

Borough of Redditch Local Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment: Screening Statement

May 2026

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Introduction

Purpose of this Statement

The 30-month local plan process (overview)¹ indicates that before the 30-month process starts, councils should confirm the need to carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Whilst the 'overview' considers that all local plans will need to carry out SEA, this statement confirms Redditch Borough Council's position.

This Screening Statement has been prepared to determine whether the Borough of Redditch Local Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with:

- The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations); and
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC).

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations) transcribed the European Directive 2001/42/EC (the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive) into UK law.

SEA is a process designed to evaluate and communicate the potential environmental effects of a plan, alongside its reasonable alternatives. Its purpose is to guide and shape plan-making, preventing or reducing adverse impacts and enhancing opportunities for positive outcomes. SEA aims to strengthen a plan's overall contribution to sustainable development.

SEA of Local Plans

SEA Regulations 5 & 9 require "the responsible authority" to "determine" whether SEA is required. Redditch Borough Council is the responsible body for the production of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan and is therefore responsible to determine whether the plan:

- Is likely to have significant environmental effects, and therefore requires SEA; or
- Can be screened out because significant effects are unlikely.

Borough of Redditch Local Plan

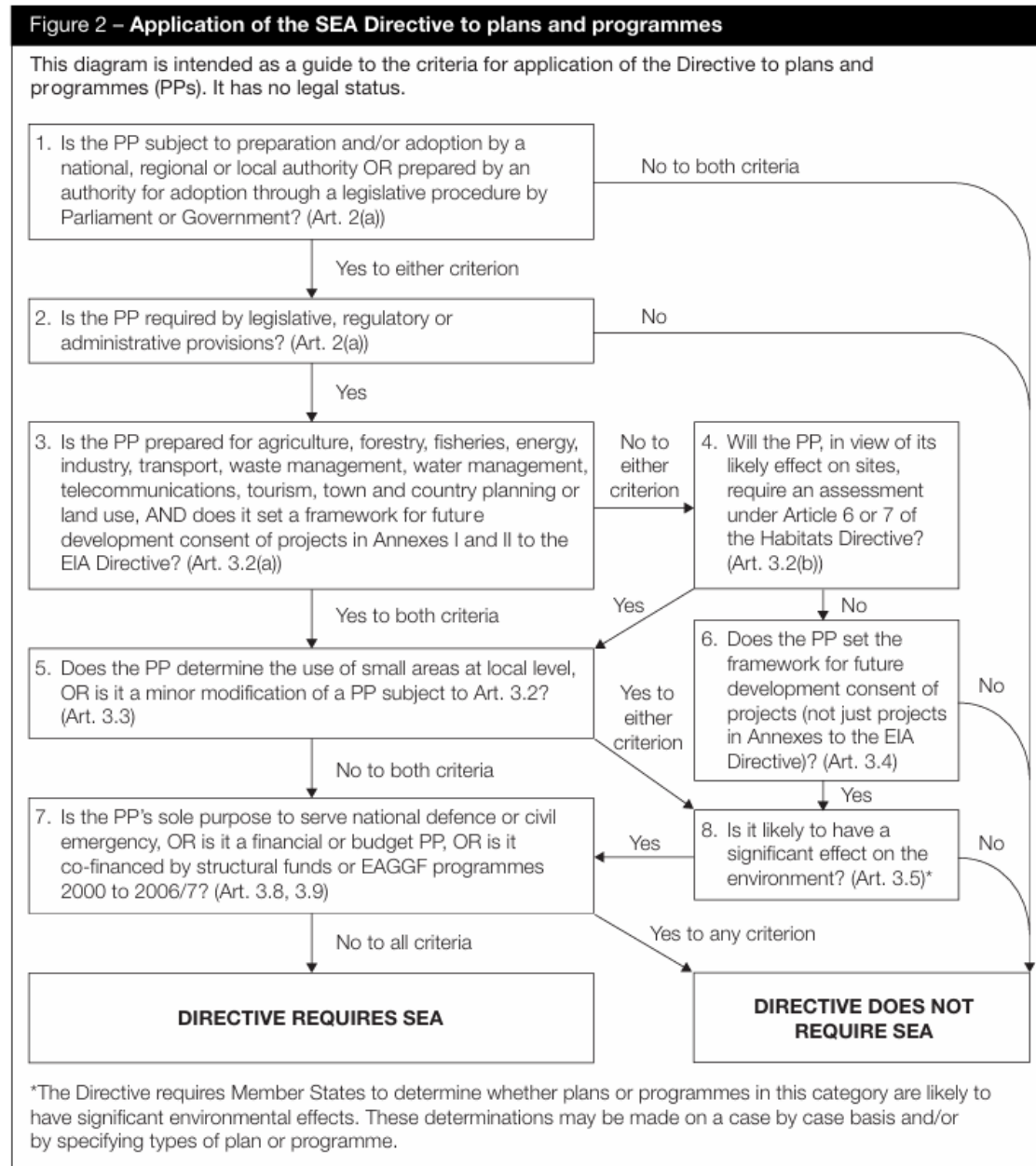
The new Borough of Redditch Local Plan will be progressed under the Government's new 30 month plan-making process in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 and will set out the spatial planning framework for the Borough of Redditch administrative area for a period up to 2044. Its content is the subject of a pre-Gateway 1 Scoping consultation².

¹ [30-month local plan process: an overview - GOV.UK](#)

² <https://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/redditchplan-scoping>

SEA Screening

The 'Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'³ provides a flow diagram (figure 2) which summarises the SEA screening process.



³ [A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#)

SEA Screen of the new Borough of Redditch Local Plan

The questions posed in the flow diagram above has been used to undertake the SEA screening process for the new Local Plan and follow the route through the flowchart as directed.

Screening Question	Commentary
<p>1. Is the plan or programme subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))</p>	<p>YES - The Borough of Redditch Local Plan is to be prepared and adopted by a local authority, namely Redditch Borough Council.</p> <p>YES - Preparation and adoption of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan is in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.</p> <p>(Yes to either criterion, go to Q2)</p>
<p>2. Is the plan or programme required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))</p>	<p>YES - Local Planning Authorities are legally required to produce Local Plans under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.</p> <p>(Yes – go to Q3)</p>
<p>3. Is the plan or programme prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))?</p>	<p>YES - The Borough of Redditch Local Plan will be prepared for town and country planning and land use purposes.</p> <p>YES - The Borough of Redditch Local Plan will set the framework for the future development consent of projects, which may include development that may fall under Annex I and II of the EIA Directive. Specifically, it will contain criteria and/or conditions which guide the way a consenting authority decides an application for development consent. Development consent is defined in the EIA Directive as “the decision of the competent authority or authorities which entitles the developer to proceed with the project” (Article 1(2) of the EIA Directive).</p> <p>(Yes to both criteria, go to Q5)</p>
<p>4. Will the plan or programme, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))?</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

Screening Question	Commentary
5. Does the plan or programme determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	NO – The Borough of Redditch Local Plan will set out extensive land use policies to accommodate the Borough’s full development need, <u>nor</u> is it relevant to modification of a PP. (No to both criteria, go to Q7)
6. Does the plan or programme set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Not applicable.
7. Is the plan or programme’s sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	NO - The Borough of Redditch Local Plan does not serve national defence or civil emergency purposes, <u>nor</u> is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes. (No to all criteria – DIRECTIVE REQUIRES SEA)
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	Not applicable.

Conclusion

Based on the assessment contained in the table above, the conclusion of this SEA Screening Statement is that the Borough of Redditch Local Plan has the potential to have a significant effect on the natural environment and will require that SEA is undertaken.

This SEA Screening Statement will be made available for consultation as part of the accompanying documents under the 'Scoping consultation'.

In accordance with Regulation 9(2) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 the three statutory consultees, the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England, will need to be consulted. These bodies will be notified as part of the 'Scoping consultation' requirements.

Any comments received about this SEA Screening Statement will be taken into account as the Council moves towards preparation for passage through Gateway 1 of the new 30 month plan-making process.