

Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Marine Plan Screening Determination for Ince Neighbourhood Plan

Prepared on behalf of Ince Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group by

Cheshire West and Chester Council

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1 Introduction

In accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), this document is the screening determination of the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Ince Neighbourhood Plan. This document also sets out the findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening and identifies whether Appropriate Assessment is required the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It also covers the screening for the North West Marine Plan.

Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the responsible authority (i.e. the Local Planning Authority) must carry out an environmental assessment for any plan or programme that is prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, which sets the framework for future development consents of certain projects. It is likely that Development Plan Documents (DPDs), such as the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies and Neighbourhood Plans will require SEA as they will contain planning policies that influence the above list of topics, and which will be used to determine planning applications.

However, the regulations state that an environmental assessment need not be carried out for a plan or programme which determines the use of a small area at a local level unless it has been determined that the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.

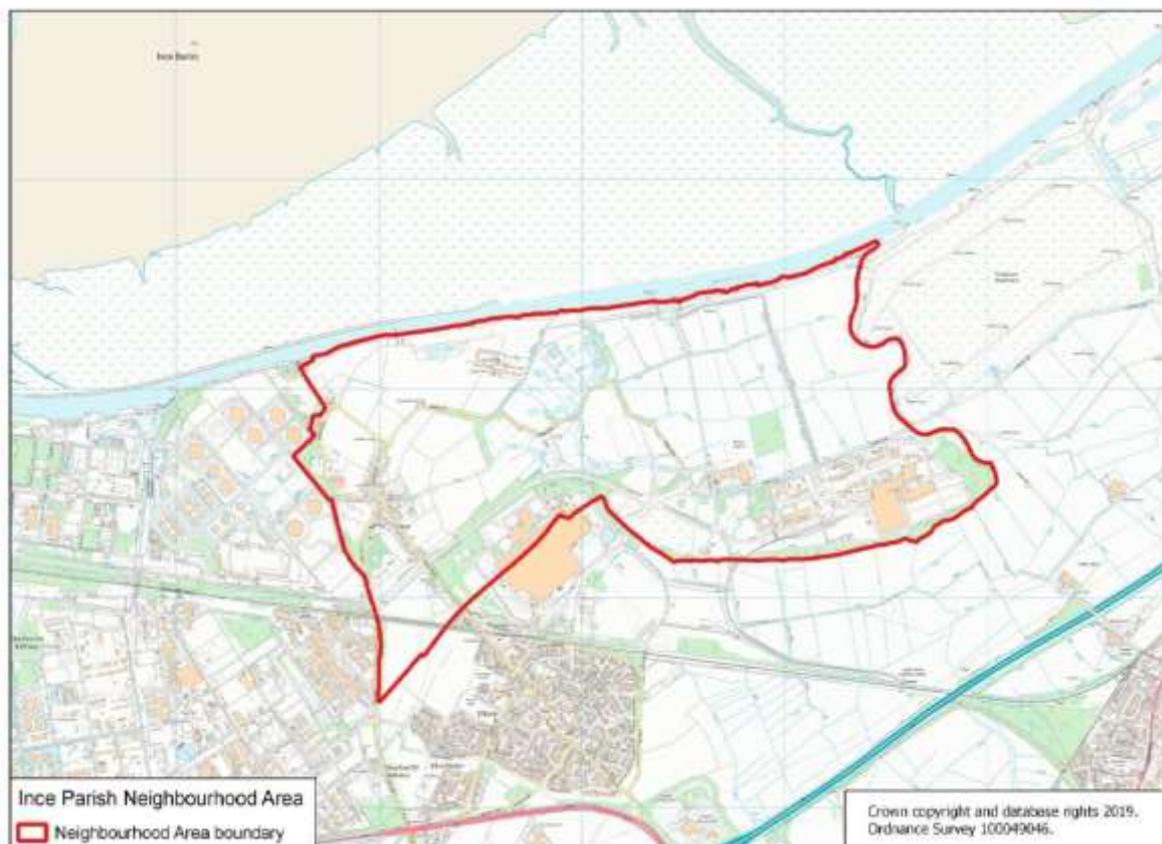
The regulations advise that a screening process is used to determine whether or not a plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. This process should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the regulations). The results of this process must be summarised in a SEA screening opinion, which is then sent to the statutory consultation bodies for comment. Once comments have been taken into account a screening determination is prepared setting out whether SEA is required and reasons for the decision and this must be made publicly available.

A draft screening opinion was produced in October 2021. The Council has a duty to consult Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. The statutory environmental bodies were consulted on 15 October 2021. The Marine Management Organisation was also consulted in relation to the North West Marine Plan. Details of the bodies consulted and the responses received on SEA and HRA are provided in Appendix 7. Responses were received from Natural England, Historic England and the Marine Management Organisation, who agreed with the outcome of the initial screening exercise, that SEA is not required. This final screening statement addresses comments made during the consultation.

Location and geographical scope of the Ince Neighbourhood Plan

Ince is a village and Parish within the Cheshire West and Chester unitary authority, the village is within the green belt and in a core area within the boroughs ecological network. The population of Ince Parish is around 203 people, living in approximately 90 households, based on the 2011 census. The Neighbourhood Plan area designation aligns with the boundary of the Ince Parish Council area.

The Ince Neighbourhood Area is shown on the map below.



Relationship to other plans and programmes

Once made the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of development plan for Cheshire West and Chester. The policy framework once made will not work in isolation. The Neighbourhood Plan will work alongside the adopted Local Plan policies in place at the time it is made.

The Neighbourhood Plan must have regard to national policy; be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan; must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and meet EU obligations and human rights requirements.

The current adopted Local Plan for the area is Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (adopted January 2015) and the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies (adopted July 2019). The Part One plan sets out the overall vision, strategic objectives, spatial strategy and strategic planning policies for the borough to 2030, with supporting policies in Part Two.

The Local Plan policy framework has been taken into account when carrying out the screening exercise. This forms the baseline for the SEA and HRA screening assessment. It has considered the potential effects of the Neighbourhood Plan over and above the current adopted Local Plan (Part One) and the Local Plan (Part Two).

It is a legal requirement for Marine Plans to be considered in any decision affecting the marine area. The Marine Plans that are potentially relevant to neighbourhood planning in Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) are the North West Marine Plan and the Welsh National Marine Plan. This is considered further in Chapter 4.

Scope of Neighbourhood Plan

The vision for the Ince Neighbourhood Plan is as follows:

The traditional character of our small, rural parish within the green belt and countryside, will be retained and enhanced. Future development will reflect our community's needs and aspirations, and enhance the quality of life whilst respecting and preserving local landscape, historic features and natural assets. Ince will be an excellent place to live, visit and enjoy walking, cycling and horse riding. The environment will enhance the health and wellbeing of our village which will be a tranquil setting with a strong sense of community.

The following objectives have been identified for the Ince Neighbourhood Plan:

- *To protect and enhance the Conservation Area and heritage assets for the enjoyment of the community and visitors whilst maintaining the character and distinctiveness of our historic environment.*
- *To enhance and protect green and open spaces to ensure that they remain to the benefit of the community for future acceptable use.*
- *To identify, protect and enhance the biodiversity and various habitats whilst improving the connectivity of green infrastructure.*

- *To enhance and protect our historic landscape including hedgerows, trees, woodland and agricultural land and views.*
- *To support renewable energy sources which benefit our local community impacting favourably on health and wellbeing with emphasis on improving the quality of air and reduction in noise pollution.*
- *To improve access to our countryside through enhancement of footpaths, cycle paths and bridleways which support the health and wellbeing of our community whilst also benefiting flora and fauna by enhancing and protecting green corridors between habitats.*
- *To actively support our rural economy that enables and encourages small scale employment opportunities and agricultural development and ensure that appropriate industrial development is directed to the strategic employment sites.*

The vision and objectives have been translated into plan policies under the chapter headings of heritage and conservation, local green space, natural environment, climate change, footpaths, bridleways and cycleways and economy.

The Ince Neighbourhood Plan (January 2023) has been prepared so as to be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan (Part One) and the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies.

The Parish is located in the rural area of the borough and partly within the Green Belt. The settlement of Ince is not identified within the local plan as a key or local service centre, therefore new development is restricted to specific types set out in Local Plan (Part One) policy STRAT 9. The settlement of Ince lies close to established major employers. In the wider Parish area, there are strategic employment and waste land allocations covered by the Local Plan (Part One) policies ECON 1/ ENV 8/ STRAT 4. These are essential to meeting future economic growth objectives and waste needs established in the local plan. In the context of the local plan, these industries fall within the Ellesmere Port settlement boundary (Part Two policy EP 1), which is also partly within the Parish Council boundary.

The Ince Neighbourhood Plan does not propose land allocations for development and does not refer to 'excluded development' such as minerals or waste. It is noted there is a strategic Local plan waste allocation within the borough, but this is not covered by the Neighbourhood Plan. There are some policies that aim to protect/enhance historic assets, inform proposals within the Ince Conservation Area, identify protected local green spaces, protect the natural environment, wildlife and biodiversity, protect landscape character. There are also policies on environmental quality, transport, climate change and economy.

Alongside work on the Neighbourhood Plan, an updated Conservation Area Appraisal is being prepared. Work is also being undertaken to identify potential locally listed buildings. These are not on the list of nationally protected buildings prepared by Historic England, but are considered to be locally important as they make a positive contribution to the local character of the area. The SEA Screening Determination only considers the likelihood of a significant environmental effect resulting from the Plan policies, rather than general conformity with strategic policies which is a matter for the Examination.

2 Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

Legislative background and methodology

European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be carried out for certain plans and programmes to assess their effects on the environment. This Directive was transposed in law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The Ince Neighbourhood Plan fall within the scope of this legislation as it is a plan prepared for town and country planning or land use and will set the framework for future development consent of projects, in accordance with Part 3(2) of the SEA Directive. However, Neighbourhood Plans are land use planning documents prepared at the local level to determine land use in a small area.

Under Part 5(6) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, SEA is only required for documents that determine land use of a small area at local level and minor modifications to plans and programmes where it is considered that it is likely to have significant environmental effects. Assessment of whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects is carried out through the screening process.

If SEA is required, the assessment is usually incorporated into a Sustainability Appraisal, which includes environmental factors as required under the SEA Directive, along with social and economic factors.

Screening methodology

The role of the screening exercise is to determine whether the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The criteria for assessing whether a plan or programme is likely to have a significant environmental effect are set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The assessment criteria used to determine whether a plan or programme will have significant environmental effects are separated into two categories:

- those relating to the characteristics of the plan; and
- those relating to the characteristics of the plan's effects and of the area likely to be affected.

In order to undertake the identification of the likely significance of effects, an assessment has been undertaken of each policy of the Neighbourhood Plan, its potential effects and its relationship to Local Plan (Part One) strategic policies and the policies in the Local Plan (Part Two). This helps to assess the impact that the Neighbourhood Plan will have above and beyond the impact of existing Local Plan policies. This assessment is set out in the table in **Appendix 1**.

The assessment of the significant environmental effects of the Ince Neighbourhood Plan is set out in **Appendix 2**. The characteristics of the plan's effects and the area likely to be affected are set out in **Appendix 3**.

Conclusion

As a result of the SEA screening assessment, Cheshire West and Chester Council consider that it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Ince Neighbourhood Plan. As such, a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Ince Neighbourhood Plan is not required.

3 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Legislative background

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 transposed the requirements of the European Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC into UK law. The Habitats Directive and Regulations afford protection to plants, animals and habitats that are rare and vulnerable in a European context.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a systematic process through which the performance of a plan or project can be assessed for its likely impact on the integrity of a European Site. European sites, also referred to as Natura 2000 sites, consist of Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC); Potential Special Protection Areas and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (pSPA and cSAC); and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on it, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, should be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

The first stage of HRA is to screen a plan or programme to identify if there are likely to be any significant effects on the European sites. This will indicate whether a full Appropriate Assessment is required. The regulations require that the impacts and effects of any land use plan being assessed, are considered in combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the relevant European site(s).

Inter-relationship with the Local Plan HRA

The Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies has already been through the HRA process, and the results detailed in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Publication Draft (Part 1) Strategic Policies Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report.

The HRA for the Local Plan (Part One) identified 12 European sites to include within the HRA:

- Oak Mere SAC;
- Midlands Meres and Mosses Ramsar site;
- West Midlands Mosses SAC;
- River Dee and Bala Lake SAC;
- Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar;

- Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar;
- Liverpool Bay SPA;
- Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC;
- Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar and SPA;
- Sefton Coast SAC;
- Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site; and
- River Eden SAC.

Information about all of these sites, the reasons for designation, pressures and pathways of impacts are provided in the HRA for the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two). Information about sites relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan is summarised in Appendix 4.

Map 2 shows the European sites that are within 15km of the Neighbourhood Plan area. All of the other European sites have been screened out from this assessment as impacts would not occur due to the distance or would be so small and insignificant in scale that they would not have a Likely Significant Effect, even when combined with other plans or projects.

The following sites have been screened out as they are outside the 15km radius for the Ince Neighbourhood Area:

- Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC
- Sefton Coast SAC
- Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site; and
- River Eden SAC
- Liverpool Bay SPA
- Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar and SPA;

Due to the distance and scale of anticipated development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan, it is not considered relevant to include these sites in the HRA Screening of the Ince Neighbourhood Plan.

The European protected sites that fall within a 15km radius of the Neighbourhood Area (as shown on Map 2) are included within the HRA Screening. Due to the pathways of impact on these sites, the scale and location of the Neighbourhood Plan area and the scale of potential future developments means that some of the European sites can be screened out and do not require further assessment. Oak

Mere, Midlands Meres and Mosses, West Midlands Mosses, River Dee and Bala Lake and Dee Estuary are each screened out as there are unlikely to be any direct impacts due to the distance and scale of anticipated development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan.

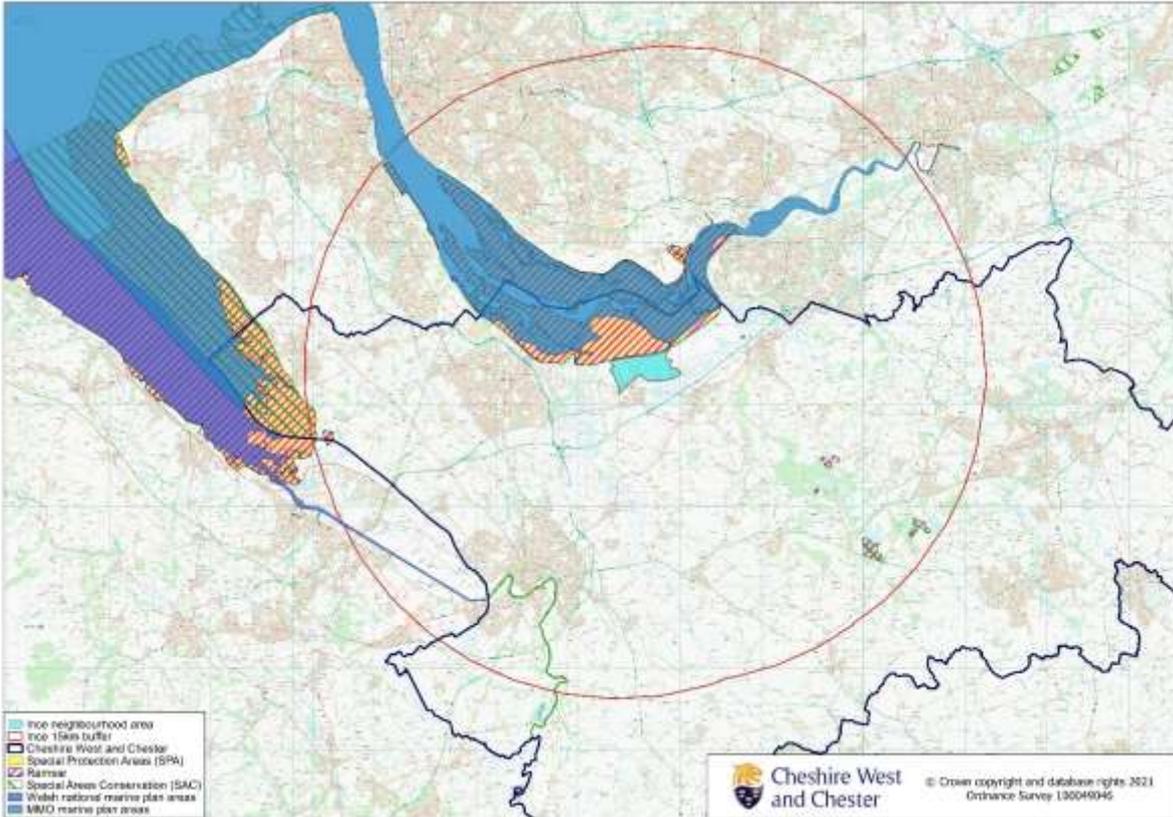
Appendix 4 identifies whether there could be potential impacts arising from the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, on the European protected site and their reasons for designation.

The conservation objectives of the European sites will be taken into account. These include maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

The HRA undertaken for the Local Plan (Part One) and (Part Two) forms part of the baseline for the HRA screening assessment of the Ince Neighbourhood Plan. The potential effects of the Neighbourhood Plan over and above those already assessed for the Local Plan have been considered. The Local Plan (Part One) was identified through the HRA process, as not leading to a Likely Significant Effect on European Sites. The HRA of the Local Plan (Part Two) concluded that, in the context of the over-arching strategic policies contained within the Local Plan (Part One) comprises a sufficient policy framework to enable the subsequent delivery of necessary measures that would avoid or adequately mitigate adverse effects on internationally designated sites and thus enable a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity.

The below map shows the European sites that are within 15km of the Neighbourhood Plan area.



The European sites are also subject to certain pressures that are outside the scope of the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans and therefore have not been included in the table above. Table 1 below identifies the potential pressures (which may be relevant to one or several of the European sites) and explains why it is not considered relevant to the HRA of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Table 1: Potential pressures outside the scope of the HRA

Pressure	Reasons outside scope of this HRA
Disturbance of sediment releasing legacy heavy metal pollution that is bound into the sediment.	The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan relate to land-based uses and operations, which will not disturb sediment within European sites.
Pollution via commercial shipping by chemical or noise pollution and dumping of litter at sea	The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan will not have a significant impact on commercial shipping.
Navigational / aggregate dredging resulting in physical loss and alteration of coastal processes or damage of marine benthic habitat	The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan will not have a significant impact on navigational or aggregate dredging.
Overfishing of particular species	Fishing levels are not controlled through Neighbourhood Plans.

Overgrazing of ungrazed / little grazed saltmarsh	Grazing levels are not controlled through Neighbourhood Plans.
Damage of marine benthic habitat directly from fishing methods	Commercial fishing methods and levels are not controlled through Neighbourhood Plans.
The need to manage continuing coastal erosion at protected sites outside CWaC	Neighbourhood Plans within CWaC will not impact on management of coastal erosion in areas outside CWaC.
The need to develop and maintain management practices which sustain the conservation value of the area for protected sites outside CWaC.	Neighbourhood Plans cannot influence management practices for protected sites outside CWaC.
Loss or damage of habitat as a result of increasing off-shore exploration and production activity associated with oil and natural gas on protected sites outside CWaC.	Neighbourhood Plans within CWaC cannot control oil and gas exploration and production activity outside CWaC.
Coastal squeeze from land reclamation and coastal flood defences and drainage in European sites outside CWaC.	Neighbourhood Plans within CWaC will not have a significant impact on coastal squeeze resulting from land reclamation, coastal flood defences and drainage in areas outside CWaC.

HRA screening

The Neighbourhood Plan is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of a European site for nature conservation and therefore needs to be assessed for Likely Significant Effects.

It is considered that as long as the proposed policies of a Neighbourhood Plan do not alter the strategic policy framework assessed in the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) HRA Screening Report and do not have Likely Significant Effects beyond this, then Appropriate Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan will not be required. The Ince Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development, which makes it less likely to have significant effects resulting from specific development supported through the Plan.

Appendix 5 identifies whether the Neighbourhood Plan alters the policy position for the area. It also assesses whether each policy has a Likely Significant Effect alone. If a Likely Significant Effect is identified, the policy would be taken forward for further investigation through Appropriate Assessment. If there is no Likely Significant Effect when considering the policy alone, the final column assesses whether the policy could have a Likely Significant Effect when combined with the effects of other relevant policies, plans or projects.

Nutrient Neutrality

In March 2022, Natural England issued advice to Local Authorities about the adverse effect that nutrient pollution is having on habitats sites. Nutrient neutrality advice requires that competent authorities under the Habitats Regulations carefully consider the nutrient impacts of any new plans and projects on habitats sites, and whether those impacts may have an adverse effect on the integrity of a habitats site that requires mitigation. Within Cheshire West and Chester, Oakmere and West Midlands Meres and Mosses are identified as potentially affected sites.

The Ince NP Screening Opinion was undertaken in October 2021. Oak Mere, and Midlands Meres and Mosses were each screened out of the HRA, as there are unlikely to be any direct impacts due to the distance and scale of anticipated development proposed through the Ince Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan does not provide for additional development or land allocations and is within the overall levels of growth established through the Local Plan. It is unlikely to create a source of water pollution and there is no hydrological connectivity with the Ince NP. It is therefore not necessary to apply the nutrient neutrality methodology to the Ince Neighbourhood Plan.

Conclusion

The Neighbourhood Plan will not work in isolation and will be used alongside other development plan policies including the Local Plan (Part One) and Local Plan (Part Two) for determining planning applications for new development. The quantum of development to come forward in Ince in the future will be set by Local Plan policy. The Neighbourhood Plan will guide how this should come forward locally.

There are no specific issues highlighted in the HRA of the emerging Local Plan in relation to Ince, although there were other more general potential impacts resulting from the quantum and location of development proposed for the borough as a whole in the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two). However, this was considered within the HRAs for the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) and the HRAs concluded that there were sufficient mitigation and control measures in the policy framework of the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) to avoid and mitigate any of these adverse effects on the integrity of a European site in the emerging Local Plan. The policies and proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan will not add significantly to the impacts and will not prevent the mitigation and control measures from avoiding and mitigating the effects sufficiently.

Therefore, it is considered that any proposals coming forward for Ince in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan would not result in a Likely Significant Effect on a European site than already identified and assessed through the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) Habitats Regulation Assessment Report.

The Screening determination made by Cheshire West and Chester Council is that the Ince Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have an adverse effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d), alone or in combination with other plans and projects. As such, Appropriate Assessment is not considered to be required.

4 Marine Plan Screening

Marine planning ensures that the right activities happen in the right place, at the right time and in the right way in marine areas.

Marine plans provide guidance on things to promote or avoid in certain marine locations. As the marine planning authority for England, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is responsible for preparing marine plans in England for inshore and offshore waters.

The Marine Plans that are potentially relevant to neighbourhood planning in Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) are the North West Marine Plan and the Welsh National

Marine Plan. The diagram below shows the areas covered by these Marine Plans. Marine plans apply up to the mean high-water springs mark, which includes the tidal extent of any rivers, as shown on the map.

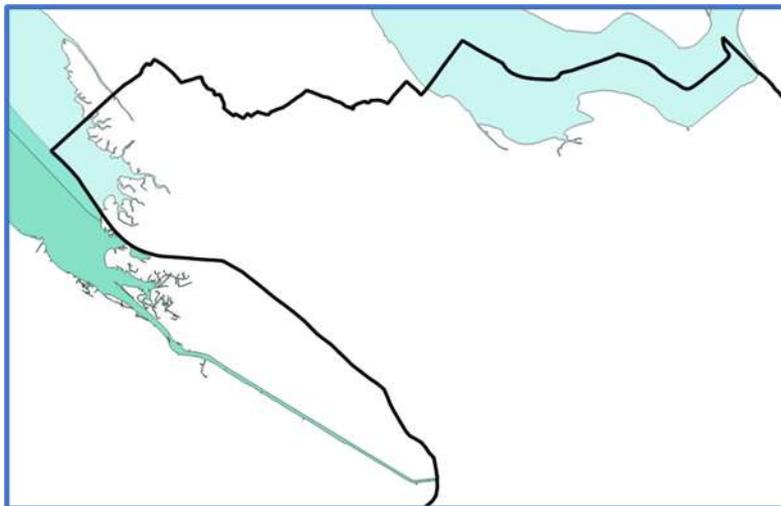
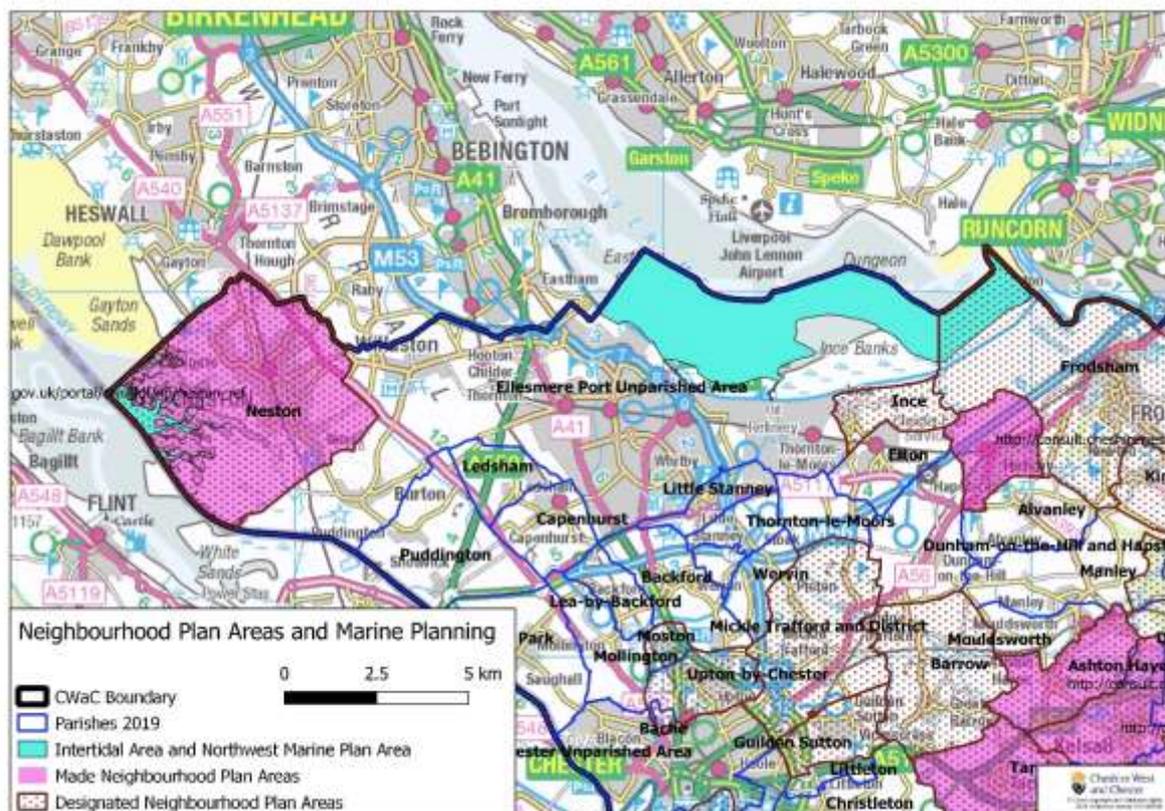


Figure showing CWaC boundary in black. The light blue is the area covered by the emerging North West Marine Plan, and the darker turquoise the area covered by the Welsh National Marine Plan.



It is a legal requirement for marine plans to be considered in all decisions that affect England's marine area, now and into the future. Section 58(3) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act requires that public authorities must have regard to marine plans

when taking any decisions which relate to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the UK marine area. This can include decision making relating to Neighbourhood Plans.

The policies set out in marine plans apply only in their area (i.e. up to the mean high-water springs mark – which includes the tidal extent of any rivers), but if a proposed activity may affect the plan area, this should be acknowledged and considered.

There are not statutory requirements or guidelines for the screening of Neighbourhood Plans to assess likelihood of impacts on the marine plan or marine area. To do this we undertake a three-stage process, with the first stage to assess the distance of the Neighbourhood Plan area from the marine area.

Stage 1

If a Neighbourhood Plan extends into the marine plan area, it will definitely be screened in. If a Neighbourhood Plan is within 1km of a marine plan area it should proceed to the next stage, but it is likely that it will need to be screened in. As the distance from mean high-water springs mark increases, the likelihood of being screened in reduces, however further assessment is required at the next stage.

Ince Neighbourhood Plan is 0.2 km from the mean high-water springs mark for the North West Marine Plan and 15 km from the mean high-water springs mark for the Welsh National Marine Plan. There are drains and other water courses in the Ince area that drain into the Manchester Ship Canal and therefore also drain into the Mersey Estuary. As this is part of the North West Marine Plan, this Marine Plan has been screened in. The Welsh National Marine plan has been screened out on the basis that there are no major watercourses that drain from the Ince area into the Marine Plan area and the area is 15km away from the Ince Neighbourhood plan area.

Stage 2

The second stage is to assess whether the plan includes proposed allocations and if so, whether these allocations have the potential to impact on the marine plan area. The potential for impacts will depend upon distance from the marine plan area, potential pathways of impact and scale and nature of the proposed allocation.

There are no allocations within the Ince Neighbourhood Plan, so the assessment moves to stage 3, where the key policies from the Marine Plan and Neighbourhood Plan are considered. The consideration of Ince Neighbourhood Plan policies (January 2023) is set out in Appendix 6.

Stage 3

The final stage is to assess whether the proposed policies have the potential to impact on the marine plan area.

The policies are checked against the key policies in the marine plan using the [Explore Marine Plans](#) tool. This is set out in Appendix 6. 1 policy is shown to apply to the Ince Neighbourhood Plan Area (Land) However, 46 policies are shown to apply to the Neighbourhood Area under the following themes when considering the Parish boundary is 0.2 km away from the Marine Plan Area which might apply in the wider area under themes:

Land, Infrastructure, Co-existence, Aquaculture, Cables, Dredging & Disposal, Oil & Gas, Ports, Harbours & Shipping, Renewables, Heritage assets, Seascape and Landscape, Fisheries, Employment, Climate Change, Carbon capture, usage and storage, Air quality, Marine litter, Water quality, Access, Tourism & recreation, Social, Defence, Marine protected areas, Biodiversity, Invasive non-native species, Disturbance, Underwater noise and Cumulative effects.

All North West Marine Plan policies will need to be considered. However, the nature of the Ince area and the policies that have been screened in through the assessment means that the key North West Marine Plan policies that are likely to be most relevant are:

- NW-PS-1 - In line with the National Policy Statement for Ports, sustainable port and harbour development should be supported. Only proposals demonstrating compatibility with current port and harbour activities will be supported. Proposals within statutory harbour authority areas or their approaches that detrimentally and materially affect safety of navigation, or the compliance by statutory harbour authorities with the Open Port Duty or the Port Marine Safety Code, will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- NW-PS-4 - Proposals promoting or facilitating sustainable coastal and/or short sea shipping as an alternative to road, rail or air transport will be supported where appropriate.
- NW-REN-1 - Proposals that enable the provision of renewable energy technologies and associated supply chains, will be supported.
- NW-HER-1 - Proposals that demonstrate they will conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets will be supported.
- NW-SCP-1 - Proposals should ensure they are compatible with their surroundings and should not have a significant adverse impact on the character and visual resource of the seascape and landscape of the area.

- NW-EMP-1 - Proposals that result in a net increase in marine-related employment will be supported, particularly where they meet one or more of the following:
 - 1) are aligned with local skills strategies and support the skills available.
 - 2) create a diversity of opportunities.
 - 3) create employment in locations identified as the most deprived.
 - 4) implement new technologies - in, and adjacent to, the north west marine plan areas.
- NW-CC-1 - Proposals which enhance habitats that provide flood defence or carbon sequestration will be supported.
- NW-CC-2 – Resilience to climate change.
- NW-AIR-1 - Proposals must assess their direct and indirect impacts upon local air quality and greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants.
- NW-WQ-1 – Water quality.
- NW-ACC-1 - Public access, tourism and recreation.
- NW-MPA-1 – Proposals that support the objectives of marine protected areas and the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network will be supported.
- NW-MPA-2 - Proposals that enhance a marine protected area’s ability to adapt to climate change, enhancing the resilience of the marine protected area network, will be supported.
- NW-BIO-1 - Proposals that enhance the distribution of priority habitats and priority species will be supported.
- NW-BIO-2 - Proposals that enhance or facilitate native species or habitat adaptation or connectivity, or native species migration, will be supported.
- NW-BIO-3 - Proposals that conserve, restore or enhance coastal habitats, where important in their own right and/or for ecosystem functioning and provision of ecosystem services, will be supported.
- NW-INNS-2 - Public authorities with functions to manage activities that could potentially introduce, transport or spread invasive non-native species should implement adequate biosecurity measures to avoid or minimise the risk of introducing, transporting or spreading invasive non-native species.
- NW-CCUS-3 - Proposals associated with the deployment of low carbon infrastructure for industrial clusters should be supported.

Conclusion

The Ince Neighbourhood Plan is generally anticipated to have a positive relationship with the North West Marine Plan. There is a small potential for a negative relationship between parts of policies FBC 1, NAT 2 and LGS 1 and this should be investigated further to establish opportunities for amendments to reduce any potential negative impacts.

The Neighbourhood Plan group will need to consider the impacts of the Neighbourhood Plan on the North West Marine Plan and should specifically consider the impacts of those policies that have been screened in. The impact of the Neighbourhood Plan will also need to be considered as a whole.

The policies are generally positively worded and are compatible with the objectives of the North West Marine Plan. However, further work should be undertaken to ensure that positive relationships are maximised and negative impacts are avoided. The Local Planning Authority will inform the neighbourhood plan group of the outcome of the screening assessment. No additional work is suggested here as the policies are positively worded and compatible with the objectives of the Marine plan.

Appendix 1: SEA Screening - Overview of policies and identified effects of the Ince Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape).	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
HER1 – Heritage	New developments will be required to conserve and enhance Ince's designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings, maintaining local distinctiveness, character and sense of place.	Protecting landscape, Cultural heritage, Protecting local character.	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - ENV 5 – Historic environment - ENV 6 - High quality design and sustainable construction - STRAT 9 - Greenbelt and countryside
HER2 – Ince Conservation Area	Development proposals in the current Ince Conservation Area or any amended Conservation Area must demonstrate how they have considered the most recent Ince Conservation Area Character Appraisal and identifies the Ince Conservation Area.	Protecting landscape, Cultural heritage, Protecting local character.	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - ENV 5 – Historic environment - ENV 6 - High quality design and sustainable construction - ENV 2 - Landscape - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and countryside
HER3 – Views and Setting of the Conservation Area	Development proposals in the current Ince Conservation Area or any amended Conservation Area must demonstrate how they have considered the most recent Ince Conservation Area Character Appraisal, or any updated version, and should take account important views into and out of the conservation area.	Protecting landscape, Cultural heritage, Protecting local character.	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - ENV 5 – Historic environment - ENV 6 - High quality design and sustainable construction - ENV 2 - Landscape - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and countryside

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape).	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
LGS1 – Local Green Spaces	Designates 15 Local Green Spaces and identifies that development proposals that enhance and protect green and open spaces will be supported.	Effect on population and health, Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna.	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - SOC6 – Open space, sport and recreation - SOC 5 – Health and wellbeing - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and Countryside Local Plan (Part Two) Land allocations and Detailed Policies: - EP 1 - Ellesmere Port settlement area - DM 35 - Open space and new development - DM 36 - Provision for sport and recreation
NAT1 – Wildlife Sites, Indicative, Wildlife Corridors and Biodiversity	Development must have regard to Local Plan policies ENV4 and DM 44. Local wildlife sites, Areas of high distinctiveness habitat and the wildlife corridor network shall be protected from new development unless it can be demonstrated that the benefits of development clearly outweigh the impact it is likely to have on the site and the wider network of sites. Supporting high distinctiveness habitat shall be protected by at least a 15m buffer zone outside of Cheshire West and Chester land allocations. New developments shall demonstrate a net gain in biodiversity.	Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, Climatic factors, Population and human health.	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - ENV 3 Green infrastructure - ENV 4 Biodiversity and geodiversity Local Plan (Part Two) Land allocations and Detailed Policies: - DM 44 - Protecting and enhancing the natural environment Note - The policy wording in the final plan has been amended to apply outside the strategic allocations of the local plan (ECON1/ENV8), which already

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape).	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
			have an approved planning permission in place, with approved ecological mitigation areas.
NAT2 – Landscape Character	<p>In greenbelt and countryside new development must, respect and enhance the landscape character of the area, as defined in the Cheshire West and Chester Landscape Strategy 2016. Development will not be supported if it causes significant harm to the character or setting of the parish.</p> <p>Includes detailed design criteria covering; density, design, materials, boundaries, planting, farm buildings, open landscape, industrial development guidelines, wetland bird habitat and habitat improvement/mitigation, surface water drainage.</p> <p>Includes a policy on significant views - the wide, expansive views towards the marshes, estuary and the SSSI should be protected. Other notable vistas include the views within, out of and into the Conservation Area detailed in policy HER2. New development should seek to maintain or reinforce these views.</p>	<p>Protecting landscape and townscape,</p> <p>Cultural heritage,</p> <p>Population and human health,</p> <p>Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna,</p> <p>Reduce the potential impacts of climate change,</p> <p>Water,</p> <p>Soil.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV 2 - Landscape - ENV6 – High quality design and sustainable construction - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and countryside - EP 1 – Ellesmere Port settlement area <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM3 – Design, character and visual amenity - DM4 – Sustainable construction
NAT3 – Design and Wildlife	All development should look to improve wetland bird habitat, embed out of bounds areas and dark corridors along watercourses/woodland edges/hedgerows, low spillage lighting, hedgehog friendly fencing, south facing banks/bunds for reptiles, direct surface water drainage, SuDS.	<p>Effect on population and health,</p> <p>Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p> <p>Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna,</p> <p>Climatic factors,</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV 2 - Landscape - ENV6 – High quality design and sustainable construction - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and countryside

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape).	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
		Population and human health.	- EP 1 – Ellesmere Port settlement area Local Plan (Part Two) Land allocations and Detailed Policies: - DM3 – Design, character and visual amenity - DM4 – Sustainable construction
NAT4 – Residential Design	New residential extensions and development should be high quality and respond to local materials, resist suburban fencing/ kerbs/lighting, soften built edges with planting, ensure barn conversions are sensitive, comply with CPTED and SBD standards.	Protecting landscape and townscape, Cultural heritage, Population and human health, Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, Reduce the potential impacts of climate change, Water, Soil.	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - ENV 2 - Landscape - ENV6 – High quality design and sustainable construction - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and countryside - EP 1 – Ellesmere Port settlement area Local Plan (Part Two) Land allocations and Detailed Policies: - DM3 – Design, character and visual amenity - DM4 – Sustainable construction
NAT5 – Trees and Hedgerows	Any development that would result in the loss of, or the deterioration in the quality or setting of natural features, including trees, hedgerows and watercourses, which make a significant contribution to Ince will not normally be permitted.	Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, Climate proofing the Parish, Protect cultural heritage and landscape.	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - STRAT 1 – Sustainable development - ENV 2 - Landscape

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape).	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV 3 – Green Infrastructure - ENV 4 – Biodiversity and geodiversity - ENV 6 – High quality design and sustainable construction <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 44 - Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
CC1 – Renewable Energy	Developments should be designed to minimise non-renewable energy consumption, through the use of sustainable materials, high energy efficiency levels, the incorporation of renewable energy initiatives and the efficient design of the building.	Climate proofing the Parish, Air and climatic factors.	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV 6 - High quality design and sustainable construction - ENV 7 - Alternative energy supplies <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 53 - Energy generation, storage and district heat networks
CC2 – Air Quality	Proposals for major development must be accompanied by an appropriate air quality assessment that demonstrates that the proposed development would not lead to deterioration of the air quality in any part of Ince such that the air quality of such part ceases to meet the legal requirements for air quality.	Population and human health, Climate proofing the Parish, Air and climatic factors.	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOC 5 - Health and well-being

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape).	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
CC3 – Sustainable Transport	Development must not create any unacceptable impacts on the local road network. Developments that reduce car usage and extensions or improvements to pedestrian, equestrian and cycle routes and facilities will be supported.	Population and human health, Climate proofing the Parish, Air and climatic factors.	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - STRAT 10 - Transport and accessibility - STRAT 11 - Infrastructure
FBC1 - Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycleways	To improve access to countryside through enhancement of footpaths, cycle paths and bridleways. Includes proposals to reinstate the lost footpaths and bridleways (routes identified).	Population and human health, Cultural heritage and Landscape, Air and climatic factors, Soil, Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna.	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - STRAT9 - (countryside and green belt) - STRAT10 - Transport and accessibility - STRAT11 - Infrastructure - SOC5 - Health and well being - ENV2 - Landscape
ECDEV1 – Rural Economy	Outside existing and designated employment areas, actively support our rural economy that enables and encourages small scale employment opportunities and agricultural development.	Population and human health, Supporting the economy (no direct SEA topic).	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - ECON 1 - Economic growth, employment and enterprise - STRAT4 – Ellesmere Port - ENV8 – Managing waste Local Plan (Part Two) Land allocations and Detailed Policies: - EP1 – Ellesmere Port Settlement area

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape).	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EP2 – Employment land provision in Ellesmere port - EP6 – Ince Park - DM33 – New or extension to hazardous installations - DM34 – Development in the vicinity of hazardous installations
ECDEV2– Employment Development	Industrial or large- scale employment uses in the Parish will be directed to the existing and designated employment areas as detailed in Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan policies STRAT4 (Ellesmere Port); ECON1 (Economic growth, employment and enterprise); ENV8 (Managing waste); EP2 (Employment land provision in Ellesmere Port).	Population and human health, Supporting the economy (no direct SEA topic).	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECON 1 - Economic growth, employment and enterprise - STRAT4 – Ellesmere Port - ENV8 – Managing waste Local Plan (Part Two) Land allocations and Detailed Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EP1 – Ellesmere Port Settlement area - EP2 – Employment land provision in Ellesmere port - EP6 – Ince Park - DM33 – New or extension to hazardous installations

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape).	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
			- DM34 – Development in the vicinity of hazardous installations

Appendix 2: SEA Screening – Assessment of significant environmental effects of the Ince Neighbourhood Plan

SEA Directive	Characteristics of the plan	Significant environmental effect?
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is a local level land use planning document to determine land use in a small area. Once made, it will work within the planning policy framework of the Local Plan for the borough.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a local planning policy framework for Ince that will become part of the development plan for Cheshire West and Chester. It is required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan. The Ince Neighbourhood Plan will not impact on the strategic location, nature, size and operating conditions of new development over and above that set by the adopted Local Plan for the borough.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan policies will work alongside the strategic policies in the development plan; other development management measures and environmental protection legislation.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan has to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan and must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It will therefore have limited influence over changing</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>and programmes including those in a hierarchy</p>	<p>the policies in plans at the higher strategic level or lead to the development of further plans below it.</p>	
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is required, as one of the basic condition tests, to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Whether this basic condition is met will be tested during the examination of the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the framework for the promotion of sustainable development is set by the Government's Strategy for Sustainable Development, the National Planning Policy Framework and the policies in the adopted Local Plan for the borough. The Neighbourhood Plan will have limited influence over changing the sustainable development policies in plans and policies at the higher strategic level.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme</p>	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal scoping reports for the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) provide a comprehensive overview of the issues in Cheshire West and Chester.</p> <p>Some of the environmental issues and problems for Ince include the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect the countryside, biodiversity, local green spaces and air quality - Safeguard and enhance heritage assets and retain local character within the conservation area 	<p>No</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance access routes to the countryside for pedestrians and cyclists <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to address these issues.</p>	
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection)</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Development Plan will have no direct role in the delivery of community legislation on the environment. It does not include policies on these matters. The Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to Habitats Regulation Assessment screening as set out in part 2 of this document.</p>	<p>No</p>

Appendix 3: SEA Screening – Characteristics of the plan’s effects and of the area likely to be affected

Identified effects of the proposed policies	(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	(f) value and vulnerability of effect on on (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Landscape and Cultural heritage	High probability as policies support the protection and enhancement of heritage and landscape. Long term over the plan period.	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None – policy aims to protect and enhance heritage and landscape. The plan includes policies relating to designated and non-designated historic assets.	None	None	None	No
Biodiversity, flora and fauna - Positive	High probability, policies seek to protect and enhance habitats/wildlife and seek net gain. Short, medium and long term.	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale at the neighbourhood level.	None - policy aims to protect and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna. The plan includes policies relating to CWaC ecological network and Local Wildlife sites.	None	None	None identified – see HRA screening	No
Biodiversity, flora and fauna - Negative	Low probability, policies could disrupt habitats through development or enhancements. Short, medium and long term	Potential small scale negative cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale at the neighbourhood level.	None – policy aims to protect and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna. The plan includes policies relating to CWaC ecological network and Local Wildlife sites.	None	Potential, small scale impact	None identified	No – due to low probability, small scale and distance to protected habitats and species
Soil	Low probability as only when development takes place.	Potential for small scale cumulative effects, depending on nature and location of development proposed.	None	None	Local, small scale at the neighbourhood level	None	None	None	None identified	No

¹ The assessment here has considered whether the effect of the policy goes beyond the UK and impacts upon other EU territories. Given scale and nature of Neighbourhood Plan the effects are not considered to be transboundary.

Identified effects of the proposed policies	(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	(f) value and vulnerability of effect on on (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Population and human health	Dependant on the scale and nature of development proposed. The NDP provides a positive framework to support facilities, but does not allocate specific sites/schemes. Improving access to the natural environment open space, residential amenity and good air quality, positive effect on health and wellbeing.	Dependant on the nature and location of development. Unlikely.	None	None	Local small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified	No
Climate factors and air	Low probability, long term. Policy supports accessibility by sustainable transport modes.	Potential small scale positive effects.	None	None	Local, small scale at the neighbourhood level,	None	None	None	None identified – see HRA screening	No
Economic Development (rural)	Low probability, long term depending on scale and type of employment development proposed.	Potential for small cumulative effects, depending on nature and location of development proposed.	None	None	Local, small scale at the neighbourhood level.	Dependent on the location and scale of development. Unlikely to be an effect.	None	None	None identified	No
Water – Positive	Low probability, depending on delivery through policies that encourage sustainable drainage and wetland bird habitat.	Potential small scale cumulative effects, depending on nature and location of enhancement measures.	None	None	Local, small scale at the neighbourhood level	None	None	None	None identified	No
Water - Negative	Low probability, as only when development takes place.	Potential small scale cumulative effects, depending on nature and location of development proposed	None	None	Local, small scale at the neighbourhood level	None	None	None	None identified	No – due to low probability and small scale

Appendix 4 – HRA Screening - European sites relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan

European site	Reason for inclusion	Reason for designation	Existing pressures and potential impacts	Relevance to the Neighbourhood Area
Oak Mere SAC	Located within Cheshire West and Chester and within 15km of Neighbourhood Plan area	Water body with clear water of low nutrient status characteristics of oligotrophic waters and a marginal zone of shoreweed (<i>Littorella uniflora</i>). Site supports an assemblage of plants that are rare in the lowlands of England, including bog moss (<i>Sphagnum</i> spp) and the scarce narrow small-reed (<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water pollution / enrichment. - Hydrological changes - reduction in size of the mere due to natural lowering of the local water table caused by successive droughts, resulting in threat to shoreline communities from desiccation and invasion by birch and willow. - Atmospheric pollution from nearby roads. 	<p>The site falls within the 15km radius of the Ince Neighbourhood Area. It is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies of the plan.</p> <p>Due to the distance and scale of anticipated development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan, it is not considered relevant to the HRA Screening of the Ince Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
Midlands Meres and Mosses Ramsar site	Located within Cheshire West and Chester and within 15km of Neighbourhood Plan area	Series of open water and peatland sites supporting a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog. This includes natural dystrophic lakes and ponds and transition mires and quaking bogs with floating bog moss. Site supports a number of rare plant species associated with wetlands and an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water pollution / enrichment. - Hydrological changes. - Despite number of visitors to some of the meres and mosses, interest features are resilient to recreational pressure and off-track trampling is not a significant issue due to the hazardous nature of the sites away from designated tracks and boardwalks. - Due to distance to major roads, changes in local air quality are not an issue requiring investigation. 	<p>The site falls within the 15km radius of the Ince Neighbourhood Area. However, it does not fall within the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies of the plan.</p>
West Midlands Mosses SAC	Located partly within Cheshire West and Chester and within 15km of Neighbourhood Plan area			<p>The site falls within the 15km radius of the Ince Neighbourhood Area. However, it does not fall within the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to</p>

				be directly affected by the policies of the plan.
Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar	Located partially within Cheshire West and Chester and within 15km of Neighbourhood Plan area	Designated for over-wintering and on passage birds. Over winter – Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>), Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>), Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>), Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>), Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>), Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>). On passage – Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>). It also contains internationally important populations of Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>), Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>), Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) and Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>). It also has a 5 year peak mean (1998/99-2002/3) of 89,576 waterfowl.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreational disturbance from abrasion (boating, anchoring, trampling). - Selective extraction of species (harvesting, bait digging, recreational fishing) - Visual presence of recreational activity. - Disturbance to birds from increased recreational pressure and wildfowling. - Coastal squeeze and loss of supporting habitat. - Deterioration in water quality. - Deterioration in air quality. - Introduction of non-native species. 	The pressures and potential impacts to consider in the Screening are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreational disturbance, visual presence of recreational activity - Disturbance to birds from increased recreational pressure - Introduction of non-native species - Habitat loss - Water quality - Air quality
Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar	Downstream of the River Dee which is identified as a source of potable water for Cheshire West and Chester. Development in the Borough also creates potential water quality pathways. and within 15km of Neighbourhood Plan area	The site includes the following Annex I habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Renunculon Fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation. - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. - <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand. - Atlantic salt meadows. The site contains the following Habitats Directive Annex II habitats and species:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreational disturbance from abrasion from recreational pressures on the upper shore, dredging operations and fisheries. - Disturbance from commercial / industrial developments. - Selective extraction of species (bait digging and shellfishing). - Deterioration in water quality. 	The Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar falls within the 15km radius of the Ince Neighbourhood Area. However, it does not fall within the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies of the plan.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estuaries - Annual vegetation of drift lines - Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts - Embryonic shifting dunes - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with marram - Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation - Humid dune slacks - Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) - River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) - Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) <p>It also supports: During the breeding season –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) - Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) <p>On passage –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) <p>Over winter – Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)</p> <p>The site also supports populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>) - Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) - Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) - Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) - Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) - Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) - Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) - Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) - Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coastal squeeze from land reclamation, coastal flood defences and drainage. - Air quality. - Excessive abstraction resulting in decrease in freshwater flows into the estuary. - Introduction of non-native species. 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) <p>The estuary also regularly supports 130,408 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1995-99). It also meets several Ramsar criteria as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensive intertidal mud and sand flats with large expanses of saltmarsh towards the head of the estuary. - Supporting an overall bird assemblage of international importance. - Supporting the following species at levels of international importance: Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>), Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>), Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Pintail (<i>Anas Acuta</i>), Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>), Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>), Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>) and Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>). 		
River Dee and Bala Lake SPA	Located partly within Cheshire West and Chester and within 15km of the Ince NA. Identified as a source of potable water for Cheshire West and Chester and also the receiving watercourse for waste water treatment works discharge	<p>The site contains the following Annex 1 habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Renunculum fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation <p>The site contains the following Annex II species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreational activities, specifically fishing. - Risk of excessive abstraction resulting in a decrease in freshwater flows and an increase in sediment loading of water such that dehydration of interest features may occur. 	The site falls within the 15km radius of the Ince Neighbourhood Area. However, it does not fall within the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies of the plan.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Floating water-plaintain (<i>Luronium natans</i>) - Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) - Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) - Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>) - Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fish entrainment associated with abstraction. - Deterioration in water quality and changes in flow rates dues to ex-industrial runoff, discharge of treated sewage effluent and agricultural runoff. - Introduction of invasive species. - Due to the distance and scale of anticipated development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan, it is not considered relevant to the HRA Screening of the Ince Neighbourhood Plan. 	
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Appendix 5: HRA Screening – Screening of Neighbourhood Plan policies for Likely Significant Effect

Policy	Comment	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
HER1 – Heritage	<p>New developments will be required to conserve and enhance Ince's designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings, maintaining local distinctiveness, character and sense of place.</p> <p>Allocates sites through a 'local list'.</p>	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No
HER2 – Ince Conservation Area	<p>Development proposals in the current Ince Conservation Area or any amended Conservation Area must demonstrate how they have considered the most recent Ince Conservation Area Character Appraisal the Ince Conservation Area.</p>	<p>The policy mentions the network of public footpaths, in the context of the Ince Conservation area and historic character of the settlement. The policy seeks to ensure new development in the settlement of Ince takes account of the most recent conservation area appraisal. It is unlikely to lead to increased recreational pressure as a direct result of this policy.</p> <p>No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE</p>	No

HER3 – Views and Setting of the Conservation Area	Development proposals in the current Ince Conservation Area must demonstrate how they have considered the most recent Ince Conservation Area Character Appraisal and should take into account important views into and out of the conservation area.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No
LGS1 – Local Green Spaces	<p>Development proposals that enhance and protect green and open spaces will be supported.</p> <p>A list of designated green spaces are identified (15 sites).</p>	<p>Generally positive impacts on water quality and air pollution through protection of green spaces, tree planting and further habitat creation.</p> <p>Potential for recreational disturbance as a result of building work or play equipment which could potentially be used to ‘enhance’ local green spaces. This could interfere with habitats or increase flood risk, it could also cause more people to use the green space which could result in more litter or noise.</p> <p>Although there is a potential for recreation disturbance, the enhancement will be small scale and the use of the green spaces will be small as the population of Ince is approximately 203 residents. The Mersey estuary is also separated from the Ince Neighbourhood area by the Manchester Ship canal. All of the proposed green space allocations are at least 1300m (approximately) away from the Marine Plan Area, the majority of sites aren’t directly</p>	No

		adjacent to the ship canal. The potential impacts are therefore deemed to be low level. Additionally, policy ENV 3 in the Local Plan Part One identifies that creation, enhancement, protection and management of Green Infrastructure will be supported and as such, policy LGS 1 does not result in significant changes to recreational disturbance above and beyond that already considered within the HRA of the Local Plan. No LSE	
NAT1 – Wildlife Sites, Indicative Wildlife Corridors and Biodiversity	Local wildlife sites, Areas of high distinctiveness habitat and the wildlife corridor network shall be protected from inappropriate development unless it can be demonstrated that the benefits of development clearly outweigh the impact it is likely to have on the site and the wider network of sites .	<p>The policy aims to conserve or enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>Potential positive impact as a result of tree planting and habitat creation, also encouraging the growth of the ecological network and helping to minimise flood risk.</p> <p>No other links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE</p>	No
NAT2 – Landscape Character	New development in the greenbelt and open countryside must, respect and enhance the landscape character of the area, as defined in the Cheshire West and Chester Landscape	The policy refers to the creation of banks and bunds, which could impact on water quality and disturbance depending upon materials used and location. However, any bunds are likely to be small-scale and the sites would be separated from the Mersey Estuary by the Manchester Ship Canal, so impacts on water quality and disturbance are unlikely	No

	<p>Strategy 2016 (or updated versions). Development will not be supported if it causes significant harm to the character or setting of the parish.</p>	<p>Potential positive impacts include improvements to wetland bird habitat.</p> <p>– No LSE</p>	
NAT3 – Design and Wildlife	<p>Any development that would result in the loss of, or the deterioration in the quality or setting of natural features, including trees, hedgerows and watercourses, which make a significant contribution to Ince will not normally be permitted.</p>	<p>Potential positive impacts as a result of tree planting and other natural features in creating habitat and helping to minimise flood risk.</p> <p>No other links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality, atmospheric (air) pollution or habitat loss – no LSE</p>	No
NAT4 – Residential Design	<p>New residential extensions and development should be high quality and respond to local materials, resist suburban fencing/kerbs/lighting, soften built edges with planting, ensure barn conversions are sensitive.</p>	<p>No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE</p>	No

NAT5 – Trees and Hedgerows	Any development that would result in the loss of, or the deterioration in the quality or setting of natural features, including trees, hedgerows and watercourses, which make a significant contribution to Ince will not normally be permitted.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No
CC1 – Renewable Energy	Developments should be designed to minimise non-renewable energy consumption, through the use of sustainable materials, high energy efficiency levels, the incorporation of renewable energy initiatives and the efficient design of the building.	<p>The policy supports renewable energy schemes, subject to certain requirements. Renewable energy schemes could potentially impact on water quality or air pollution depending upon their location and design, however policy ENV 7 within the Local Plan (Part One) also supports renewable and low carbon energy proposals, subject to certain criteria. As such, policy CC1 does not result in any significant impacts above and beyond that already considered within the HRA of the Local Plan.</p> <p>No other links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE</p>	No
CC2 – Air Quality	Proposals for major development must be accompanied by an appropriate air quality assessment that demonstrates that the proposed development would not lead to	<p>Potential positive impacts on air quality.</p> <p>No other links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution– no LSE</p>	No

	deterioration of the air quality in any part of Ince such that the air quality of such part ceases to meet the legal requirements for air quality.		
CC3 – Sustainable Transport	Development must not create any unacceptable impacts on the local road network. Developments that reduce car usage and extensions or improvements to pedestrian, equestrian and cycle routes and facilities will be supported.	<p>Potential for recreational disturbance due to extensions or improvements to pedestrian/cycle routes. The policy also refers to supporting ‘facilities’ and if this refers to built structures this could impact on water quality depending on the nature and location of such facilities.</p> <p>Potential positive impacts include the reduction of car usage which could improve air quality.</p> <p>Policy STRAT 10 in the Local Plan (Part One) identifies that opportunities will be sought to extend and improve access to the local footpath and cycle network, including greenways, canal towpaths and Public Rights of Way Networks. As such, policy CC3 does not result in significant changes to recreational disturbance or water quality above and beyond that already considered within the HRA of the Local Plan. The potential impacts are deemed to be low probability, small in scale and very low level and are therefore not considered significant. – No LSE</p>	No

<p>FBC1 - Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycleways</p>	<p>To improve access to countryside through enhancement of footpaths, cycle paths and bridleways.</p> <p>Reinstate 5 lost footpaths and bridleways – supported.</p>	<p>Potential links/pathways with recreational disturbance, particularly regarding the reinstating of lost footpaths. The enhancements and reinstations could result in habitat loss or increased flood risk. This could also lead to increased activity in areas that previously were left alone – leading to further recreational disturbance.</p> <p>Although there is a potential for habitat loss and recreational disturbance, the changes will be very small scale and the potential future use of the routeways is likely to be low as the population of Ince is only approximately 203 residents. The Mersey estuary is also separated from the Ince Neighbourhood area by the Manchester Ship canal.</p> <p>Policy STRAT 10 in the Local Plan (Part One) identifies that opportunities will be sought to extend and improve access to the local footpath and cycle network, including greenways, canal towpaths and Public Rights of Way Networks. As such, policy FBC1 does not result in significant changes to recreational disturbance above and beyond that already considered within the HRA of the Local Plan. The potential impacts are deemed to be low probability, small in scale and very low level and are therefore not considered significant. – No LSE</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>ECDEV1 – Rural Economy</p>	<p>To actively support our rural economy that enables and encourages small scale employment opportunities and agricultural development.</p>	<p>Supporting diversification of farms could have potential impacts on water quality or atmospheric pollution, depending upon the nature of the schemes. However, policy DM 7 in the Local Plan also supports proposals for the diversification of agriculture and other land-based businesses. As such, policy ECON1 does not result in</p>	<p>No</p>

		<p>any significant changes to water quality or atmospheric pollution above and beyond that already considered within the HRA of the Local Plan.</p> <p>No links/pathways with recreational disturbance – no LSE</p>	
ECDEV2 – Employment Development	<p>Industrial or large- scale employment uses in the Parish will be directed to the existing and designated employment areas as detailed in Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan policies STRAT4 (Ellesmere Port); ECON1 (Economic growth, employment and enterprise); ENV8 (Managing waste); EP2 (Employment land provision in Ellesmere Port).</p>	<p>No links/pathways with recreational disturbance – no LSE</p>	No

Appendix 6: Marine Plan Screening – Assessment of potential to impact on the North West marine plan area

Marine Plan policy reference	Marine Plan policy Description	Relevant Ince NP Policy
NW-PS-3 Ports and Shipping		None
NW-INF-1 Infrastructure		None
NW-CO-1 Co-existence		None
NW-AQ-2 Aquaculture		None
NW-CAB-1 Cables		None
NW-CAB-2 Cables		None
NW-CAB-3 Cables		None
NW-DD-3 Dredging and disposal		None
NW-OG-2 Oil and gas		None
NW-PS-1	In line with the National Policy Statement for Ports, sustainable port and harbour development should be supported. Only proposals demonstrating compatibility with current port and harbour activities will be supported. Proposals within statutory harbour authority areas or their approaches that detrimentally and materially affect safety of navigation, or the compliance by statutory harbour authorities with the Open Port Duty or the Port Marine Safety Code, will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances	The NA is adjacent to the statutory harbour authority boundary.

Marine Plan policy reference	Marine Plan policy Description	Relevant Ince NP Policy
NW-PS-4	Proposals promoting or facilitating sustainable coastal and/or short sea shipping as an alternative to road, rail or air transport will be supported where appropriate	ECDEV1
NW-REN-1	Proposals that enable the provision of renewable energy technologies and associated supply chains, will be supported	CC1
NW-HER-1	Proposals that demonstrate they will conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets will be supported.	HER1, HER2
NW-SCP-1	<p>Proposals should ensure they are compatible with their surroundings and should not have a significant adverse impact on the character and visual resource of the seascape and landscape of the area.</p> <p>The location, scale and design of proposals should take account of the character, quality and distinctiveness of the seascape and landscape.</p>	NAT1, NAT2, NAT3, NAT4, NAT5
NW-FISH-1		None
NW-FISH-2		None
NW-FISH-3		None
NW-EMP-1	<p>Proposals that result in a net increase in marine-related employment will be supported, particularly where they meet one or more of the following:</p> <p>1) are aligned with local skills strategies and support the skills available</p>	ECDEV1, ECDEV2

Marine Plan policy reference	Marine Plan policy Description	Relevant Ince NP Policy
	2) create a diversity of opportunities 3) create employment in locations identified as the most deprived 4) implement new technologies - in, and adjacent to, the north west marine plan areas	
NW-CC-1	Proposals that conserve, restore or enhance habitats that provide flood defence or carbon sequestration will be supported. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on habitats that provide a flood defence or carbon sequestration ecosystem service	NAT1, NAT2, NAT3, NAT4, NAT5
NW-CC-2	Proposals in the north west marine plan areas should demonstrate for the lifetime of the project that they are resilient to the impacts of climate change and coastal change.	CC1, CC2, CC3
NW-CC-3		None
NW-CCUS-1		None
NW-CCUS-2		None
NW-AIR-1	Proposals must assess their direct and indirect impacts upon local air quality and emissions of greenhouse gases.	CC2
NW-ML-1		None
NW-ML-2		None

Marine Plan policy reference	Marine Plan policy Description	Relevant Ince NP Policy
NW-WQ-1	Proposals that protect, enhance and restore water quality will be supported. Proposals that cause deterioration of water quality must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise Much of the economic and cultural prosperity of the north west marine plan areas is reliant on water quality. marine plan areas, water quality requires improvement. NW-WQ-1 supports	ECDEV 1, ECDEV2
NW-ACC-1	Proposals demonstrating appropriate enhanced and inclusive public access to and within the marine area, including the provision of services for tourism and recreation activities, will be supported	LGS1
NW-TR-1		None
NW-SOC-1		None
NW-DEF-1		None
NW-MPA-1	Proposals that support the objectives of marine protected areas and the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network will be supported	NAT1
NW-MPA-2	Proposals that enhance a marine protected area's ability to adapt to climate change, enhancing the resilience of the marine protected area network, will be supported	NAT1
NW-MPA-3		None
NW-MPA-4		None

Marine Plan policy reference	Marine Plan policy Description	Relevant Ince NP Policy
NW-BIO-1	Proposals that enhance the distribution of priority habitats and priority species will be supported	NAT1
NW-BIO-2	Proposals that enhance or facilitate native species or habitat adaptation or connectivity, or native species migration, will be supported.	NAT1
NW-BIO-3	Proposals that conserve, restore or enhance coastal habitats, where important in their own right and/or for ecosystem functioning and provision of ecosystem services, will be supported.	NAT1
NW-INNS-2	Public authorities with functions to manage activities that could potentially introduce, transport or spread invasive non-native species should implement adequate biosecurity measures to avoid or minimise the risk of introducing, transporting or spreading invasive non-native species	NAT2, LGS1, NAT3, NAT4, NAT5
NW-DIST-1		None
NW-UWN-2		None
NW-CE-1		None
NW-CBC-1		None
NW-CCUS-3	Proposals associated with the deployment of low carbon infrastructure for industrial clusters should be supported.	ECDEV1, ECDEV2, CC1

Policy	Key features of the policy	Potential pathways of impact	Assessment of potential to impact on the North West marine plan area
HER1 – Heritage	Protection of heritage assets	None (as no impacts on heritage impacts in marine plan area)	Policy relates to conservation and enhancement of heritage assets so is unlikely to have specific direct or indirect impacts on the marine plan area.
HER2 – Ince Conservation Area	Applications within conservation area must consider conservation area appraisal	None	The policy relates specifically to consideration of the conservation area character appraisal and is unlikely to have specific direct or indirect impacts on the marine plan area.
HER3 – Views and Setting of the Conservation Area	Applications within conservation area must consider views	None	The policy relates specifically to consideration of the conservation area character appraisal and is unlikely to have specific direct or indirect impacts on the marine plan area.
LGS1 – Local Green Spaces	Protects and enhances local green spaces	Potential positive impacts on biodiversity, reduction in flood risk and reduction in water pollution through protection of green spaces. Potential additional positive impacts through enhancement of green spaces through tree planting. Potential negative impacts include increase flood risk as a result of increased surface runoff due to the potential for buildings or play equipment that could be included in potential 'enhancements'. Further potential negative impacts could include an increase in access to	None of the proposed allocated green spaces are within the North West Marine Plan area but allocations North Hills, Decoy wood are 1528m and 1344m respectively from the nearest high water springs mark (Note these are the two sites closest to the Marine Plan Area). There could be positive impacts on biodiversity, reduction in flood risk and reduction in water pollution through the protection of

		<p>the site and an associated increase in the amount of people using the site. These could all have potential negative impacts on biodiversity, flood risk and/or water quality. The potential pathways of impact link to North West Marine Plan policies: NW-CC-1, NW-WQ-1, NW-ACC-1.</p>	<p>these green spaces. There could also be negative impacts on biodiversity/flood risk/ water quality depending on what the changes to the green spaces are in order to enhance them. Overall, significant negative impacts are unlikely due to the changes being small scale and the use of the greenspaces will be small as the population of Ince is approximately 203 residents. The Marine Plan area is also separated from the Ince Neighbourhood area by the Manchester Ship canal and not linked to any major watercourses that drain from the Ince area directly into the Mersey Estuary. The potential impacts are deemed to be low level</p>
<p>NAT1 – Wildlife Sites, Indicative Wildlife Corridors and Biodiversity</p>	<p>Protects local wildlife sites and biodiversity</p>	<p>The policy aims to conserve or enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>There is a potential positive impact in the North West Marine Plan as a result of tree planting and habitat creation and helping to minimise flood risk in relation to NW-CC-1. The potential pathways of impact also link to North West Marine Plan policies: NW-CC-2.</p>	<p>Potential positive impacts on Frodsham and Helsby and Ince Marshes Local Wildlife Site of which sits near to the Marine Plan area. The policy is focussed on the protection of wildlife sites/ corridors and biodiversity, and the fact that the Marine plan area is separated from the Ince Neighbourhood area by the Manchester Ship canal and not linked to any major watercourses that drain from the Ince area directly into the</p>

			Mersey Estuary. The potential for additional biodiversity as a result of planting will have a low level impact on the Marine Plan area.
NAT2 – Landscape Character	Respect and enhance landscape character of the local area	Potential positive impacts via conserving undeveloped areas of the marshes, small scale planting schemes, respecting the landscape of the estuary, incorporating measures to improve wetland bird habitat, dark corridors, low spillage lighting, creating bunds, SuDS etc. Creation of bunds could potentially have negative impacts or positive impacts on flooding and water quality depending on how these are constructed and what the bunds are made from. This links to Marine Plan policies NW-WQ-1, NW-CC-1.	Potential positive impacts on landscape and habitats. Potential negative impacts through creation of bunds. The negative impacts on flooding and water quality are anticipated to be small-scale and low-level because the Marine plan area is separated from the Ince Neighbourhood area by the Manchester Ship canal and not linked to any major watercourses that drain from the Ince area directly into the Mersey Estuary.
NAT3 – Design and Wildlife	Protects trees, hedgerows, field ponds and marshes	Potential positive impacts as a result of tree planting and other natural features in creating habitat and helping to minimise flood risk. This relates to policy NW-CC-1.	Potential positive impacts on landscape, flood risk and habitats.
NAT4 – Residential Design	New development should be of high quality materials and sympathetic to the natural environment	Potential positive impacts as a result of small scale planting schemes and other natural features in creating habitat and helping to minimise flood risk. This relates to policy NW-CC-1.	Potential positive impacts on landscape, flood risk and habitats.

NAT5 – Trees and Hedgerows	Avoid development that deteriorates setting of natural features.	The policy aims to conserve or enhance biodiversity. There is a potential positive impact in the North West Marine Plan as a result of tree planting and habitat creation and helping to minimise flood risk in relation to NW-CC-1. The potential pathways of impact also link to North West Marine Plan policies: NW-CC-2.	Potential positive impacts on landscape, flood risk and habitats.
CC1 – Renewable Energy	Minimise not renewable energy consumption and encourage renewable energy initiatives	Potential positive impacts on renewable energy and landscape. The policy intended to apply to small scale community initiatives as set out in the explanation and not large schemes that would cause negative impacts. This relates to Marine Plan policies NW-AIR-1 and NW-CC-2.	Potential positive impacts on renewable energy, air quality and landscape.
CC2 – Air Quality	Major development must be accompanied by an appropriate air quality assessment	Positive impact on air quality. Relates to Marine Plan policy NW-AIR-1.	Potential positive impact on air quality in the area close to the Marine Plan area.
CC3 – Sustainable Transport	Encourage sustainable transport and support development that reduces road usage	Positive impact on air quality and climate change. Relates to Marine Plan policy NW-AIR-1 and NW-CC-2. Likely to impact the Marine Plan area through the promotion of sustainable transport methods and the potential for increased recreation disturbance.	Potential positive impact on air quality and climate change. Potential negative impacts on recreational disturbance, but this is anticipated to be small scale as the population of Ince is approximately 203 and therefore the increased use of sustainable transport routes is likely be minimal.

<p>FBC1 - Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycleways</p>	<p>Enhance existing access routes to the countryside</p>	<p>Positive impact on public access, tourism and recreation.</p> <p>Potential negative impact on biodiversity through recreational disturbance. Particularly regarding the reinstating of lost footpaths. The enhancements and reinstations could result in habitat loss or increased flood risk. This could also lead to increased activity in certain areas – leading to further recreational disturbance. Relates to Marine Plan Policy NW-ACC-1.</p>	<p>Potential positive impact on public access, tourism and recreation.</p> <p>Potential negative impacts on recreational disturbance, but this is anticipated to be small scale as the routes are within the Neighbourhood plan area and are not within or lead to the Marine Plan area. The Marine plan area is separated from the Ince Neighbourhood area by the Manchester Ship canal and the population of Ince is approximately 203 and therefore the increased use of access routes mentioned is likely to be minimal.</p>
<p>ECDEV1 – Rural Economy</p>	<p>Support Ince’s rural economy</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>The policy relates specifically to consideration of Ince’s rural economy and is unlikely to have specific direct or indirect impacts on the Marine Plan area. Supporting diversification of farms could have potential impacts on water quality or atmospheric pollution, depending upon the nature of the schemes. However, impacts on the Marine Plan area would be likely to be minimal as the Marine Plan area is separated from the Ince Neighbourhood area by the Manchester Ship Canal and not linked to any major watercourses that drain</p>

			from the Ince area directly into the Mersey Estuary.
ECDEV2 – Employment Development	Employment uses in the Parish will be directed to the existing and designated employment areas	None	The policy relates specifically to consideration of employment uses and to direct these to employment areas designated in the Local Plan.

Appendix 7: Comments received on the initial SEA Screening Opinion, HRA Screening and Marine Plan Screening (October 2021)

Agency	Date Consulted	Consultee response	CWAC Response
Environment Agency	15 October 2021	No formal response	No formal response
Historic England	15 October 2021	<p>We write in response to your e-mail of 15 October 2021 seeking a formal SEA, HRA and Marine Plan Screening Opinions from Historic England. As the public body that advises on England's historic environment, we are pleased to offer our comments. In relation to SEA, for the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine our advice to the question, "Is the plan likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect to our area of interest, cultural heritage?</p> <p>We consider that the draft plan appears to propose no site allocations or policies that would have significant environmental effects upon the historic environment, and so Historic England concur with your conclusion, that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. The views of all statutory consultation bodies should however be taken into account before you make your decision on the requirement for SEA. To avoid any doubt, this decision does not preclude Historic England providing further advice on later stages of the SEA process, nor objecting to specific proposals that may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan/guidance), where we consider that these would have an adverse effect upon the historic environment. In relation to the HRA and Marine Plan screening opinions, we have no comments to make.</p> <p>Thank you for providing Historic England with the opportunity to comment. Please send us a copy of the determination as required</p>	<p>Thank you for your response to the Draft SEA/HRA/MP Screening opinion for the Draft Ince Neighbourhood Plan. Comments noted.</p> <p>Further consultation will take place with Historic England on the submission draft plan in due course.</p>

		by Reg 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.	
Natural England	15 October 2021	<p>Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion and Marine Plan Screening Opinion for the Draft Ince Neighbourhood Plan (October 2021).</p> <p>Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 15 October 2021 which was received by Natural England on 15 October 2021</p> <p>Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.</p> <p>Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment</p> <p>It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development 	<p>Thank you for your response to the Draft SEA/HRA/MP Screening opinion for the Draft Ince Neighbourhood Plan. Comments noted.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan •the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan. <p>We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.</p> <p>We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.</p> <p>Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report</p>	
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		<p>stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.</p> <p>Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening and Marine Plan Screening</p> <p>Natural England concludes that the Draft Ince Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.</p> <p>For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.</p>	
Marine Management Organisation	15 October 2021	<p>MMO Marine Planning response to the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion and Marine Plan Screening Opinion for the Draft Ince Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Regulation 14 Consultation of the Carnforth neighbourhood plan. The comments provided within this letter refer to the document entitled "Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion and Marine Plan Screening Opinion for the Draft Ince Neighbourhood Plan".</p> <p>As the marine planning authority for England, the MMO is responsible for preparing marine plans for English inshore and offshore waters. At its landward extent the Marine Plan boundaries extend from the mean high water spring tides mark (which includes the tidal extent of any rivers and estuary) to the inshore (up to 12nm) and offshore (12 to 200nm or the Exclusive Economic Zone)</p>	<p>Thank you for your response to the Draft SEA/HRA/MP Screening opinion for the Draft Ince Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Comments noted and changes made such as removing reference to the North West Marine Plan as being in draft form and amending an error in the a Marine Plan policy title.</p>

		<p>waters; there is an overlap with terrestrial plans which generally extend from the mean low water springs mark.</p> <p>Marine plans will inform and guide decision makers on development in marine and coastal areas. Planning documents for areas with a coastal influence may wish to make reference to the MMO's licensing requirements and any relevant marine plans to ensure the necessary considerations are included. In the case of the document stated above, the North West Marine Plan is of relevance. The North West Marine Plan covers the area from the Solway Firth to the River Dee, including the tidal extent of any rivers within this area.</p> <p>All public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area must do so in accordance with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and any relevant adopted Marine Plan, in this case the North West Marine Plan, or UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS), unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. Local authorities may also wish to refer to our online guidance, Explore Marine Plans and the Planning Advisory Service soundness self-assessment checklist.</p> <p>Marine Licensing</p> <p>The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 states that a marine licence is required for certain activities carried out within the UK marine area. The MMO is responsible for marine licensing in English waters and for Northern Ireland offshore waters.</p> <p>The marine licensing team are responsible for consenting and regulating any activity that occurs "below mean high water springs" level that would require a marine licence. These activities can range</p>	
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		<p>from mooring private jetties to nuclear power plants and offshore windfarms.</p> <p>Further points to note</p> <p>Within the document out for consultation, we welcome inclusion of Marine Planning and reference to the North West Marine Plan. We would recommend removing any reference to the North West Marine Plan as being in draft form or emerging as the North West Marine Plan is now a formally adopted document for material consideration.</p> <p>When you make reference to the North West Marine Plan policy NW-ACC-1 you have missed off the 1 and we therefore recommend that you add this in. .</p> <p>As previously stated, these are recommendations and we suggest that your own interpretation of the North West Marine Plan is completed. We would also recommend you consult Explore Marine Plans, our marine planning portal, for further information.</p> <p>FOnce again, thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.</p>	
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