with the potential to deliver approximately 29 dwellings and 0.65 hectares of open space for recreation.

Option D: 3 smaller sites spread across the village. NP Ref 4b (6 dwellings); **NP Ref 9** (6-10 dwellings); **NP Ref 14** (6-10 dwellings)

- 4.3 The four Options A-D were assessed using the SEA framework and in a consistent and comparable manner, using professional judgment and available evidence including that gathered for the preparation of the draft SBNDP. The summary findings of the SEA of the options is, as follows:

⁵³ <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-2016>

⁵⁴ <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-review/swdp-review-regulation-18-3-sa-consultation>

Table 4.1: Summary of SEA of Options A-D

SEA Objectives	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity & Geodiversity	Landscape	Waste, Pollution	Land, Soils, Water	Housing	Health & Wellbeing	Historic Environment	Sustainable Transport	Education	Economy & employment
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Option A	0	+	+	+/- ?	0	+	++	++	0	+	+	0
Option B	0	+	+	+/- ?	0	+	++	++	0	+	+	0
Option C	0	+	+	-?	0	-	++	++	0	+	+	0
Option D	0	+/- ?	+	+/- ?	0	+/-	+	+	0	+	+	0

- 4.4 For many of the SEA objectives, either neutral or minor positive effects were found. No major negative effects were identified for any of the four options. Options A, B and C were sited within Flood Zone 1 indicating low risk of flooding, whilst one site (NP Ref 9) within Option D included some 50% of the area within medium flood risk and some 15 % within high risk of flooding. All development proposals will be required to meet with national and SWDP requirements in respect of protection from flood risk such that Options A, B + C have minor positive effects for SEA objective No 2 on climate change adaptation; Option D with 3 small sites has potential negative and positive effects due to part of one site being within flood risk zones 2-3.
- 4.5 All the sites within the four Options A-D are variously visible from sensitive receptors nearby, including Broadway Tower, Bredon Hill and Dumbleton AONBs. The site in Option A has been unused in recent years such that redevelopment is likely to have positive effects through resolving an existing visual environmental problem. Option B is visible from all three sensitive landscapes and mitigation measures are less likely to be effective as the site is located on higher ground and somewhat removed from the built envelope such that overall, minor negative effects were found. Option C is currently a field and orchard such that there may be negative effects from loss of green/open countryside space.
- 4.6 Option D NP Ref 9 is currently fields, so there would be loss of green/open countryside space with negative effects for landscape. However, by spreading three smaller sites around the village in Option D, the potential negative effects on views from sensitive receptors are likely to be mitigated to some extent. For Options A, C & D, potential for both negative and positive effects with uncertainty of significance at this stage until detailed project level visual impact studies are undertaken, and the effectiveness of mitigation measure possibilities is investigated. However, negative effects are likely to be

less for Option A as it is less visible from the sensitive landscapes and mitigation measures are more likely to be effective.

- 4.7 Options A and B are sites on previously developed land and thus minor positive effects are indicated for natural resources of land/soils. Option C is a field and orchard, and Option D comprises greenfield in part (NP Ref 9) – development would result in the loss of such greenfield and soils with minor negative effects.
- 4.8 The proposed options would deliver approximately 24-29 dwellings – selected to align with the Wychavon identified need for Sedgeberrow of at least 14 dwellings, and the draft proposed allocations of 28 dwellings set out in the SWDPR PO – and as detailed in the SBNDP Housing Background Paper⁵⁵. According to the SA/SEA of the emerging SWDPR, housing of 99 dwellings or less is likely to have a minor positive effects on SW's housing provision, and 100 dwellings or more is likely to have major positive effects. In the context of this lower-level neighbourhood plan that has accommodated identified need that is acceptable to the local community; it is considered that major positive effects are likely. Overall, major positive effects for housing for Options A, B & C; only minor positive effects for Option D as spreading the development around 3 different sites reduces the likely delivery of housing at each site to below the 15 affordable housing threshold in SWDP15 – indicating that this Option is less likely to deliver the requirement for affordable housing in the village.
- 4.9 Provision of good quality housing and access to green open spaces and sustainable movement are known to have beneficial effects on human health and wellbeing. Likely minor positive effects – however, Options A, B and C include provision of open space for recreation, thus promoting further healthy lifestyle opportunities and therefore, likely major positive effects from these three options.
- 4.10 For Option A, B, & C, there are no listed buildings within the site or adjacent to the sites. Option D NP Ref 9 adjacent to Grade II LB No 6 Church Cottages, NP Ref 14 adjacent to Grade II LB The Red House. It is not considered that development at the sites would have adverse effects on these Listed Buildings or their setting – with neutral/negligible effects. The smaller sizes of the proposed developments in Option D should ensure mitigation measures for NP Refs 9 and 14. Further protection is provided through SWDP24 Management of the Historic Environment.
- 4.11 Options A-D provide developments in a village served by public transport and a rich array of public footpaths, therefore – minor positive effects for all options. The sites are within walking distance of a primary school and thus, minor positive effects. The sites do not promote land for employment use and therefore, neutral/negligible effects.

⁵⁵ <https://sites.google.com/view/sedgeberrow-np/the-plan/evidence-base>

Reasoning for Progression of the Preferred Option for Site Allocation

- 4.12 The SEA Regulations require an outline of the reasons for selection or rejection of reasonable alternatives. The four options A-D were shared with the community in a survey delivered to every household in November 2020. The community selected the Springfields Nurseries site (Option A) as their preferred option based on the majority of votes cast (58% of respondents)⁵⁶.
- 4.13 Therefore, the draft SBNDP has progressed this site in its Policy SBNDP SB1: Land at Springfield Nurseries Site off Main Street (SWDPR PO Ref CFS0010). Although an initial household survey had indicated a greater will for smaller sites, Option D was not well supported by the village with only 11% of votes supporting the option of three smaller sites. Options B and C would extend the village beyond its built form compared to Option A that is also close to the school. Option C is not progressed as it would involve loss of greenfield land and is not the preferred option by the community.
- 4.14 The community's preferred option, the Springfield Nursery site Option A, lies within the form of the settlement, has few constraints, and has opportunities for enhancement. The site will deliver the identified need for housing, and also provide other benefits including land for a community building, open space for recreation, and visual enhancement for a disused site.

SEA of the SBNDP Vision & Objectives

- 4.15 The **SBNDP Vision** for how Sedgeberrow should be regarded by 2035 is as follows:

“By 2035, Sedgeberrow will have preserved its rural identity, agricultural heritage, and unique setting nestled within the landscape surrounded by expansive views of the Cotswold Escarpment (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and Bredon Hill (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Excellent access to the open countryside and green spaces will have been maintained and enhanced where possible. New buildings will have been carefully and sympathetically integrated into the existing settlement and will contribute positively to the immediate surroundings and the environment. Infrastructure will be in place to enable a high level of home working and to encourage small-scale rural businesses to prosper. Sedgeberrow will continue to be a quiet, safe, and friendly place with a thriving community spirit and great facilities for all age groups.”

- 4.16 The Vision is supported by Objectives established to provide a framework for the policies, as follows:

Housing Objective: To protect and enhance the built environment through well designed buildings which are in keeping with the local area whilst meeting the needs and preferences of the local community

Built Environment Objective: To ensure any new development is built to the highest possible environmental standards to minimise carbon emissions, energy consumption, pollution, and flood risk; and increase renewable energy generation

⁵⁶ <https://sites.google.com/view/sedgeberrow-np/the-plan/evidence-base/options-survey-results>

Natural Environment Objective: To protect and enhance the local natural environment for the benefit of future generations including biodiversity, green and open spaces, footpaths, and views

Traffic Impact Objective: To maintain and enhance connectivity throughout the parish on foot, bicycle, and bus to minimise traffic problems and reduce emissions

Local Facilities Objective: To encourage and enhance a strong sense of community by working together to support, maintain and improve the existing facilities for all age groups

Local Economy Objective: To support a thriving rural economy that encourages home working, small-scale rural business opportunities and farming

- 4.17 The Vision for the Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan will have positive effects for the community and health/wellbeing through promoting a quiet, safe, and friendly place with thriving community spirit and great facilities for all age groups. The Vision seeks to preserve the rural identity, agricultural heritage, and unique setting – indicating neutral effects SEA objectives on landscape and cultural heritage. The requirement for new buildings to contribute positively to their surroundings and the environment indicates positive effects. Maintenance of excellent access to the open countryside and enhancement of green spaces, where possible, indicates possibilities for positive effects for biodiversity and health/wellbeing. The strong Vision for enabling home working and encouragement of small-scale businesses will have major positive effects for SEA objectives on the economy and employment.
- 4.18 The Housing Objective is likely to have positive effects on the economy, sustainable transport, health, and communities – by promoting identified housing needs through well designed buildings.
- 4.19 The Built Environment Objective is likely to have positive effects that might contribute to SEA objectives for climate change, flood risk, and natural resources by aiming for the highest possible environmental standards.
- 4.20 The Natural Environment Objective aims to protect and enhance the local environment with positive effects for SEA objectives on biodiversity, landscape, green infrastructure, and health/wellbeing.
- 4.21 The Traffic Impact Objective aims to maintain and enhance connectivity through sustainable transport modes with likely positive effects for SEA objectives on climate change, health & wellbeing, and transport and accessibility.
- 4.22 The Local Facilities Objective seeks to encourage and enhance the community working together to improve facilities for all – with likely positive effects for SEA objectives on health and wellbeing.
- 4.23 The Local Economy Objective supports a thriving rural economy with likely major positive effects for the SEA objective on economy/employment.
- 4.24 Overall, the SEA found positive or neutral effects for the SBNDP Objectives. There was no incompatibility found between the Plan Objectives and the SEA Objectives.

SEA of SBNDP Policies SB1-3

- 4.25 **Housing Policy SB1 Land at Springfield Nurseries off Main Street (SWDPR PO Ref CFS0010) - 1.55-hectare site allocated for housing development for approximately 24 dwellings, subject to development principles (a)-(d) relating to requirements for local housing need with smaller family homes, affordable housing, provision of a community building with associated parking and adjacent public open space; and provision of off-road parking.**
- 4.26 The SEA found positive effects for many objectives - on climate change adaptation, biodiversity, natural resources, housing, health, sustainable transport, and education. SBNDP Housing Policy SB1 is particularly strong on climate change adaptation, housing, and sustainable transport objectives since the policy seeks to resolve existing environmental problems. Flood risk is a known issue for the area with parts in Flood Zones 2 and 3 due to flooding of the River Isbourne. The site is located in Flood Zone 1 with no flood risk but the SBNDP with its Flood Policy SB3 has taken a proactive approach to increase resilience within the parish and supports development that shows a betterment in surfacewater runoff rates.
- 4.27 The proposed development would deliver approximately 24 dwellings – selected to align with the Wychavon identified need for Sedgeberrow of at least 14 dwellings, and the draft proposed allocations of 28 dwellings set out in the SWDPR PO – and as detailed in the SBNDP Housing Background Paper⁵⁷. According to the SA/SEA of the emerging SWDPR, housing of 99 dwellings or less is likely to have a minor positive effects on SW's housing provision. In the context of this lower-level neighbourhood plan that has accommodated identified need that is acceptable to the local community - it is considered that this reflects likely major positive effects.
- 4.28 SBNDP Policy SB1 includes a requirements that affordable housing needs should be delivered in accordance with the latest guidance and identified local need – thus updating SWDP. SB1 will support proposals that comprise smaller family homes with up to three bedrooms and bungalows – thus, aligning with the emerging SWDPR and the needs of the local community, including an ageing population. Overall, major positive effects for housing.
- 4.29 The village is served by a bus service which, whilst not hourly, is several times a day. The area is very well served by a network of public footpaths. There are limited services and facilities in the village – a primary school and restaurant. The site allocation proposes land for community building and parking, and recreational space.
- 4.30 Traffic congestion and parking around Main Street is a longstanding issue for residents – in particular for the immediate vicinity of Sedgeberrow School (only 150m distance from the site). Therefore, the SBNDP seeks to address such concern and requires that the development provides a minimum of 2 car

⁵⁷ <https://sites.google.com/view/sedgeberrow-np/the-plan/evidence-base>

parking spaces and 2 cycle spaces for one-bed units (over and above that required by Worcestershire CC Streetscape Design Guide). It is also anticipated that the parking associated with the new community building, when not in use, could be used by those on the school run – thus alleviating some of the current parking problems. Overall, major positive effects as the proposal seeks to resolve existing environmental problems by alleviating congestion with provision of parking, community building, and recreational space.

- 4.31 The SEA found neutral/negligible effects for objectives on climate change mitigation, waste and pollution, the historic environment, and economy/employment. This was due to limited sensitive receptors, the relatively small size of the proposals, and the embedded policy protection provided by the SWDP. The allocation does not propose land for employment use and this objective is therefore not application – neutral effects.
- 4.32 Positive effects are likely on biodiversity objectives due to recent national policy and legislative requirements for measurable environmental gain. The site has been disused for some years and is likely to support wildlife. The site is within the SWDP5 Green Infrastructure Area 18 Carrant Brook Corridor with aims to protect and restore.
- 4.33 Both positive and negative effects were found for the SEA relating to landscape. Sedgeberrow is located nearby to the Cotswolds National Landscape and there is policy protection provided through SWDP23 The Cotswolds and Malvern Hills AONB. The Cotswolds National Landscape Board (CNLB) advised⁵⁸ that the (very) high sensitivity of visual receptors on public rights of way on Bredon Hill and Dumbleton Hill, combined with minor adverse magnitude of change could result in a moderate adverse visual effect. However, the magnitude of change is likely to be relatively minor due to a number of factors including the distance of over 2km, the small hill to the south-west that could partially obscure views; the viewpoints would be seen within the context of existing development in Sedgeberrow; and the existing development on the proposed site.
- 4.34 The site currently comprises two dwellings and a large area of land formerly used as a horticultural nursery. There are numerous structures across the site that are no longer in use and in a state of disrepair. Therefore, the proposed redevelopment would provide an opportunity to deliver environmental enhancements including visual benefits. Therefore, potential for both negative and positive effects with some uncertainty of the significance of effects and effectiveness of mitigation possibilities until project level studies are taken.
- 4.35 **SEA Suggestion:**
- The SBNDP could require a Phase I habitat survey to identify any important flora and fauna on the disused site and provide specific guidance on where and what biodiversity enhancements are most needed within the

⁵⁸ Wychavon Council SEA Screening Determination for the Sedgeberrow NP (December 2021)

SBNDP area and to optimise benefits from the new development, supporting the requirements from SWDP5.

4.36 **SEA Recommendation:**

- The SBNDP could require that a landscape/visual impact assessment (LVIA) should be undertaken with the two viewpoints as advised by the CNLB – from the Wychavon Way on Bredon Hill (to the west of Ashton Under Hill, and from the Winchcombe Way on Dumbleton Hill (to the west of Dumbleton). This would provide mitigation measures to ameliorate the concerns of the CNLB and confirm overall minor positive effects on landscape/visual impacts through redevelopment of a disused site that is in disrepair, thus resolving an existing environmental problem.

4.37 **Local Green Space Policy SB2 – designates ten sites as Local Green Space (LGS) to be protected from development due to their local significance or community value.** The SEA found neutral/negligible effects for objectives on climate change adaptation and mitigation, waste and pollution, housing, sustainable transport, education and economy/employment. Minor positive effects were found for objectives on biodiversity, landscape, and efficient use of land/soils; positive effects for biodiversity and green infrastructure will be cumulative in the longer-term. Some minor local positive effects for sites of historic and cultural importance through protection of sites with agricultural and horticultural significance. No negative effects were found.

4.38 Provision of and access to good quality green open spaces and sustainable movement are known to have beneficial effects on human health and wellbeing. The village with rural surroundings are accessed through a rich network of footpaths, encouraging healthy lifestyles. The designation and protection of 10 LGS sites throughout the area will support access for a variety of uses that will have positive effects for health & wellbeing – cultural/reflective spaces at GS2, GS3; more active spaces including sports, play and walking at GS7, GS8, GS9, and GS11. Other LGS are important to agricultural and horticultural heritage, and the landscape/visual setting of the village. There is good potential for restoration of GS11 the allotments with strong positive effects for both physical and mental health. Overall, major positive effects.

4.39 **Flood Policy SB3 – sets out requirements for new development in respect of waste/surface water; sustainable drainage measures; sustainable drainage design SuDS; flood attenuation areas; mitigation against increased flood risk; consideration of watercourses and infrastructure beyond the site boundary; water efficiency. The Policy is clear that proposals that do not satisfactorily demonstrate secure arrangements or prevention of flooding will not be supported.**

4.40 Residents have reported widespread flooding with increased surfacewater runoff – and flood risk is a particular concern. SBNDP Flood Policy SB3 takes a proactive approach and aims to increase the resilience within the parish by developing robust, co-ordinated approaches that complement other plans.

SB3 formalises the continuation of the work done by the River Isbourne Catchment Group (ICG)⁵⁹ and allows for future development to take into account further flood prevention methods. The ICG seeks to minimise the impact of flooding and its frequency and severity using Natural Flood Management techniques. SBNDP Flood Policy SB3 supports development that shows a betterment in surfacewater runoff rates, including allowance for climate change impacts; mitigation measures must be secured against any increased flood risk on-site and neighbouring properties; and consideration should be given to watercourses and infrastructure beyond the site boundary. Thus, overall likely major positive effects for the local area.

- 4.41 Many of the SEA objectives were not directly applicable and with neutral effects – climate change mitigation, biodiversity, waste and pollution, housing, historic environment, transport, education, and employment/economy.
- 4.42 The requirements in SBNDP Flood Policy SB3 for natural flood management and sustainable drainage design (SuDS) all contribute to a more sustainable and efficient use of land, soils, and water – with minor positive effects. Contributing to resolving the climate change crisis and helping to make the community more resilient to flood risk and climate change effects will ameliorate some of the concerns from the community that may affect both mental and physical health. Overall, some minor positive effects.

SEA of Implementing the Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan (SBNDP)

- 4.43 The SEA Regulations require consideration of the effects of implementing a plan as a whole. For the draft SBNDP this comprises the Vision, Objectives, and the Policies SB1-3. The SEA findings for each section of the draft SBNDP are presented in the table, as follows:

Table 4.2 Summary of SEA of Implementing the SBNDP

SEA Objectives	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity & Geodiversity	Landscape	Waste, Pollution	Land, Soils, Water	Housing	Health & Wellbeing	Historic Environment	Sustainable Transport	Education	Economy & employment
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Compatibility												
Vision & Objectives	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+
Assessment												
SB1 Housing	0	++	+	+/- ?	0	+	++	+	0	++	+	0
SB2 Green Space	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	++	+	0	0	0
SB3 Flood	0	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0

⁵⁹ <https://isbournecatchment.org.uk/>

- 4.44 Overall, the SEA found potential major positive effects for climate change adaptation, housing, and health/wellbeing with further minor positive effects for SEA objectives on biodiversity, and the use of natural resources (land, soils, water). Some of the SEA objectives were not applicable to elements of the Plan and therefore, neutral effects. The protection of Local Green Spaces will have positive effects for health and wellbeing, biodiversity, and landscape. The requirements for making Sedgeberrow parish area and its residents more resilient to flood risk and the effects of climate change will help alleviate concerns and further contribute to health. There were no significant negative effects identified.
- 4.45 Positive effects are indicated through the allocation of one housing/mixed-use development to meet with identified local needs. Potential negative effects arising from the proposed new development in SBNDP Policy SB1 have been mitigated through location, size, and site-specific requirements (smaller family units, affordable housing, and off-road parking). Policy SB1 is clear about the needs for smaller family units and affordable housing – this will contribute to further positive effects on communities and health/well-being by helping local people to stay living in the area. The Policy also includes requirements to address a further identified environmental problem associated with congestion and parking. Landscape effects were found to be both potentially negative (due to views from the nearby Cotswolds National Landscape) and positive (due to redevelopment of a site that has been disused and in poor repair for some years).
- 4.46 The SEA made one recommendation - the SBNDP could require that a landscape/visual impact assessment (LVIA) should be undertaken with the two viewpoints as advised by the CNLB – from the Wychavon Way on Bredon Hill (to the west of Ashton Under Hill, and from the Winchcombe Way on Dumbleton Hill (to the west of Dumbleton). This would provide mitigation measures to ameliorate the concerns of the CNLB.
- 4.47 Overall, the SBNDP will have positive effects for new development, protection of local green spaces, and increased resilience against flood risk, with policies to protect the unique local characteristics of the area and to help progress the aspirations for the SBNDP community.

5.0 PROPOSED MONITORING

- 5.1 The SEA Regulations require that the significant effects (positive and negative) of implementing the plan should be monitored in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen effects and to be able to take appropriate remedial action. Government guidance⁶⁰ on SA/SEA advises that existing monitoring arrangements should be used where possible in order to avoid duplication. Government requires local planning authorities to produce Monitoring Reports (MRs), and the South Worcestershire Councils Monitoring Report (produced annually)⁶¹ is considered sufficient to ensure appropriate monitoring takes place.
- 5.2 It is noted that the SBNDP will be monitored and reviewed if and when necessary. In the first instance, the Plan will be reviewed within 12 months of the adoption of the SWDPR (expected in 2023), and further policies are envisaged to address other broad objectives not addressed within this first SBNDP. Any new policies that might have significant environmental effects will be investigated through SEA.

⁶⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

⁶¹ <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/publications/monitoring-reports>

6.0 SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS, CONSULTATION & NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 The SEA has been undertaken according to good practice and in line with Government guidance. It is aligned with the SEA of the emerging SWDPR, following the same methods and approach, and is proportionate - acknowledging the hierarchy of plan-making and the tiering of assessment processes. The SEA investigated four options A-D for development sites in the parish area. The SBNDP progressed Option A Springfields Nurseries as being the preferred option by the community based on the majority of votes cast. The site has few constraints and has opportunities, including visual enhancement, and provision of a community building and open space for recreation.
- 6.2 Overall, the SEA has found that the implementation of the SBNDP will have positive effects on SEA Objectives within the scope and sphere of influence of the Neighbourhood Plan. Policies in the SWDP and the SBNDP provide mitigation measures to protect environmental assets and their settings. The SBNDP has taken a proactive approach to resolving existing environmental issues associated with provision of housing and community building, recreation space and local green spaces, and flood risk – all with positive effects.
- 6.2 The SEA made one recommendation - the SBNDP Policy SB1 could require that a landscape/visual impact assessment (LVIA) should be undertaken with the two viewpoints as advised by the CNLB – from the Wychavon Way on Bredon Hill (to the west of Ashton Under Hill, and from the Winchcombe Way on Dumbleton Hill (to the west of Dumbleton). This would provide mitigation measures to ameliorate the concerns of the CNLB. The SEA also suggested that SBNDP Policy SB1 could include consideration of a habitats survey to identify any important biodiversity and facilitate optimisation of green infrastructure opportunities.
- 6.3 This document reports the SEA process for the SBNDP and is submitted to the local planning authority Wychavon District Council together with the draft SBNDP and supporting evidence. After checking for legal compliance, the draft SBNDP and this Environmental Report will be placed on the Council's website for formal and public consultation. Any comments on the SEA will be taken into account, together with comments on the submission draft SBNDP, at the next stage of plan-making – independent examination. Following examination, the referendum vote, and upon adoption of the SBNDP, there will be an Environmental Adoption Statement published in line with the SEA Regulations.
- 6.4 Any comments on this SEA Report should be sent to:

planningpolicy @wychavon.gov.uk

Appendix I: Statement on Compliance with SEA Regulations

The UK SEA Regulations require certain information to be provided in the Environmental Report. This Appendix 1 sets out how the requirements for SEA have been met and signposts where this information is found in the Environmental Report (April 2022) - and in accordance with paragraph 32 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021)⁶².

SEA Regulation Requirements	SEA Report Section	Summary of Contents
<i>An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans</i>	Section 1 Introduction	Sets out the contents and purpose of the Draft SBNDP
	Section 3 Context & Baseline	Outlines context, baseline & including the relationship with other relevant plans; also signposts links with the SWDP & SWDPR Local Plan & SA/SEA Scoping (2018)
<i>The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without the implementation of the plan</i>	Section 3 Context & Baseline	Summarises the relevant baseline conditions for environmental aspects in the SBNDP area, and likely evolution without the SBNDP
<i>The environmental characteristics of the area likely to be affected</i>	Section 3 Context & Baseline	Summarised in Section 3 of Environmental Report
<i>Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those in relation to any areas of a particular environmental importance</i>	Section 3 Context & Baseline	Summarises existing environmental issues/problems for the SBNDP area
<i>The environmental protection objectives relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation</i>	Section 2 SEA Methods Section 3 Context & Baseline	Detailed SEA Framework guiding assessment of effects against the Objectives – grounded in the SA/SEA Framework for the Local Plan SWDPR as reported in Scoping (2018).
<i>The likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora,</i>	Section 2 SEA Methods Table 2.1	Presents the SEA Framework of objectives relevant to the issues identified & listing the topics within the SEA Regulations that are progressed by each SEA objective.

⁶² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

SEA Regulation Requirements	SEA Report Section	Summary of Contents
<i>soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects</i>	Section 4 SEA Findings Appendix II	Describes the likely significant effects of implementing the Draft SBNDP. Where possible, an indication is given of whether the effect is likely to be cumulative, short, medium and long term.
<i>The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan</i>	Section 4 SEA Findings	No significant negative effects were predicted; the SEA noted where the SWDP provided mitigation measures through embedded policies.
<i>An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information</i>	Section 2 Section 3 Section 4	The SEA tested 4 options A-D for development site allocations. One site was supported by the majority of the community & the reasoning for progressing Option A & not progressing Options B-D are outlined in section 4. The do-nothing scenario is assessed, and this is explained in sections 2 & 3.
	Section 2 Method	Outlines how the assessment was undertaken.
<i>A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring</i>	Section 5	Outlines measures proposed for monitoring the environmental effects of the implementation of the SBNDP.
<i>A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings</i>	Report preface	Provides a non-technical summary.

Appendix II: SEA of Development Options A-D

Development Options:

Option A: Springfield Nursery Site, off Main Street. NP Ref 1: 1.55 ha with the potential to deliver approximately 24 dwellings, land for a community building and associated parking, and 0.5 hectares of open space for recreation.

Option B: Winchcombe Road Nursery. NP Ref 17 with the potential to deliver approximately 25 dwellings, land for a community building and associated parking and 0.8 hectares of open space for recreation.

Option C: Land off Winchcombe Road. NP Ref 4a with the potential to deliver approximately 29 dwellings and 0.65 hectares of open space for recreation.

Option D: 3 smaller sites spread across the village. NP Ref 4b (6 dwellings); **NP Ref 9** (6-10 dwellings); **NP Ref 14** (6-10 dwellings)

SEA Objectives	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity & Geodiversity	Landscape	Waste, Pollution	Land, Soils, Water	Housing	Health & Wellbeing	Historic Environment	Sustainable Transport	Education	Economy & employment
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Option A	0	+	+	+/- ?	0	+	++	++	0	+	+	0
Option B	0	+	+	-	0	+	++	++	0	+	+	0
Option C	0	+	+	+/- ?	0	-	++	++	0	+	+	0
Option D	0	+/- ?	+	+/- ?	0	+/-	+	+	0	+	+	0

SEA Objective	SEA Commentary
SA No 1: Minimise SW's contribution to climate change	Sedgeberrow benefits from a daily bus service and a wide network of public footpaths, thus supporting sustainable transport objectives. Policy SWDP27 requires all new development to incorporate energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources equivalent to at least 10% of predicted energy requirements. New homes will have to produce about 30% less carbon emissions from June 2022 to comply with the new Building Regulations uplift in Parts L&F ⁶³ . New homes will also have to comply from 2025 with the new Future Buildings Standard ⁶⁴ . Therefore, new housing will have to comply with updated national requirements seeking to meet with the commitment for net zero carbon by 2050. Overall,

⁶³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-amendment-regulations-2021-circular-012021>

⁶⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-buildings-standard>

	negligible contribution of carbon emissions from small site & neutral effects indicated for this SEA objective for Options A, B, C & D.
SA No 2: Plan for the anticipated impacts of climate change	<p>Areas in the north-west of the village & surrounding area, along the line of the River Isbourne, are within Flood Risk Zones 2 & 3 indicating medium to high risk⁶⁵. Option A, B & C are located in Flood Risk 1⁶⁶ and thus outside of likely flood risk. Option D – nearly 50% of NP Ref 9 is in FRZ2 & some 15% in FRZ3 – high risk; NP Refs 4b & 14 in FRZ 1 – low risk.</p> <p>Surfacewater flooding – Option A – very small area at low risk on boundary with Main St to north east. Option B – on eastern half of site. Option C - runoff water to the north & north-east resulted in flooding of dwellings to the north during last heavy rainfall event. Option D - Surface water flooding risk along track & rear of site for NP Ref 14; NP Ref 4a low risk; NP Ref 9 almost 50% of site affected by surfacewater flooding.</p> <p>SWDP28 Management of Flood Risk & national requirements for flood risk. Locating development outside areas of flood risk – minor positive effects.</p> <p>Minor positive effects indicated for Options A, B, & C due to SWDP requirements; minor positive & minor negative effects for Option D with some 50% of NP Ref 9 in high risk zone for flooding.</p>
SA No 3: Protect, enhance and manage the flora, fauna, biodiversity and geodiversity assets of SW	<p>The site options are not in, or adjacent to any nationally protected or locally designated biodiversity or geodiversity. However, for Option A, it is likely that over the years of abandonment, the site has become a good habitat for wildlife. Option C NP Ref 4a is field & orchard; Option D NP Ref 9 is fields.</p> <p>SWDP22 Biodiversity & Geodiversity requires new development to enhance biodiversity, wherever practicable, and to take opportunities to enhance biodiversity corridors. SWDP5 Green Infrastructure requires housing/mixed use schemes over 1 hectare to contribute towards the provision, maintenance, improvement, and connectivity of green infrastructure (GI) (subject to financial viability).</p> <p>The Environment Act & updated NPPF (2021) require measurable net gains in biodiversity and such requirements will be taken forward in the SWDPR. Therefore, likely minor positive effects for all options due to national requirements for biodiversity environmental gain.</p>
SA No 4: Conserve, enhance & manage the character & appearance of the landscape & townscape , maintaining & strengthening their distinctiveness	<p>Sedgeberrow is located nearby to the Cotswolds National Landscape & there is policy protection provided through SWDP23 The Cotswolds & Malvern Hills AONB. The Cotswolds National Landscape Board (CNLB) advised⁶⁷ that there are (very) high sensitivity of visual receptors on public rights of way on Bredon Hill and Dumbleton Hill.</p> <p>Option A can be seen from Bredon Hill AONB. Option B can be seen from Bredon Hill, Broadway & Dumbleton AONB – and as it is located on higher ground and somewhat separate from the built envelope, such visibility is likely to be greater than the other options. Option C can be seen from Broadway Tower, Dumbleton & Bredon Hill AONB. Option D – NP Ref 4b visible from NP Broadway Tower, Dumbleton & Bredon Hill AONB Ref 9 visible from Bredon Hill AONB, NP Ref 14 visible from Dumbleton & Bredon Hill AONB.</p>

⁶⁵ <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/location>

⁶⁷ Wychavon Council SEA Screening Determination for the Sedgeberrow NP (December 2021)

	<p>Option A is only visible from one sensitive receptor whilst the other options are visible from more than one sensitive receptor. Option A is currently unused & thus redevelopment is likely to have a positive effect by resolving an existing visual problem.</p> <p>Option D NP Ref 9 is currently fields, so there would be loss of green/open countryside space with negative effects for landscape. By spreading 3 smaller sites around the village in Option D, the potential negative effects on views from sensitive receptors are likely to be mitigated to some extent.</p> <p>Option A – minor negative & positive effects but still some uncertainty of significance at this stage. Mitigation of negative effects are likely to be more effective for Option A as the site is only visible from one sensitive receptor; also, the redevelopment of an unused site is likely to have positive visual effects. It is considered that there would be certainty of positive effects if the site allocation policy included a requirement to undertake a landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) and provide mitigation measures for any negative views from the sensitive landscape.</p> <p>The negative effects from Option B are likely to be more difficult to mitigate due to its higher position and location within the built envelope – therefore, overall likely minor negative effects.</p> <p>For Options C & D, potential for both negative and positive effects with uncertainty of significance at this stage until detailed project level visual impact studies undertaken. Mitigation is likely to be more effective for Option D where 3 smaller developments are spread around the village.</p>
<p>SA No 5: Reduce waste generation, increase reuse & recycling of materials whilst minimising impacts of water, air & noise pollution</p>	<p>The provision of approximately 24, 25, 29, or 6, 6-10, 6-10 dwellings are relatively small proposals and waste management will need to comply with SWDP33 Waste.</p> <p>Development proposals must be in compliance with SWDP 31 that requires all development must be designed in order to avoid any significant adverse impacts from pollution, including cumulative.</p> <p>The sites are located in a village with some public transport, although it is likely that road transport will still be used for shopping and access to services/facilities, so some uncertainty of negative effects for air quality.</p> <p>Overall, likely negligible effects for waste and pollution due to small size of proposals and embedded policy mitigation measures.</p>
<p>SA No 6: Protect, enhance & ensure efficient use of SW's land, soils and water</p>	<p>In accordance with core planning principles, development on previously developed land is recognised as efficient use of land with minor positive effects. It is assumed that development proposals will be in accordance with national requirements for water efficiency as set out in Building Regulations – and therefore, neutral effects for water.</p> <p>Options A, B & D (in part) are on previously developed land with minor positive effects for use of land/soil; Options C & D (in part) are on greenfield land with minor negative effects for loss of soils.</p>
<p>SA No 7: Provide a range of housing to meet the needs of the community</p>	<p>The proposed options would deliver approximately 24-29 dwellings – selected to align with the Wychavon identified need for Sedgeberrow of at least 14 dwellings, and the draft proposed allocations of 28 dwellings set out in the SWDPR PO – and as detailed in the SBNDP Housing Background Paper⁶⁸.</p> <p>According to the SA/SEA of the emerging SWDPR, housing of 99 dwellings or less is likely to have a minor positive effects on SW's housing provision, and 100 dwellings or more is likely to have major positive effects. In the context of this lower-level neighbourhood plan that has accommodated identified need that is acceptable to the local community; it is considered that major positive effects are likely.</p>

⁶⁸ <https://sites.google.com/view/sedgeberrow-np/the-plan/evidence-base>

	<p>Further objectives for housing will be met through embedded policy requirements such as SWDP15 Meeting Affordable Housing Needs.</p> <p>Overall, major positive effects for housing for Options A, B & C; only minor positive effects for Option D as spreading the development around 3 different sites reduces the likely delivery of housing at each site to below the 15 affordable housing threshold in SWDP15 – indicating that this Option is less likely to deliver the requirement for affordable housing in the village.</p>
SA No 8: Safeguard & improve the physical and mental health of residents	<p>Provision of good quality housing and access to green open spaces and sustainable movement are known to have beneficial effects on human health and wellbeing. The site options are located within a village with rural surroundings accessed through a rich network of footpaths, encouraging healthy lifestyles. The nearest health centres are in Evesham, some 6 km to the north and thus more than walking distance.</p> <p>Likely minor positive effects – however, Options A, B and C include provision of open space for recreation, thus promoting further healthy lifestyle opportunities and therefore, likely major positive effects from these three options.</p>
SA No 9: Conserve, enhance & manage sites, features, & areas of historic & cultural importance	<p>Sedgeberrow is not within a Conservation Area but does have a rich cultural and heritage environment, as evidenced with 12 Grade II Listed Buildings.⁶⁹ There are no scheduled monuments, registered battlefields or registered parks and gardens.</p> <p>Option A, B, & C no listed buildings within the site or adjacent to the site Option D NP Ref 9 adjacent to Grade II LB No 6 Church Cottages, NP Ref 14 adjacent to Grade II LB The Red House.</p> <p>It is not considered that development at the sites would have adverse effects on these Listed Buildings or their setting – with neutral/negligible effects. The smaller sizes of the proposed developments in Option D should ensure mitigation measures for NP Refs 9 & 14. Further protection is provided through SWDP24 Management of the Historic Environment.</p>
SA No 10: Improve the choice & efficiency of sustainable transport in SW & reduce the need to travel	<p>The village is served by a bus service which, whilst not hourly, is several times a day. The area is very well served by a network of public footpaths. There are limited services and facilities in the village – a primary school and restaurant.</p> <p>Options A-D provide developments in a village served by public transport and a rich array of public footpaths, therefore – minor positive effects for all options.</p>
SA No 11: Improve education, skills & qualifications	<p>The sites are within walking distance of a primary school and thus, minor positive effects.</p>
SA No 12: Support a strong, diverse, vibrant & sustainable local economy to foster balanced economic growth	<p>The sites do not promote land for employment use and therefore, neutral/negligible effects.</p>

⁶⁹ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>

Appendix III SEA of SBN DP Policies SB1-3

Housing Policy SB1 Land at Springfield Nurseries off Main Street (SWDPR PO Ref CFS0010) - 1.55-hectare site allocated for housing development for approximately 24 dwellings, subject to development principles (a)-(d) relating to requirements for local housing need with smaller family homes, affordable housing, provision of a community building with associated parking and adjacent public open space; and provision of off-road parking.

SEA Objectives	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity & Geodiversity	Landscape	Waste, Pollution	Land, Soils, Water	Housing	Health & Wellbeing	Historic Environment	Sustainable Transport	Education	Economy & employment
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
SB1 Housing	0	++	+	+/- ±	0	+	++	+	0	++	+	0

SEA Objective	SEA Commentary
SA No 1: Minimise SW's contribution to climate change	<p>Sedgeberrow benefits from a daily bus service and a wide network of public footpaths, thus supporting sustainable transport objectives. The proposed site allocates approximately 24 dwellings & acknowledges that there will be car use, requiring provision of off-road car parking.</p> <p>Policy SWDP27 requires all new development to incorporate energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources equivalent to at least 10% of predicted energy requirements.</p> <p>New homes will have to produce about 30% less carbon emissions from June 2022 to comply with the new Building Regulations uplift in Parts L&F⁷⁰. New homes will also have to comply from 2025 with the new Future Buildings Standard⁷¹. Therefore, new housing will have to comply with updated national requirements seeking to meet with the commitment for net zero carbon by 2050. Overall, negligible contribution of carbon emissions from small site & neutral effects indicated for this SEA objective.</p>
SA No 2: Plan for the anticipated impacts of climate change	<p>Areas in the north-west of the village & surrounding area, along the line of the River Isbourne, are within Flood Risk Zones 2 & 3 indicating medium to high risk⁷². The proposed site is located in Flood Risk 1 and thus outside of likely flood risk. However, residents have reported widespread flooding with increased surfacewater runoff – and flood risk is a particular concern.</p> <p>SWDP28 Management of Flood Risk & national requirements for flood risk. Locating development outside areas of flood risk – minor positive effects. SBN DP Flood Policy SB3 takes a proactive approach & aims to increase the resilience within the parish by developing robust, co-ordinated approaches that complement other plans. The River Isbourne Catchment Group seeks to minimise the impact of flooding and its frequency and severity using Natural Flood</p>

⁷⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-amendment-regulations-2021-circular-012021>

⁷¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-buildings-standard>

⁷² <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/location>

	<p>Management techniques. SBNDP Flood Policy SB3 supports development that shows a betterment in surfacewater runoff rates, including allowance for climate change impacts; mitigation measures must be secured against any increased flood risk on-site and neighbouring properties; and consideration should be given to watercourses and infrastructure beyond the site boundary. Thus, overall taking the location of the site and the SBNDP Policy SB3 into account – likely major positive effects for the local area.</p>
<p>SA No 3: Protect, enhance and manage the flora, fauna, biodiversity and geodiversity assets of SW</p>	<p>The proposed site is not in, or adjacent to any nationally protected or locally designated biodiversity or geodiversity. Nonetheless, the local flora and fauna are important to the Sedgeberrow residents – and as evidenced through the concern about green spaces and the proposal for SBNDP Policy SB2 Local Green Spaces. It is likely that over the years of abandonment, the site has become a good habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>SWDP22 Biodiversity & Geodiversity requires new development to enhance biodiversity, wherever practicable, and to take opportunities to enhance biodiversity corridors. SWDP5 Green Infrastructure requires housing/mixed use schemes over 1 hectare to contribute towards the provision, maintenance, improvement, and connectivity of green infrastructure (GI) (subject to financial viability). The site is located within the SWDP GI Character Area 18 Carrant Brook and as such the GI objectives are to protect and restore.</p> <p>The Environment Act & updated NPPF (2021) require measurable net gains in biodiversity and such requirements will be taken forward in the SWDPR. Therefore, likely minor positive effects.</p> <p>The SBNDP could require a Phase I habitat survey to identify any important flora and fauna on the disused site and provide specific guidance on where & what biodiversity enhancements are most needed within the SBNDP area & to optimise GI benefits from the new development, supporting the requirements from SWDP5.</p>
<p>SA No 4: Conserve, enhance & manage the character & appearance of the landscape & townscape, maintaining & strengthening their distinctiveness</p>	<p>Sedgeberrow is located nearby to the Cotswolds National Landscape & there is policy protection provided through SWDP23 The Cotswolds & Malvern Hills AONB. The Cotswolds National Landscape Board (CNLB) advised⁷³ that the (very) high sensitivity of visual receptors on public rights of way on Bredon Hill and Dumbleton Hill, combined with minor adverse magnitude of change could result in a moderate adverse visual effect. However, the magnitude of change is likely to be relatively minor due to a number of factors including the distance of over 2km, the small hill to the south-west that could partially obscure views; the viewpoints would be seen within the context of existing development in Sedgeberrow; and the existing development on the proposed site. It is noted that the site currently comprises two dwellings and a large area of land formerly used as a horticultural nursery. There are numerous structures across the site that are no longer in use and in a state of disrepair. Therefore, the proposed redevelopment would provide an opportunity to deliver environmental enhancements including visual benefits.</p> <p>Therefore, potential for both negative and positive effects with some uncertainty of the significance of effects & effectiveness of mitigation possibilities until project level studies are taken.</p> <p>The SBNDP could require that a landscape/visual impact assessment (LVIA) should be undertaken with two viewpoints as advised by the CNLB – from the Wychavon Way on Bredon Hill (to the west of Ashton Under Hill, and from the Winchcombe Way on Dumbleton Hill (to the west of Dumbleton). This would provide mitigation measures to ameliorate the concerns of the CNLB and confirm overall minor positive effects on landscape/visual impacts through redevelopment of a disused site that is in disrepair, thus resolving an existing environmental problem.</p>

⁷³ Wychavon Council SEA Screening Determination for the Sedgeberrow NP (December 2021)

<p>SA No 5: Reduce waste generation, increase reuse & recycling of materials whilst minimising impacts of water, air & noise pollution</p>	<p>The provision of approximately 24 dwellings is a relatively small proposal and waste management will need to comply with SWDP33 Waste. Development proposals must be in compliance with SWDP 31 that requires all development must be designed in order to avoid any significant adverse impacts from pollution, including cumulative. The site is located in a village with some public transport, although it is likely that road transport will still be used for shopping and access to services/facilities, so some uncertainty of negative effects for air quality. Overall, likely negligible effects for waste and pollution due to small size of proposals and embedded policy mitigation measures.</p>
<p>SA No 6: Protect, enhance & ensure efficient use of SW's land, soils and water</p>	<p>In accordance with core planning principles, development on previously developed land is recognised as efficient use of land with minor positive effects. It is assumed that development proposals will be in accordance with national requirements for water efficiency as set out in Building Regulations – and therefore, neutral effects for water. SBNDP Flood Risk Policy SB3 supports proposals that go beyond water efficiency requirements in Building Regulations – further confirming likely positive effects for water. Overall, minor positive effects for natural resources.</p>
<p>SA No 7: Provide a range of housing to meet the needs of the community</p>	<p>The proposed development would deliver approximately 24 dwellings – selected to align with the Wychavon identified need for Sedgeberrow of at least 14 dwellings, and the draft proposed allocations of 28 dwellings set out in the SWDPR PO – and as detailed in the SBNDP Housing Background Paper⁷⁴. According to the SA/SEA of the emerging SWDPR, housing of 99 dwellings or less is likely to have a minor positive effects on SW's housing provision, and 100 dwellings or more is likely to have major positive effects. In the context of this lower-level neighbourhood plan that has accommodated identified need that is acceptable to the local community; it is considered that major positive effects are likely. Further objectives for housing will be met through embedded policy requirements such as SWDP15 Meeting Affordable Housing Needs. SBNDP Policy SB1 includes a requirements that affordable housing needs should be delivered in accordance with the latest guidance and identified local need – thus updating SWDP. SB1 will support proposals that comprise smaller family homes with up to three bedrooms and bungalows – thus, aligning with the emerging SWDPR and the needs of the local community, including an ageing population. Overall, major positive effects for housing.</p>
<p>SA No 8: Safeguard & improve the physical and mental health of residents</p>	<p>Provision of good quality housing and access to green open spaces and sustainable movement are known to have beneficial effects on human health and wellbeing. The site is located within a village with rural surroundings accessed through a rich network of footpaths, encouraging healthy lifestyles. The importance of this to the local community is evidenced through the concern about green spaces and the inclusion of SBNDP Policy SB2 that designates Local Green Spaces. The nearest health centres are in Evesham, some 6 km to the north and thus more than walking distance. Overall, likely minor positive effects.</p>
<p>SA No 9: Conserve, enhance & manage sites, features, & areas of historic & cultural importance</p>	<p>Sedgeberrow is not within a Conservation Area but does have a rich cultural and heritage environment, as evidenced with 12 Grade II Listed Buildings.⁷⁵ There are no scheduled monuments, registered battlefields or registered parks and gardens. The site is located approximately 70m from the nearest Grade II * Listed Building Church House, and Grade II buildings at Orchard Dene and the Red House some 150 m away – all on Main Street. It is not considered that development at the site would have adverse effects on these Listed Buildings or</p>

⁷⁴ <https://sites.google.com/view/sedgeberrow-np/the-plan/evidence-base>

⁷⁵ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>

	<p>their setting – with neutral/negligible effects. Further protection is provided through SWDP24 Management of the Historic Environment.</p>
<p>SA No 10: Improve the choice & efficiency of sustainable transport in SW & reduce the need to travel</p>	<p>The village is served by a bus service which, whilst not hourly, is several times a day. The area is very well served by a network of public footpaths. There are limited services and facilities in the village – a primary school and restaurant. The site allocation proposes land for community building & parking, and recreational space.</p> <p>Traffic congestion and parking around Main Street is a longstanding issue for residents – in particular in the immediate vicinity of Sedgeberrow School (only 150m distance from the site). Therefore, the SBNDP seeks to address such concern and requires that the development provides a minimum of 2 car parking spaces and 2 cycle space s for one-bed units (over and above that required by Worcestershire CC Streetscape Design Guide). It is also anticipated that the parking associated with the new community building, when not in use, could be used by those on the school run – thus alleviating some of the current parking problems.</p> <p>It is noted that the nursery site has been rejected for planning permission previously. However, Wychavon Council has confirmed that concerns over access arrangements have been overcome by the inclusion of the two existing properties at the front of the site in the land parcel now put forward.</p> <p>Overall, major positive effects as the proposal seeks to resolve existing environmental problems by provision of traffic congestion/parking, community building, and recreational space.</p>
<p>SA No 11: Improve education, skills & qualifications</p>	<p>The site is within walking distance of a primary school and thus, minor positive effects.</p>
<p>SA No 12: Support a strong, diverse, vibrant & sustainable local economy to foster balanced economic growth</p>	<p>The site does not promote land for employment use and therefore, neutral/negligible effects.</p>

Local Green Space Policy SB2

Designates ten sites as Local Green Space (LGS) – Grounds surrounding St Mary’s church; Land to rear of Church; Orchard to rear of Forge Cottage; Orchard adjacent to 74 Winchcombe Rd; Glebe Meadow, the recreational ground; Broad Meadow (old cricket ground); Sedgeberrow First School playing field; Site to rear of school; Allotments (off Churchill Rd. Development will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

SEA Objectives	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity & Geodiversity	Landscape	Waste, Pollution	Land, Soils, Water	Housing	Health & Wellbeing	Historic Environment	Sustainable Transport	Education	Economy & Employment
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
SB2 Local Green Space	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	++	+	0	0	0

SEA Objective	SEA Commentary
SA No 1: Minimise SW’s contribution to climate change	Overall, no significant contribution of carbon emissions from small local green space sites & neutral effects indicated for this SEA objective.
SA No 2: Plan for the anticipated impacts of climate change	GS6 Balancing Pond & green at Cotswold View, part of GI for new development and provides important drainage function. Overall, neutral effects.
SA No 3: Protect, enhance and manage the flora, fauna, biodiversity and geodiversity assets of SW	The protection of additional local green spaces (LGSs) through NP policy will further protect biodiversity that is important to the local area – in particular – GS4 Orchard to rear of Forge Cottage; GS5 Orchard adjacent to 74 Winchcombe Road; GS6 Balancing Pond & Green; GS11 Site to rear of school; and GS15 Allotments. Overall, potential for minor positive effects on biodiversity that will be cumulative in the long-term.
SA No 4: Conserve, enhance & manage the character & appearance of the landscape & townscape , maintaining & strengthening their distinctiveness	Whilst most of the sites are currently maintained (GS1, GS2, GS4, GS5, GS7, GS8, GS9, & GS11), two are not – GS6 and the allotments GS15. Designation of these sites should encourage and support maintenance with overall minor positive effects for the appearance of the village and parish area.
SA No 5: Reduce waste generation, increase reuse & recycling of materials whilst minimising	Not applicable and neutral effects.

impacts of water, air & noise pollution	
SA No 6: Protect, enhance & ensure efficient use of SW's land, soils and water	Designation of LGSs will protect these green areas indicating efficient use of land and soils; two sites will contribute to natural flood management. Overall, minor positive effects for natural resources.
SA No 7: Provide a range of housing to meet the needs of the community	Not applicable and neutral effects.
SA No 8: Safeguard & improve the physical and mental health of residents	Provision of and access to good quality green open spaces and sustainable movement are known to have beneficial effects on human health and wellbeing. The village with rural surroundings are accessed through a rich network of footpaths, encouraging healthy lifestyles. The designation and protection of 10 LGS sites throughout the area will support access for a variety of uses that will have positive effects for health & wellbeing – cultural/reflective spaces at GS2, GS3; more active spaces including sports, play & walking at GS7, GS8, GS9, & GS11. Other LGS are important to agricultural & horticultural heritage, and the landscape/visual setting of the village. There is good potential for restoration of GS11 the allotments with strong positive effects for both physical and mental health. Overall, major positive effects.
SA No 9: Conserve, enhance & manage sites, features, & areas of historic & cultural importance	Some of the LGS sites are important as characteristic of the area's agricultural and horticultural heritage – GS4, GS5. Overall, some minor local positive effects for sites of historic and cultural importance.
SA No 10: Improve the choice & efficiency of sustainable transport in SW & reduce the need to travel	Likely negligible effects, although use of the LGSs may be supported by the network of footpaths in the area.
SA No 11: Improve education, skills & qualifications	Not applicable and neutral effects.
SA No 12: Support a strong, diverse, vibrant & sustainable local economy to foster balanced economic growth	Not applicable and neutral effects.

Flood Policy SB3 – sets out requirements for new development in respect of waste/surface water; sustainable drainage measures; sustainable drainage design SuDS; flood attenuation areas; mitigation against increased flood risk; consideration of watercourses and infrastructure beyond the site boundary; water efficiency. The Policy is clear that proposals that do not satisfactorily demonstrate secure arrangements or prevention of flooding will not be supported.

SEA Objectives	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity & Geodiversity	Landscape	Waste, Pollution	Land, Soils, Water	Housing	Health & Wellbeing	Historic Environment	Sustainable Transport	Education	Economy & employment
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
SB3 Flood Policy	0	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0

SEA Objective	SEA Commentary
SA No 1: Minimise SW's contribution to climate change	Not applicable and neutral effects.
SA No 2: Plan for the anticipated impacts of climate change	<p>Areas in the north-west of the village & surrounding area, along the line of the River Isbourne, are within Flood Risk Zones 2 & 3 indicating medium to high risk⁷⁶. The proposed site is located in Flood Risk 1 and thus outside of likely flood risk. However, residents have reported widespread flooding with increased surfacewater runoff – and flood risk is a particular concern.</p> <p>SWDP28 Management of Flood Risk & national requirements for flood risk. Locating development outside areas of flood risk – minor positive effects. SBNDP Flood Policy SB3 takes a proactive approach & aims to increase the resilience within the parish by developing robust, co-ordinated approaches that complement other plans. SB3 formalises the continuation of the exceptional work done by the River Isbourne Catchment Group (ICG) and allows for future development to take into account further flood prevention methods. The ICG⁷⁷ seeks to minimise the impact of flooding and its frequency and severity using Natural Flood Management techniques. SBNDP Flood Policy SB3 supports development that shows a betterment in surfacewater runoff rates, including allowance for climate change impacts; mitigation measures must be secured against any increased flood risk on-site and neighbouring properties; and consideration should be given to watercourses and infrastructure beyond the site boundary. Thus, overall taking the location of the site and the SBNDP Policy SB3 into account – likely major positive effects for the local area.</p>
SA No 3: Protect, enhance and manage the flora, fauna, biodiversity and geodiversity assets of SW	Natural Flood Management techniques are likely to support biodiversity through better management of land and water. However, positive effects are negligible in this context for this specific policy.

⁷⁶ <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/location>

⁷⁷ <https://isbournecatchment.org.uk/>

<p>SA No 4: Conserve, enhance & manage the character & appearance of the landscape & townscape, maintaining & strengthening their distinctiveness</p>	<p>Similarly, Natural Flood Management techniques are likely to be more visually pleasing, but any positive effects are negligible in this context for this specific policy.</p>
<p>SA No 5: Reduce waste generation, increase reuse & recycling of materials whilst minimising impacts of water, air & noise pollution</p>	<p>Neutral effects for waste management and pollution.</p>
<p>SA No 6: Protect, enhance & ensure efficient use of SW's land, soils and water</p>	<p>The requirements in SBNDP Flood Policy SB3 for natural flood management and sustainable drainage design (SuDS) all contribute to a more sustainable and efficient use of land, soils, and water. All new development is required to produce a Water Management Statement detailing how drainage will be dealt with and for the longer term. SBNDP Flood Risk Policy SB3 supports proposals that go beyond water efficiency requirements in Building Regulations – further confirming likely positive effects for water. Overall, minor positive effects for natural resources.</p>
<p>SA No 7: Provide a range of housing to meet the needs of the community</p>	<p>Not applicable and neutral effects.</p>
<p>SA No 8: Safeguard & improve the physical and mental health of residents</p>	<p>Contributing to resolving the climate change crisis and helping to make the community more resilient to flood risk and climate change effects will ameliorate some of the concerns from the community that may affect both mental and physical health. Overall, some minor positive effects.</p>
<p>SA No 9: Conserve, enhance & manage sites, features, & areas of historic & cultural importance</p>	<p>Not applicable and neutral effects.</p>
<p>SA No 10: Improve the choice & efficiency of sustainable transport in SW & reduce the need to travel</p>	<p>Not applicable and neutral effects.</p>
<p>SA No 11: Improve education, skills & qualifications</p>	<p>Not applicable and neutral effects.</p>
<p>SA No 12: Support a strong, diverse, vibrant & sustainable local economy to foster balanced economic growth</p>	<p>Not applicable and neutral effects.</p>