

Bingley Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion
(incorporating Habitats Regulations Assessment considerations)

Bingley Town Council

June 2022

Quality information

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1. Purpose of this SEA Screening Opinion

- 1.1 This SEA Screening Opinion has been prepared by AECOM in relation to the Bingley Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Screening Opinion is to set out an opinion in relation to whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process is required to accompany the development of the Bingley Neighbourhood Plan. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) considerations have also been presented and discussed. The Screening Opinion has been provided to the statutory consultation bodies for SEA (Historic England, the Environment Agency, and Natural England) for their opinion.
- 1.3 SEA is a systematic process undertaken to evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of plans. The requirement for SEA in England was introduced in 2004 through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 ('The SEA Regulations'), which transposed the European SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).
- 1.4 One of the 'Basic Conditions' that a Neighbourhood Plan is tested against is whether the making of the Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with European Union obligations, including obligations under the SEA Directive.¹ Neighbourhood Plans only require SEA where they are likely to lead to significant environmental effects. To decide whether a proposed Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it should be screened against the criteria set out in Annex 2 of the SEA Directive.
- 1.5 Where it is determined that the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require SEA), a statement of reasons for this determination should be prepared and published for consultation with the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, the Environment Agency, and Historic England). Where a Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, an SEA process must be carried out.
- 1.6 This Screening Opinion therefore provides a view as to whether the Bingley Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environment effects, and as such requires an SEA process. In this context it presents the following:
 - Details and context of the Neighbourhood Plan, including its scope and likely content, its relationship with Bradford Council's Adopted Local Plan and Emerging Local Plan, and the key environmental constraints in the vicinity of the neighbourhood area (**Chapter 2**).
 - A discussion of the potential significant environmental effects of the Neighbourhood Plan and their significance (**Chapter 3**); and

¹ The UK left the EU on 31st January 2020. Under the UK-EU withdrawal agreement, a transition period ended on 31st December 2020, during which time all EU law continued to apply to the UK. During the transition period the UK needed to continue following domestic law that implements EU law, or directly applicable EU law that is given effect through the EUWA 2018. Beyond the transition period, the SEA Regulations, which previously implemented the requirements of the SEA Directive in England, will continue to apply as before unless and until new legislation is introduced.

- A summary of the screening opinion (**Chapter 4**).

1.7 The statutory environmental bodies for SEA are subsequently invited to provide their comments.

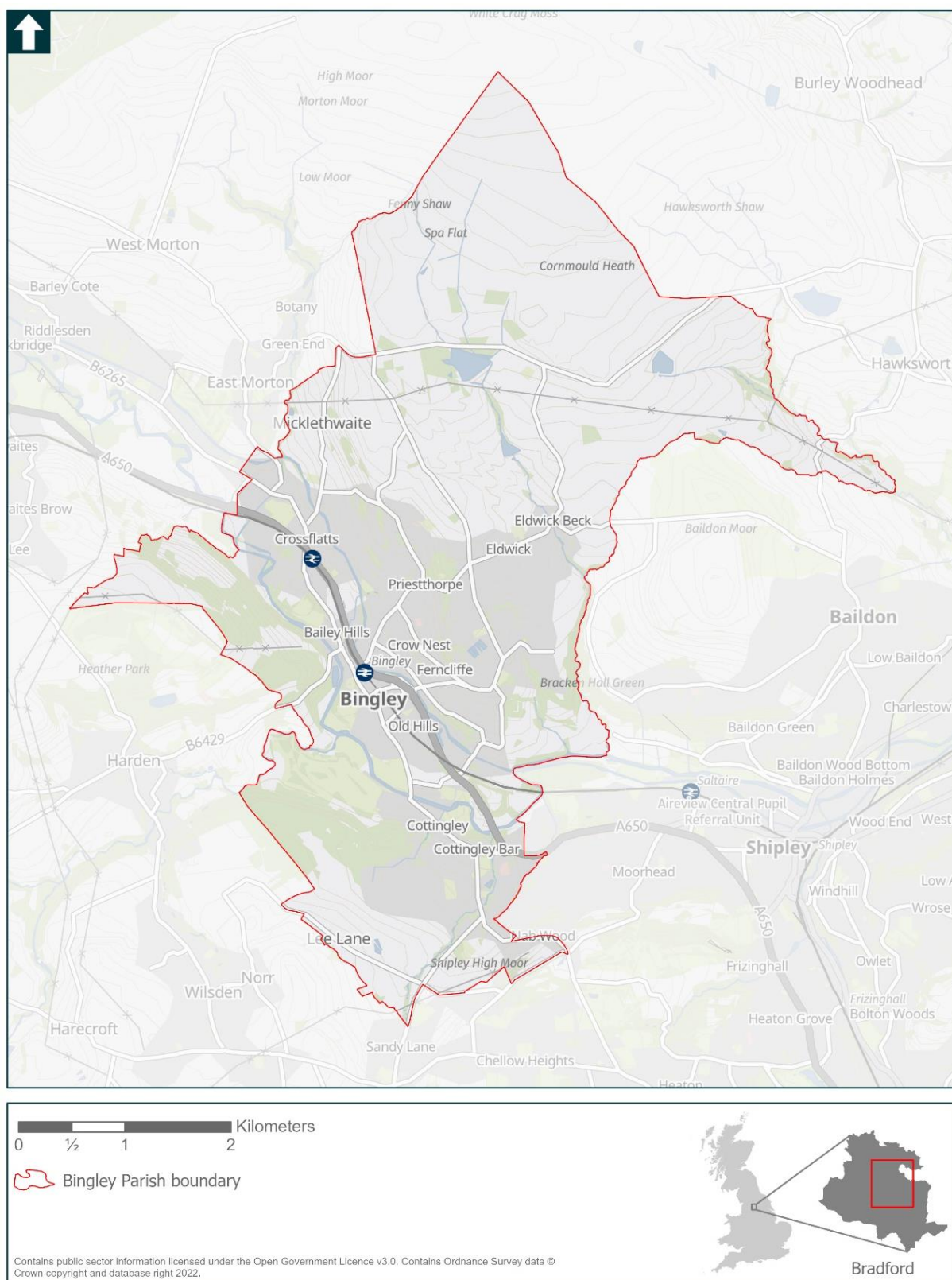


Figure 1.1: Bingley neighbourhood area

2. Context for the Neighbourhood Plan and area

Key information relating to the Neighbourhood Plan

2.1 Key information relating to the Bingley Neighbourhood Plan is presented in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1: Key information relating to the Bingley Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Qualifying Body	Bingley Town Council
Title of the Plan	Bingley Neighbourhood Plan
Area covered by the Plan	The neighbourhood area covers the parish of Bingley, which is in the City of Bradford Metropolitan District (West Yorkshire). The Parish incorporates Bingley Town and the adjacent villages of Cottingley, Crossflats, Eldwick, Gilstead and Micklethwaite. Bingley Town is located approximately 7.5 km to the north west of the City of Bradford. The boundary of the neighbourhood area, which aligns with that of Bingley Parish, is presented in Figure 1.1 above.
Timescale	The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period to 2038.
Purpose, aims and objectives	<p>The vision for the Neighbourhood Plan is as follows:</p> <p><i>“By 2038, Bingley will be a thriving town and parish. It will be an attractive place to live and work which meets the economic, social, and environmental needs of its businesses and residents, and which provides a good home for wildlife. It will have a high-quality local environment that we can all be proud of.”</i></p> <p>To help implement this vision, five objectives have been identified for the Neighbourhood Plan which form the basis for shaping policy development. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1: Encourage the development of a well-designed built environment for the area. • Objective 2: Support and deliver significant improvements to Bingley Town Centre. • Objective 3: Create an attractive environment for new businesses and new investment in the area. • Objective 4: Foster the development of better open spaces and connections for walking, cycling, and nature. • Objective 5: Promote the development of housing which meets identified local needs.
Neighbourhood Plan contact	Eve Haskins, Town Clerk, Bingley Town Council townclerk@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Further context for the Neighbourhood Plan and area, including key environmental constraints

2.2 Further context for the Neighbourhood Plan, including the key environmental constraints in the neighbourhood area, is presented below.

Local Plan context for the Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.3 The Bingley Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the Bradford Local Plan 2011-2030 (“the Adopted Local Plan”)², the key documents of which include the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD)³, the Bradford District Replacement Unitary Development Plan⁴, and the Waste Management DPD⁵.
- 2.4 Within the Core Strategy DPD Bingley is identified as a ‘principal town’ in the settlement hierarchy, recognising the town’s role in providing homes, jobs, services, and cultural activities to the area. Strategic Core Policy 4 states that that principal towns will be the focus areas for housing and employment provision, complementing and supporting the roles of the regional cities of Bradford and Leeds.
- 2.5 In the context of the above, Sub Area Policy AD1 and Policy HO3 within the Core Strategy DPD confirm a housing target of 1,400 new homes for Bingley. The policies outline that the broad distribution of housing development will focus on the redevelopment of sites within the urban area and some local Green Belt changes in sustainable locations. At the point when the Core Strategy DPD was adopted (i.e., taking in to consideration existing completion and commitments), the residual housing target to be provided until 2030 totals 700 - 800 new homes.
- 2.6 Bradford Council is currently undertaking a review of the Adopted Local Plan which sets out how the City of Bradford Metropolitan District will grow sustainably up until 2038, and what it means for local communities. Intentions of the Emerging Local Plan⁶ also include aims which address and consider the implications of the declared climate emergency, new patterns of working, the importance of broadband, a focus on health, changing retail and town centre roles, sustainable energy, green infrastructure, and transport investment.
- 2.7 Consultation on the preferred approach for the Emerging Local Plan (Regulation 18 consultation)⁷ was completed between February and March 2021. The Emerging Local Plan also features new sites for housing and employment and a range of policies which will help guide development and the determination of planning applications. With reference to the neighbourhood area, Bingley retains its classification as a ‘principal town’ within the settlement hierarchy. Policy SP8 sets out a requirement of 850 new homes that will be delivered in the Bingley Sub Area⁸. After the commitments are discounted and removed from the supply, this leaves a residual allocation requirement of 703 new homes.

² Bradford Council (2017): ‘Adopted Local Plan’, [online] accessible [here](#)

³ Bradford Council (2017): ‘Core Strategy DPD’, [online] accessible [here](#)

⁴ Bradford Council (2005): ‘Replacement Unitary Development Plan’, [online] accessible [here](#)

⁵ Bradford Council (2017): ‘Waste Management DPD’, [online] accessible [here](#)

⁶ Bradford Council (2022): ‘Emerging Local Plan’, [online] accessible [here](#)

⁷ Bradford Council (2021): ‘Preferred Options (Regulation 18)’, [online] accessible [here](#)

⁸ Bradford Council (2021): ‘Local Plan Consultation Documents – Bingley’, [online] accessible [here](#)

2.8 A revised Local Development Scheme⁹ was approved and published by Bradford Council in July 2021 which sets out the proposed timetable for the Emerging Local Plan. Statutory consultation on a pre-submission Local Plan (under Regulation 19 of the Local Plan Regulations) is anticipated in July 2022. The Emerging Local Plan is expected to be adopted by Winter 2023/24. Further information is available on Bradford Council's webpages.

Key components of the Neighbourhood Plan

2.9 The vision and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan are presented above in **Table 2.1**.

2.10 In terms of key land use policies which should be considered for their potential for significant environmental effects, the Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate land for housing or employment uses. This is given the complex issues within the neighbourhood area, including in relation to:

- a lack of available brownfield land,
- the potential need to release Green Belt land to accommodate new development areas, and
- uncertainties as to whether any windfall sites identified in the neighbourhood area would contribute to the housing targets¹⁰.

2.11 The Neighbourhood Plan instead seeks to shape development which may come forward during the plan period by supporting development which meets a series of criteria. This includes relating to housing type and tenure, and in terms of design (supported by design codes and masterplans), town centre regeneration, public realm improvements, green infrastructure enhancements, community value, environmental protection, economic vitality, and transportation (particularly active travel opportunities).

2.12 In this respect the Neighbourhood Plan is strongly design led. Policy provisions focus on informing and influencing the design of new development areas which have the potential to come forward in the neighbourhood area, including any allocations through the Emerging Local Plan.

2.13 The Neighbourhood Plan is also unlikely to lead to any significant changes of land use in the parish.

Environmental constraints present in the neighbourhood area

2.14 A key determinant of whether effects are likely to be significant is the sensitivity of the asset affected. In this context, the more environmentally sensitive a location, the more likely it is that potential environmental effects from a plan will be significant.

⁹ Bradford Council (2021): 'Local Development Scheme (2021-2024)', [online] accessible [here](#)

¹⁰ The neighbourhood area is larger than the Bingley Sub Area which is referred to within the Emerging Local Plan documents. Specifically, the Bingley Sub Area excludes the villages of Micklethwaite, Cottingley, and the other outlying parts of the parish. In this respect, it is anticipated that additional homes may come forward in these locations during the plan period as either exception sites or windfall development.

2.15 Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)¹¹ provides guidance on this topic through providing a list of sites and areas which should be deemed as ‘sensitive areas’ for the purposes of environmental assessment.¹²

2.16 These comprise:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- Natura 2000 sites.
- National Parks.
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- World Heritage Sites (WHS); and
- Scheduled Monuments.

2.17 In the context of the PPG, there are 21 sensitive areas within or adjacent to the neighbourhood area, as follows:

- South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation is located in the northern section of the neighbourhood area and is characterised by areas of upland dry heathland (dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris*), blanket bogs, and oak woodlands¹³.
- South Pennine Moors Phase Two Special Protection Area (SPA) is located in the northern section of the neighbourhood area, sharing an overlapping boundary with the SAC. Several areas of the parish are also within ‘buffer zones’ associated with the SPA and SAC, as identified through Policy SC8 within the Core Strategy DPD and through the provisions of the South Pennine Moors SPA / SAC Planning Framework Supplementary Planning Document¹⁴ (adopted in January 2022).
- South Pennine Moors SSSI is also located in the northern section of the neighbourhood area and shares an overlapping boundary with both the SAC and SPA. Based on the most recently completed condition assessments¹⁵ which were mainly undertaken between 2009 and 2016, most of the SSSI (approximately 89%) is in an ‘unfavourable – recovering’ condition. Less than 1% of the SSSI is in a ‘favourable’ condition.
- Bingley South Bog SSSI is located within proximity to Bingley Town Centre, including areas of land on either side of the A650 (Sir Fred Hoyle Way) between the River Aire and the Leeds Liverpool Canal. Based on the most recently completed condition assessment¹⁶ which was undertaken in 2017, most of the SSSI (approximately 87%) is in a ‘favourable’ condition.
- Saltaire WHS: specifically, a section of the buffer zone which contributes to the landscape setting of the WHS. A brief synthesis from the statement of Outstanding Universal Value¹⁷ for the WHS is as follows: “*Saltaire is an exceptionally complete and well-preserved industrial village of the second*

¹¹ DLUHC & MHCLG (2021): ‘The National Planning Policy Framework and relevant planning practice guidance’, [online] accessible [here](#)

¹² i.e., those sites and areas that should be considered ‘sensitive’ for the purposes of screening projects for Environmental Impact Assessment (accessible [here](#))

¹³ JNCC (no date): ‘South Pennine Moors SAC’, [online] accessible [here](#)

¹⁴ Bradford Council (2022): ‘South Pennine Moors SPA / SCA Planning Framework SPD’, [online] accessible [here](#)

¹⁵ Natural England (no date): ‘South Pennine Moors SSSI’, [online] accessible [here](#)

¹⁶ Natural England (no date): ‘Bingley South Bog SSSI’, [online] accessible [here](#)

¹⁷ Historic England (2022): ‘Saltaire WHS – Official List Entry’, [online] accessible [here](#)

half of the 19th century, located on the river Aire. Its textile mills, public buildings, and workers' housing are built in a harmonious style of high architectural quality and the urban plan survives intact, giving a vivid impression of the philanthropic approach to industrial management."

- A total of 15 scheduled monuments, many of which are cup and groove marked rocks, and carved rocks, located in the northern section of the parish. The largest scheduled monument - the Late prehistoric enclosed settlement in Crosley Wood, Bingley, 185m north of Scourer Bridge - is the only scheduled monument located in Bingley Town.

2.18 In addition, there is an SSSI located just outside of the boundary of the neighbourhood area to the east, specifically: Trench Meadows SSSI.

2.19 The locations of these sensitive areas are highlighted in **Figure 2.1** below.

2.20 In terms of other key environmental assets (i.e., those which are not defined as 'sensitive areas' by the PPG), these include in the neighbourhood area:

- Over 100 listed buildings, including: 94 Grade II, one Grade I, and six Grade II* listed buildings.
- Four designated conservation areas¹⁸, including: Bingley, Micklethwaite, Eldwick Beck, and Leeds Liverpool Canal.
- The Grade II listed St Ives Estate Registered Historic Park and Garden is located close to the southern edge of Bingley Town Centre and creates an important connection between the town and the surrounding countryside¹⁹.
- The Grade II listed Prince of Wales Park Registered Historic Park and Garden is located between Priestthorpe and Eldwick and is an important open space for the community. A dominant feature of the park is the mature tree planting which largely defines the contrasting open and enclosed areas²⁰.
- Areas of priority habitats contributing to local ecological networks, including areas of deciduous woodland, ancient woodland, and upland heathland.
- Local wildlife sites and local geological sites.
- Several trees (or groups of trees) of amenity value which have tree preservation orders (TPO) designations.

2.21 The locations of these key environmental assets are highlighted in **Figure 2.2**, **Figure 2.3**, and **Figure 2.4** below.

2.22 Fluvial flood risk²¹ associated with the River Aire is also present in the parish, affecting several properties in the south western section of Bingley Town and areas located within proximity to the river corridor (including around Cottingley, Bailey Hills, and Crossflats).

2.23 The Liverpool, Manchester, and West Yorks Green Belt also covers most of the parish, specifically the undeveloped areas outside of the town and villages.

¹⁸ Bradford Council (2022): 'List of Conservation Areas', [online] accessible [here](#)

¹⁹ Historic England (2022): 'St Ives Estate – Official List Entry', [online] accessible [here](#)

²⁰ Historic England (2022): 'Prince of Wales Park – Official List Entry', [online] accessible [here](#)

²¹ GOV.UK (2022): 'Flood Map for Planning', [online] accessible [here](#)

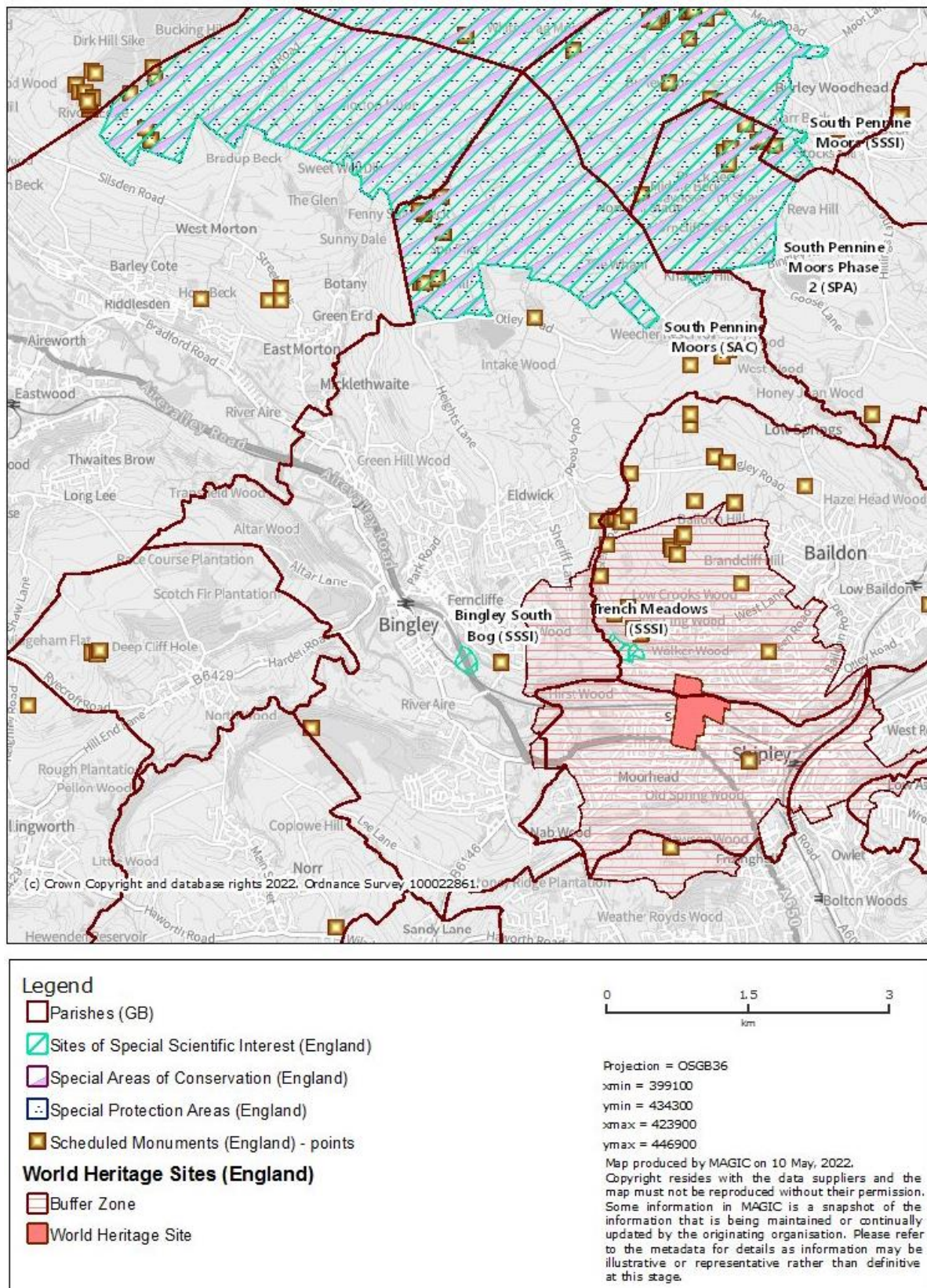


Figure 2.1: Sensitive areas in relation to the neighbourhood area

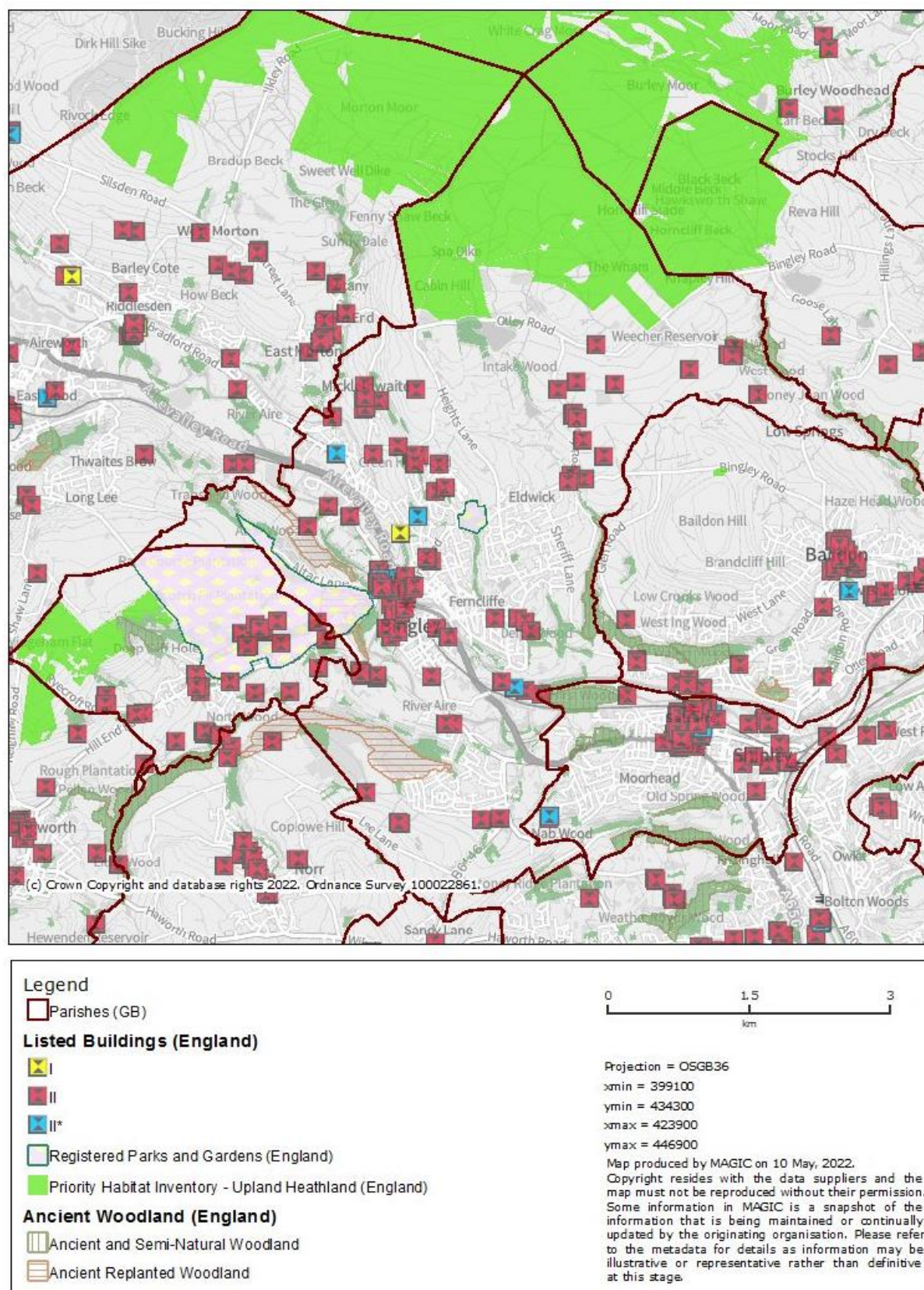


Figure 2.2: Location of listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, and priority habitats in the neighbourhood area

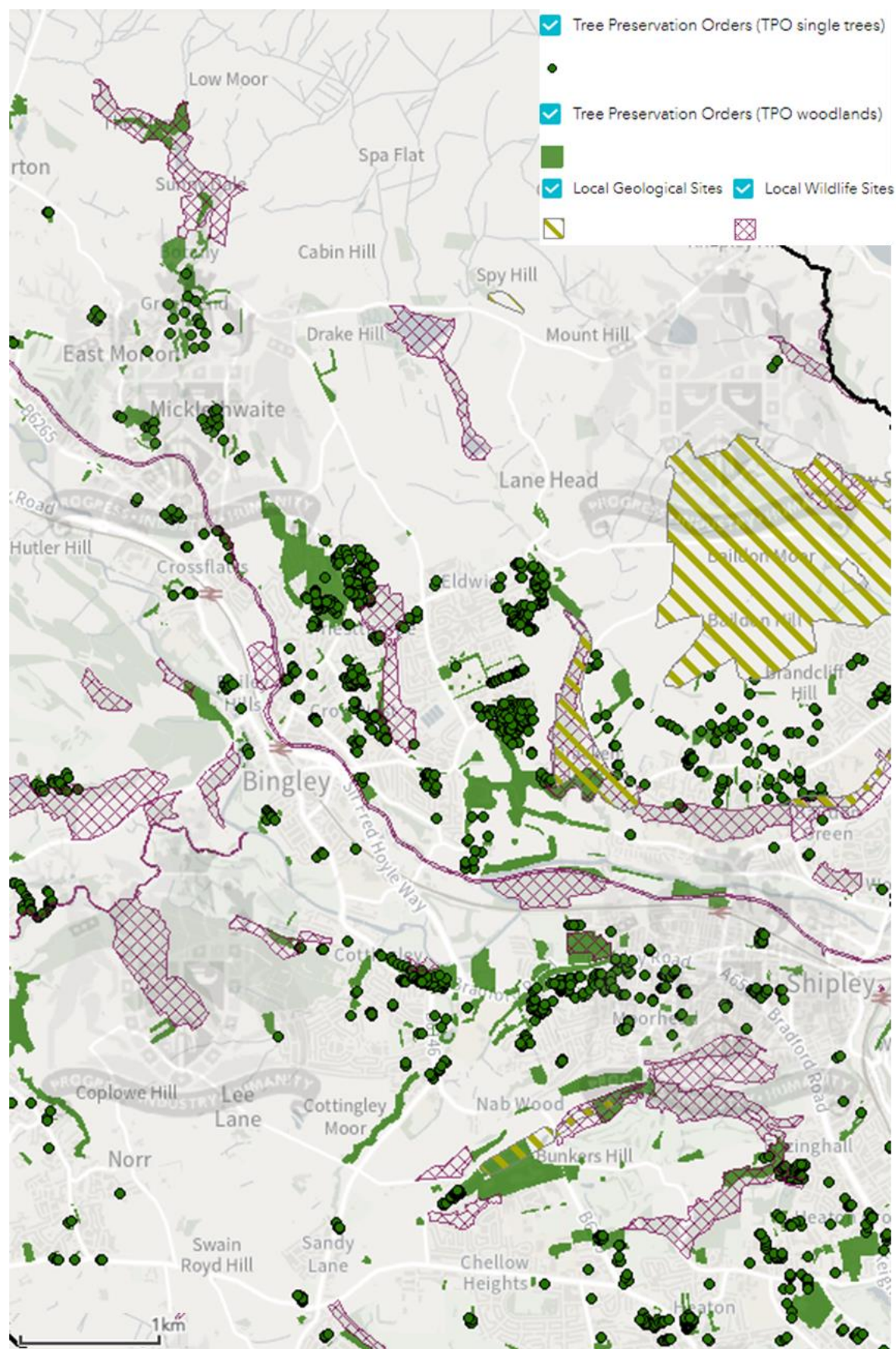


Figure 2.3: Location of local wildlife sites, local geological sites, and TPO designations in the neighbourhood area²²

²² Bradford Council (2022): 'Geospatial Portal – Biodiversity Assets Web App', [online] accessible [here](#)

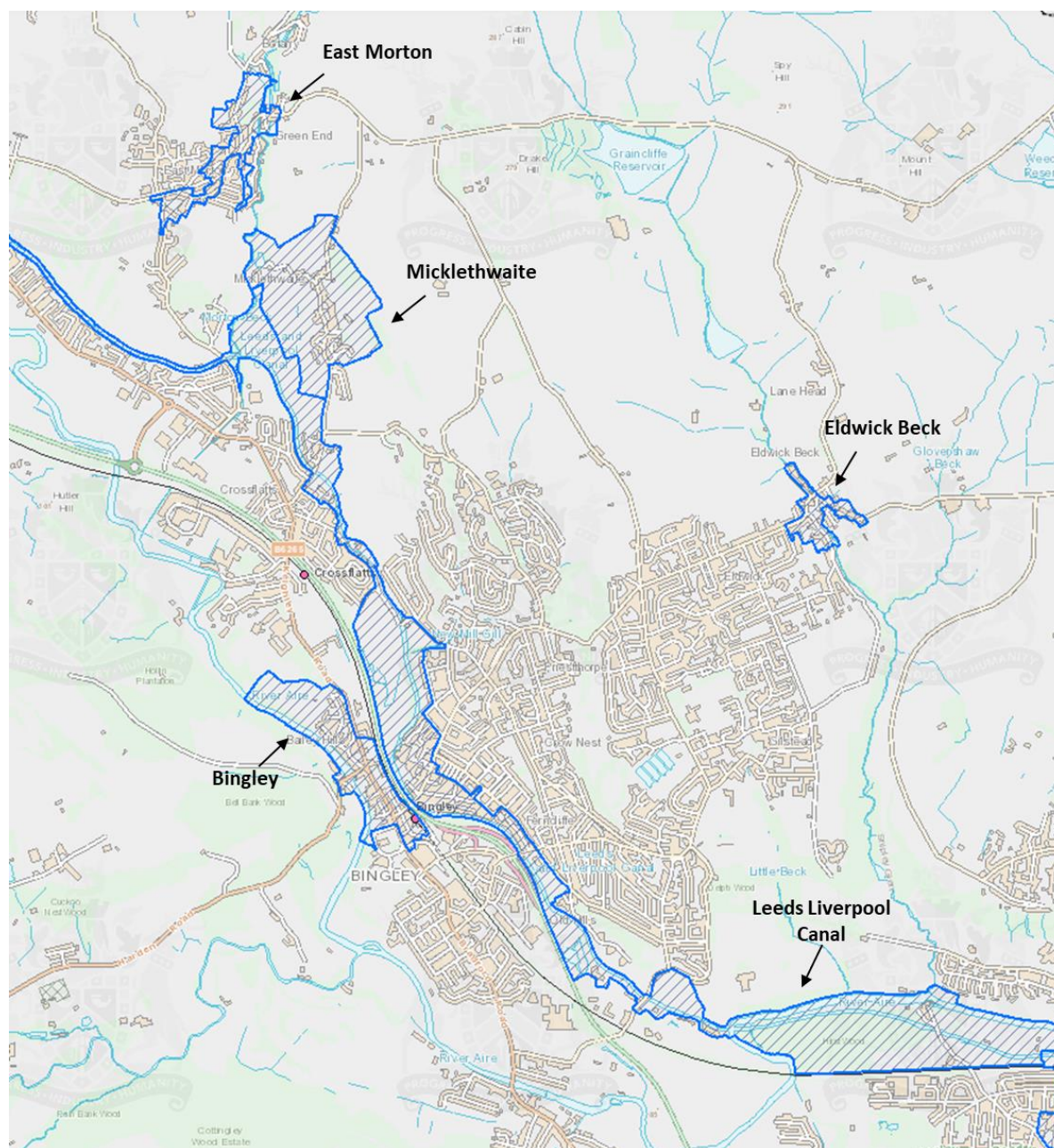


Figure 2.4: Location of the conservation areas in the neighbourhood area (including East Morton, immediately to the west of the parish)²³

²³ Bradford Council (2022): 'Geospatial Portal – Heritage Constraints Web App', [online] accessible [here](#)

3. Screening assessment

3.1 **Table 3.1** discusses the significance of the potential environmental effects of the Bingley Neighbourhood Plan, and their likely significance.

Table 3.1: Potential environmental effects of the Bingley Neighbourhood Plan and their significance

SEA Topic	Discussion of potential effects and their significance	Is there the potential for a significant effect (Yes/No)?
Biodiversity, flora, and fauna	<p>Internationally and nationally designated sites within and within proximity to the neighbourhood area includes South Pennine Moors SAC, South Pennine Moors Phase Two SPA, South Pennine Moors SSSI, Bingley South Bog SSSI, and Trench Meadows SSSI. Locally important sites include local wildlife sites, local geological sites, and areas of priority habitat (primarily deciduous woodland, ancient woodland, and upland heathland). Most of the neighbourhood area is also within buffer zone(s) and SSSI Impact Risk Zones for residential or employment development associated with these designations.</p> <p>The South Pennine Moors SAC is designated for wet heathland, dry heathland, juniper scrub, calaminarian grassland, montane acid grasslands, calcareous grassland, blanket bog, hard-water springs, alkaline fens, acidic scree, crevice plants on both acid and calcareous rocks, oak woodland, and marsh saxifrage. The South Pennine Moors Phase Two SPA is designated for breeding hen harrier, merlin, peregrine falcon and golden plover.</p> <p>The SPA in particular is sensitive to various impacts of development, including recreational pressures and the loss of functionally linked land. According to the Supplementary Advice on the Conservation Objectives for the SPA (accessible here), the golden plover will utilise marginal or low-intensity agricultural pastures up to 4km from the SPA (where these are near to moorland nesting habitat).</p> <p>Whilst these designations do offer sensitivities, given the Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate housing or employment uses, this will limit the scope for significant effects on biodiversity as a result of potential Neighbourhood Plan proposals. In this respect, the Neighbourhood Plan does not deliver a quantum of development that exceeds the assumed numbers for the parish at the time when the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Emerging Local Plan was completed²⁴. As such, the Neighbourhood Plan does not present any mechanism for impacts on the SAC or SPA.</p> <p>Alongside, a key facet of the evolving plan is the enhancement of green infrastructure networks in the neighbourhood area and the protection of key features and areas of biodiversity importance through the design of new development areas. This will help limit effects on biodiversity and support biodiversity improvements. In light of this evidence, effects on biodiversity are <u>unlikely to be significant</u>.</p>	No

²⁴ Footprint Ecology (on behalf of Bradford Council) (2021): Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Preferred Options Consultation', [online] accessible [here](#), one of the key supporting documents accompanying the most recent Regulation 18 consultation for the Emerging Local Plan which was completed between February and March 2021.

SEA Topic	Discussion of potential effects and their significance	Is there the potential for a significant effect (Yes/No)?
Population and human health	Bingley Town Centre provides an economic, cultural, and civic focus for the community. Improving and regenerating this area is an integral component of the vision and objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan. In addition, the Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies which have an explicit focus on improving the quality of life of residents, including improving the public realm, accessibility to services and facilities, and green infrastructure enhancements. Whilst the benefits which arise for residents from a well-designed Neighbourhood Plan have the potential to be wide-ranging, these are <u>not deemed to be significant</u> with regards to the SEA Regulations and their requirements.	No
Soil	<p>Recent agricultural land classification has not been undertaken in the parish. Based on the Predictive Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV) Assessment, much of the undeveloped areas of the parish are underlain by land with a 'moderate' to 'high' likelihood of BMV land.²⁵</p> <p>However, given the Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate land for development, the Neighbourhood Plan policies are not likely to lead to the loss of significant areas of productive agricultural land in the parish.</p> <p>As such, the effect on soil resources is <u>deemed to be insignificant</u> with regards to the SEA Regulations and their requirements.</p>	No
Water	<p>Development proposals influenced by Neighbourhood Plan policies may lead to very limited changes in water demand in the neighbourhood area. However, in the context of water management within West Yorkshire, and wider population pressures, the effect on water resources is <u>deemed to be insignificant</u>.</p> <p>Similarly, given the lack of allocations taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan, impacts on water quality in the neighbourhood area from the Neighbourhood Plan are unlikely to be significant.</p>	No
Air	No Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) are present in the neighbourhood area, with the four designated AQMA in the metropolitan district located within the City of Bradford ²⁶ . Given the Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate development, it is unlikely to significantly increase traffic and congestion in the parish, or in locations with sensitivities for air quality (including the AQMA in the City of Bradford). As such, effects on air quality as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan, are <u>unlikely to be significant</u> .	No

²⁵ Natural England (2017): 'Likelihood of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land - Strategic scale map Yorkshire and The Humber' [online] available to access [here](#)

²⁶ Bradford Council (2020): 'Review and assessment of air quality in the Bradford Metropolitan District – 2020 Air Quality Annual Status Report', [online] available to access [here](#)

SEA Topic	Discussion of potential effects and their significance	Is there the potential for a significant effect (Yes/No)?
Climatic factors	<p>In terms of climate change mitigation, the Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development. As such the Neighbourhood Plan will not lead to increases in greenhouse gas emissions from a significant increase in the built footprint of the parish, particularly in light of the scale of development which has the potential to be delivered through the Emerging Local Plan. In terms of emissions from transport, the objectives and policies of the plan seek to encourage sustainable transport use and support opportunities for active travel (i.e., walking and cycling, and strengthening the links between village centres). This will help limit potential increases in greenhouse gas emissions from transport that may arise as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Parts of the parish are at significant risk of flooding. This is associated with the presence of the River Aire. Whilst it is considered that statutory requirements (including the requirements of the NPPF) will help ensure that flood risk is addressed through new development proposals, the Neighbourhood Plan encourages planning applications to incorporate green infrastructure and appropriate drainage within the design of new development areas (amongst other considerations). This will indirectly support and protect the natural functioning of the River Aire. When combined with the lack of allocations to be proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan, significant impacts on flood risk are not anticipated as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Effects in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation are therefore <u>unlikely to be significant</u> with regard to the SEA Regulations and their requirements.</p>	No
Material assets	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to lead to significant increases in the neighbourhood area's waste management requirements, particularly given its lack of allocations. Effects are likely to be further limited by statutory requirements regarding waste management, including through the provisions of the Waste Management DPD.</p> <p>No mineral sites are likely to be affected as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Effects are therefore <u>unlikely to be significant</u> in the context of the SEA Regulations and their requirements.</p>	No

SEA Topic	Discussion of potential effects and their significance	Is there the potential for a significant effect (Yes/No)?
Cultural heritage	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate sites for housing or employment.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan also sets out a range of provisions which will conserve and enhance the fabric and setting of the historic environment, including designated and undesignated assets and areas within the parish. This includes through the identification of areas of special character which are distinctive for their important buildings and structures of local heritage interest. In addition, the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan (supported by the provisions of the design codes and masterplan which accompany the Neighbourhood Plan) have a close focus on protecting and enhancing historic townscape character and the setting of the historic environment, and on implementing high quality design.</p> <p>As such, any effects are <u>unlikely to be significant</u> in the context of the SEA Regulations and their requirements.</p>	No
Landscape	<p>There are no AONBs or National Parks of landscape value present in the parish. However, the Liverpool, Manchester, and West Yorks Green Belt covers most of the neighbourhood area, specifically the undeveloped areas outside of the existing town and villages.</p> <p>Crucially, the Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate sites for housing or employment land. This is primarily due to the complex issues within the neighbourhood area, including in relation to a lack of available brownfield land, and the potential need to release Green Belt land to accommodate new development areas.</p> <p>Policies of the Neighbourhood Plan (supported by the provisions of the design codes and masterplan which accompany the Neighbourhood Plan) have a close focus on protecting and enhancing landscape and townscape character, and on implementing high quality design.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan also has a strong focus on retaining the separation and identity of Bingley Town and the surrounding villages (which includes Cottingley, Crossflats, Eldwick, Gilstead and Micklethwaite), with a view to preventing the coalescence of settlements through new development areas.</p> <p>Sites which could potentially benefit from a local green space designation have also been identified, along with a strong focus on protecting and enhancing green infrastructure and important views and vistas within the neighbourhood area.</p> <p>As such, any effects are <u>unlikely to be significant</u> in the context of the SEA Regulations and their requirements.</p>	No

4. Summary of screening opinion

- 4.1 This screening opinion has considered whether the Bingley Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects in conjunction with the SEA Regulations.
- 4.2 The screening has considered a number of potential environmental effects that may arise as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan. Whilst some limited environmental effects have the potential to take place as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered that these are unlikely to be significant in the context of the SEA Regulations and their requirements.
- 4.3 The SEA topics where effects have the most potential to be significant relates to biodiversity and the historic environment. This relates to the significant historic environment and biodiversity constraints present in the neighbourhood area, including as represented by the presence of the South Pennine Moors SAC, South Pennine Moors Phase Two SPA, South Pennine Moors SSSI, Bingley South Bog SSSI, Saltaire WHS, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, and four conservation areas. However, due to the lack of allocations taken forward through the Bingley Neighbourhood Plan²⁷, the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the fabric and/or setting and significance of key heritage assets in the parish, or on the key features affecting the integrity of the SAC, SPA, and SSSI present locally.
- 4.4 Of key relevance here is that that the Neighbourhood Plan is being brought forward within the wider strategic context provided by the Emerging Local Plan, which has already been subjected to appropriate assessment. While there will be housing development within the parish over the plan period, the quantum has already been assessed in the Emerging Local Plan HRA, in combination with growth elsewhere in Bradford during the emerging plan period. Since no allocations are made in the Neighbourhood Plan, the impacts of specific development sites can only be assessed through the development control process as applications are made.
- 4.5 In addition, a central element of the Neighbourhood Plan's emerging policies is to limit potential environmental effects and secure environmental enhancements. In this respect, the neighbourhood planning policies seek to shape development which may come forward during the plan period without allocating sites. This includes relating to housing type and tenure, and in terms of design (supported by design codes and masterplans), town centre regeneration, public realm improvements, green infrastructure enhancements, community value, environmental protection, economic vitality, and transportation (particularly active travel opportunities). This will further limit the potential for significant environmental effects.
- 4.6 For these reasons, it is considered that the Neighbourhood Plan is not subject to the requirements of the SEA Regulations. As such, **a full SEA process meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations is not deemed to be required to accompany the development of the Bingley Neighbourhood Plan.**

²⁷ DLUHC (February 2022): Chief Planner's Newsletter, February 2022 "Strategic Environmental Assessment for Neighbourhood Plans: Timely and effective screening" [online] accessible [here](#)

