

Breckland Local Plan (Adoption Draft)

November 2019

**Please note: The changes to the Plan
are shown in **red text** with the
associated main modification number
(MM1 or MIN1)**

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Introduction

Introduction

Context

1.1 The Breckland Plan aims to:

- Set a spatial vision and strategy for the District, with clear economic, social and environmental objectives;
- Meet the needs and aspirations of Breckland's residents.

1.2 The Local Plan forms the development plan for the District. Where 'made,' neighbourhood plans also form part of the development plan for their relevant area. The Local Plan contains the following elements:

- A **Spatial Portrait** setting out the conditions that exist in Breckland and highlighting issues to be addressed within the document.
- A **Strategic Vision** highlighting how Breckland will be at the end of the plan period in 2036, and how this will be achieved.
- 19 **Spatial Objectives** which all new development will be required to meet in order to implement the Local Plan.
- **Strategic Policies and Development Management Policies** which will guide development to ensure the delivery of the strategic vision and objectives for the area. (MIN1)

Sustainability Appraisal

1.3 Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) is a key component of the Local Plan process and the preparation of this document has been informed by a Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR) which assesses the social, economic and environmental impacts of policies and proposals. The SAR draws together an assessment of these conditions and their effects and identifies key spatial issues that the Local Plan needs to address. These issues are carried through the Local Plan and will be addressed through its objectives and policies.

1.4 The findings of the SAR have been an important influence on the proposed content of the Local Plan.

1.5 The version of the SAR prepared for the Preferred Directions and Interim Consultation stages contains a detailed analysis of preferred options and alternative options. The latest version of the SAR which accompanies this document tests the sustainability of the proposed submission strategy and policies.

Habitats Regulation Assessment

1.6 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations requires plan making authorities to determine whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect upon any European site. In considering the implications of the Local Plan document for European sites, an Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken in order to comply with the Habitats Regulations 2010.

Duty to Co-operate

1.7 The Localism Act (2011) introduced the 'Duty to Co-operate' which is a legal requirement that applies to all Local Planning Authorities, County Councils, National Park Authorities and a number of public bodies including the Environment Agency, Highways England, Historic England, Natural England and the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

1.8 Local Planning Authorities are expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively co-operated with key partners on cross-boundary strategic policy impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination. It is important that co-operation is a continuous process of engagement. This requirement has become more important than previously when strategic cross-boundary issues were considered through the now revoked Regional Plan process, with this responsibility now resting at the local level.

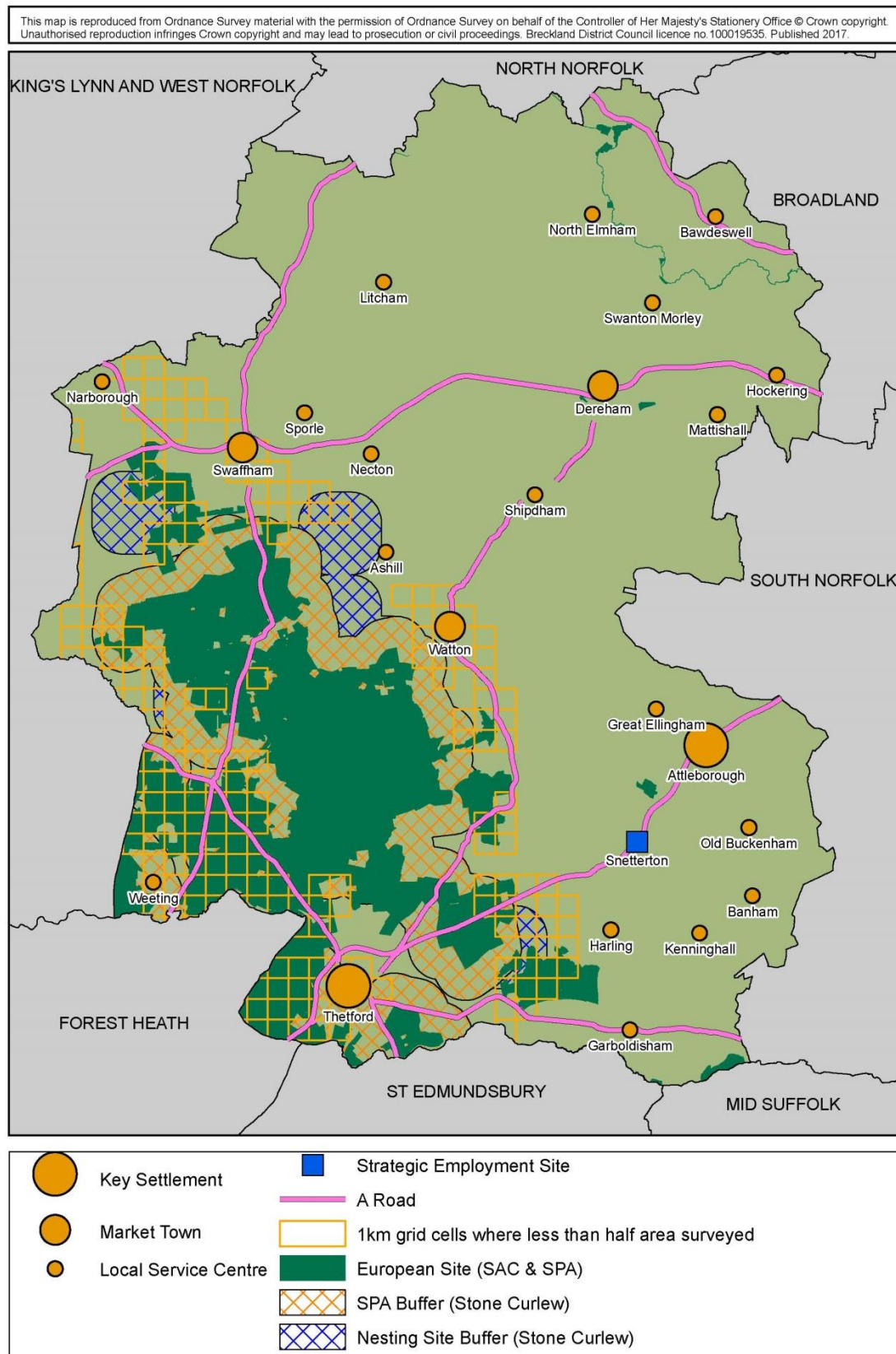
1.9 Breckland Council is a member of a Norfolk wide Duty to Co-operate Forum and has engaged with its neighbouring authorities and other relevant organisations in the preparation of this plan to ensure that the strategic and cross boundary implications of the Local Plan have been carefully considered. In particular, the Council has worked jointly across Norfolk and with adjacent authorities and has sought to pro-actively engage with partners and statutory bodies on the prescribed Duty to Co-operate list. A significant outcome from the Duty to Co-operate Forum has been the production of the Joint Central Norfolk Strategic Housing Market Assessment.

1.10 The Council will continue to work closely with its neighbours and partners where appropriate in finalising and then implementing this Plan. Further details on meeting the Duty to Co-operate are set out in the Duty to Cooperate Statement (2017) which accompanies the Local Plan.

A Spatial Portrait for Breckland

1.11 Spanning over 500 square miles Breckland is a geographically large rural District located in the heart of Norfolk. As depicted on the key diagram below, the District is characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern of market towns, villages and hamlets. There are five market towns, a network of local service centres, and numerous small villages and hamlets. Approximately half the current population live in one of the five market towns of Attleborough, Dereham, Swaffham, Thetford and Watton with the remaining population dispersed across the District. The area is represented through 112 town and parish councils, and the District Council.

Figure 1.1 Breckland Key Diagram



1.12 Over the Local Plan period the population is set to grow from 131,857 in 2012 to 153,678 by 2036 (ONS 2014 based sub-national population projections 2012-2036). In the main quality of life is good with official crime rates being low and is generally decreasing. However, there are pockets of health and disability related deprivation, notably in some of the Thetford wards. The average age of Breckland residents is increasing and this raises issues for health and the level and distribution of appropriate service provision, as well as the economy and housing market.

1.13 Thetford, which is Norfolk's fourth largest settlement, and Attleborough are major towns and key areas for growth. Dereham, Swaffham and Watton are medium sized towns, which serve as administration and service centres, but are also a focus for retail where they provide a good range of services for day-to-day needs of local residents, and the rural hinterlands, as well as employment. There are a number of larger villages in the District which have a range of services, however there are a number of rural parishes with very few or no services, including some wards which are amongst the most deprived in Norfolk in terms of access to services.

1.14 The regional centre of Norwich exerts a sphere of influence over much of the District. To a lesser extent the sub-regional centres of King's Lynn and Bury St. Edmunds have a relationship with parts of the west and south of the District respectively. Communities in Breckland look primarily towards the Norwich urban area for employment, higher order retail, transport and service provision, such as hospitals. Increasingly, the south of the District, along with settlements along the A11 corridor, which traverses the District connecting Thetford to Attleborough and onwards to Norwich, looks for investment emanating from the growth of Norwich and other regional centres, such as Cambridge and the M11 Corridor. Thetford and Attleborough are key areas for future housing and business growth. Agriculture, advanced engineering and manufacturing logistics along with forestry are the dominant business sectors with professional, scientific and technical and food processing not far behind. The proportion of B Class jobs (i.e offices, industrial and warehousing activities) in the District has remained relatively constant over the last 22 years, representing 39% - 46% of all jobs in Breckland. Industrial employment provides the majority of B class jobs in the District, although office jobs represent an increasing contribution (Breckland Employment Growth Study, 2013).

1.15 Given the rural nature and dispersed pattern of settlement, movement in the District is primarily by private car. With a high level of interdependency on higher order centres Breckland, like many other rural authorities, has a high rate of commuting to work. Two trunk road routes run across the District and Breckland's strategic position is emphasised by good road communications offered by the A47 and A11. The A47 links Dereham and Swaffham with Norwich in the east and King's Lynn in the west and further afield to Peterborough and the A1(M), while the A11 links Attleborough and Thetford with Norwich and the Norwich Research Park to the north east and Newmarket, Cambridge and the M11 in the south-west. Major infrastructure improvements and improved transport links such as the completion of the A11 duelling are already attracting new businesses as well as enabling existing ones to flourish through increased connectivity. Further improvements are planned for the A47 trunk road. Around Norwich outside the District, major investment

programmes are planned such as the Northern Distributor Road (NDR), which is set to improve linkages to Norwich international airport, offering a quicker and more convenient route for a range of shorter journeys and increasing access to existing and planned business and housing areas.

1.16 The remaining parts of Breckland are served by a network of non-trunk "A" category, secondary and minor roads. Rail investment is a regional commitment. Thetford and Attleborough are connected to the national rail network with regular services to Norwich and Cambridge, and beyond to London, the Midlands and north of England. Public transport services in the District are principally provided by bus and focus on linking the District's market towns with shopping and employment destinations at Norwich, King's Lynn and Bury St. Edmunds. There are more infrequent services in the rural areas linking villages with their local town, principally on market days.

1.17 Wages are relatively low in comparison with the national and regional averages. This reflects the low level of qualifications of people in the District and the low level of skills required by many of the available jobs. Although there is a high proportion of people living and working in the District, many higher qualified workers are travelling out of the District to access higher paid and higher skilled work - 77% of the working age population are in employment, compared to 80% across the East of England and an average of 77.8% Great Britain. Unemployment in the District is very low and has been consistently below both the national and county figures. Breckland recorded 50,980 workforce jobs in 2013 (Breckland Employment Growth Study, November 2013), representing an increase of 22.8% from its 1991 level, significantly outpacing growth across both the East of England Region(18.7%) and UK (13.9%). Over the period 1991-2011 jobs growth has been very high at 21.8% compared with a Norfolk average of 8.7%. During the recessionary period of 2007 – 2010, Breckland recorded a net loss of 2,470 workplace jobs, but since then employment has grown. Jobs growth is projected to continue to recover and grow during the plan period, with at least 4,000 net new jobs forecast for the District up to 2031 (East of England Forecasting Model (EEFM) 2013 baseline forecast).

1.18 The functional linkages between where people live and work help to define the housing market for Breckland which cuts across various local planning authority administrative boundaries. The 2015 Strategic Housing Market Assessments, (SHMA, 2015), identified a three stage Central Norfolk Housing Market Area, (CNHMA), concluding that the CNHMA includes significant parts of Breckland, including four out of the five market towns. 91% of workers that live in the CNHMA also worked in the CNHMA and 93% of movers currently living in the CNHMA moved from another address inside the CNHMA.

1.19 Typically, local housing market areas are considered to exist in an area with at least 65% self-containment. Many of the settlements in the surrounding areas to Norwich and especially those to the west and south west of the District have low levels of self-containment and are not able to define their own housing market. These settlements have wider links throughout the region and are therefore part of

the wider CNHMA. The extent of the CNHMA demonstrates that it is the most appropriate functional housing market for the District to align to.

1.20 Breckland is a diverse District for biodiversity, landscape and heritage. It takes its name from The Brecks, which is a nationally unique landscape and habitat of sandy heath, forest and arable farmland found in the west and south of the District. This habitat contains a number of nationally important bird species such as Stone Curlew, Woodlark and Nightjar and large swathes of The Brecks are protected by National and European designations. Breckland contains 13% of all SSSIs found in the East of England. Elsewhere the character of Breckland is clay farmland, punctuated with woodland, occasional river valleys and dispersed settlement. The historic character of Breckland's settlements is recognised by 50 separate Conservation Areas and over 1,500 Listed Buildings.

1.21 Breckland also has an interesting geodiversity; it is an area of lowland glacial landscape overlying chalk bedrock. Its special landforms include pingos, patterned ground and fluctuating meres. Many of these features are recognised as being of regional and national importance.

1.22 The District is one of the driest areas of the country and availability of water resources is an issue with the increasing pressure for development. Climate change remains a significant challenge over the longer term with the expectation of warmer wetter winters and drier hotter summers; reduced water resources and more extreme weather events. The release of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, is the main contributing factor towards climate change. Human activity is a direct cause with road traffic a significant source of carbon dioxide.

1.23 Breckland's location means that it is not vulnerable to sea level changes. However, many parts of the District have a high clay content and consequently inadequate drainage, which can lead to localised problems of flash flooding.

Breckland's Spatial Vision

1.24 National guidance promotes a Local Plan which reflects a collective vision incorporating priorities from neighbourhoods, businesses and local organisations which should reflect the strategic priorities for the area. It is important that the vision for Breckland sets out the Council's aspirations for the future of the District and is one that will guide how the District will look in the future.

1.25 It is the Council's aim that the vision for Breckland should:

- Reflect local circumstances and that plans be prepared with the objective of achieving sustainable development in the context of Breckland's rural nature reflecting the aspirations of local communities, and
- Align with other key strategies and plans, produced by the Council, key partners and the wider community.

1.26 To support a vision, it is also important that the Local Plan sets out the strategic objectives for the District. The strategic objectives facilitate delivery of the

District's strategic priorities which reflect the requirements of the NPPF as well as local aspirations.

1.27 The Local Plan presents an opportunity to develop a high level vision that encompasses all the elements that should now act as key drivers for the growth and continued success of the District. It also offers the opportunity to detail a plan that is specific to Breckland, seeks to address the specific rural nature, but at the same time aligns with the requirements of national policy. It is the long-term spatial vision that will create the framework for the development of policies and proposals to be included in the Local Plan. This vision emphasises local distinctiveness, with a focus upon delivery, in line with the context of positive growth that is put forward in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), wherein it is highlighted that sustainable development is about making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations. It gives expression to other strategies and programmes, including economic development, education, housing, health, environmental protection and culture.

1.28 The vision has been derived from the challenges, issues, opportunities and aspirations expressed by neighbourhoods, businesses and local organisations through stakeholder consultation, reflecting and supporting the priorities established in Breckland Council's 2015 Corporate Plan.

1.29 The 2015 Corporate Plan sets a number of commitments around the following priorities:

- Supporting Breckland to develop and thrive;
- Providing the right services, at the right time and the right way;
- Developing the local economy to be vibrant with continued growth;
- Enabling stronger, more independent communities.

1.30 The Strategic Vision for Breckland aims to articulate where the Council wishes to be by the end of the plan period in 2036.

Breckland's Strategic Vision

By 2036 Breckland's settlements and its wider rural area will have developed in a sustainable manner appropriate for the rural nature of the District; building on its achievements and strengths to deliver an improved quality of life for its next generation of residents, an improved experience for its visitors, and will be better placed to attract investment and jobs into the District. Breckland's communities will be more sustainable, prosperous, safe, healthy and vibrant. The economy will be diversified and well connected, with a growing number of skilled workforce and population. **New growth will be balanced, ensuring that the District adapts to, and mitigates against the impacts of climate change (MM2).**

New development will be directed to locations that are co-ordinated with transport provision, have good access to support existing services, community facilities and open space. Outside the strategic growth locations of Attleborough and Thetford, a more balanced approach to housing development between rural and urban areas will have taken place allowing for improved housing land supply from rural areas to help in facilitating planned growth and the infrastructure required to support development so that communities can grow in a sustainable and cohesive manner

New employment will not only be located to take advantage of the improved transport links offered by the A11 and A47 corridors and partnership work with adjacent local authorities, but be directed to the most sustainable locations where they assist in providing the right balance between the local rural economy and that of the wider District and that of Greater Norwich. Local distinctiveness will be reflected through positive approaches towards the rural economy where appropriate development will be helping to sustain local services and identities, allowing them to grow and assist in helping rural communities adapt and thrive.

Services and facilities will be supported and prized in rural villages. A sense of local community and belonging will be maintained and reinforced, with decisions made at community level reflected in development proposals through the consideration of Neighbourhood Planning.

Breckland will continue to cherish the **natural, built and historic environment (MM2)** which make the District unique, and will protect them not only for their own sake, but also as a means of attracting investment and visitors to the area. Breckland's towns and villages will have retained the characteristics that provide their character.

Through working with stakeholders and partners, strong working relationships will be delivering improved health care and wellbeing to meet the needs of the communities.

Strategic Objectives

1.31 In order to implement and deliver the Local Plan's vision, the following set of strategic objectives has been identified. These provide more specific direction to the spatial strategy and core policies that are developed in the following sections.

1.32 The 19 (MIN2) strategic objectives for the implementation of this Local Plan require all new development to:

Development in the Right Place

1. Contribute to sustainable development through the reflection of the vision and aspirations of the local communities for Breckland;
2. Assist in the creation and maintenance of inclusive, environmentally sustainable communities making the best and most efficient use of already developed land, buildings and natural resources;
3. Make sure the majority of development is focused into areas where services are available, and where facilities can be supported;
4. To adapt and mitigate against the impacts of climate change. (MM3)

Meeting the Housing Need

5. Deliver housing that meets the needs of the community and local economy through the concentration of development in the Strategic Urban Extensions of Attleborough and Thetford and where services and facilities can be supported within or adjacent to the market towns of Dereham, Swaffham and Watton and the local service centres, whilst giving recognition to the need for small scale and appropriate development in rural areas to support rural communities and services;
6. Support the development and maintenance of a balanced housing market and a variety of decent, affordable housing which meets the needs of all local people and supports economic and community development;
7. To encourage high quality, sustainable and safe design for places and spaces, in both the private and public realm, and which respects the character and local distinctiveness of Breckland's communities;

A Strong Economy

8. Promote and support economic growth in sustainable and accessible locations in a flexible manner, diversifying the urban and rural economic base of the District to enable a prosperous mix where investment is encouraged, skills are developed and retained and new and existing businesses are supported;
9. Enable the full potential of the A11 gateway and A47 corridor to contribute to economic growth of the District through investment, partnership work with neighbouring authorities and inward investment;

10. Develop the local economy and meet local employment needs by providing a sufficient number and variety of employment locations and opportunities, at the same time ensuring the specific qualities of the local environment are not damaged;
11. Promote the vitality and viability of town centres, including the night time economy and support the retention of existing rural services;
12. Provide for improved broadband connections, especially in rural areas;

A Rich Environment

13. Contribute to the positive management of change in the historic environment, protecting, enhancing and maintaining the unique qualities and character of Breckland, the wider landscape and setting, and its designated and non-designated heritage assets for the future; (MM3)
14. Promote a safe and healthy environment, and high quality design minimising the impacts of development and ensuring quality of life and sense of place;
15. Protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment, valuing green infrastructure for the many functions it performs;
16. Ensure the ongoing protection of key habitats for protected species;

Thriving Communities

17. To improve the health and well-being of our communities by reducing health inequalities, promoting healthy living and supporting locally accessible, high quality health care;
18. To protect and enhance community facilities and services and maximise accessibility to them; and
19. To encourage and facilitate a sense of community and belonging, and make sure decisions are made at community level as far as possible (through implementation of this plan and through Neighbourhood Planning).

2 General Policies

Sustainable Development

2.1 At the heart of the NPPF for both plan-making and decision-taking there is a "presumption in favour of sustainable development". This means that Local Authorities should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their Districts. National Policy, (NPPF paragraph 6), advises that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to sustainable development, and that through the planning system gains should be sought jointly through the three dimensions: economic, social and environmental. Sustainable development is about facilitating the creation of jobs and homes, improving the conditions in which people live, work, travel and take leisure, creating the conditions for better design and achieving gains in nature.

2.2 This involves seeking positive improvements in the quality of the built, natural and historic environment as well as in people's quality of life. In developing the Local Plan it is important not only to have regard to national policy but also to reflect and interpret policy with regard to the rural nature of the District and the aspirations of the local community. Local Plans should meet objective needs based on robust evidence, and they should be able to be applied in a flexible manner to adapt to rapid change, unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly outweigh the benefits, or specific policies indicate development should be restricted. They should also reflect local distinctiveness.

2.3 The presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF means approving development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay. Where the development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out-of-date, permission should be granted unless any adverse impacts would significantly outweigh the benefits.

2.4 Plans must be prepared with the objective of achieving sustainable development that reflects the vision and aspirations of local communities, reflecting local circumstances. As a predominantly rural, sparsely populated District, the dispersed nature of its population presents many challenges both for residents and for the delivery and provision of services. Difficulty in accessing services, limited communications network, (including broadband), reliance on the private car, the potential of social isolation and increased household costs are issues that whilst not exclusively rural, can be exacerbated by Breckland's rural characteristics.

2.5 Whilst planning cannot overcome market forces and personal behaviour, it can help to ensure that rural communities and settlements do not stagnate and decline but instead meet the needs of all generations of their communities, particularly the needs of younger households and those on lower wages. It can also assist in improving the appropriate provision of services and facilities, as well as helping to strengthen community cohesion, parish and family ties.

2.6 The NPPF advises that to boost the supply of housing, LPAs should use their evidence base to ensure that their Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area. With regard

specifically to rural areas, the NPPF advises that authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs in a sustainable manner. Paragraph 55 clearly sets out that to promote positive development 'housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities' and 'should avoid new isolated homes in the countryside unless there are special circumstances'. However, it should be recognised that travel by car will still be an essential option for many people living in remote rural areas.

GEN 01 - Sustainable Development in Breckland

The Local Plan will seek and enable development that improves the economic, social and environmental objectives of Breckland through the application of the following national and locally distinctive sustainable development principles:

- Mitigate and adapt to climate change;
- Protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment;
- Allocate and facilitate developable land that seeks to provide access to homes, employment, retail, leisure and other facilities;
- Assist in the creation and maintenance of inclusive, environmentally sustainable communities making the best and most efficient use of previously developed land, buildings and natural resources; Support Breckland's wider rural economy helping to sustain local services and assist in helping rural communities adapt and grow proportionately to enhance their social and economic sustainability;
- Direct jobs and growth towards the most sustainable locations contributing towards the economy and jobs in rural areas, helping to achieve the right balance throughout the District; and
- Co-ordinate development with transport provision ensuring good access to existing community facilities, services and open space, together with new facilities and services where necessary.
- **Consideration of the cumulative impact of development, in particular, the impact on the environment (MM4).**

Where there are no **development plan** policies relevant to the application, or **the policies of most importance** are out of date, the Council will grant permission, **unless** taking into account whether any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits when assessed against the National Planning Policy Framework, or **if** policies in the Framework **that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed. (MM4)**

2.7 The value of good design is recognised at the national level in the NPPF, which states (paragraph 56) that "the Government attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable

development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people." Design quality is a very important aspect of any new development. It is about how new development functions, as well as how it looks, and is broader than just the appearance of buildings. Well-designed development improves the functionality of places, creating high quality environments to be enjoyed by all residents in the District now and in the future. Good design is therefore instrumental to new development integrating within its surroundings to create successful places.

2.8 Securing high quality design is important as it can help achieve many wider aims and objectives such as improving health outcomes and quality of life. High quality design reinforces or creates a sense of place; making Breckland a better place in which to live, work and spend time. The Council understands that the places where people live and work have a profound effect on their quality of life. Good design plays a key role in this regard and has been shown to result in more sustainable environments which residents can have much pride in. Well-designed places encourage social integration, equal access to opportunities, services and facilities, whilst reducing opportunities for crime and promoting management and maintenance of open spaces and the public realm through natural surveillance.

2.9 The challenge for Breckland is accommodating development in a sustainable way whilst protecting and reinforcing the character of the District. The Council will raise the standard of design in the District and improve the urban environment. The quality of the public realm, comprising a series of connected spaces that help define the character of an area, can have a significant influence on the quality of life. This is because it affects people's sense of place, security and belonging as well as having an influence on a range of health and social factors. Development should provide a range of choice that will promote and instil vitality into an area. This might be interpreted as a mix of uses within a town centre development, or a mixture of tenure and housing types within residential development.

2.10 Development in rural settlements, particularly extensions to the built form of a settlement, should be of a scale and design that respects the character and rural setting of the settlement. Communities, through neighbourhood plans and village design statements, will be encouraged to identify those features that contribute to character. Proposals should demonstrate good design that is sympathetic to the local area and existing settlements.

2.11 All design proposals must conserve or enhance the existing character of an area. Particular regard should be given to reinforcing locally distinctive patterns of development, landscape and culture and complementing existing buildings.

2.12 The continuity of street frontages is particularly important in the market town centres and all new development should provide a natural demarcation of public and private spaces, without the need for excessive or artificial barriers. Public spaces should be designed to ensure that access routes are attractive, maintainable, secure, well lit and surveyed, easily accessible to all members of the community and free from unnecessary screens, barriers, signage or other street furniture.

2.13 Interdependent places and locations, such as town centres and transport interchanges or residential development and open space, should be well connected along routes that promote a choice of transport modes. These routes should be clearly legible so that it is easy to navigate from one place to another. Priority should be given to sustainable modes of transport.

GEN 02 Promoting High Quality Design

The Council will require high quality design in all development within the District that:

- respects and is sensitive to the character of the surrounding area and makes a positive architectural and urban design contribution to its context and location;
- contributes positively to the public realm and public spaces, protecting the high levels of amenity and quality of life making Breckland an attractive, successful and vibrant place for residents, workers and visitors;
- creates high quality, safe and sustainably designed buildings, places and streets; and
- maximises connectivity within and through a development and to the surrounding areas, including the provision of high quality and safe pedestrian and cycle routes.

Innovative and contemporary design where it enhances sustainability will be encouraged and promoted across the District. Development of poor design, that does not **respect or (MM5)** improve the character and quality of the area and the way the area functions, will be refused planning permission.

The Council will produce a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Design to provide detailed guidance for new development.

Settlement Hierarchy

2.14 A key purpose of the Local Plan is to set out the strategic distribution of development. Determining how much, and where, development is allocated is essential in delivering sustainable development and essential community infrastructure. The locational strategy sets out the broad approach to development within the District.

2.15 The core principle of the NPPF, as set out in paragraph 17, requires that *“Every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth.”* Also paragraph 55 advocates that, *“to promote sustainable*

development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.”

Identification of Local Service Centres and Smaller Villages

2.16 The Local Plan identifies local service centres where they satisfy all of the following 5 qualifying criteria, with villages with settlement boundaries identified as having 3 of the 5 criteria:

- Public Transport – An assessment of the level of public transport access within the village. This included consideration of the frequency of services and whether it is possible to reach the destination during normal working hours.
- Community Facility - This can include a number of different facilities such as a village hall, public house, restaurant or café.
- Employment – The assessment has considered the level of employment available within the village including whether there is a business park and also the size of the businesses within the settlement.
- Shop/Post Office
- School

2.17 The assessment has had regard to the distance of services and facilities from the designated settlement boundary/village core – and should only be considered to be available where they are within a recognised acceptable walking distance. Based on these criteria, an assessment has been made as to the availability of services within each village.

GEN 03 - Settlement Hierarchy

Most new development needs will be met through the proposed sustainable settlement hierarchy.

Key Settlements: Attleborough and Thetford.

Market Towns: Dereham, Swaffham and Watton.

Local Services Centres: Ashill, Banham, Bawdeswell, Garboldisham, Great Ellingham, Harling, Hockering, Kenninghall, Litcham, Mattishall, Narborough, Necton, North Elmham, Old Buckenham, Shipdham, Sporle, Swanton Morley, Weeting.

Villages with Boundaries: Beeston, Beetley, Carbrooke, Caston, Gressenhall, Griston, Hockham, Lyng, Mundford, North Lopham, Rocklands, Saham Toney, Thompson, Weasenham, Shropham, Eccles Road (Quidenham), Clint Green and Yaxham.

The hierarchy is based upon the utilisation of existing infrastructure and

resources, the prioritisation of new infrastructure and allowing jobs, homes and other facilities to provide for choice.

The strategy in relation to areas outside the development hierarchy is set out in: 'Development Outside of the Boundaries of Local Service Centres' (Policy HOU 03); 'Villages (MIN5) With Boundaries' (Policy HOU 04); and 'Small Villages and Hamlets Outside of Settlement Boundaries' (Policy HOU 05).

Attleborough

2.18 Attleborough is identified as one of the key settlements within Breckland. Policy HOU 2 sets out the proportion of growth intended to be delivered in the Key Settlement of Attleborough with 2,680 (MM6) dwellings to be allocated within the plan period (to 2036). The majority of this growth for Attleborough is to be delivered through the provision of a Strategic Urban Extension (SUE) and provides for the net addition of 4000 new dwellings, both during the plan period to 2036 and beyond.

2.19 Land to the south west of Attleborough offers the opportunity to expand the community of Attleborough through a comprehensive development which includes new residential areas, parks, local facilities, allotments and a new link road.

Strategic Urban Extension – South West of Attleborough

2.20 The allocation of a strategic site at Attleborough is required to help meet the District's need for future housing and employment land. Evidence demonstrates that the land to the south west is the most suitable and supported location for this development.

Site Context and Constraints

2.21 The land is adjacent to the existing town to the north which forms a defined boundary while the eastern edge of the site is partly formed by the B1077 which connects to the town and wider afield. The eastern boundary also abuts the employment area at Bunns Bank.

2.22 The strategic site comprises (MIN6) 217 (MM6) hectares of predominantly agricultural land, divided into small to medium sized arable fields and is of sufficient size to accommodate all the proposed dwellings. The site does not lie within a designated landscape and it is assessed as having a moderate sensitivity to change. Overall land to the south west of the town has a lower elevation than land to the south east and as such development would be less prominent in the landscape and less sensitive to change than land on the east of the B1077.

2.23 The Historic Characterisation Study identifies designated and non-designated heritage assets within and surrounding the boundary of the SUE and contains an analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site. Of note, is the imposing linear earthwork of the Scheduled Monument of Bunn's Bank which runs close to the south eastern boundary of the site. Its significance relates to its survival as a well

preserved earthwork and archaeological deposits which are of evidential and historic value. The Historic Characterisation Study highlights the likelihood that this continues inside the SUE boundary, therefore further archaeological investigation to the west of Bunn's Bank is required by the policy. Further designated heritage assets within or adjacent to the SUE include the Grade II listed Old Hall and Burgh Farm, Attleborough Conservation Area and Old Buckenham Conservation Area. The masterplan for the SUE should take consideration of these and other non-designated assets in the design and layout of the site.

2.24 If impact is unavoidable, the masterplan should outline adequate mitigation measures to the satisfaction of the Council in consultation with Historic England. Mitigation measures should be based on an assessment of the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets and the findings of the Historic Characterisation Study and could include buffer areas of open space, landscaping, alterations to the layout and/or proposed densities in the vicinity of heritage assets, amongst other measures. (MM6) A Heritage Statement will be required to address the impact of the development on the historic environment and additional surveys may be required following consultation with Historic England.

2.25 The Council's Indoor Sports Assessment identifies demand for a new sports hall in Attleborough to replace the existing centre. The emerging Neighbourhood Plan contains further aspirations and policies for sports provision in the town. This is supported by the findings of the Indoor and Built Sports and Recreational Facilities Study, 2017, which highlighted that there is sufficient demand to justify the provision of a new sports hall in Attleborough to replace the existing centre. The scale of the new sports hall from the assessment is for a 6 badminton court size sports hall of 34m x 27m.

2.26 For a development of this scale, new residents should have the opportunity to be active and lead healthy lifestyles through the design of the development and provision of on-site recreational facilities including green infrastructure, children's play facilities and allotments. This will help to reduce additional recreational pressure on surrounding areas, particularly more sensitive environmentally designated areas such as The Brecks and the Norfolk Valley Fens.

2.27 The preferred route chosen for construction of a link road is a diversionary route between London Road and the B1077 which would remove traffic from the centre of Attleborough and is shown on the map below.

2.28 Most of the area within the SUE boundary is predominantly in Flood Zone 1 and therefore at low risk of flooding. A small area of the site in the south west corner and a linear area alongside the stream running from the south west to the north east corner of the site is designated Flood Zone 2a and 3a fluvial flood risk. These areas are not required for development and will be factored in as part of the masterplan for the site, utilised as SuDs and open space for the linear park.

Development Requirements

Housing

2.29 The housing delivery on the SUE is to be phased in line with the delivery of infrastructure as detailed in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The housing trajectory (appendix 1) indicates 2,680 (MM6) of the 4,000 dwellings will be delivered during the Local Plan period (up to 2036). The remainder of the dwellings are expected to be delivered beyond that time.

2.30 The SUE fulfils the housing requirement for Attleborough within the plan period. Therefore, no additional residential allocations, beyond the SUE, are proposed for Attleborough through the Local Plan.

Employment

2.31 Attleborough is positioned on the A11 corridor; a key focus for the delivery of growth and investment across the region. The vision for Attleborough requires development that will create an attractive south-western edge to the town. This will require careful consideration of, amongst other things, what forms of employment development might be appropriate in different parts of the urban extension and in those sites closely related. The employment options show potential sites close to the A11 as well as opportunities to provide for the extension of the employment zone at Bunns Bank and some small scale employment within the SUE itself. Closer to the town centre, there remains the opportunity of redevelopment at the existing Banham Poultry site which currently has existing retail permission. Any additional provision within the SUE would only be supported if it would not prejudice residential amenity. For example, the ground floor of buildings adjacent to the main access may be suitable for small-scale retail and commercial use as well as other sociable uses.

2.32 It is considered that the employment site provided at Snetterton Heath offers the opportunity to help deliver the strategic employment needs of the District, while smaller sites towards Attleborough have the potential to provide for small to medium enterprises and to assist in providing more local employment for the town. Given that the potential sites form part of the entry into the historic market town they are key gateway sites and must be sensitively designed.

2.33 A strategic employment site of 10 hectares for Attleborough is proposed in the Submission Draft for Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan which is allocated in the Local Plan in the section on employment sites LP[002]029 and LP[002]007.

Design

2.34 The use of Design Codes help to deliver quality in development and are a useful tool for large development proposals which are set to be phased over a long period. Design codes coordinate design outcomes across large or complex sites to deliver a coherent design vision and masterplan. The NPPF supports the use of design codes, where appropriate; 'Local Planning Authorities should consider using design codes where they could help deliver high quality outcomes' (NPPF, paragraph 59, page 15). The policy for Attleborough sets a requirement for the

applicant to produce design codes for the Attleborough SUE in order to achieve a comprehensive development.

Infrastructure and phasing

2.35 An urban extension of this scale will be phased over the plan period in line with known infrastructure delivery and the market capacity for annual delivery as detailed in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. A number of transport studies have been undertaken for Attleborough and the provision of the necessary infrastructure to support development is critical for the delivery of the Attleborough urban extension. The scale of development proposed necessitates substantial improvements to the transport infrastructure in the town, particularly the highways network and associated infrastructure improvements. This includes addressing the following but not exhaustive list:

- Congestion and delay in relation to the existing gyratory system for traffic around the town centre;
- Level crossing on the B1077 which can cause blocking back on to the gyratory system;
- Transport issues in Attleborough in relation to traffic passing through the town centre, in particular HGVs;
- The barrier of the railway line and how this needs to be overcome to integrate the growth area with the existing town;
- Accommodating the transport impact of additional housing and employment growth in the town; and
- The need to deliver a link road and new road bridge over the railway to serve development.

2.36 In terms of connectivity it is important to ensure balanced provision of transport infrastructure and facilities, for pedestrians and cyclists, public transport and other vehicles to achieve a sustainable future for Attleborough town centre.

2.37 There is a requirement to work in partnership to enable a detailed infrastructure phasing to support the delivery of the urban extension, with Norfolk County Council, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and the emerging Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan in order to develop policies to support the production of the masterplan. This is likely to include reconfiguring the following junctions on the traffic gyratory to provide two-way general traffic flows on both Surrogate Street and Connaught Road. The individual schemes would be:

- Introduce two-way traffic on Connaught Road and Surrogate Street;
- Reconfiguring the Church Street/Surrogate Street junction (with possible closure of Church Street);
- Reconfiguring the Surrogate Street/Connaught Road junction; and
- Reconfiguring the High Street/Connaught Road/Exchange Street junction.

2.38 Phasing of future town centre improvements such as HGV bans on some of these town centre roads will not be possible until the link road is in place. A key requirement is to provide a new road crossing over the railway line and to acquire

the required land to the west. Breckland Council have resolved to acquire this land and can use Compulsory Purchase powers if required to facilitate this.

2.39 The Infrastructure Delivery Plan details the trajectory of housing delivery on site which is projected to deliver 160 dwellings a year. Key requirements for the link road are triggered on completion of 1200 dwellings, and strategic improvements to Attleborough Waste Water Treatment Works are triggered on the development of 1800 dwellings. The policy for the SUE requires the developer to have regard to the phasing of infrastructure provision as set out in Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan and any subsequent updates.

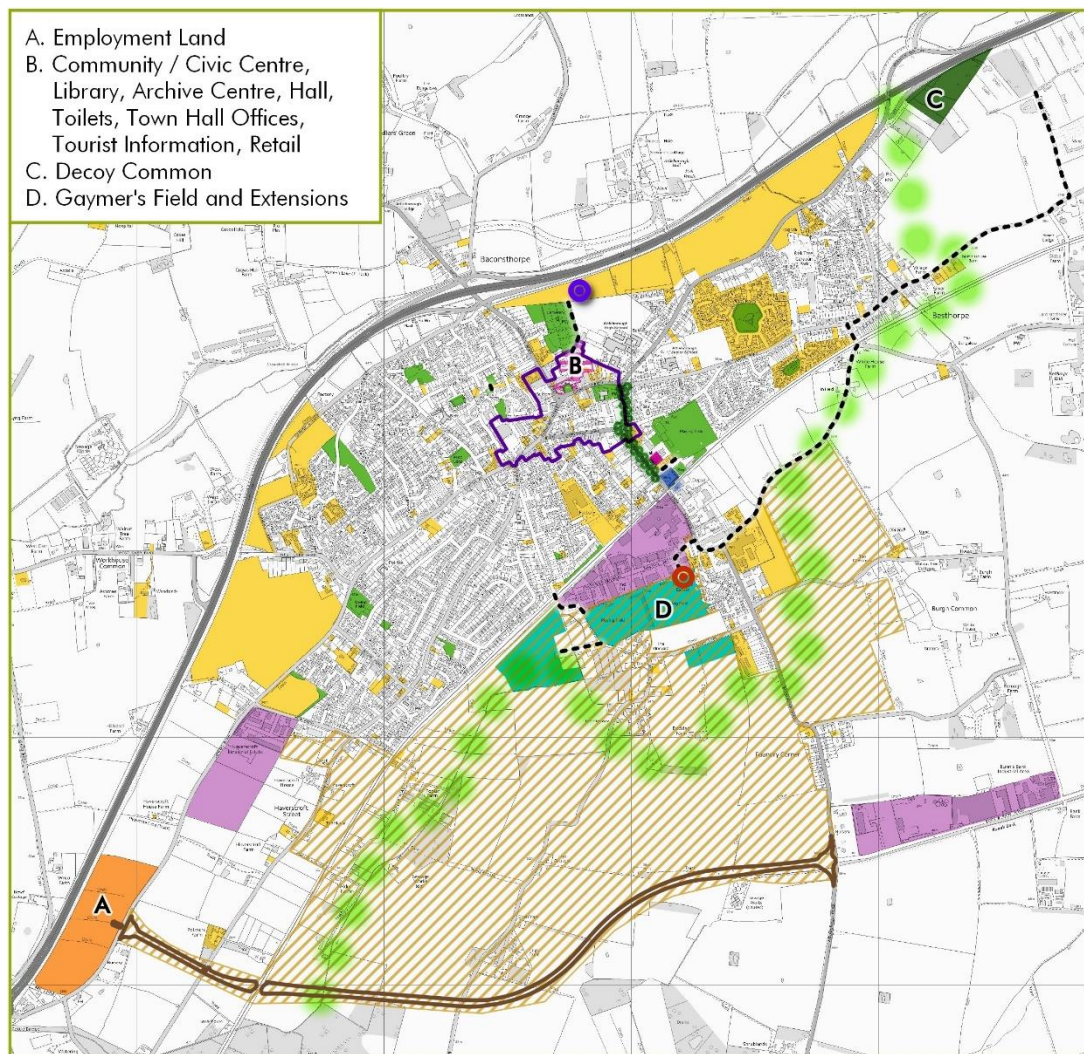
Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan

2.40 **Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan was made on 18th January 2018 (MIN7).** The Council recognises the role of Neighbourhood Planning and is committed to working with the Town Council and partners to deliver the collective vision. Policy GEN **04 (MIN7)** of the Local Plan provides the strategic context for development in Attleborough. The Neighbourhood Plan aims to provide a set of more locally detailed policies, which will help inform the strategic Masterplan and employment allocation for the SUE.

2.41 The Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan focuses on 7 themes:

- The Local Economy
- Housing
- Transport and Communications
- Education and Learning
- Health and Social Care
- Sports, Leisure and Community Facilities
- Environment Sustainability and
- Design

Map 2.1 Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan Policies Map



Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan

Policies Map 1
February 2017

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | Town Centre |  | Significant Tree Avenues |
|  | Preferred Growth Location (SUE) in Local Plan |  | Linear Park |
|  | Site B |  | Local Open Space |
|  | Link Road (indicative) |  | Employment Sites Existing and Permissions |
|  | Outdoor Sports Hub |  | Existing Housing Permissions |
|  | Pavilion and Car Park |  | Area of Search for Employment Land |
|  | Area of Search for Indoor Sports Hub and Parking for Town Centre |  | Footpath Links |
|  | Open Space in Local Plan | | |

0 1 km



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Vision for the Strategic Urban Extension

2.42 The Council has set out a proposed vision on how development will look and function and will inform the design principles and required Masterplan Framework.

Proposed Strategic Site Vision

1. Development of the land south-west of Attleborough presents an opportunity to create a new and attractive strategic urban extension for Attleborough. This vision statement describes the ultimate ambition for the place. The development will sit comfortably within the gently undulating landform, successfully incorporating significant trees and hedgerows within green corridors and improved pedestrian and cycling linkages to the town centre. In its town planning, the development will reflect the built environment of Attleborough and its communities. All buildings will exhibit high architectural quality, making optimum use of modern systems internally. The external appearance will complement the historic town, preserving contact with the best local building traditions, not least in the use of high quality materials. The built environment will strike a successful balance between variety and harmony. As in the best historic townscapes the scale, massing and detailing of particular buildings will respond to the character and role of the street they address. Within the layout, focal points and landmarks will be highlighted with distinctive buildings and spaces. A carefully planned network of green infrastructure will serve to connect the neighbourhoods, helping to create defined open spaces and create recognisable neighbourhoods within the development and a strong sense of place. As a consequence, the layout will be easy to understand and navigate. Integration with existing streets and paths in the vicinity, which will be enhanced where necessary, will ensure this new part of Attleborough is well connected to the town and the railway station, the rest of the town, and the countryside beyond.
2. The mix of homes and tenure types will reflect the needs and ambition of the local community. Homes will provide ample space for living and storage. Residents will have convenient access to community facilities such as schools, shops, healthcare and play areas. All properties will have convenient access to public transport and to a network of safe and direct walking and cycling routes, linking people to schools, and services, both within the development and beyond. Ready access to high speed broadband will enable home working and help reduce the number of journeys by private car. Public spaces will be well designed, with suitable management and maintenance arrangements in place to ensure their continued upkeep.
3. This new part of Attleborough will include low carbon energy generation, SuDS, and convenient access to recycling facilities. Allotments and gardens will provide opportunities for residents to grow their own food. The development will promote innovation in residential, commercial and

infrastructure design with a view to achieving more sustainable ways of living and a place that is future-proof. Essential infrastructure and services will be integrated in the design of the place from the outset and delivered in phases with the building work.

GEN-04 (MIN9)- Development Requirements of Attleborough Strategic Urban Extension (SUE) Development

Land to the south west of Attleborough amounting to approximately 217ha (MM7), as shown on the policies map is allocated for a Strategic Urban Extension of a total of at least 2,680 (MM7) net new dwellings with a further 1,320 (MM7) dwellings anticipated beyond the plan period within the SUE boundary. The SUE will be phased over the plan period together with appropriate community infrastructure to support new development (see separate policies in this document), suitable local shopping centre, green infrastructure and identified local employment land. The delivery will be aided by the provision of a new link road located to the south of the urban extension.

To help ensure that there is a sufficient economically active population to support the local economy, any proposal for housing development (open market and affordable) should include an appropriate mix of housing types.

Retail proposals within the SUE will be supported where they provide for local need across A1-A5 Use classes up to the identified capacity of 1,900 sq m gross as detailed in the separate retail policies in this document.

Provision will be required for sport and recreation facilities in the SUE as part of any development proposals in line with current and emerging evidence and policies in this document. This should be accessible from the existing town by a variety of modes of travel as well as from within the SUE itself.

The development proposal for the Attleborough SUE will conserve, and where possible, enhance the historic environment. The Historic Characterisation Study should inform an appropriate design response and any masterplanning exercise, including any mitigation measures. Development proposals must:

- Conserve, and where possible, enhance designated heritage assets and non-designated heritage assets and their settings. Designated heritage assets include Bunn's Bank Scheduled Monument, Grade II listed Old Hall and Burgh Farm, Attleborough Conservation Area and Old Buckenham Conservation Area;
- Respect the rural nature of the site and the location of the site as a gateway from the south;
- Explore opportunities to create a pattern of development and open space which naturally aids the understanding and interpretation of the significance of heritage assets, in particular Bunn's Bank Scheduled Monument;
- Retain and respond to important landscape features throughout the Site
- Be informed by archaeological surveys, where required, in line with policies ENV 07 and ENV 08, particularly the area to the west of Bunn's Bank Scheduled Monument (MM7)

Development must make provision for the retention and protection of hedgerows and trees and provide green corridors connecting development sites, adjacent residential and employment areas, the town centre and open countryside as well as appropriate links to the railway station.

Provision of green infrastructure, play facilities and allotments within the SUE boundary should be of a sufficient scale and design to enable recreational opportunities for local residents close to where they live.

A Travel Plan is required as well as financial contributions towards public transport to serve the SUE as well as additional transport improvements to the town centre to mitigate the impact of additional development.

A **Utilities Statement** is required for this site in accordance with the Water Cycle Study to demonstrate that sufficient capacity is available to transfer wastewater for treatment **and that there is available capacity in the foul sewerage network**. Where insufficient capacity within the wastewater network is identified, financial contributions may be sought. Ongoing discussion between the Council, the developer and Anglian Water Services to determine an appropriate, deliverable solution for Wastewater Treatment Work (WwTW) improvements required **in time to serve the development of 4,000 dwellings, of which, 2,680 are to be completed within the plan period.(MM7)**

In line with Norfolk Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy CS16, future development on this site will be subject to the submission of information that satisfies Norfolk County Council that:

- the applicant has carried out investigations to identify whether the resource (sand and gravel) is viable for mineral extraction; and
- if the mineral resource is viable, that the applicant has considered whether it could be extracted economically prior to development taking place; and
- if the mineral resource can be extracted economically, whether (or not) there are opportunities to use the onsite resource during the construction phase of development.”

The Council supports Attleborough Town Council's intention to produce a Neighbourhood Plan which could help to shape growth in Attleborough subject to the Plan passing a local referendum.

Design and Landscape of a quality that reflects the importance of this key site, the policies in the Local Plan and the aspirations of the community.

New or improved/expanded local healthcare facilities may be required to serve the increased population, subject to consultation with NHS England (MM7).

Masterplan

A masterplan is required to provide a comprehensive development strategy for the SUE. The masterplan should accord with the phasing of infrastructure provision, as set out in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan and subsequent updates. The masterplan will address the following strategic development requirements which will apply within the SUE boundary:

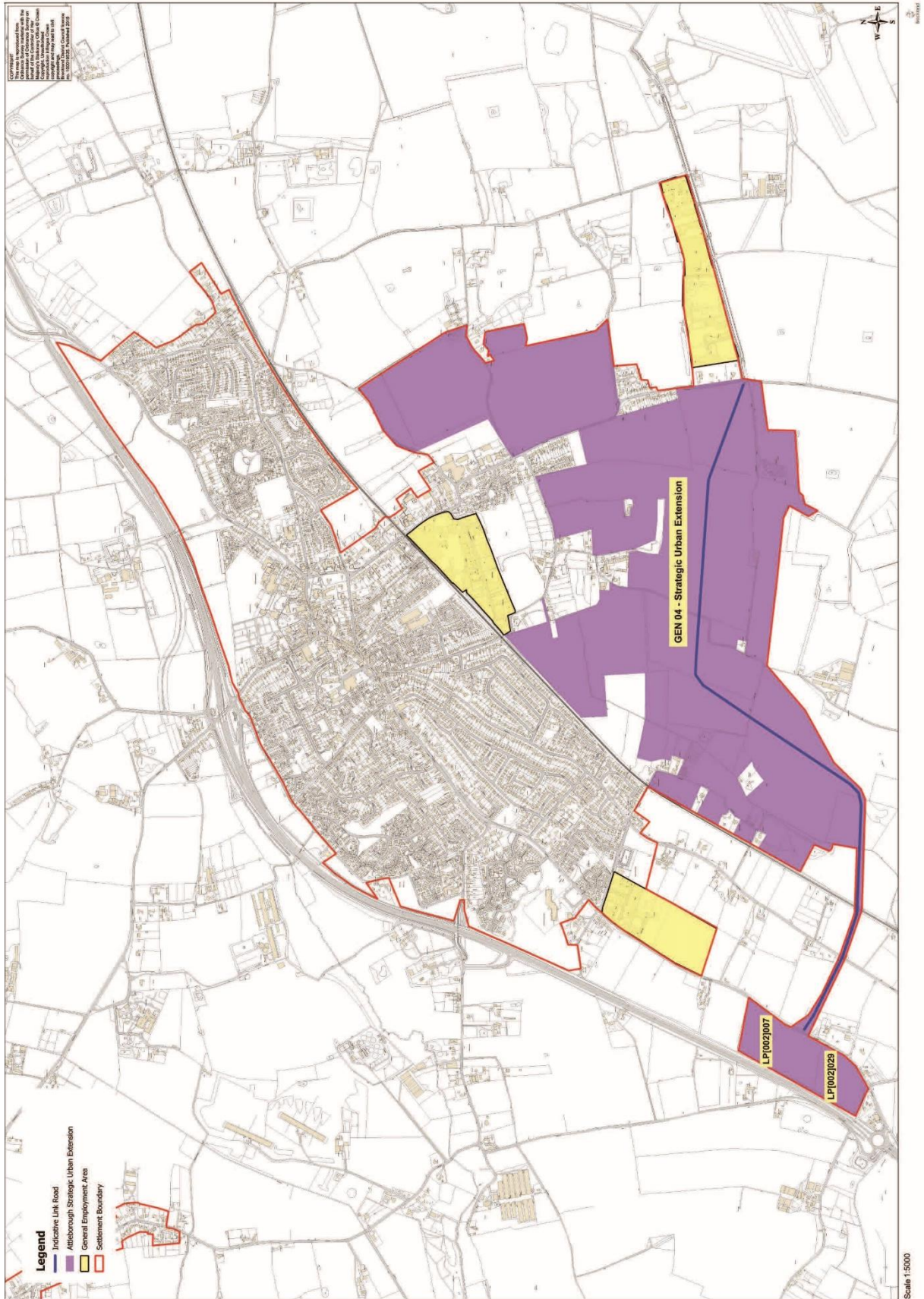
1. Indicative design, layout and phasing requirements for 4,000 dwellings;
2. A mix of dwelling types to be spread across the SUE area, with a proportion of housing to comprise affordable home ownership products. Opportunities for self-build dwellings will be considered;
3. A new link road between London Road and the B1077 Attleborough Road to be delivered prior to the completion of 1200 dwellings;
4. Connectivity from the SUE to the town centre and existing development for both vehicular and pedestrian and cycle movements to enable several points of access helping to integrate the new and existing residential areas and improve social cohesion;
5. Provision of two new primary schools within the SUE area;
6. A local centre which acts as the focal point for the community comprising local facilities for new residents to be located within easy walking and cycling access to the majority of new residents;
7. Further neighbourhood centres to provide limited local facilities to serve the immediate neighbourhood;
8. Any retail or employment provision should not prejudice residential amenity or be of a scale or use type which would directly compete with the role of Attleborough town centre;
9. Consideration of fluvial and surface water flood risk in a Flood Risk Assessment;
10. Provision of Sustainable Drainage Systems to provide surface water attenuation. This should be planned on an integrated and strategic scale across the SUE area, and where possible should form part of the landscaping scheme;
11. Consideration of the promotion and use of water efficiency measures in line with recommendations in the Water Cycle Study;
12. Provision of a wide range of green infrastructure to include:
 - A linear park functioning as a green corridor running through the development to promote walking and cycling helping to enable healthy lifestyles;
 - A network of open spaces and formal and informal children's play spaces in accordance with Policy ENV04;
 - Landscaping to integrate the development with the surrounding landscape and to prevent a hard urban edge to development;
 - Retention of existing, and incorporation of new native tree and hedgerow species, where appropriate with regard to the proposed layout and design of development; and
 - Provision of allotments
13. Consideration of measures to mitigate potential adverse recreational

impacts on designated nature conservation sites (SPAs, SACs, Ramsar) outside the growth area;

14. The Masterplan should consider the presence of the underground gas pipeline in developing the layout of the site;
15. The applicant will be required to develop design codes to the satisfaction of the Council which will inform the detailed planning application for the SUE;
16. The Masterplan will be informed by the presence of designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings, this will include an investigation of the archaeological significance of the site, particularly the area west of Bunn's Bank. Proposals for the siting of major infrastructure, such as the link road required to serve the development, or infrastructure upgrades to the existing town centre will be informed by an appraisal of the impact upon the historic environment;
17. Consideration of the potential to provide a new healthcare facility on site, unless it is determined financial contributions to existing facilities would be more appropriate to serve the healthcare needs of new residents (MM7).

(MM8)

Attleborough Strategic Urban Extension



Thetford

2.43 Thetford was designated as the Key Centre for Development and Change within the former Core Strategy. The town acts as the principal retail, service and employment centre for the south of the District. The Core Strategy's Spatial Portrait described the town as having a good balance of homes and jobs with a well developed market for industrial and distribution property. It has connections to the national rail network and is located on the A11 between Norwich and Cambridge. The spatial strategy of the Local Plan document continues Thetford's role as a key area for growth.

2.44 The Thetford Area Action Plan (TAAP) adopted in July 2012 covered the whole of the Parish of Thetford and parts of the Parishes of Croxton, Brettenham and Kilverstone.

2.45 The TAAP was produced to guide the significant housing and employment growth apportioned to Thetford, primarily delivered through the Thetford Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE). Thetford was appointed growth point status in 2006 and under the TAAP the town will deliver 5000 dwellings, 22ha of employment land and 500 net new jobs. The TAAP was part of the old Local Development Framework (LDF) system; it was intended to be read alongside the adopted Core Strategy.

2.46 However, the growth and development of Thetford as a sustainable location is still **important to the strategy for (MM9) the new Local Plan with the Thetford SUE forming a significant element of housing delivery in the district over the plan period.** The town remains a key area for growth. Although the site has outline planning consent a number of reserved matters applications will have to come forward over the Plan period to build out the site. **Phase 1a of the SUE has been approved which will deliver the first 343 dwellings of the total 5,000 on the site.**

2.47 The TAAP contains a number of policies specifically related to development within Thetford and importantly to the SUE. These policies have been developed to respond to key pieces of evidence base for the local area. The policies have been designed to help frame the development of Thetford and the regeneration of existing areas and have been subject to a considerable level of public consultation and examination. **Relevant policies from the TAAP will continue to be used alongside the new policies in the Local Plan to help guide growth and development in Thetford. These policies are not superseded by the Local Plan and are listed in paragraph 2.49.**

2.48 The overarching vision for Thetford as put forward in the adopted **TAAP is still considered to reflect the aspirations for growth in the town: (MM9)**

Overarching Vision for Thetford

To deliver a thriving 21st century market town at the centre of life in the East of England by implementing the sustainable growth and comprehensive social, economic and environmental regeneration of Thetford.

By 2026 Thetford will become a well planned, self-contained sustainable town where people feel part of the community and where they continue to enjoy living and working. It will be a place people will be attracted to for its renowned natural and historic environment qualities.

Thetford will be an important town for jobs, shops, services, schools and tourism, and will continue to be the fourth largest town in Norfolk. Thetford will be known as a town where healthy lifestyles are at the heart of what people, communities and businesses do.

Thetford's reputation will be improved.

2.49 Following analysis of the relevance of each policy (in the context of the Local Plan) it was considered that the below policies from the TAAP should **not be superseded to** ensure that the planning framework for this area is clear and consistent.

- Policy TH 2 Approach to the Town Centre
- Policy TH 4 Transport - Achieving Modal Shift
- Policy TH 5 The Impact of Change on Pedestrians, Cyclists and Buses Policy TH 6 Thetford Bus Interchange
- Policy TH 7 Thetford Railway Station
- Policy TH 9 Monitoring and management of Key Biodiversity Sites Policy TH 11 Joe Blunt's Lane
- Policy TH 12 The Thetford Loops Policy TH 18 Archaeology
- Policy TH 20 Thetford Urban Extension Strategic Design Principles Policy TH 21 Locally Distinctive Features of the Landscape
- Policy TH 22 Gallows Hill Scheduled Monument
- Policy TH 23 Existing Buildings in the Thetford Urban Extension Policy TH 25 Walking and Cycling
- Policy TH 26 Buses
- Policy TH 27 A New Railway Station in the Urban Extension Policy TH 28 Changes to the A11 Trunk Road
- Policy TH 29 Improvements to the Local Road Network Policy TH 30 New Employment Land
- Policy TH 31 New Local Centre(s) in the Urban Extension Policy TH 32 Connecting to a Decentralised Energy Supply
- Policy TH 33 Education Provision in the Thetford Urban Extension Policy TH 34 New Health Facility in the Urban Extension
- Policy TH 35 Community Buildings
- Policy TH 37 Regeneration Proposals in Existing Residential Areas

2.50 The following policies will be **superseded** by District wide policies **within this Local Plan. (MM9)**

Table 2.1 **Superseded** Thetford AAP Policies

| Policy superseded | Superseding Policy |
|---|----------------------------|
| Policy TH 1 NPPF - Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development | Policy GEN 01 (MM9) |
| Policy TH 3 New Retail Development | Policy EC 05 |
| Policy TH 8 Healthy Lifestyles | Policy COM 02 |
| Policy TH 10 Allotments | ENV 04, INF 02 |
| Policy TH 13 Indoor Sports Facilities | ENV 04, COM 04 |
| Policy TH 14 Energy and Carbon - TAAP Wide | National policy |
| Policy TH 8 Healthy Lifestyles | Policy COM 02 |
| Policy TH 10 Allotments | ENV 04, INF 02 |
| Policy TH 13 Indoor Sports Facilities | ENV 04, COM 04 |
| Policy TH 14 Energy and Carbon - TAAP Wide | National policy |
| Policy TH 15 Energy/Multi Service(s) Company Development (ESCo/MuSCo) | National policy |
| Policy TH 16 Water and Drainage | ENV 09 |
| Policy TH 17 Development in Flood Zones | ENV 09 |
| Policy TH 19 Sustainable Construction Standards for Non-Residential Development | National Policy |
| Policy TH 24 Surface-Water Management | ENV 09 |
| Policy TH 36 New Bring Recycling Facilities | National policy |
| Policy TH 38 Existing Employment Areas | Policy EC 03 |
| Policy TH 39 Thetford Settlement Boundary | Policy GEN 05 |

Settlement Boundaries

2.51 Settlement boundaries have been defined on the Policies Map for each of the higher tier settlements (from Key Settlements to Local Service Centres). The purpose of settlement boundaries is to define the area which is acceptable, in principal, for further development. Beyond the settlement boundaries the wider area is largely defined as the countryside. **Given the rural character of Breckland, the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside is recognised. (MM10).**

Policy GEN 05 Settlement Boundaries

Within the defined settlement boundaries and the boundary for Attleborough SUE (as shown on the Policies Map) proposals for new development are acceptable, subject to compliance with **relevant Development plan** policies.

Outside the defined settlement boundaries, development is restricted to **recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of** the countryside. Development outside the defined settlement boundaries will only be acceptable where it is compliant with **all relevant policies set out in the development plan, including but not necessarily restricted to: (MM11)**

- Policy HOU 03 - Development Outside of the Boundaries of Local Service Centres
- Policy HOU 04 – Villages with Boundaries (MM11)
- Policy HOU 05 - Small Villages and Hamlets Outside of Settlement Boundaries
- Policy HOU 08 - Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
- Policy HOU 12 - Conversion of Buildings in the Countryside
- Policy HOU 13 - Workers Exceptions
- Policy HOU 14 – Affordable Housing Exceptions
- Policy ENV 03 - The Brecks Protected Habitats and Species
- Policy EC 04 - Employment Development Outside General Employment Areas
- Policy EC 06 - Farm Diversification
- Policy EC 07 - Tourism Related Development

3 Housing

Development Requirements

3.1 A key purpose of the Local Plan is to set out the required number of new homes that will be provided to meet the identified need. Local Authorities are required by the NPPF to objectively assess the development needs for their area and plan to meet these needs in full. This is both a technical and a policy issue. The additional homes figure for Breckland District over the plan period is a strategic decision reached having taken account of different demographic, economic and housing need considerations together with the assumptions that underlie them. Paragraph 159 of the NPPF states that local planning authorities should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. Paragraph 14 of the NPPF, states that local planning authorities in preparing the Local Plan should meet objectively assessed needs, unless adverse impacts would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits when assessed against the NPPF or be contrary to specific NPPF policies.

3.2 The Central Norfolk Strategic Housing Market Assessment, 2015 was jointly commissioned by five central Norfolk local authorities (Norwich City, Broadland, Breckland, North Norfolk and South Norfolk, together with the Broads Authority) through the Duty to Co-operate Forum. It has identified the Central Norfolk Housing Market Area as the functional Housing Market area that Breckland best aligns to and established the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for housing across the central Norfolk area.

3.3 The SHMA was subject to an update in 2017 to reflect the most recent Government projections, including the 2014 sub national populations projections. The 2014 sub national population projections suggest that the population will increase to 153,700 by 2036. The SHMA update states that the full objectively assessed need for housing between 2011 and 2036 is 15298. This equates to an annualised target of 612 per annum. The housing trajectory is included at 'Appendix 1 - Housing Trajectory'.

3.4 It is considered that the OAN identified through the Central Norfolk Strategic Housing Market Assessment represents the most up to date and robust evidence base on which to plan for residential growth in the District. The approach of considering existing unmet market and affordable housing needs as part of the calculation ensures that any potential accumulated backlog from under delivery in the previous Plan period will have been accounted for as part of the assessment of need.

Policy HOU 01- Development Requirements (Minimum) (MM12)

To enable the District to meet future housing needs the Local Plan will provide for no less than 15,298 new homes between 2011 and 2036, an average of 612 dwellings per annum.

Level and Location of Growth

3.5 The distribution of housing is one of the most significant issues that the Local Plan must address through the allocation of land and the setting of policies to guide development. The future direction of growth is required to follow the settlement hierarchy outlined within the policies in this Local Plan.

3.6 The Local Plan seeks to deliver the most sustainable approach to development outside the strategic urban extensions (SUEs) of Attleborough and Thetford for distributing growth across the sustainable settlements in the District and achieving a more balanced approach in housing development between rural and urban areas in line with the Strategic Vision, local and market demands.

3.7 Informed by the sustainability appraisal (SA) process, the Council has identified as an important element of the settlement hierarchy a desire for a level of growth across a network of Local Service Centres in the rural areas. Having regard to this figure, the rest of the housing target is directed to the larger market towns of Thetford, Attleborough, Dereham, Swaffham and Watton. In essence this reflects a bottom up approach considered to support “sustainable development” in the District providing the desired balance between economic, environmental and social factors.

3.8 It is important to note that there will still be significant development on the two SUEs in those locations beyond the plan period. At 3,070 units beyond the (MM13) plan period, even under the current housing target (612) this would equate to around 5 years housing supply if no development took place elsewhere to continue to support growth associated with the A11 corridor.

3.9 For the local service centres (LSCs) it has been assumed that each settlement will see new allocations at a level broadly equivalent to 10% of the estimated number of households from a base date of 2011. This figure was derived from the population information in the 2011 census and applying a householder multiple figure which assumed 2.3 people per household. This approach helps to ensure a supply of housing over the plan period.

3.10 A 7% allowance for rural areas is identified as being consistent with the approach within Policy HOU 04, which allows for some development within and immediately adjacent to settlement boundaries up to a cumulative limit of development for each village, so as to be commensurate with the position in the settlement hierarchy. The deliverability of this figure can be evidenced through representations from landowners and developers which demonstrate that sites are available and developable. A figure greater than 7% for development in the rural areas has been disregarded because such development is required to be treated as windfall.

3.11 The Local Plan, through providing individual settlement targets, gives utility providers and other infrastructure providers greater certainty in the areas for investment. Also, for communities that are either progressing or considering developing a neighbourhood plan, providing new homes targets in each of the settlements in the settlement hierarchy gives certainty on their minimum housing requirements.

3.12 Taking account of completions and commitments also informs the residual amount of growth needing to be delivered and the actual requirement for new allocations. Completions is the term used to describe the number of dwellings that have been built out following the granting of planning permission, whilst commitments account for developments, which have already been given planning permission, but not yet been built out.

Policy HOU 02 - Level and Location of Growth

Housing growth will be distributed in line with the following individual settlements **minimum (MM14) targets:**

| Tier of Hierarchy | Settlement | Total completions 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2018 | Total commitments 01/04/2011 to 31/03/2018 | Allocations not superseded | Decisions awaiting s106 (including proposed) allocations) | Proposed allocation (allocations with planning permission or decision to grant identified in previous columns)^ | Total |
|------------------------|--------------|---|---|----------------------------------|---|---|-------|
| Key Settlements | Attleborough | 515 | 1180 | | 8 (Warrens Lane 3PL/2016/0486/H) | 2680 | 4383 |
| | Thetford | 323 | 3343 | | | 0 | 3666 |
| Market Towns | Dereham | 401 | 359 | 220 (D2) | 48 (Greenfields Road, allocation 3: 3PL/2016/0952/O) 216 (Land off Swanton Road: 3PL/2015/1487/O) | 540 | 1784 |
| | Swaffham | 496 | 360 | 97 (SW1) | 525 185 (South of Norwich Road, allocation 4: 3PL/2015/0917/O) 165 (north of Norwich Road, allocation 4: 3PL/2015/0550/O) 175 (west of Watton Road, allocation 3: 3PL/2016/0068/O) | 75 | 1553 |
| | Watton | 548 | 883 | | | 205 | 1636 |

| Tier of Hierarchy | Settlement | Total completions 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2018 | Total commitments 01/04/2011 to 31/03/2018 | Allocations not superseded | Decisions awaiting s106 (including proposed allocation) | Proposed allocation (allocation with planning permission or decision to grant identified in previous columns)^ | Total |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|--|----------------------------|---|--|-------|
| Local Service Centres | Ashill | 39 | 39 | | 7 (Hale Road: 3PL/2017/1077/O) | 20 | 105 |
| | Banham | 17 | 58 | | | 42 | 117 |
| | Bawdeswell | 8 | 41 | | | 0 (40 counted within completions commitments) | 49 |
| | Garboldisham | 10 | 5 | | | 35 | 50 |
| | Great Ellingham | 36 | 159 | | | 0 | 195 |
| | Harling | 126 | 39 | | | 85 | 250 |
| | Hockering | 6 | 67 | | | 25 | 98 |
| | Kenninghall* | 27 | 4 | | | 15 (20 to be delivered through HOU 03) | 66 |
| | Litcham* | 3 | 7 | | | 0 (22 to be delivered through HOU 03) | 32 |
| | Mattishall | 26 | 111 | | 12 (Kensington Forge: 3PL/2017/1112/F) | 0 | 149 |
| | Narborough | 92 | 18 | | 10 (Land north of 1-14 Swaffham Road: 3PL/2017/1046/O) | 40 | 160 |
| | Necton | 80 | 124 | | 46 (Erne Farm, allocation 1: 3PL/2016/0983/O) | 15 (18 to be met through HOU03) | 283 |
| | North Elmham | 12 | 69 | | | 0 (allocation for 27 counted in completions and commitments) (14 to be delivered through HOU 03) | 95 |
| | Old Buckenham | 17 | 19 | | | | 73 |
| | | | | | | | |

| Tier of Hierarchy | Settlement | Total completions 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2018 | Total commitments 01/04/2011 to 31/03/2018 | Allocations not superseded | Decisions awaiting s106 (including proposed allocation) | Proposed allocation (allocation with planning permission or decision to grant identified in previous columns)^ | Total |
|-------------------|-------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|--|---|-------|
| | | | | | | 20 (17 to be met through HOU 03) | |
| | Shipdham | 75 | 152 | | | 55 (allocation for 23 counted in commitments and completions) | 282 |
| | Sporle | 19 | 18 | | | 35 | 72 |
| | Swanton Morley | 84 | 15 | | | 85 | 184 |
| | Weeting | 41 | 60 | | | 0 | 101 |

| Tier of Hierarchy | Settlement | Total completions 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2018 | Total commitments 01/04/2011 to 31/03/2018 | Allocations not superseded | Decisions awaiting s106 (including proposed allocation) | Proposed allocation (allocation with planning permission or decision to grant identified in previous columns) | Total |
|--|---|---|--|----------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Villages with Boundaries † | Beeston, Beetley, Carbrooke, Caston, Gressenhall, Griston, Hockham, Lyng, Mundford, North Lopham, Rocklands, Saham Toney, Thompson, Weasenham, Shropham, Eccles Road (Quidenham), Yaxham (including Clint Green) | 206 | 268 | 0 | 0 | 234 | 1247 |
| Villages without boundaries ~ | Beachamwell, Besthorpe, Billingford, Bintree, Blo Norton, Bradenham, Bridgham, Brettenham, Brisley, Bylaugh, Cockley Cley, Cranwich, Cranworth, Croxton, Didlington, East Tuddenham, Elsing, Foulden, Foxley, Fransham, Garvestone, Gateley, Gooderstone, Great Cressingham, Great Dunham, Guist, Hardingham, Hilborough, Hoe, Holme Hale, Horningtoft, Ickburgh, Kempstone, Kilverstone, Lexham, Little Ellingham, Longham, Lynford, Merton, Mileham, Narford, New Buckenham, Newton, North Pickenham, North Tuddenham, Ovington, Oxborough, Riddlesworth, Roudham, Rougham, Scarning, Scoulton, Snetterton, South Acre, South Lopham, South Pickenham, Sparham, Stanfield, Stanford, Stow Bedon, Sturston, Thompson, Tittleshall, Tottington, Twyford, Wellingham, Wendling, Whinburh | 286 | 247 | 0 | 6 (Land off Bridge Street: 3PL/2017/1500/O) | 0 | |
| Total | | 3493 | 7645 | 317 | 878 | 4297 | 16,630 (8.7% buffer) |
| *Housing Allocations unable to meet Local Plan Housing Target Policy HOU 03 to these villages †Policy HOU 04 applies to these villages. ~Policy HOU 05 applies to these villages. ^Neighbourhood plans can seek to exceed housing targets | | | | | | | |

3.13 In some LSCs the Council is not seeking a positive allocation based on the current available land supply, environmental and heritage constraints and / or the level of recent planning permissions.

3.14 Where the total housing identified for a settlement is not provided for by way of existing permissions and proposed allocations, criteria based policies will be used to assess planning applications. Policy HOU 03 sets out the criteria proposed to determine sites outside the development boundaries of Local Service Centres.

Policy HOU 03: Development Outside of the Boundaries of Local Service Centres

Development outside of the boundaries of the Local Service Centres will normally be resisted where the Local Plan housing target (as set in Policy HOU 02) is provided for unless supported by other policies within the Local Plan. Where the Local Plan does not identify sufficient sites to achieve the housing target, then further development will be allowed subject to being supported by **relevant** policies within the **Development (MM15)** Plan and meeting all of the following criteria:

1. It is immediately adjacent to the settlement boundary;
2. It would not lead to the number of dwellings in the settlement **significantly** exceeding the **identified** housing target;
3. The design contributes to conserving, and where possible enhancing, the historic nature and connectivity of communities; and
4. the development avoids coalescence of settlements.

Opportunities for self-build dwellings which meet the criteria set out above will be **supported.(MM15)**

Reasoned Justification

3.15 Where it has not been possible to identify a suitable, available and deliverable allocation for a settlement defined as a Local Service Centre, development that meets the criteria outlined in Policy HOU 03 will be permitted in order to meet the identified housing target for the plan period (2036). The policy enables an element of flexibility in the housing delivery for the larger rural settlements and helps to support and sustain their services and facilities.

Approach to Development in the Rural Areas

3.16 Breckland is a diverse District, up to 20% of the population live outside the top three tiers of the settlement hierarchy (Key Settlements, the Market Towns and Local Service Centres), in the rural areas characterised by a large number of smaller dispersed villages and hamlets. In accordance with the spatial locational strategy these settlements would not be appropriate for the allocation of larger scale market developments which would normally be expected to deliver a proportion of affordable

housing. It is, however, highly likely that there will continue to be a need for the provision of affordable homes in these communities and specifically in relation to rural areas. The NPPF advises that authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing developments to reflect local needs in a sustainable manner.

3.17 Policy HOU 04 therefore seeks to capture the need to direct growth to the most sustainable locations, support local services, balance residential needs and employment opportunities and seeks to enhance the rural economy, thereby helping to maintain the vitality of rural communities. In line with the locally distinctive approach to sustainable development, rather than seeking to restrict all development outside the sustainable settlement hierarchy and inside of the settlement boundaries of the existing rural settlements where there are limited opportunities, this policy seeks to present a sensitive approach to rural housing that is responsive to local circumstances; striking a balance with employment needs and the countryside.

Policy HOU 04 – Villages with Boundaries (MIN10)

The following rural **villages (MM17)** have settlement boundaries (as defined on the policies maps):

Beeston, Beetley, Carbrooke, Caston, Gressenhall, Griston, Hockham, Lyng, Mundford, North Lopham, Rocklands, Saham Toney, Thompson, Weasenham, Shropham, Eccles Road (Quidenham) **and Yaxham & Clint Green (MM17)**

Appropriate development will be allowed immediately adjacent to the settlement boundary, subject to being supported by other policies within the **development plan*** and where all of the following criteria are satisfied:

1. **The development is** of an appropriate scale and design to the settlement;
2. It would not lead to the number of dwellings in the settlement increasing by **significantly (MM17)** more than 5% from the date of adoption of the Plan. The settlement refers to the number of dwellings inside the defined settlement boundary;
3. The design contributes to preserving, and where possible enhancing, the historic nature and connectivity of communities; and
4. The development avoids coalescence of settlements.

Opportunities for self-build dwellings which meet the criteria set out above will be **supported (MM17)**.

*with the exception of Policy GEN 05 Settlement Boundaries

Reasoned Justification

3.18 In line with the Spatial Development Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy, the level of new development permitted in settlements defined in the policy will be restricted, consistent with the rural character of these villages and reflective of the more limited service provision and infrastructure available.

3.19 Development which facilitates self-build dwellings will be considered favourably, subject to meeting the criteria set out within the policy.

3.20 As per Criterion 2, growth in each settlement should not lead to the number of dwellings in the settlement increasing by significantly more than 5% from the date of adoption of the plan. Appendix 5 sets out the detailed methodology regarding the calculation of this 5% increase and provides a table, which sets out the number of new dwellings for each settlement. (MM16)

3.21 Planning applications will be expected to be accompanied by a supporting statement. The supporting statement will be treated as any other planning application document and subject to publication. The statement will seek to address the following key areas:

(MM18)

Justification that the applicant can demonstrate to the Council that the proposal is of appropriate scale and design.

3.22 Proposals must be of a size, design and scale that seek to meet an identified need and respects the setting. Careful siting, massing, use of surrounding landscape features and screening are important as is the enhancement of existing local characteristics. The statement should demonstrate how the site is connected to the surrounding settlement. In areas of greater landscape visibility sensitive design and landscaping is particularly important. The Council's development management service will be able to provide further guidance and comment on emerging schemes.

Policy HOU 05 - Small Villages and Hamlets Outside of Settlement Boundaries

Development in smaller villages and hamlets outside of defined settlement boundaries will be limited, apart from **where it would comply with** other policies within the **development plan (MM19)*** and if all of the following criteria are satisfied:

1. The development comprises of sensitive infilling and rounding off of a cluster of dwellings with access to an existing highway;
2. It is of an appropriate scale and design to the settlement;
3. The design contributes to enhancing the historic nature and connectivity of communities; and
4. The proposal does not harm or undermine a visually important gap that contributes to the character and distinctiveness of the rural scene.

Opportunities for self-build dwellings which meet the criteria set out above will be **supported**.

Farmsteads and sporadic small scale groups of dwellings are considered as lying in the open countryside and are not classed as small villages and hamlets. These, and isolated locations in the countryside, are unlikely to be considered acceptable.

*with the exception of Policy GEN 05 Settlement Boundaries

Reasoned Justification

3.23 Breckland is a large, rural district which contains a high number of small villages and hamlets with little or no service provision. For those areas with 2 or fewer of the services / facilities, settlement boundaries have been removed on the basis that this limits development in locations where it is unsustainable for additional growth. However, having regard to local distinctiveness, it must be recognised that in areas outside of the settlement hierarchy, i.e. the areas regarded as open countryside, there are living and working communities whose social and economic viability must be addressed.

3.24 Policy HOU 05 seeks to address the development needs of these communities whilst minimising the impact on the countryside by allowing clearly identified and evidenced appropriate small scale development to meet local needs through criteria based policy. Development will be carefully managed in line with this policy in a manner which is more restrictive than for those named settlements with boundaries.

3.25 Planning applications will be expected to be accompanied by a supporting statement. The supporting statement will be treated as any other planning

application document and subject to publication. The statement will seek to address the following key areas:

Justification that the proposal represents either infill or rounding off.

3.26 Infill is defined as: building taking place on a vacant plot in an otherwise built-up street frontage.

3.27 To be considered infill, a development will generally have built development along the road on either side of the site and be similar to adjacent properties in terms of its visual impact, plot size, dwelling size, floor levels and scale.

3.28 Rounding off is defined as: the completion of an incomplete group of buildings on land which is already partially developed and in such a way which will either complete the local road pattern or define and complete the boundaries of the group. Such rounding off should not change or distort the character or tradition of the group or the settlement in any undesirable way.

3.29 To be considered as rounding off the statement must address:

- Whether the perimeter of the site is already built up;
- Whether development would represent an outward expansion of the settlement;
- The strength and durability of boundary features to the open countryside; and
- The relationship with the existing settlement in terms of size, scale and density and its impact on local views.

3.30 It is important to note that not all sites which satisfy the above definitions of infill and rounding off will be suitable for development. Other factors which may affect the impacts of new dwellings include highways and access, landscape, flood risk, biodiversity, impacts on the SPA and impact on built heritage such as listed buildings and these, and other material considerations remain as part of the assessment process.

Principles of New Housing

3.31 It is important to consider, as set out in national planning policy, the needs of different groups within the community. This is to ensure that the right size and type of new homes is provided across the District to meet the needs of existing and future residents and to ensure the creation of mixed and balanced communities. This includes those with specialist housing requirements and those who wish to build their own homes.

3.32 The revised Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) sets out the type and size of new housing needed both across the Central Norfolk SHMA area and within the District over the plan period. However, there is a need to consider the appropriate location and the type and size of properties to be provided in different areas. The Locational Strategy defines the settlement hierarchy, whose purpose is to deliver sustainable development across the District in line with the Vision and Strategic Objectives. In particular:

Development in the Right Place

1. Contribute to sustainable development through the reflection of the vision and aspirations of the local communities for Breckland;
2. Assist in the creation and maintenance of inclusive, environmentally sustainable communities making the best and most efficient use of already developed land, buildings and natural resources;
3. Ensure that the majority of development is focused into areas where services are available, and where facilities can be supported;

Meeting the Housing Need

4. Deliver housing that meets the needs of the community and local economy through the concentration of development in the Strategic Urban Extensions of Attleborough and Thetford and where services and facilities can be supported within or adjacent to the market towns of Dereham, Swaffham and Watton and the local service centres, whilst recognising the need for small scale and appropriate development in rural areas to support rural communities and services;
5. Support the development and maintenance of a balanced housing market and a variety of decent, affordable housing which meets the needs of all local people and supports economic and community development; and
6. Encourage high quality, sustainable and safe design for places and spaces, in both the private and public realm, and which respects the character and local distinctiveness of Breckland's communities.

3.33 In line with sustainability principles, housing development should be directed to those settlements that are identified as having good access to services and facilities and consistent with the wider aims of sustainability within the context of the rural requirements of Breckland. The Key Towns, Market Towns and Local Service Centres identified in the Locational Strategy align best with this approach.

3.34 It is recognised that the design and character of housing is important to the community and new housing should reflect the local character. Where higher density development is being proposed the accompanying Design and Access Statement should set out why a higher density is appropriate and its likely impacts in terms of design, character and sustainability for the locality.

3.35 Typically in smaller rural settlements residential development can be of a lower density, in the interests of efficient use of land, character and wider sustainability issues, proposed density levels should be justified, through an accompanying Design and Access Statement.

Parking Provision

3.36 Government policy seeks to restrict levels of parking associated with new development in order to reduce the use of the private car and promote other more sustainable forms of transport. The provision of car parking can also affect the appearance of a development and result in an inefficient use of land. The NPPF, allows planning authorities to set local parking standards taking into account of local circumstances. It is considered essential that an appropriate amount of parking is provided in new developments given the rural nature of Breckland and the current level of public transport provision within the District. In particular, adequate parking should be provided as part of residential developments.

3.37 In terms of trip destination and commercial development there is more scope to manage travel patterns and reduce parking vehicle provision. Here the accessibility by other modes of transport and potential travel planning measures can support a reduced parking provision and enable a more efficient use of land.

3.38 However, at both the home and point of destination, insufficient or inappropriately located parking can lead to problems of overspill parking from the development site onto surrounding streets and verges creating highway safety problems and unsightly environments.

3.39 In considering appropriate levels of parking, reference will be given to the parking provision standards as detailed in appendix 2 of this document which are based on the existing adopted requirements in the Core Strategy. Residential parking standards will be taken into account where necessary to manage the local road network and to avoid inappropriate on street parking. However, they will be applied flexibly having regard to local circumstances and proposals should reflect how they are to provide adequate off road parking.

3.40 Regard will also be given to the circumstances of the site, relevant advice on the design and integration of parking provision into development and the highways network and place-making. Parking requirements may be adjusted to help achieve good design objectives at locations with very good walking access to public transport and essential services, and to help protect heritage assets in conservation areas and listed buildings.

Self-Build and Design Quality Exceptions

3.41 The Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 places a duty on local authorities to keep a register of individuals and community groups who have expressed an interest in acquiring land to bring forward self-build and custom-build projects. Also, to take account of, and make provision for, the interests of those on such registers in developing their housing initiatives and their local plans; allowing volume house builders to include self-build and custom-build projects as contributing towards their affordable housing obligations, when in partnership for this purpose with a Registered Provider.

3.42 The Council is supportive of self-build housing. The term 'self-build' can be used to refer to a wide range of approaches to creating a bespoke home, the level of input from the individual can range from a complete DIY project to employing contractors to build to your specification. The Council would like to see larger development sites incorporating plots / serviced plots for self-build housing, but also recognises that self-build plots represent a unique approach to supporting rural communities. The Council will support provision of self-build in line with national guidance, policies in this plan and through Neighbourhood Planning.

3.43 Using information from the Self Build Portal's 'Need a Plot', the 2015 Central Norfolk SHMA identified a relatively low number of purchasers looking for a site in Central Norfolk. This is confirmed by the feedback given on the Council's emerging register.

Policy HOU 06 - Principle of New Housing

The design and layout will optimise the density of the development to a level which is appropriate and justified for the locality. Higher density proposals will be sought at appropriate locations, including town centres, areas with good public transport accessibility and sustainable urban extensions.

In rural locations and at the edges of settlements proposals for lower density development will be supported where it can be demonstrated that this is justified having regard to local character and wider sustainability issues.

Proposals for housing must take appropriate account of need identified in the most up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment with particular regards to size, type and tenure of dwellings. These needs include appropriate provision for all groups in the community such as, but not limited to, families with children, older people, people with disabilities, service families and people wishing to build their own home. **Regard should also be had to the needs of those who identify as Gypsy and Travellers and travelling showpeople as set out within the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment, including those who are non-travelling.(MM20).**

Planning permission will be granted where appropriate parking provision is provided by the developer to serve the needs of the proposed development. Development should provide sufficient parking spaces to avoid inappropriate on street parking, highway safety problems and to protect living and working conditions locally. The appropriate parking provision for a development will be determined using the parking standards in Appendix 2 as a 'starting point' which may be varied to reflect local conditions such as the availability of public parking, sustainable travel modes, Travel Plan provisions and design and conservation objectives.

Affordable Housing

3.44 A sufficient supply of housing of all tenures, including affordable housing, is essential to meet the objectives of the Local Plan and to meeting the wide range of housing needs that will be experienced in the District over the plan period.

3.45 Affordable housing is housing provided to those that are unable to meet their housing needs in the private sector. Government policy as set out in the NPPF defines affordable housing as 'social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market'. Intermediate housing provides the opportunity for local people, who are unable to afford open market prices, to access the housing market. Eligibility for affordable housing will be in line with the Council's allocation policies and Housing Strategy. Intermediate products such as housing for sale and rent at a cost above social rent, but below market levels, can include shared equity schemes and shared ownership and other low cost homes for sale and intermediate rent.

3.46 In line with the requirements of the NPPF, affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for any subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. Affordable rented properties are either Social-Rented or Affordable Rent, which determines the level of rent chargeable. The Council's adopted Tenancy Strategy supports the charging of Affordable Rent levels up to 80% of the local area's market rent for an equivalent property. In Breckland, affordable housing is delivered and managed across the District through partnership work with Registered Providers.

3.47 The jointly produced Central Norfolk Strategic Housing Market Assessment (CNSHMA), originally published in 2015 and subsequently updated in 2017, is a key part of the evidence base that underpins the Local Plan. The CNSHMA provides evidence of local housing needs across the housing market area for the plan period. The general housing needs information is used to set the housing targets for the District as a whole (as set out in Policy HOU 02). The CNSHMA also collates information on affordable housing need across the Central Norfolk Housing Market Area and the District; it considers both the current unmet affordable housing need and the projected future affordable housing need in the context of the existing affordable housing stock. The approach of considering existing unmet affordable

housing needs as part of the calculation ensures that any potential accumulated backlog from under delivery in the previous Plan period will have been accounted for as part of the assessment of need.

3.48 The proposed affordable housing policy set out below is based on the findings of the CNSHMA which takes existing unmet affordable housing need and projected future affordable housing need together. It concludes that there is a need to provide additional affordable housing across the housing market area over the period 2012 - 2036. The overall need across the Central Norfolk Housing Market Area is found to be 31.7%. Once the impacts of the City Deal are factored in for Norwich, Broadland and South Norfolk and the fact that more market housing is required in those authorities, the overall percentage across the Central Norfolk Housing Market Area falls to 26%. The study goes on to identify an individual District target of 35.7% for Breckland, this is equivalent to 220 dwellings per year. The CNSHMA may be subject to further updates and therefore the policy states that affordable housing will be sought in line with the current CNSHMA (the most up to date version).

3.49 The Government continues to promote a range of affordable housing products to address the shortage of homes available to first time buyers and those on low to middle incomes and is proposing to create a new definition of affordable housing in the NPPF. The Council notes the Government's stated intention in the Housing White Paper (March 2017) to make clear that starter homes should be made available to households who are first time buyers requiring a mortgage and with an income of less than £80,000. Also, in seeking delivery of a range of affordable homes to buy, that the NPPF be amended to introduce a policy expectation that housing sites deliver a minimum of 10% affordable home ownership units and provide clarification that starter homes with appropriate local connection tests, can be acceptable on rural exception sites. The policy refers to affordable housing as defined in national policy, which will take into account any subsequent changes to the definition.

3.50 The Local Plan CIL Viability Assessment (2017) provides the context for the formulation of the affordable housing policy. The study models a range of example housing site types with varying affordable housing thresholds and financial contributions to infrastructure. The results of the study highlight the challenges of Breckland's housing market, which is in the lowest third across England and Wales. The report recommends a target of 25% affordable housing in the Local Plan, which reflects the viability modelling work including consideration of financial contributions to infrastructure. Whilst below the target need identified in the CNSHMA, it is considered that the higher target cannot consistently be achieved due to implications on viability and deliverability and this is demonstrated by historical completions records in the District.

3.51 Proposals for affordable housing are not exempt from any requirement to provide mitigation measures for European sites (even if exempt from paying any other levy) In line with the Habitats Regulations 2010, and Policies ENV 02 and ENV 03 in the Plan.

Implementation

3.52 For the purposes of the policy the definition of residential development includes residential park homes and caravans where they are not subject to occupancy restrictions.

3.53 Where an existing dwelling (or dwellings) is to be demolished and replaced with substantially the same type of dwelling, provided it is not eligible for vacant building credit, no affordable housing contribution will be sought. Essentially no 'additional' development is being created, and therefore no development uplift will be created.

3.54 When considering fractions of affordable units, on sites of more than 10 dwellings all points differences will be calculated as a financial sum. For example 12.4 dwellings would equate to 12 affordable dwellings and 0.4 dwelling financial sum equivalent.

(MM21)

Policy HOU 07 - Affordable Housing

1. The national definition of affordable housing as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, is applied for the purpose of this policy. (MM22)
2. Residential development proposals capable of delivering 10 or more units, or the site has an area of 0.5 hectares or more will be expected to deliver a proportion of the development as affordable housing on-site to help meet existing and future affordable housing needs of the District as set out in the current Central Norfolk Strategic Housing Market Assessment (CNSHMA);
3. 25% of qualifying developments should be affordable housing;
4. The size, mix, type and tenure of affordable homes as defined in national policy, will meet the identified housing need of Breckland as established by the CNSHMA and agreed by Breckland District Council, currently a tenure split of 70:30 rented to shared ownership/intermediate products (CNSHMA 2017);
5. The affordable housing should be provided on site. Provision will be made through planning obligations to secure the affordable housing and to ensure it is available at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision; (MM22)
6. The affordable rented housing provided on-site should be maintained as affordable housing in perpetuity. Provision will be provided through planning obligations in order to provide the affordable housing and to ensure its availability to initial and successive occupiers;

7. The Council will seek for affordable housing to be distributed across a development as single units or small clusters, rather than in a single area. The Council will consider exceptions if an applicant can demonstrate that it is necessary for the long term management or viability of the affordable housing. Their appearance should be indistinguishable from that of open market homes, reflecting local distinctiveness and design policies in the Local Plan and in subsequent neighbourhood plans; and
8. The applicant will be required to submit an open book viability assessment where schemes do not meet the above policy

requirements. In such cases the Council will commission an independent review of the viability study, for which the applicant will bear the cost.

Commuted Sums

Affordable housing should be delivered on site. Where evidence is provided that the site is not viable if provision is made on site in line with the requirements set out in this policy, a commuted sum will be sought at £50,000 per equivalent whole dwelling as recommended by the Council's Local Plan CIL Viability Assessment, or the figure set out in any successor evidence endorsed by the Council. (MM22)

Off-site contributions in lieu of built units on site will **only** be considered where **this is robustly justified by evidence. Where the provision of on site units threatens the viability of the development.** (MM22) The applicant will be required to submit an open book viability assessment in accordance with clause vi of this policy

Vacant Building Credit

In seeking a vacant building credit in respect of the affordable housing on brownfield land, an application will only be considered on the following basis:

- Where the building has not been vacated for the sole purpose of redevelopment;
- Where the existing building(s) has not been abandoned; and
- Where specific information on the floorspace of the proposed residential development and the calculation of the claimed offset has been provided.

Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

3.55 The Planning Policy for Travellers Sites (PPTS 2015) defines the travelling community as comprising Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpersons. Gypsies and Travellers are defined in the PPTS as 'Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever

their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependents' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such'. Travelling Showpersons are defined in the PPTS as 'Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above'.

3.56 In determining whether persons are 'Gypsies and Travellers' for the purposes of this policy, consideration should be given to the following issues amongst other relevant matters:

- a. Whether they previously led a nomadic habit of life;
- b. The reasons for ceasing their nomadic habit of life;
- c. Whether there is an intention to living a nomadic habit of life in the future, and if so, how soon and in what circumstances.

3.57 The Council is required to plan for the future needs of Travellers in the District over the plan period up until 2036. In respect of those Gypsies and Travellers who do not lead a nomadic lifestyle, Breckland Council will continue to assess and plan to meet their needs as part of its wider responsibilities to plan to meet the accommodation needs of its settled community.

3.58 The needs assessment for the purposes of decision making is the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (or successor document). The document covers the period 2012-2036. This document forms the main evidence base for the Local Plan. The study covers the needs of Gypsies (including English, Scottish, Welsh and Romany Gypsies), Irish Travellers, New (Age) Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople. There are 25 sites in total in the Breckland Council area. The GTANA has sought to establish the accommodation needs of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in the study area (Breckland Council Area) through a combination of desk-based research, stakeholder interviews and engagement with members of the travelling community living on all known sites.

3.59 The GTANA showed a need for 10 additional pitches for households that meet the new definition. This (MM23) is made up of 1 unauthorised pitch, 3 concealed adult households, 2 older teenage children in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years, and 4 from new household formation.

3.60 Subsequent to the publication of the GTANA a review of planning permissions has been carried out. The Council has identified a site at Docking Wood, Leys Lane, Attleborough (3PL/2010/0381/F) which should be included within the supply, however was not through the GTANA. The site provides an additional 6 gypsy and traveller pitches.

3.61 The Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper provides an assessment of existing permitted sites where there is need arising for additional pitches, and assesses

whether they can be expanded. The topic paper considers that the following two sites would be suitable for expansion for 1 pitch each:

- Fayrehaven Caravan Site, Beetley
- Summer Meadow, Mill Road, Mattishall

3.62 Having regard to the additional supply identified through the topic paper, the requirement for Gypsy and Travellers sites as identified through the GTANA is now as follows:

Need for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show People Accommodation in Breckland

| Year | Need for Gypsy and Traveller Pitches | Need for Travelling Showpeople Plots |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2016-21 | 1 | 0 |
| 2021-26 | 1 | 0 |
| 2026-31 | 1 | 1 |
| 2031-36 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 4 | 2 |

3.63 The GTANA (MM23) identifies that transit sites should be used for temporary stopping only. They are useful particularly in circumstances where the authorities are re-directing travellers from inappropriate unauthorised encampments. It is important to understand that provision should be used to accommodate only travellers who are genuinely leading a nomadic lifestyle (evidenced by transient employment activities). It is not appropriate to use such sites as low cost provision for those with a permanent pitch elsewhere or are travelling to visit friends, family or en route to a holiday or festival destination.

3.64 It is considered that a criteria based policy approach is a reasonable, pragmatic and proportionate response to the current situation for the Local Plan. It can provide an appropriate response to any proposals received to address the modest level of need identified. Needs assessments are reviewed periodically. There will be a need to monitor the plan and review it as necessary to take account of more up to date evidence.

3.65 National policy sets out a range of issues to consider when assessing applications for Traveller site development. In assessing new sites, the site should be in a sustainable location and should be in reasonable proximity to local services and facilities. Community infrastructure needs will include health, education and transport links. In order to deliver sustainable communities, and quality place making, development proposals will be required to consider the amenity of new residents and impacts on surrounding communities or other neighbours/neighbouring land uses such as businesses and open space in line with relevant spatial and design policies. In doing so, regard will be had to community cohesion and good design principles such as integration, ensuring no adverse impacts arise from new development. Residential housing mitigation requirements for European sites are

also applicable to plots and pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

3.66 To ensure that the levels of Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation are maintained, the Council will resist the loss of existing sites, including the conversion to permanent dwellings. Existing Traveller sites will therefore be safeguarded to meet the continuing housing needs of these communities ensuring that sites are not lost to competing uses. Unrestricted means not subject to conditions restricting the time of occupancy such as temporary or personal planning permission. The following policy will apply to any new permission granted as well as to existing sites.

Policy HOU 08 - Provision for Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

The Local Plan supports the provision of the following:

- 4 additional pitches for Gypsy and Traveller households, of which 1 should be provided in the first five years of the plan;
- 2 additional plots for Travelling Showpeople, to be delivered in years 11-15 and years 16-20 (MM24) of the Local Plan.

These additional pitches / plots (and any additional requirements associated with newly confirmed need from unknown households) will be secured via:

- Support for the expansion of existing sites; and / or
- The provision of new sites where the criteria below are met.

The Local Plan supports the expansion of the following Gypsy and Traveller sites each for 1 additional pitch, subject to a planning application:

- Farehaven Caravan Site, Beetley (See Policies Map)
- Summer Meadow Mill Road, Mattishall (See Policies Map) (MM24)

The provision of pitches and plots on new sites will be supported, having regard to the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment where:

1. The site is otherwise suitable for residential development and the associated necessary infrastructure requirements will be made available as part of the development proposal;
2. The site will have safe access to the highway and will not result in any unacceptable impact on the capacity and environment of the highway network;
3. The site is in a sustainable location in reasonable proximity to relevant services and facilities including but not limited to transport, education, healthcare and other community infrastructure provision;
4. The ability to achieve neighbourliness can be demonstrated in relation to the living conditions of current or future residents of the site and interaction with immediate neighbours and the wider settled community

neighbourhood; and

5. The site is sensitive to local character and does not have an adverse visual impact on the character and appearance of the surrounding landscape.

Preference will be given to brownfield locations and those that can readily be serviced. Transit sites should be in close proximity to the main established travelling routes in the area.

Sites that have unrestricted planning permission for Gypsy and Traveller or

Travelling Showpeople use are safeguarded for this use. Planning permission for alternative development or changes of use will not be permitted, **unless it can be robustly evidenced that there is no longer a need for Gypsy and Traveller provision.**

Non-Travelling Gypsy and Travellers

The provision of pitches and plots for non-travelling gypsy, travellers and showpeople will be supported, having regard to the need identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment. Proposals will be considered in accordance with the criteria of this policy.

Specialist Housing

3.67 It is important that a proportion of new homes can provide for the needs of those with, or who may develop, accessibility needs through the design of those homes. The NPPF states that a mix of housing to meet the needs of different groups in the community should be planned for, including older people and people with disabilities. In common with many parts of the country, and local authorities in the region, Breckland has an ageing population. Most older people are likely to prefer to remain in their own homes and some will require support to enable them to do so. National policy is to support people living at home for as long as possible. Specialist housing is intended to enable people to live as independently as possible, but is designed so that support can be provided.

3.68 The Council considers that specialist provision for the elderly and people with disabilities forms an important part of the housing mix within the District. As established in the spatial principles section of this Local Plan, it is more sustainable for future growth to take place within key settlements to ensure residents have access to a range of facilities and services and can lead more sustainable lives. The same principles arguably apply even more so to specialist housing provision. Specialist housing for the elderly or anyone in need of care or health support must be located close to medical or care services, shops and suitable transport, therefore it should be located within higher order settlements. In Breckland this includes the Key Settlements, Market Towns and Local Service Centre villages as defined within

Policy GEN 03 (MIN13). It may be provided as part of a larger residential or mixed use scheme, where this is the case it is important that specialist housing be as integrated as possible into wider development in an area to ensure community cohesion.

3.69 Specialist housing for older people covers a broad spectrum of accommodation, from sheltered housing to care homes. Whilst there is a growing need for care, there is also a desire, supported by the Council, to move away from providing care in an institutional setting as this fails to promote independence and dignity, and because of the high cost of providing care in these settings. Personalised care budgets are also giving older people more choice over how their care is provided, the option that is delivered to them in their own home is increasingly favourable. Sheltered housing does not typically offer 24 hour care on site and in many ways is not very different to the mainstream housing stock, whilst residential and nursing care homes are not always associated with older people maintaining their independence. Housing with care – known as extra care - when delivered by registered providers and/or the public sector, or assisted living accommodation when provided by commercial developers is increasingly seen as a model which can allow older people to live independently for longer whilst receiving the care and support they need.

3.70 Accommodation is moving towards more flexible forms of living and support which seek to maintain people's independence and control of their lives. Mainstream housing needs to be suitable to meet the needs of older people, both through adaptation to the existing stock and by ensuring new housing is built with the flexibility to adapt to meet occupants' changing needs over time. Improving housing standards to strengthen local communities and reduce the need for residential care by enabling vulnerable people to remain in their homes, or be able to choose to move into a new home, is important as part of improving the overall housing mix within the District. Policy HOU 09 seeks to ensure that a proportion of new dwellings remain as accessible and adaptable dwellings and complies with the national technical design standards.

3.71 There are several models of care provision available where residents can enjoy their own self-contained home within a site offering extra facilities. These include retirement homes/villages, and extra care housing, where varying levels of care and support are provided in the home. These models often include a restaurant or dining room, health and fitness facilities and hobby rooms on site. Other forms of accommodation include care or nursing homes, which comprise single rooms within a residential setting where residents receive varying levels of care. Care can range from primarily personal care to nursing care for those who are bedridden, very frail or have a medical condition or illness.

3.72 The 2015 Central Norfolk Strategic Housing Market Assessment (CNSHMA) identifies an average population projection increase of 16.8% across the Central Norfolk Area. The over 60s population percentage growth is set to increase significantly across the Central Housing Market Area the over 60s population is set to increase from 179,272 to 258,587 between 2012 and 2036, representing an

increase of 79,315 or 44% in this age cohort. Over the same period the over 85s population is set to increase even more markedly from 19,281 to 49,076, an increase of 29,795 or 155%. From this increase the draft CNSHMA, identifies that there will be a requirement for 4,551 communal places in residential care/communal establishments across the Central Norfolk Housing Market Area.

3.73 The CNSHMA sets out a need for 1,277 additional C2 bed spaces to be provided within Breckland by the end of the plan period (2036) for older people. The Council will meet the need for new C2 bedspaces through the following approaches:

- Provision of new care homes , where applications are assessed through Policy HOU09;
- Encouraging the incorporation of specialist housing within affordable housing exception sites; and
- Allocation of a new 60 bed care home as part of Watton Housing Allocation 2 (MM25)

3.74 The Council recognises that new supply of housing for older people is a complex issue; many older people wish to remain in their own homes, as envisaged by the Government's recent reforms of Health and Adult Social Care. Therefore, despite the ageing population, current Government policy means that the number of care homes and nursing homes may actually decline, as people are supported to continue living in their own homes for longer.

Policy HOU 09 - Specialist Housing

To meet the anticipated levels of varied needs of an ageing population for supported and affordable provision, developments that provide housing solutions for older residents, or anyone in need of care or health support, will be encouraged by:

- a. Resisting development that would lead to a reduction in the number of extra care or care premises unless it can be demonstrated that a replacement facility will be provided or that such a use was not viable;
- b. Ensuring that new specialist housing is located within a higher order settlement;
- c. Ensuring the design and scale of schemes is appropriate to the setting and surroundings with no adverse impact on local character and amenity; and
- d. Ensuring that proposals include a mix of on-site affordable and market dwellings in line with policies in this Plan.

C2 Residential Institutions

Applications which provide additional C2 bed spaces to meet the needs of Older People as defined within the Central Norfolk Strategic Housing Market Assessment will be supported (subject to conformity with other relevant policies within the development plan). The Council will resist the loss of C2 bed spaces unless it can be demonstrated that a replacement facility will be

provided or that such a use was no longer viable. (MM26)

Technical Design Standards for New Homes

3.75 In the pursuit of sustainable development, paragraph 17 of the NPPF sets out a set of core land-use planning principles that should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking, including that “planning should always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings”.

3.76 In March 2015, the Government set out in a Written Ministerial Statement New Technical Housing Standards in England explaining how these would be applied through planning policy. The aim of the national set of standards is to enhance residential quality whilst reducing the administrative burden on new housing developments by simplifying and rationalising the wide variety of standards that local authorities across England apply to new homes. The Housing Standards Review prevents LPAs from influencing the design of the building fabric in terms of energy efficiency as the Government moved away from the Code for Sustainable Homes, leaving Building Regulations Part L as the sole energy efficiency delivery mechanism. The industry as a whole is challenged to close the performance gap and improve compliance with the 2013 Part L standard. However, national standards for some issues that can be applied by planning authorities.

3.77 LPAs have the option through the Local Plan to set technical requirements in addition to those required by Building Regulations in respect of access and water efficiency, and a Nationally Described Space Standard (NDSS). In this context access relates to how people access and use a dwelling and its facilities and for space, relate to the internal space of a dwelling. The intention is that no other standards relating to housing should be set locally.

3.78 National Planning Practice Guidance sets out information on the application of the Optional Housing Technical Standards, stating that LPAs will need to gather evidence to determine whether there is a need for additional standards in their area, and justify setting appropriate policies in their Local Plans. In addition it is necessary to consider the impact of applying any standards as part of their Local Plan viability assessment.

3.79 The evidence to support the approach to the policy is set out in the ‘Optional Technical Standards’ topic paper, part of the suite of documents that provide the evidence base supporting the Local Plan.

3.81 In terms of the optional standards relating to access and internal space there is evidence to support a policy applying the national standards. The evidence relating to access and space is also reflected in the supporting text for policy HOU 09 Specialist Housing which helps inform this policy setting out Breckland Council’s requirements.

Water

3.80 Breckland sits within a much larger area covered by the Anglian Water Company. The Environment Agency report: Water Stressed Areas - Final Classification July 2013, shows that the area as a whole is classified as an area of serious water stress. Breckland itself is predominantly an area of low water stress with only pockets of moderate water stress.

3.81 Part G of the Building Regulations includes requirements for water efficiency in residential properties. The baseline requirement is a maximum water consumption rate of 125 litres per person per day. The new optional housing technical standard for water efficiency is 110 litres per person per day, set out in the Building Regulations. This figure includes 5 litres per person per day allowance for external water use. The higher standard would be met through either a fittings-based approach, which imposes maximum consumption rates for various fittings such as WCs, basin taps, and showers, or calculating the whole house water consumption using a 'water efficiency calculator' for new dwellings.

3.82 The Water Cycle Study Update 2017 considers the feasibility of attaining a 'water neutral' position in the District. Whilst the study concludes that this aspiration is unlikely to be a feasible option for the District the study provides a 'pathway'. The study recommends that new development be built to the optional Building Regulations for water efficiency. The policy recommendation sets out that new housing development should be built at a standard of 110 l/h/d and that non-

Internal Space

3.83 The amount of space in a home influences how people live, impacting on the occupant's health and wellbeing. Providing homes of sufficient size to allow residents and families 'room to grow' is a critical part of delivering sustainable communities. A survey of new homes built in Breckland will be undertaken to establish whether they are generally being built to the optional Nationally Described Space Standard (NDSS) set by the Government. The NDSS reflects the need for rooms to be able to accommodate a basic set of furniture, fittings, activity and circulation space appropriate to the function of each room. The overall objective is to ensure that all homes are highly functional in terms of meeting typical day to day needs at a given level of occupation.

3.84 The standard deals with internal space within new dwellings and is suitable for application across all tenures. It sets out requirements for the gross internal floor area (GIA) of new dwellings at a defined level of occupancy as well as floor areas and dimensions for key parts of the home, notably bedrooms, storage and floor to ceiling height (2.3m for 75% of the dwelling). These are minimum standards which developers are encouraged to exceed.

3.85 The Council will implement the nationally described space standards and successors to new dwellings. This means that developers should state the number of bedspaces / occupiers a home is designed to accommodate rather than simply stating the number of bedrooms. The following policy only applies to new dwellings

and therefore is not applicable to either an extension to a dwelling or material change of use.

(MM27)

Policy HOU 10 - Technical Design Standards for New Homes

To ensure that new homes provide quality living environments for residents both now and in the future and to help delivery sustainable communities, the following standards will apply, subject to viability:

Water efficiency

All new housing must meet Building Regulation requirement of 110 l/h/d. Non-domestic buildings should as a minimum reach 'Good' BREEAM status.

Internal Space in a Home

All new homes across all tenures will meet the Government's Nationally Described Space Standard (NDSS).

(MM28, MM29)

Residential Replacement, Extensions and Alterations

3.86 As a predominantly rural District, Breckland has a large amount of housing stock located in the rural area. Although these houses are not in the most sustainable locations, they nevertheless form an important part of the housing stock. Whilst the spatial strategy does not seek significant growth in the rural area it is recognised that replacement, extensions and alterations to existing rural dwellings may be appropriate to ensure the stock remains viable and safe.

3.87 However, replacing and extending homes in the countryside could create an oversupply of large properties which could ultimately result in a limited choice of house types in rural areas. The policy below aims to allow moderate change to properties in rural locations but also to retain an appropriate range and mix in terms of size and tenure of housing types in the countryside to ensure choice and variety.

3.88 In rural areas, it is vital to ensure that any replacements, alterations and extensions to residential properties do not adversely impact the character of the countryside. Proposals must therefore have particular regard to the Council's design policies, GEN 02 and COM 01. Additionally proposals will be subject to consideration of any potential impact on European sites in line with the Habitats Regulations 2017 (MIN14) and Policies ENV 02 and ENV 03.

Policy HOU 11 - Residential Replacement, Extension and Alteration

Proposals for replacement, extension or alteration of rural dwellings must be contained within the existing curtilage. The building must be in residential use and not classed as abandoned.

Replacement

Replacement dwellings must be of a scale and design sensitive to the countryside setting, with a height and size similar to that of the original dwelling. If an alternative height or scale is proposed, the applicant will be expected to demonstrate that the scheme exhibits exceptionally high quality of design and enhances the character and appearance of the locality.

Extension or alteration

Extensions or alterations to existing residential properties will be permitted where all the following criteria are met:

- A. The extension or alteration is not disproportionate in size in relation to the original dwelling/plot and does not alter substantially the character of the dwelling.
- B. The extended or altered dwelling respects the character of the existing dwelling.
- C. The design remains in keeping with the existing dwelling and building materials.
- D. The extension or alteration will not adversely affect the amenity of neighbouring property.

3.89 The original dwelling is taken to be the house as it stood at 1st July 1948 (or as originally built if constructed after this date).

Conversion of Buildings in the Countryside (MM30)

3.90 This policy relates to the re-use and replacement of non-residential buildings in the countryside, such as barns and other agricultural buildings. **The conversion of agricultural buildings to dwelling houses is permitted development, subject to a number of criteria. There are limits to the number of dwellings to be converted and the size of building proposed for conversion (General Permitted Development Order Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q, 2015 and amendment to Part 3, Class Q, 2018) (MIN15).** Outside of the exemptions set out within class Q, the conversion of non-residential buildings to residential use in rural areas will be strictly controlled. Re-use for economic development purposes will usually be preferable, but residential conversions may be more appropriate in some locations, and for some types of building.

3.91 The Council recognises that to sustain an active rural economy and support rural living, conversion of redundant buildings should be supported where

appropriate. Proposals for the conversion of redundant farm buildings to retail, residential, leisure, office, industrial and storage uses will be considered against the policy below.

Policy HOU 12 - Conversion of Buildings in the Countryside

The sustainable re-use of appropriately located and constructed buildings in the countryside for economic purposes will be supported.

The re-use of existing buildings in the countryside for residential purposes will be permitted where the commercial use of the building has been shown to not be viable. The building proposed to be converted should be substantially intact and capable of conversion without significant extension or re-building and of value to the landscape of the District. The residential re-use of modern agricultural or industrial buildings considered to be of no aesthetic value, regardless of their location, will not be considered appropriate

For the conversion of buildings in the countryside, regard will be had to the following criteria:

1. The impact of the development on the character and appearance of the landscape and the quality of design. Development will be resisted where a proposal fails to take the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the appearance of the locality;
2. Access to the highway and the ability of the highway network to accommodate the demands resulting from the proposed development; and
3. Consideration of potential conservation and biodiversity issues, in line with Policy ENV 03 and national regulations.

For residential conversions, it is often the case that buildings require substantial works to enable them to be re-used, in order to meet Building Regulations and the demands of the new use. Therefore, in order to be acceptable in planning terms, a building should be capable of residential conversion without the need for significant rebuilding or extension. This restriction will mainly apply to modern buildings which are limited in their suitability for re-use due to their modular and/or temporary construction. The policy limits residential re-use to buildings that are predominately constructed using traditional local techniques as these buildings are more suited to residential re-use.

Rural Workers Dwellings (MM31)

3.92 As a rural district, Breckland is home to a significant number of rural enterprises. The needs of these businesses are different to an urban office based business and may require staff to be located in close proximity to their place of work.

The following policy sets out how proposals for dwellings in the countryside catering for rural workers will be assessed.

Policy HOU 13 – Rural Workers Dwellings (MM32)

Proposals for permanent dwellings in the countryside for full-time workers in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and other rural activities will be permitted where:

1. It can be demonstrated that the dwelling is essential to the functional needs of the business i.e. there is a need for one or more full time workers to be readily available on-site at most times;
2. It can be demonstrated that the enterprise has been established for at least three years and is, and should remain, financially viable;
3. There is no other accommodation within the site/holding or within the surrounding area which is currently suitable and available, or could be made available;
4. A dwelling or building suitable for conversion to a dwelling within the site/holding has not been sold on the open housing market without an agricultural or other occupancy condition in the last five years;
5. The proposed dwelling is no larger than that required to meet the functional needs of the enterprise, nor would it be unusually expensive to construct in relation to the income that the enterprise could sustain;
6. The proposed dwelling is sensitively designed and in keeping with its rural surroundings and will not adversely affect the setting of any heritage asset;
7. The proposed dwelling will have satisfactory access;
8. The proposed dwelling is well landscaped, is sited to minimise visual intrusion and is in close proximity to existing buildings to meet the functional need of the business; and
9. Where the proposal involves a new business that cannot yet demonstrate financial soundness, a temporary dwelling (in the form of a caravan, mobile home or wooden structure that can easily be dismantled and removed from the site) may be acceptable provided all the other criteria outlined above are met.

Where a new dwelling is permitted, the occupancy will be restricted by condition to ensure that it is occupied by a person, or persons currently or last employed in local agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and other rural activities, or their surviving partner or dependant(s). Applications for the removal of an occupancy condition related to rural workers will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

- There is no longer a need for accommodation on the holding/business and in the local area
- The property has been marketed for a reasonable period (at least 1 year) and at a price which reflects the existence of the occupancy condition. The applicant will be required to submit an independent valuation to justify the market price, for which the applicant will bear the cost.

Affordable Housing Exceptions

3.93 In rural areas national planning policy states that local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan to reflect local needs, particularly affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Para 54 of the NPPF allows an element of market housing on rural exception sites to facilitate the delivery of affordable housing.

3.94 The Council proposes to maintain a rural exceptions policy to help address local housing needs and ensure sufficient provision of affordable housing in the District.

Policy HOU 14 - Affordable Housing Exceptions

In rural locations where residential development would not normally be considered in line with Policies HOU 04 and HOU 05, the Council will support 'rural exception sites' provided that the following criteria are met:

- a. The scheme delivers 100%*(MM33) affordable housing for local people who are unable to obtain accommodation on the open market (as defined in the definition of affordable housing in the NPPF and Breckland District Council's Housing Allocations Policy);
- b. The affordable housing is justified by a Local Housing Needs Assessment;
- c. Proposals should be either adjacent, or well related, to existing settlements;
- d. The dwelling will remain as affordable housing in perpetuity (secured through s106 and a Local Connection Criteria as per the Council's Housing Allocation Policy will apply);
- e. The scheme demonstrates good design, is of a style appropriate to its immediate surroundings and scale proportionate to existing development and;
- f. There is clear evidence of the viability of the scheme; and

"Local need" is a need for affordable housing arising from current residents within the parish and adjoining parishes, those who have an existing family or employment connections, or those who have had to leave the parish due to a lack of suitable affordable housing.

There may be circumstances where an element of market housing is essential to bring forward affordable housing to meet an identified local housing need otherwise this need would go unmet. In such circumstances, the Council will permit an element of open market housing to cross-subsidise the scheme; the principal use of the site being for affordable housing and not open market.

In such cases independent third party valuation expertise will be requested at the developer's expense in order to, through the production of open and transparent viability evidence, justify such an exception. In principle all schemes are affordable housing schemes and the Council expects that the

market housing component should be the minimum needed to bring forward the delivery of the site and that all other funding options have been exhausted. Development of the site must be part of a comprehensive scheme, where development is brought forward as a whole.

Where there is an identified need for specialist housing, schemes will be encouraged to provide an element of specialist housing with the proposal. (MM33)

*The scheme should provide 100% affordable housing except where an element of market housing is essential to bring forward affordable housing (MM33)

3.95 This Policy will enable affordable housing to come forward where a proven affordable housing need is identified. It is expected that rural exception sites will come forward on agricultural land value and in the most suitable locations identified following a sequential approach.

3.96 In order to assist in the justification of such development from the locational strategy and assessment of suitability for applications with regard to the above policy, applicants must provide supporting justification. This includes a supporting statement around how the proposal as set out would justify the departure from the settlement hierarchy and supports sustainable development.

3.97 Criteria as set out in the policy above is not an exhaustive list and may be updated in line with Planning Committee requirements. The statement should also provide reasoned argument of how the proposal as set out is: the most suitable location; well related to the settlement and follows a sequential approach.

3.98 Proposals must be of a size, design and scale that seek to meet the identified local affordable housing need and the setting. Careful siting, massing, use of surrounding landscape features and screening are important as are the enhancement of existing local characteristics. The statement should also demonstrate how the site is connected to the surrounding settlement; in areas of greater landscape visibility, sensitive design and landscaping are particularly important. The Council's development management service will be able to provide further guidance and comment on emerging schemes.

3.99 Local need is based on the geographical areas and is defined in this case as that in the parish and surrounding parishes. An application would be expected to be supported by an assessment appraisal which clearly demonstrates that there is a local housing need.

3.100 The Local Plan also supports the development of Community Land Trusts (CLTs), Neighbourhood Plans and other Community Led Affordable Housing vehicles for the delivery of affordable housing.

Site Allocations

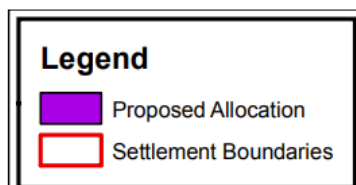
3.101 This section of the Plan provides more detail on the key areas of housing growth in the District set out as individual site allocations.

3.102 As set out in the locational strategy, development will be focused around the three tiers of the sustainable settlement hierarchy established in Policy GEN 03:

- Key Settlements: Attleborough and Thetford
- Market Towns: Dereham, Swaffham and Watton
- Local Services Centres: Banham, Bawdeswell, Garboldisham, Great Ellingham, Harling, Hockering, Kenninghall, Litcham, Mattishall, Narborough, Necton, North Elmham, Old Buckenham, Shipdham, Sporle, Swanton Morley and Weeting.
- The approach to development in smaller villages and hamlets outside the sustainable hierarchy of Key Settlements, Market Towns and Local Service Centres is set out in Policy HOU 4 and HOU 5 - outlining the approach to rural areas. Through this policy no allocations have been made in these areas and the limits of growth for these rural settlements are defined within each section of the policy.

Figure 3.1 Key for Site Allocation Maps

**Figure 3.1 Key for
Site Allocation
Maps**



Dereham

3.103 Dereham is identified as a market town through the locational strategy. The town will provide an additional 1,784 (MM34) dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of these 1,784 dwellings, 760 dwellings have either been completed or are committed developments since 2011. 220 dwellings are proposed through the not superseded Policy D2 from the Site Specific Policies and Proposals Development Plan Document. A further 264 dwellings have decision to grant subject to a Section 106 agreement. 540 additional dwellings are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan (MM34). This means that the new allocation for the remainder of the Local Plan period to 2036 is 750 dwellings.

3.104 The 2011 census showed that the town had a population of 18,609 and is currently the second largest town in Breckland. The town was previously allocated for development through the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies (DPD) across 3 sites, 2 of which now have the benefit of planning permission. The housing allocations from the Core Strategy have been included within the committed and completed growth figures for the town and have impacted upon the housing target through the Local Plan.

3.105 Dereham has a rich historic environment with an extensive Conservation Area, historic market place and a number of Listed Buildings in the centre of the town. The key gateways entering the market place and high street have a historic value along with the Church and Bishop Bonners Cottage to the west of the town. The Dereham stream (a tributary of the River Wensum) flows through the town and is culverted through a large part of the urban area. To the south of the town, the River Tud flows west to east onto Badley Moor which is a European protected site. There are a number of areas to the west of the town (towards Scarning Parish) that are at risk of fluvial flooding.

3.106 Breckland Council commissioned a study to consider the transport impacts of the potential land use developments in Dereham and the surrounding area, including Yaxham and Mattishall. It is a technical highway engineering study intended to inform the local plan making process, in terms of providing an understanding of the current position and the impact of different levels of housing growth on the local highways network. In relation to the current position, the study identifies that the existing highways network is already over capacity in the peak hours at the Tavern Lane/Yaxham Road signalised junction.

3.107 The study considered four growth scenarios, of which scenario 3 is most closely aligned to the current proposed development approach (proposed growth level of 1493 dwellings against the emerging target of 1554). When considering this growth scenario alongside expected traffic growth over the next 20 years, the study demonstrates that 7 of the 9 junctions assessed would be over capacity.

3.108 In terms of the locational impact of development, the study concluded that based on an assessment of trip generation data (where people travel to and from), there was no discernible benefit to focusing development in a particular location around the town. Based on current patterns, it is assumed that 23% of trips would be

into the centre. Trips out of Dereham were split with 27% going south, 35% going east/west and 15% going north. As a consequence, any development strategy is likely to have a similar impact upon localised traffic and the junctions assessed, and require mitigation measures. The individual allocation policies require improvements in line with the requirements of the transport study.

3.109 The Landscape Character Assessment settlement fringe study shows that the majority of the land surrounding the town has moderate to high sensitivity to change, and the area to the southeast of the town (Old Hall Tributary Farmland) identified as moderate sensitivity to built development. Dereham also has a number of important green corridors that run through the town. The majority of the land surrounding the town is grade 3 agricultural, however there are some areas of grade 2 agricultural land.

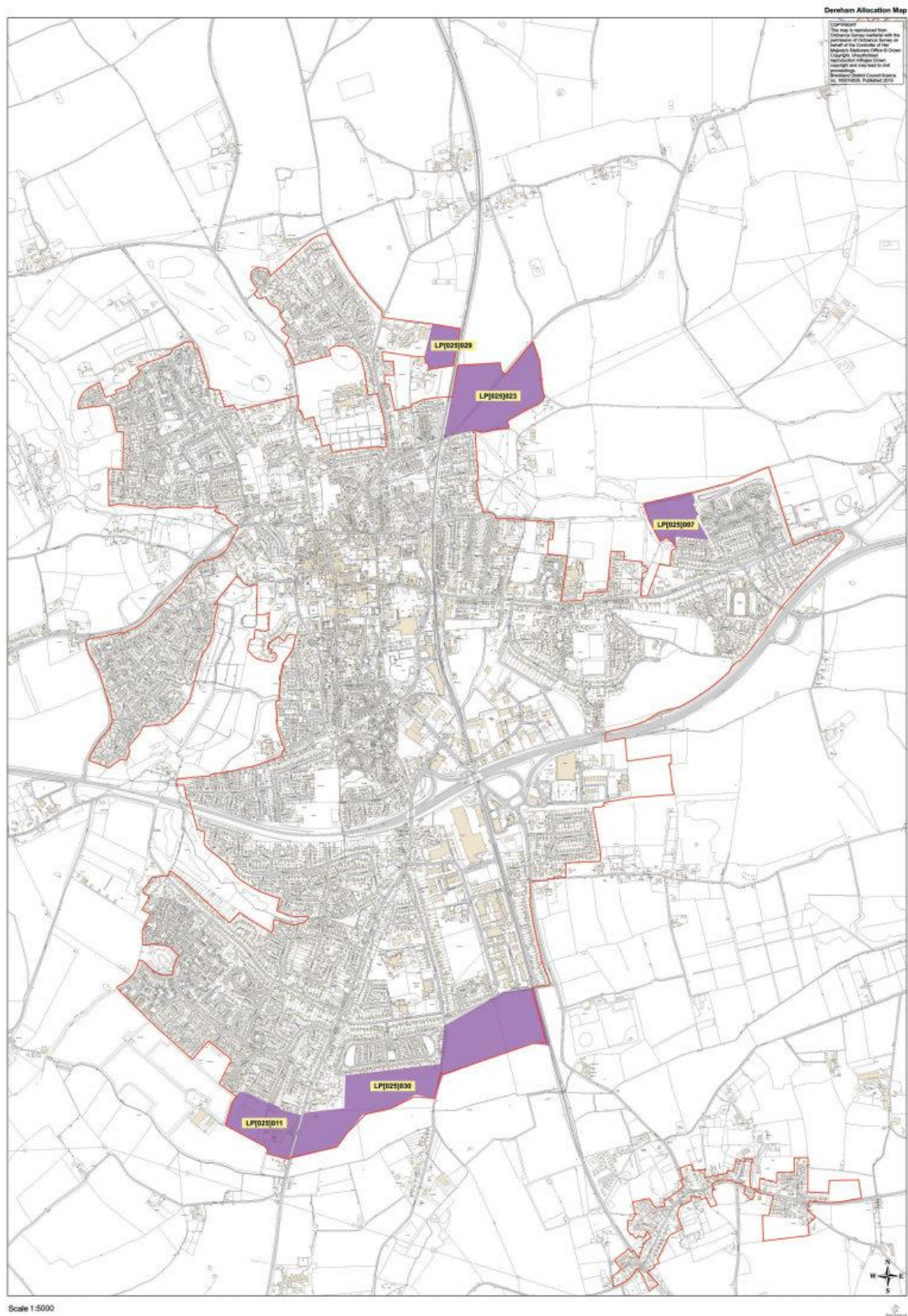
3.110 Dereham Town Council are currently preparing a neighbourhood plan for the town.

3.111 The following sites will provide for the allocated 750 dwellings over the remainder of the plan period:

Table 3.2 Residential Allocations

| Site Reference | Number of Dwellings |
|--|----------------------------|
| LP[025]007: Land to the west of Etling View | 60 |
| LP[025]011: Land to the west of Shipdham Road | 130 |
| LP[025]023: Land off Swanton Road | 210 |
| LP[025]029: Land to the rear of Dereham Hospital | 60 |
| LP[025]030: Land to the east of Shipdham Road | 290 |
| TOTAL | 750 |

Map 3.1 Summary of the Dereham Allocations.



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Dereham Housing Allocation 1

Land to the west of Etling View (LP[025]007)

Land amounting to approximately 2.3 hectares is allocated for a residential development of approximately 60 dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with **adopted Development Plan policies and (MM36)** the following criteria:

1. The principal access to the site is provided through Etling View;
2. **Provision of open space in accordance with the requirements set out in Policy ENV 04. (MM36)** The open space requirements should be set out in a manner which maximises opportunities to enhance biodiversity corridors including the setting of Shilling Lane;
3. Retention and enhancement of native hedgerows and trees on the outer edge of the site boundary;
4. Development should contribute towards required highways improvements in Dereham having regard to the Dereham Transport Study **and any subsequent additional transport evidence. Further transport assessments may be required;**
5. **Development proposals in Dereham should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates capacity limitations at Dereham Waste Water Treatment Works and within the foul sewerage network. A Utilities Statement will be required to support the planning application to demonstrate how capacity will be made available in time to serve the site (MM36);**
6. **The scheme will preserve or, where possible, enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets.**

3.112 The site comprises of 2.3 hectares of agricultural land and is located between the existing development on Etling View and Windmill Avenue. The site is located to the east of the town, and is bordered by residential development to the south and east. A mature woodland is located to the west of the site known as the Little Neatherd. The allocation site is generally open and level comprising rough grassland scrubland with a mature hedgerow running north to south. To the north of the site is the historic Shilling Lane and the Neatherd Moor. Shillings Lane is recognised within the Dereham Green Infrastructure Study as an important green infrastructure corridor between the Neatherd and Etling Green. Development should not only protect this corridor but also enhance it by securing appropriate green space to the north of the site.

3.113 The principal access to the site should be provided through the development site at Etling View. The site is well related to services and facilities within the town. Neatherd High School is located to the west of the site, whilst Dereham Football Club is located to the east.

3.114 The historic characterisation study has indicated that the development should seek the retention of important boundary trees. Furthermore, it notes that development proposals must demonstrate a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. Any design proposal should have regard to the established pattern of adjacent development.

3.115 Used water from properties in Dereham feeds into Dereham Waste water Treatment Works (WwTW). There are known capacity issues with Dereham WwTW and the Water Cycle Study notes a variety of solutions are required to manage the impact of predicted and planned growth for the town. As a result of known capacity issues, all development proposals should be supported by a Utilities Statement to explain how the proposed development will be linked to existing utility infrastructure systems, and demonstrate that the existing services and infrastructure have sufficient capacity to accommodate the supply/service demands which would arise from the completed development. It should also address whether the provision of services on site would give rise to any environmental impacts, for example, excavations in the vicinity of trees or archaeological remains (MM37).

Dereham Housing Allocation 2

Land to the west of Shipdham Road (LP[025]011)

Land amounting to approximately 5.7 hectares is allocated for a residential development of approximately 130 dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with **adopted Development Plan policies and (MM38)** the following criteria:

1. Provision of safe highways access from Shipdham Road. Secondary access should be provided to Colleen Close;
2. Landscaping to the south of the site should be provided and important boundary trees should be retained;
3. Development should contribute towards required highways improvements in Dereham having regard to the Dereham Transport Study **and any subsequent additional transport evidence. Further transport assessments may be required;**
4. **The scheme will preserve or, where possible, enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets. The design of the scheme should have regard to and respect the gateway location of the site;**
5. **Provision of open space in accordance with the requirements set out in Policy ENV04; and**
6. **Development proposals in Dereham should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates capacity limitations at Dereham Waste Water Treatment Works and within the foul sewerage network. A Utilities Statement will be required to support the planning application to demonstrate how capacity will be made available in time**

to serve the site (MM38);
7. When assessing development proposals, the Council will have regard to the cumulative impact of development with Dereham Housing Allocation 5.

3.116 The full extent of the site is 5.7 hectares and includes both previously developed land and greenfield land. The site is currently occupied by Toftwood Garden Centre and Randells Garden Machinery. The western section of the site is greenfield arable land. The site is predominantly occupied by glass houses associated with the garden centre. The western edge of the site is arable fields, whilst it also comprises three residential properties. To the north of the site there is residential development.

3.117 The site is located to the south of the town with access from Shipdham Road. It is a gateway location from the south of the District. The settlement fringe landscape character assessment includes this site within the Scarning Fen Tributary Farmland character area which has a moderate to high sensitivity to change. The historic characterisation study notes that development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. In this case the established pattern of adjacent mixed development will be an additional factor in the formation of the proposal, as will the site's prominent gateway position.

3.118 The site's location on the southern edge of the town means that it is distant from the town centre, which is approximately 2km away. The site is however well related to the Rashes Green General Employment Area and the schools in Toftwood.

3.119 Highways improvements will be needed to form a suitable access from Shipdham Road. In relation to the provision of a suitable access point, this should have regard to the allocation of site LP[025]030, opposite. Furthermore, the Dereham Transport Study indicates the requirement for this development alongside other developments within Dereham to mitigate the impact upon the Tavern Lane/Yaxham Road junction.

3.120 Used water from properties in Dereham feeds into Dereham Waste water Treatment Works (WwTW). There are known capacity issues with Dereham WwTW and the Water Cycle Study notes a variety of solutions are required to manage the impact of predicted and planned growth for the town. As a result of known capacity issues, all development proposals should be supported by a Utilities Statement to explain how the proposed development will be linked to existing utility infrastructure systems, and demonstrate that the existing services and infrastructure have sufficient capacity to accommodate the supply/service demands which would arise from the completed development. It should also address whether the provision of services on site would give rise to any environmental impacts, for example, excavations in the vicinity of trees or archaeological remains.

3.121 To the south of the site lies the Tudd Valley, an easterly draining catchment carved through the underlying chalk solid geology and overlain with glacial drift deposits of sand, gravel and clay. The proximity of the River Tudd Valley should inform consideration of drainage from the site and any increased potential risk of flooding due to the increase in impermeable surfaces. The valley continues to the east to Badley Moor SSSI, part of the Norfolk Valley Fens Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Any planning application should have regard to this defining landscape feature and mitigate the environmental impact of new development. (MM39)

Dereham Housing Allocation 3

Land off Swanton Road (LP[025]023)

Land amounting to approximately 10.5 hectares is allocated for residential development of approximately 216 (MM40) dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with adopted Development Plan policies and the following criteria:

1. The principal highways access should be provided from Swanton Road;
2. Development should contribute towards required highways improvements in Dereham having regard to the Dereham Transport Study and any subsequent additional transport evidence. Further transport assessments may be required;
3. Development should provide highways improvements to the Mid-Norfolk Railway level crossing;
4. Pedestrian and cycle facilities should be included within the development and along Swanton Road. The development should also provide improvements for pedestrian facilities at Theatre Street/Kings Street junction;
5. Retention and enhancement of native hedgerows and trees. Suitable screening should be agreed within the application. Development proposals should have regard to the proximity of the site to the Neatherd Moor(MM40);
6. The site specific flood risk assessment included with the planning application shall address the existing surface water flooding risk on the site. Given the existing drainage issues downstream of this site in Dereham Town Centre and the surrounding area it should be demonstrated how any proposed mitigation to achieve flood free development does not worsen flooding elsewhere. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures should be included as part of the landscaping scheme;
7. Provision of open space in accordance with the requirements set out in Policy ENV 04;
8. Development proposals in Dereham should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates capacity limitations at Dereham Waste Water Treatment Works and within the foul sewerage network. A Utilities Statement will be required to support the planning application to demonstrate how capacity will be made available in time

to serve the site (MM40); and
9. In line with policy ENV 01, opportunities to connect the site with the wider green infrastructure network should be explored, in particular connections to the Mid-Norfolk Railway Line.

3.122 This allocation is located to the northeast of Dereham with access from Swanton Road which dissects the centre of the site, and should provide the principal access point. The site is currently greenfield land in agricultural use. It is classified as grade 2 agricultural land. The western edge of the site is separated from development within the town by the Mid-Norfolk railway line. The Neatherd Moor runs to the south of the site. To the north-east of the site is open countryside. The settlement fringe landscape character assessment includes this site within the Northall green Open Arable Plateau character area which has a moderate to high sensitivity to change. The site is visually detached from the town by the railway line and there are open views from the southwest of the site towards Swanton Morley. Appropriate screening would need to be provided with this site to mitigate any impact.

3.123 The site's location to the northeast of the town means that it is well related to Northgate High School and King's Park Infant School. The site is within 500m of Dereham's defined town centre and the services and facilities contained within it.

3.124 Highways improvements will be needed for Swanton Road, in the form a roundabout. This will have the affect of slowing traffic whilst also serving as the access point to the development. The Dereham Transport Study indicates the requirement for this development alongside other developments within Dereham to mitigate impact upon the Tavern Lane/Yaxham Road junction. Other improvements are also required to the Mid-Norfolk Railway crossing and to the pedestrian facilities at the Theatre Street/Kings Road junction.

3.125 The historic characterisation study has noted that development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. The established pattern of adjacent mixed development will be an additional factor in the formation of the proposal.

3.126 Used water from properties in Dereham feeds into Dereham Waste water Treatment Works (WwTW). There are known capacity issues with Dereham WwTW and the Water Cycle Study notes a variety of solutions are required to manage the impact of predicted and planned growth for the town. As a result of known capacity issues, all development proposals should be supported by a Utilities Statement to explain how the proposed development will be linked to existing utility infrastructure systems, and demonstrate that the existing services and infrastructure have sufficient capacity to accommodate the supply/service demands which would arise from the completed development. It should also address whether the provision of services on site would give rise to any environmental impacts, for example, excavations in the vicinity of trees or archaeological remains (MM41).

3.127 There is a small area of the site located within flood zone 3a for fluvial flooding, on the southern and eastern boundary. The majority of the site is located within flood zone 1. Development should be directed away from those areas at higher risk of flooding. There is a larger area of surface water flooding to the south west of the site. A site specific flood risk assessment should be included with any application. This should address identified issues and the use of SUDs should be implemented to manage increased run off from new development.

Dereham Housing Allocation 4

Land to the rear of Dereham Hospital (LP[025]029)

Land amounting to 2.4 hectares is allocated for a residential development of approximately 60 dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with **adopted Development Plan policies and (MM42)** the following criteria:

1. Provision of safe highways access from Northgate;
2. A masterplan is required for the site in conjunction with the **re-organisation (MIN16)** of Dereham Hospital;
3. **The scheme will preserve or, where possible, enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets, in particular; Dereham Hospital building (non-designated heritage asset), Grade II listed Dereham Water Tower and the setting of Dereham Conservation Area; (MM42)**
4. Retention and enhancement of native hedgerows and trees. Suitable screening should be agreed within the application;
5. **Provision of open space in accordance with the requirements set out in Policy ENV 04; (MM42)**
6. Development should contribute towards required highways improvements in Dereham having regard to the Dereham Transport Study **and any subsequent additional transport evidence. Further transport assessments may be required;**
7. **Development proposals in Dereham should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates capacity limitations at Dereham Waste Water Treatment Works and within the foul sewerage network. A Utilities Statement will be required to support the planning application to demonstrate how capacity will be made available in time to serve the site (MM42); and**
8. Development should consider use and promotion of water efficiency measures.

3.128 This is a greenfield allocation which is currently in arable use. The allocation is located on grade 2 agricultural land. The land is promoted in conjunction with land at Dereham Hospital. The access to the site is proposed through the hospital and it will be subject to a re-organisation of the hospital site. The site size is 2.4 hectares,

however the required re-organisation of the hospital may alter this. The policy includes the requirement for a masterplan of this site, setting out how it will be developed alongside the hospital.

3.129 The site's location to the north of the town means that it is well related to Northgate High School and King's Park infant school. The site is 800m from the designated town centre and has good access to the services and facilities within it. Due to the size of the site it would be expected to provide at least 2 Local Areas for Play.

3.130 The principal access to the allocation is from Northgate. The Dereham Transport Study indicates the requirement for this development alongside other developments within Dereham to mitigate impact upon the Tavern Lane/Yaxham Road junction.

3.131 The historic characterisation study notes that the main Dereham Hospital building should be classified as a non-designated heritage asset. It is an Edwardian hospital building, in a prominent gateway location into the town from the north. Access to the land behind the hospital should have regard to the setting of the hospital building. The historic characterisation study also notes that development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. The established pattern of adjacent mixed development will be an additional factor in the formation of the proposal.

3.132 Used water from properties in Dereham feeds into Dereham Waste water Treatment Works (WwTW). There are known capacity issues with Dereham WwTW and the Water Cycle Study notes a variety of solutions are required to manage the impact of predicted and planned growth for the town. As a result of known capacity issues, all development proposals should be supported by a Utilities Statement to explain how the proposed development will be linked to existing utility infrastructure systems, and demonstrate that the existing services and infrastructure have sufficient capacity to accommodate the supply/service demands which would arise from the completed development. It should also address whether the provision of services on site would give rise to any environmental impacts, for example, excavations in the vicinity of trees or archaeological remains (MM43).

Dereham Housing Allocation 5

Land to the east of Shipdham Road (LP[025]030)

Land amounting to approximately 22.17 hectares is allocated for a residential development of approximately 290 dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with **adopted Development Plan policies and (MM44)** the following criteria:

1. The principal access to the site will be from Shipdham Road. Secondary

- access to the site should be provided from Westfield Lane;
2. An access link should be provided from Shipdham Road to Westfield Lane;
 3. Development proposals should include upgrades to the railway bridge over the Mid-Norfolk railway line and the provision of a new footbridge;
 4. Development should contribute towards required highways improvements in Dereham having regard to the Dereham Transport Study and any subsequent additional transport evidence. Further transport assessments may be required;
 5. Appropriate landscaping to the south of the development. Development should avoid coalescence with Westfield;
 6. The scheme will preserve or, where possible, enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets. Development proposals should have regard to and respect the gateway location of this site, as identified through the Breckland Historic Characterisation Study;
 7. Provision of open space in accordance with the requirements set out in Policy ENV 04;
 8. Development proposals in Dereham should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates capacity limitations at Dereham Waste Water Treatment Works and within the foul sewerage network. A Utilities Statement will be required to support the planning application to demonstrate how capacity will be made available in time to serve the site;
 9. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures are provided within the site, and where possible included as part of the agreed landscaping scheme;
 10. Development proposals should respond to the density of the surrounding area. Lower density development would be more appropriate to the south of the site to reflect the rural edge; and
 11. When assessing development proposals, the Council will have regard to the cumulative impact of development with Dereham Housing Allocation 2.
 12. A site specific flood risk assessment will be required for this site to address the risk of flooding due to the sites partial location within the flood plain of the River Tudd and to address surface water flooding due to sites partial location within an area at risk of surface water run-off and due to the increased impermeable area created by the development on site (MM44).

3.133 The allocation is located to the south of Dereham between Shipdham Road and Yaxham Road. The allocation is dissected by Westfield Lane. The allocation site is located on a greenfield site which is currently in arable use. The site is classified as grade 3 arable land. To the north of the site is residential development, whilst the Mid Norfolk railway line represents the eastern boundary of the site. Shipdham Road represents the western boundary of the site, whilst the River Tudd is located to the south of the site. To the south of the site lies the Tudd Valley, an easterly draining catchment carved through the underlying chalk solid geology and overlain with glacial drift deposits of sand, gravel and clay. The proximity of the River Tudd Valley should inform consideration of drainage from the site and any

increased potential risk of flooding due to the increase in impermeable surfaces. The valley continues to the east to Badley Moor SSSI, part of the Norfolk Valley Fens Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Any planning application should have regard to this defining landscape feature and mitigate the environmental impact of new development (MM45).

3.134 The site's location to the south of the town means that it is distant from the town centre and the associated services and facilities within it. However, this site is well related to the Rashes Green General Employment Area. It is also well related to Toftwood Infant and Junior School. There are currently bus stops located along the northern edge of the site. Due to the size of the site it would be expected to provide onsite open space.

3.135 The principal access to the site will be achieved from Shipdham Road. The development should have regard to the adjacent allocation LP[025]011 which will also require access from Shipdham Road. A secondary access point should be provided from Westfield Lane. A railway bridge over the Mid- Norfolk railway line currently connects Westfield Lane to Yaxham Road. Development of this allocation will be expected to provide upgrades to the bridge. Furthermore a footbridge should also be provided adjacent to it. The Dereham Transport Study indicates the requirement for this development alongside other developments within Dereham to mitigate impact upon the Tavern Lane/Yaxham Road junction.

3.136 The historic characterisation study notes that development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. The established pattern of adjacent mixed development and the site's gateway location will be important factors in the formation of the proposal. The historic characterisation study goes on to note that development should avoid the coalescence of Dereham and Westfield and maintain the visual break between the settlements.

3.137 Used water from properties in Dereham feeds into Dereham Waste water Treatment Works (WwTW). There are known capacity issues with Dereham WwTW and the Water Cycle Study notes a variety of solutions are required to manage the impact of predicted and planned growth for the town. As a result of known capacity issues, all development proposals should be supported by a Utilities Statement to explain how the proposed development will be linked to existing utility infrastructure systems, and demonstrate that the existing services and infrastructure have sufficient capacity to accommodate the supply/service demands which would arise from the completed development. It should also address whether the provision of services on site would give rise to any environmental impacts, for example, excavations in the vicinity of trees or archaeological remains (MM45).

Swaffham

3.138 Swaffham is identified as a market town through the Local Plan and (MM46) will provide an additional 1,553 new dwellings over the plan period. Of these 1,553 dwellings, 856 have either already been completed or are committed. 97 dwellings are proposed through the not superseded Policy SW1 from the Site Specific Policies and Proposals Development Plan Document (MM46). 600 additional dwellings are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan, of which there are 525 dwellings proposed through planning applications with decision to grant subject to Section 106 agreements.

3.139 Swaffham at the 2011 census had a population of 7,258. The town is entirely contained within the Swaffham parish boundary. The town was previously allocated a single site for residential development through the Site Specifics Policies and Proposals DPD for 250 dwellings. This site is located to the south of the town, to the east of Brandon Road, and is currently under construction. The housing allocations from the Core Strategy have been included within the committed and completed growth figures for the town and have impacted upon the housing target through the Local Plan.

3.140 The town's employment areas are concentrated to the north of the town, with the principle location being the Green Britain employment area. This employment area has good links to the A47 which provides a regular bus service between Peterborough and Lowestoft. There are two saved employment allocations in Swaffham from the Site Specifics, one of which is located to the north of the Green Britain employment area, and the other is to the west. The Local Plan intends to save these areas for future employment use.

3.141 Swaffham has a rich historic environment with a Conservation Area, historic market place and a significant number of listed buildings in the centre of the town. The key gateways on Norwich Road and North Pickenham Road have a historical value with the Manor House and grounds on Norwich Road and a couple of listed farmhouses on North Pickenham Road. The town is bordered by three landscape character areas as identified in the Breckland Landscape Character Assessment. To the northwest of the town is Plateau Farmland, to the west is the Brecks Landscape Character and to the east and south the landscape character consists of Settled Tributary Farmland. The Plateau Farmland and the Brecks Landscape Character areas are identified in the settlement fringe assessment as having the greater sensitivity to change.

3.142 Swaffham Town Council is currently in the early stages of preparing a neighbourhood plan for the town which will guide future planning applications.

3.143 There have been a number of major planning applications considered in Swaffham recently. Where decisions have now been made on sites that were previously preferred sites these allocations have been included to ensure that policy requirements are met on these sites. The following table summarises the status of each of the allocations within the settlement.

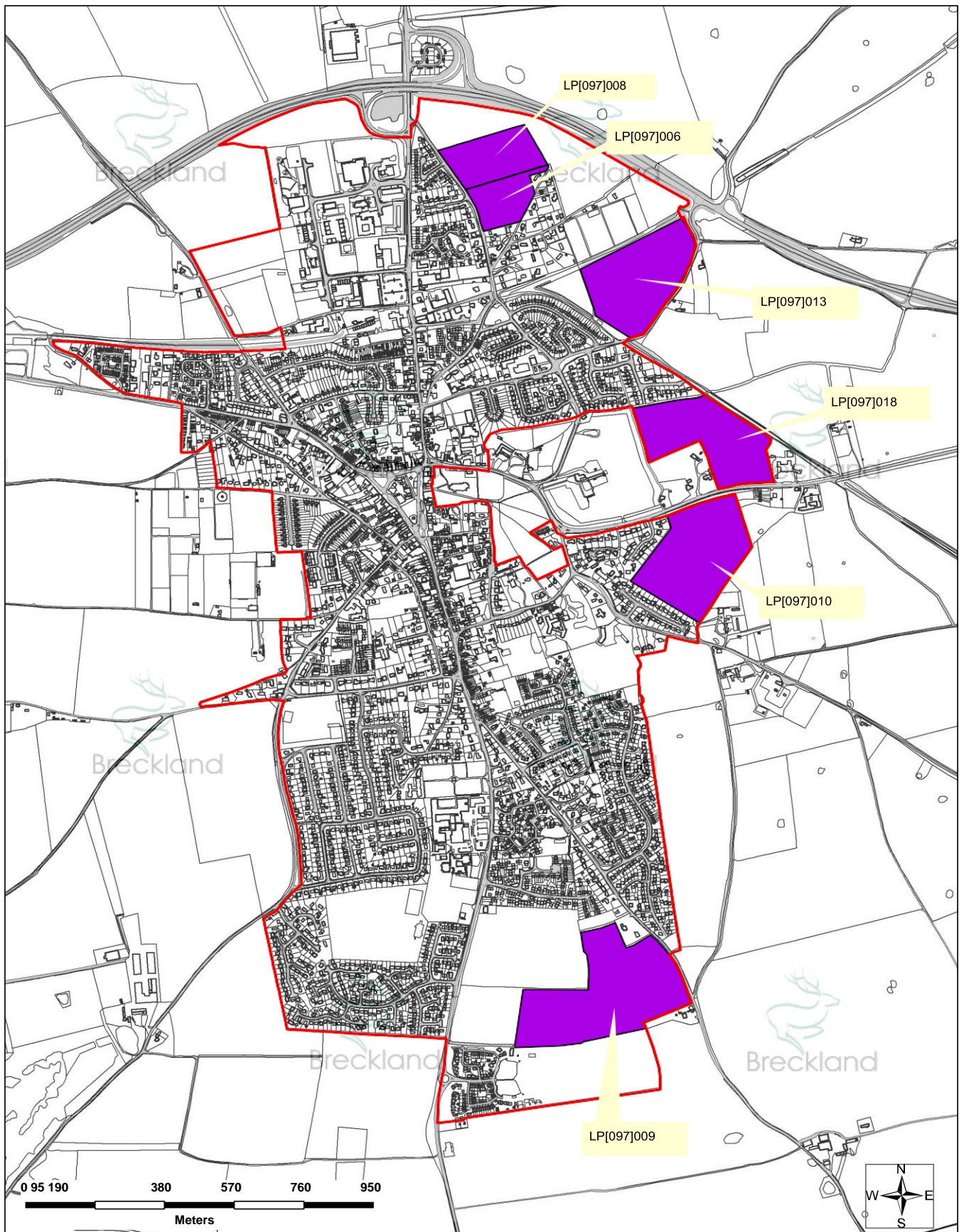
Table 3.3 Swaffham Proposed Site Allocations

| Local Plan Reference | Number of dwellings proposed | Current status |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| LP[097]006 | 51 | Outline planning permission (counted as part of completions and commitments) |
| LP[097]008 | 75 | Proposed Allocation |
| LP[097]009 | 175 | Proposed Allocation (Planning application has decision to grant subject to S.106) |
| LP[097]010 | 185 | Proposed Allocation (Planning application has decision to grant subject to S.106) |

| Local Plan Reference | Number of dwellings proposed | Current status |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| LP[097]013 | 130 | Outline planning permission (counted as part of completions and commitments) |
| LP[097]018 | 165 | Proposed Allocation (Planning application has decision to grant subject to S.106) |
| | Total : 781 (Of which 181 are already included within completions and commitments) | |

3.144 All proposed allocations within Swaffham are within 1500m and 3km of the Brecks SPA. The Breckland Local Plan Submission HRA identifies that there is a likely significant effect on European sites through the screening of allocations in the Local Plan. Due to a lack of data it is not possible to rule out the potential impact of development on functionally linked land for Stone Curlews. All allocations will be required to be supported by a project level HRA, which may consist of additional survey work and will determine site specific mitigation measures.

Map 3.2 Summary of the Swaffham Allocations.



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Swaffham Housing Allocation 1 (MIN17)

Land off New Sporle Road (South) (LP[097]006)

Land amounting to approximately 2 hectares is allocated for residential development of at least 51 dwellings. **The provision of open space is required in accordance with Policy ENV 04 (MM47).** Residential development will be permitted subject to compliance with adopted **Development Plan policies** and the following criteria:

1. Principal highway access is provided from New Sporle Road;
2. The layout and design of the site will provide an appropriate response to the established pattern of development along the west of New Sporle Road and respect the site's location as a key gateway into Swaffham;
3. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified (MM47);**
4. Submission of a project level Habitats Regulation Assessment to determine the impact of proposed development on Breckland SPA/SAC and to assess habitat suitability, the need for additional survey work and mitigation strategies where required.

3.145 This is a greenfield site on grade 3 agricultural land. The site has access from New Sporle Road and Norfolk County Council Highways have indicated that whilst there are some highways constraints associated with the site these can be mitigated against. There is residential development to the west, south and east of the site with an arable field to the north and a residential planning permission beyond this. The site itself currently has outline planning permission for 51 dwellings.

3.146 The site's location to the north of the town makes it within close proximity to the general employment areas which are located to the north and the town centre. The site is connected to the town with existing footpaths. The settlement fringe landscape character assessment includes this site within the Clarence Hills Open Tributary Farmland character area which has a moderate sensitivity to change. It should be noted that this is the lowest sensitivity of any of the character areas surrounding Swaffham.

3.147 The site has few constraints; however, the Historic Characterisation Study (2017) states that "Development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. In this particular instance, respecting the site's location on the edge of the settlement, the surrounding character and form of existing development and the site being a prominent gateway into the village will be additional factors in the formation of proposals".

Swaffham Housing Allocation 2 (MIN18)

Land off New Sporle Road (North) (LP[097]008)

Land amounting to approximately 3 hectares is allocated for residential development of at least 75 dwellings. The provision of open space is required in accordance with ENV 04 (MM48). Development will be subject to compliance with adopted Development Plan policies and the following criteria:

1. Principal highway access is provided from New Sporle Road;
2. The layout and design of the site will provide an appropriate response to the established pattern of development along the west of New Sporle Road and respect the site's location as a key gateway into Swaffham;
3. Appropriate noise attenuation measures are provided at the border of the site with the A47 trunk road if required;
4. Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified (MM48); and
5. Submission of a project level Habitats Regulation Assessment to determine the impact of proposed development on Breckland SPA/SAC and to assess habitat suitability, the need for additional survey work and mitigation strategies where required.

3.148 This is a greenfield site on grade 3 agricultural land. The site has access from New Sporle Road and Norfolk County Council Highways have indicated that whilst there are some highways constraints associated with the site these can be mitigated against. Land to the north and south of the site has planning permission for residential development, whilst there is also residential development to the west.

3.149 The site's location to the north of the town makes it within close proximity to the general employment areas which are located to the north and the town centre. The site is connected to the town with existing footpaths. The settlement fringe landscape character assessment includes this site within the Clarence Hills Open Tributary Farmland character area which has a moderate sensitivity to change. It should be noted that this is the lowest sensitivity of any of the character areas surrounding Swaffham.

3.150 The site has few constraints; however, the Historic Characterisation Study (2017) states that "Development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. In this particular instance, respecting the site's location on the edge of the settlement and the site being a prominent gateway into the village will be additional factors in the formation of proposals".

Swaffham Housing Allocation 3 (MIN19)

Land to the east of Brandon Road (LP[097]009)

Land amounting to approximately 9.5 hectares is allocated for residential development of at least 175 dwellings. **The provision of open space is required in accordance with Policy ENV 04 (MM49).** Development will be subject to compliance with adopted **Development Plan** policies and the following criteria:

1. Principal highway access is provided from Brandon Road;
2. Retention and enhancement of perimeter hedgerows and trees;
3. Provision of adequate planting and landscaping on the eastern boundary;
4. The layout and design of the site will provide an appropriate response to the established pattern of development along **South Pickenham Road** and respect the site's location as a key gateway into Swaffham, **having regard to findings of the Historic Characterisation Study (MM49)**;
5. The site specific flood risk assessment included with the planning application shall address the significant overland flow path running through the site. If the flow path cannot be avoided then it should be demonstrated how any proposed mitigation to achieve flood free development does not worsen flooding elsewhere. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures should be included as part of the landscaping scheme;
6. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified**; and
7. Submission of a project level Habitats Regulation Assessment to determine the impact of proposed development on Breckland SPA/SAC and to assess habitat suitability, the need for additional survey work and mitigation strategies where required.

3.151 This is a greenfield site to the south of Swaffham, situated upon grade 3 agricultural land. The site is currently the subject of an outline planning application which has the decision to grant planning permission subject to the agreement of the section 106. The site is bordered on three sides by residential development and this would form an extension to the Abel Homes development which is currently under construction. The access to the site would be through this development from Brandon Road. Norfolk County Council highways have not provided any objections subject to planning conditions to the development of the site.

3.152 The sites location to the south of the town makes it distant from the general employment areas which are located to the north and the town centre. However it is within close proximity of the high school and junior school. The site is connected to the town with existing footpaths. The settlement fringe landscape character assessment includes this site within the Clarence Hills Open Tributary Farmland

character area which has a moderate sensitivity to change. It should be noted that this is the lowest sensitivity of any of the character areas surrounding Swaffham. There are currently open views to the east of the site from an existing residential development, however appropriate design of the scheme would ensure that there is not an impact on adjoining residential amenity.

3.13 The site benefits from limited constraints; however, the Historic Characterisation Study (2017) sets out that development proposals "must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. In this particular instance, respecting the site's location on the edge of the settlement, the site being a prominent gateway into the village and respecting the landscape character sensitivity will be additional factors in the formation of proposals".

3.154 the Sequential Test (2017) highlighted that approximately 10% of the site is subject to 1 in 30, 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 year flood event surface water flooding. As a result of this the Sustainability Appraisal has been updated to reflect this and that a site specific flood risk assessment should address identified issues and the SuDS be implemented, where appropriate, to manage increased run off from new development.

Swaffham Housing Allocation 4 (MIN20)

Land to the south of Norwich Road (LP[097]010)

Land amounting to approximately 6.8 hectares is allocated for residential development of at least 185 dwellings. **The provision of open space is required in accordance with Policy ENV 04 (MM50).** Development will be subject to compliance with adopted **Development Plan policies** and the following criteria:

1. Principal highway access is provided from Norwich Road;
2. Suitable improvements to pedestrian and cycle links from the site to the village along Norwich Road are provided;
3. The layout and design of the site will provide an appropriate response to the established pattern of development along Norwich Road and respect the site's location as a key gateway into Swaffham;
4. The scheme's design **will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets;**
5. The site specific flood risk assessment included with the planning application shall address the significant overland flow paths running through the site. If the flow paths cannot be avoided then it should be demonstrated how any proposed mitigation to achieve flood free development does not worsen flooding elsewhere. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures should be included as part of the landscaping scheme;
6. Important boundary trees are retained within the detailed site design;
7. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate**

solutions have been identified (MM50); and

8. Submission of a project level Habitats Regulation Assessment to determine the impact of proposed development on Breckland SPA/SAC and to assess habitat suitability, the need for additional survey work and mitigation strategies where required.

3.155 This is a greenfield site located to the south of Norwich Road in Swaffham. The site is located on grade 3 agricultural land and is currently the subject of an outline planning application for 185 dwellings. The planning application has the decision to grant approval subject to section 106 agreement. Comments have been provided by Norfolk County Council highways in regards to this site, which indicate that access can be achieved subject to improvements to the footway and cycleway along Norwich Road.

3.156 Whilst this site is located outside of the town's settlement boundary it is bordered by residential development to the west and south west. There is low density residential to the north. The proposal would therefore be well related to the built development of the town. Wood Farmhouse is located to the south of the site, which is a grade II listed building. The farmhouse can be seen from the north of the site. In addition to this the Swaffham conservation area and open grounds of the grade II* manor house are located to the northwest, with the Church of St Peter and St Paul located further to the west along Norwich Road. The impact upon these designated heritage assets have been considered through the planning application for the site.

3.157 Further to this, the Historic Character Study (2017) sets out that development proposals regarding the site "must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. In this particular instance, respecting the site's location on the edge of the settlement and the site being a prominent gateway into the village and respecting the setting of the nearby listed buildings, in particular Wood Farm, will be additional factors in the formation of proposals".

3.158 The site is reasonably well located to the town centre, however it is further from other services and facilities within the town. The settlement fringe landscape character assessment includes this site within the Clarence Hills Open Tributary Farmland character area which has a moderate sensitivity to change. It should be noted that this character area is the lowest sensitivity of the character areas surrounding Swaffham. The Norwich Road does form a key gateway into Swaffham and the design of the development should reflect this.

3.159 The site has few constraints, however, the Sequential Test (2017) highlighted that approximately 30% of the site is subject to 1 in 30, 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 year flood event surface water flooding. As a result of this the Sustainability Appraisal has been updated to reflect this and the developable area of the site should be reduced in order to ensure that new development would be free from the risk of flooding and that there would not be an increased risk of flooding elsewhere.

Swaffham Housing Allocation 5 (MIN21)

Land off Sporle Road (LP[097]013)

Land amounting to approximately 6 hectares is allocated for residential development of at least 130 (MM51) dwellings. The provision of open space is required in accordance with Policy ENV 04. Development will be subject to compliance with adopted Development Plan policies and the following criteria:

1. The dwellings shall be no greater than two storeys in height;
2. Appropriate footpaths and cycleways are provided linking the site with existing footways at Sporle Road;
3. Important boundary trees are retained within the detailed site design;
4. The layout and design of the site will provide an appropriate response to the established pattern of development along Sporle Road and respect the site's location as a key gateway into Swaffham, having regard to the findings of the Historic Characterisation Study (MM51);
5. Existing boundary screening is retained and enhanced to include new structural landscaping to minimise the visual impact of development and extent of new build development into the open countryside;
6. Appropriate noise attenuation measures are provided at the border of the site with the A47 trunk road, if required;
7. Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified; and
8. Submission of a project level Habitats Regulation Assessment to determine the impact of proposed development on Breckland SPA/SAC and to assess habitat suitability, the need for additional survey work and mitigation strategies where required.

3.160 The site is situated upon agricultural land of grade 3 agricultural quality to the east of the dismantled railway. There are open fields to the south of the site and the A47 lies to the east with further arable land beyond. The site has access from Sporle Road and Norfolk County Council Highways have indicated that whilst there are some highways constraints associated with the site these can be mitigated against.

3.161 The site's location to the north of the town makes it within close proximity to the general employment areas which are located to the north and the town centre. The site is connected to the town with existing footpaths. The settlement fringe landscape character assessment includes this site within the Clarence Hills Open Tributary Farmland character area which has a moderate sensitivity to change. It should be noted that this is the lowest sensitivity of any of the character areas surrounding Swaffham.

3.162 The Historic Characterisation Study (2017) states that "Development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. In this particular instance, respecting the site's location on the edge of the settlement and the site being a prominent gateway into the village and preserving native trees where possible, will be additional factors in the formation of proposals".

Swaffham Housing Allocation 6 (MIN22)

Land to the north of Norwich Road (LP[097]018)

Land amounting to approximately 5.8 hectares is allocated for residential development of at least 165 dwellings. **The provision of open space is required in accordance with Policy ENV 04 (MM52).** Development will be subject to compliance with adopted **Development Plan policies** and the following criteria:

1. Principal highway access is provided from Norwich Road;
2. Suitable improvements to pedestrian and cycle links from the site to the village along Norwich Road are provided;
3. The scheme's design, **will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets, with particular regard to the Grade II* Listed Manor House;**
4. Important boundary trees, particularly to the west of the site, are retained within the detailed site design;
5. The layout and design of the site will provide an appropriate response to the established pattern of development along Norwich Road and respect the site's location as a key gateway into Swaffham;
6. The site specific flood risk assessment included with the planning application shall address the issue of lack of connectivity to the wider drainage network should infiltration be unfeasible for this site. It should be noted that there have been reports of historic flooding in close vicinity of this site. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures should be included as part of the landscaping scheme;
7. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified (MM52); and**
8. Submission of a project level Habitats Regulation Assessment to determine the impact of proposed development on Breckland SPA/SAC and to assess habitat suitability, the need for additional survey work and mitigation strategies where required.

3.163 This site is currently the subject of an outline planning application, which has received the decision to grant planning permission subject to the completion of the section 106 agreement. The outline planning permission is for up to 165 dwellings.

3.164 This is a greenfield site located to the east of Swaffham. The site is located on grade 3 agricultural land. The site borders residential development to the north. To the south there is low density residential development. The development is located to the east of Swaffham conservation area and is directly adjacent to the grounds of the grade II listed manor house. The impact upon the designated heritage assets has been considered through the assessment of the planning application. The settlement fringe landscape character assessment includes this site within the Clarence Hills Open Tributary Farmland character area which has a moderate sensitivity to change. It should be noted that this is the lowest sensitivity to change of any of the land surrounding Swaffham. Norwich Road forms a key gateway into Swaffham and this should be taken into consideration through the detailed planning application.

3.165 Norfolk County Council highways have provided comments on the planning application. Subject to appropriate conditions being secured through the planning permission, they have not objected to the development of the site on highways grounds. Highways conditions include the requirements for footpaths and cycle ways to the town.

3.166 The site benefits from limited constraints; however, the Historic Characterisation Study (2017) sets out that development proposals "must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. In this particular instance, respecting the site's location on the edge of the settlement and the site being a prominent gateway into the village, preserving trees that act as screening for the site and respecting the setting of the nearby listed buildings and non-designated asset, will be additional factors in the formation of proposals".

3.167 The site is well located in relation to the town centre, however it is distant from the schools and the general employment area which are located to the south and north of the town respectively.

Watton

3.168 Watton is a mid-size market town located in the centre of Breckland. The town's settlement boundary includes land within not only Watton parish, but also Carbrooke and Griston to the east and Little Cressingham to the west. The town has been identified through the Local Plan for 1,636 (MM53) dwellings over the plan period from 2011 to 2036. Of these dwellings 1,431 are currently either committed or completed. 205 additional dwellings are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan (MM53).

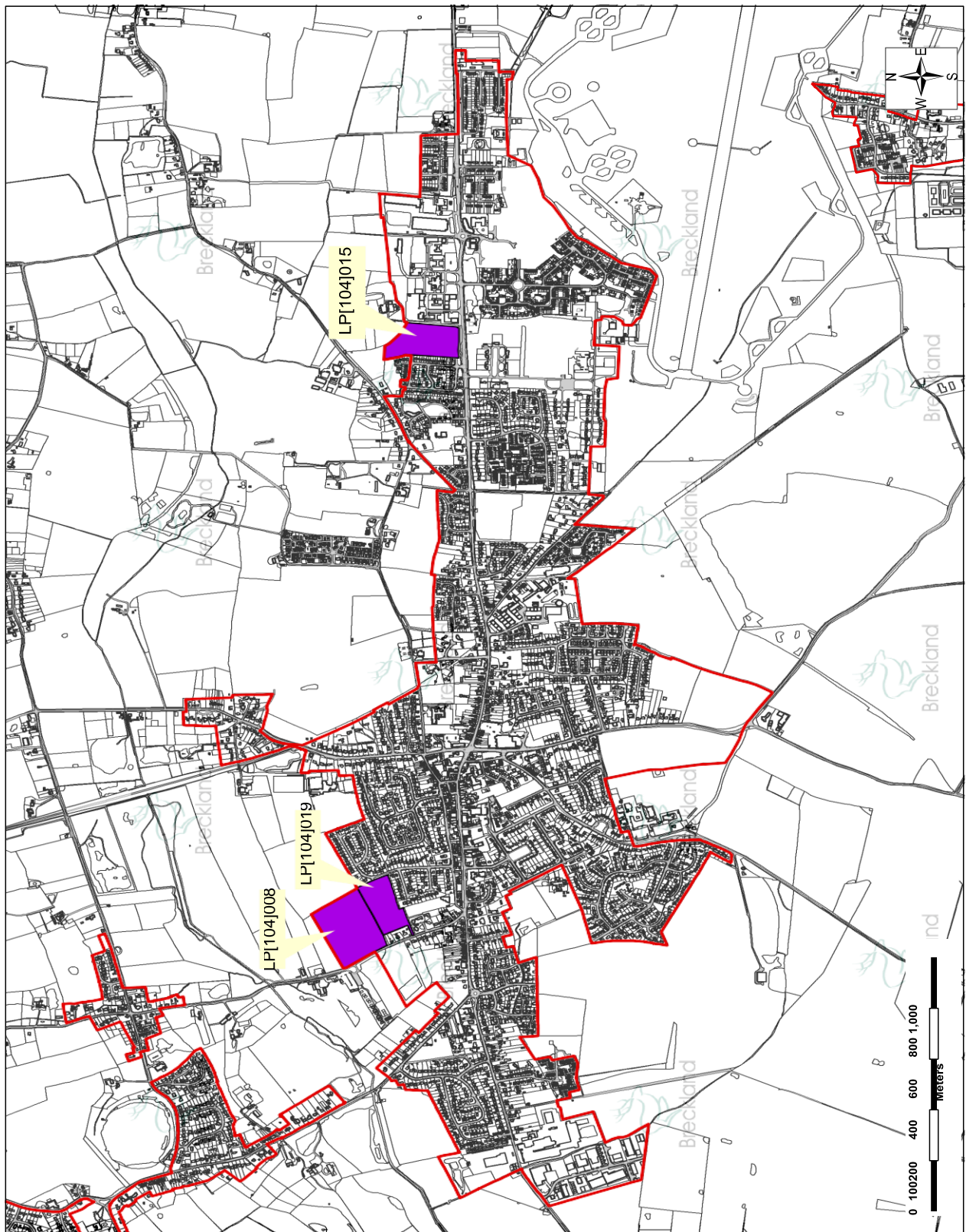
3.169 Watton previously had site allocations through the Site Specific Policies and Proposals DPD. This allocated four sites within the town for residential development. The housing provision on these sites has been taken into account in the committed development figures. Watton has seen significant development in recent years both along the Norwich Road and more recently the Thetford Road. Development to the east of the town along Norwich Road has included land on the former RAF Watton, this includes the former technical site, the officers mess site and the radar site.

3.170 The landscape character assessment settlement fringe study shows that there are three character areas surrounding Watton. Land to the north of the town is included within the Watton Brooke Tributary Farmland character, which has a moderate to high sensitivity to change. The Watton Brook runs to the north of the town and there are high flood risk areas in this vicinity. The western extent of the town forms part of the distinctive heathland and plantation landscape which has a moderate sensitivity to change. The final landscape area is to the south of the town which is the Watton Airfield Plateau which has a low sensitivity to change. Within the character area is Wayland Wood which is an ancient woodland and also a SSSI, which is sensitive to change.

3.171 Land to the south west of the town is located within 1500m of the Breckland Farmland Special Protection Area, which is designated for the special interest feature Stone Curlews. Evidence has shown that development up to 1500m from the site can impact upon Stone Curlew. A Habitats Regulations Assessment has been undertaken to assess the impact upon the Breckland Special Protection Area. All proposed allocations within Watton are within 1500m and 3km of the Brecks SPA. The Breckland Local Plan Submission HRA identifies that there is a likely significant effect on European sites through the screening of allocations in the Local Plan. Due to a lack of data it is not possible to rule out the potential impact of development on functionally linked land for Stone Curlews. All allocations will be required to be supported by a project level HRA, which may consist of additional survey work and will determine site specific mitigation measures.

3.172 Watton town centre is located to the west of the town and forms the historic core of the town. The majority of the town centre is included within a conservation area, and this is the focus for the town's listed buildings.

Picture 3.1 Summary of Watton Allocations



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Watton Housing Allocation 1

Land off Saham Road (LP[104]008 & LP[104]019)

Land amounting to 6.6ha is allocated for residential development of at least 160 dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with the **adopted Development Plan policies and the (MM54)** following criteria:

1. Vehicular access to the site is provided from Saham Road with a link road through to a further vehicular access off Sharman Avenue;
2. Implementation of a package of transport mitigation measures to the satisfaction of Norfolk County Council Highway Authority;
3. Appropriate density to respond to the surrounding development with lower density development located on site 019 to reflect the edge of settlement rural location;
4. Retention and enhancement of native hedgerow and trees on the outer edge of the site boundary. A landscaping buffer should be provided at the north and east boundary of the site to respond to the rural setting;
5. **The provision of open space is required in accordance with Policy ENV 04 (MM54);**
6. Consideration of the gas pipeline on the site frontage adjacent to Saham Road;
7. Submission of a coordinated scheme for the design and layout of the entire site;
8. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures are provided, and where possible included as part of landscaping schemes;
9. **Development proposals in Watton should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential capacity limitations at Watton Waste Water Treatment Works and within the foul sewerage network. A Utilities Statement will be required to support the planning application to demonstrate how capacity will be made available in time to serve the site;**
10. **The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets (MM54); and**
11. Submission of a project level Habitats Regulation Assessment to determine the impact of proposed development on Breckland SPA/SAC and to assess habitat suitability, the need for additional survey work and mitigation strategies where required.

3.173 The site comprises two adjoining sites currently undeveloped and categorised as grade 3 agricultural land. The site is to the north west of Watton and has access onto Saham Road and Sharman Avenue. The site presents the opportunity to create a comprehensive development incorporating a link road and has good pedestrian and cycle access to the town centre.

3.174 The site is in relatively close proximity to the services and facilities within the town, including the town centre, schools and general employment areas. The site is located within a character area with a moderate to high sensitivity to change. The rural edge of settlement location should be taken into account in the design and layout of the scheme, and in the density of development. Retention of native boundary hedgerow and trees in addition to a further landscape buffer on the north and east boundary of the site will help to protect the rural character of this area of Watton.

3.175 NCC highways have indicated that improvements to the B1108 and Saham Road junction will be required and therefore a package of transport mitigation measures will be sought. Furthermore there is also a gas pipeline located at the front of the site which would need to be taken into consideration.

3.176 Development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken to inform an appropriate design response. In this particular instance, respecting the nearby non designated heritage assets and conservation area will be additional factors in the formation of proposals.

3.177 Used water from properties in Watton feeds into Watton Waste water Treatment Works (WwTW). The growth proposed in the Watton WwTW catchment is given an Amber status on the basis that some upgrades are required, but are within the limit of conventional treatment. Upon application of the revised discharge permit, Anglian Water Services should determine potential impact of the additional discharge on flood risk (MM55).

Watton Housing Allocation 2

Land north of Norwich Road, Watton (LP[104]015)

Land amounting to 2.7ha is allocated for residential development of at least 45 dwellings and at least 60 bed care home. Development will be subject to compliance with the **adopted Development Plan policies and the (MM56)** following criteria:

1. Vehicular access to the site is provided from Norwich Road;
2. **Where necessary**, implementation of transport mitigation measures to the satisfaction of Norfolk County Council Highway Authority; **(MM56)**
3. Appropriate density to respond to the surrounding development;
4. Retention and enhancement of native hedgerow and trees on the north-east site boundary to form a landscaping buffer which responds to the rural setting and protects the setting of the adjacent listed building;
5. Additional mitigation measures **will** be required to ensure the protection of residential amenity from the adjacent business park, in line with Policy COM 03;
6. **The provision of open space is required in accordance with Policy ENV 04;**
7. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures are

provided, and where possible included as part of landscaping schemes;

8. Development proposals in Watton should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential capacity limitations at Watton Waste Water Treatment Works and within the foul sewerage network. A Utilities Statement will be required to support the planning application to demonstrate how capacity will be made available in time to serve the site (MM56);
9. The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets, with particular regard to the Grade II Rokeles Hall; and
10. Submission of a project level Habitats Regulation Assessment to determine the impact of proposed development on Breckland SPA/SAC and to assess habitat suitability, the need for additional survey work and mitigation strategies where required.

3.178 The site comprises agricultural land which is sited between existing residential areas to the west and north and a small business park to the east. The site has good access to Norwich Road and is accessible to the town centre and associated facilities.

3.179 The demography of the District supports the need for consideration of other forms of housing to support an ageing population as detailed in the CNSHMA. This site offers the opportunity to deliver a new care home in a sustainable location in one of Breckland's Market Towns, helping to provide choice for older people and to meet identified need within the Central Norfolk Housing Market Area.

3.180 The site would constitute infill development, providing a natural extension to the north of Norwich Road. Due to the existing mature vegetation on the site boundary, development of the site would have a minimal impact on the wider countryside.

3.181 The location of the business park to the east of the site requires consideration in any development proposal to ensure that adjacent uses don't have an adverse impact on the amenity of new residents.

3.182 Development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken to inform an appropriate design response. In this particular instance, respecting the nearby designated heritage asset: Rokeles Hall is an additional factor in the formation of proposals.

3.183 Used water from properties in Watton feeds into Watton Waste water Treatment Works (WwTW). The growth proposed in the Watton WwTW catchment is given an Amber status on the basis that some upgrades are required, but are within the limit of conventional treatment. Upon application of the revised discharge permit, Anglian Water Services should determine potential impact of the additional discharge on flood risk. (MM57)

Ashill

3.184 Ashill is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period to 2036, providing an additional 105 dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of this 105 there are currently 39 completions and 46 commitments (including a decision to grant subject to S.106). 20 additional dwellings are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan.(MM58)

3.185 Planning Permission has recently been granted (November 2016) for residential development on land adjacent to the community centre along Hale Road. A further planning application at the Willows on Hale Road has decision to grant subject to a Section 106 agreement. These are now reflected by a change to the settlement boundary instead of allocations.

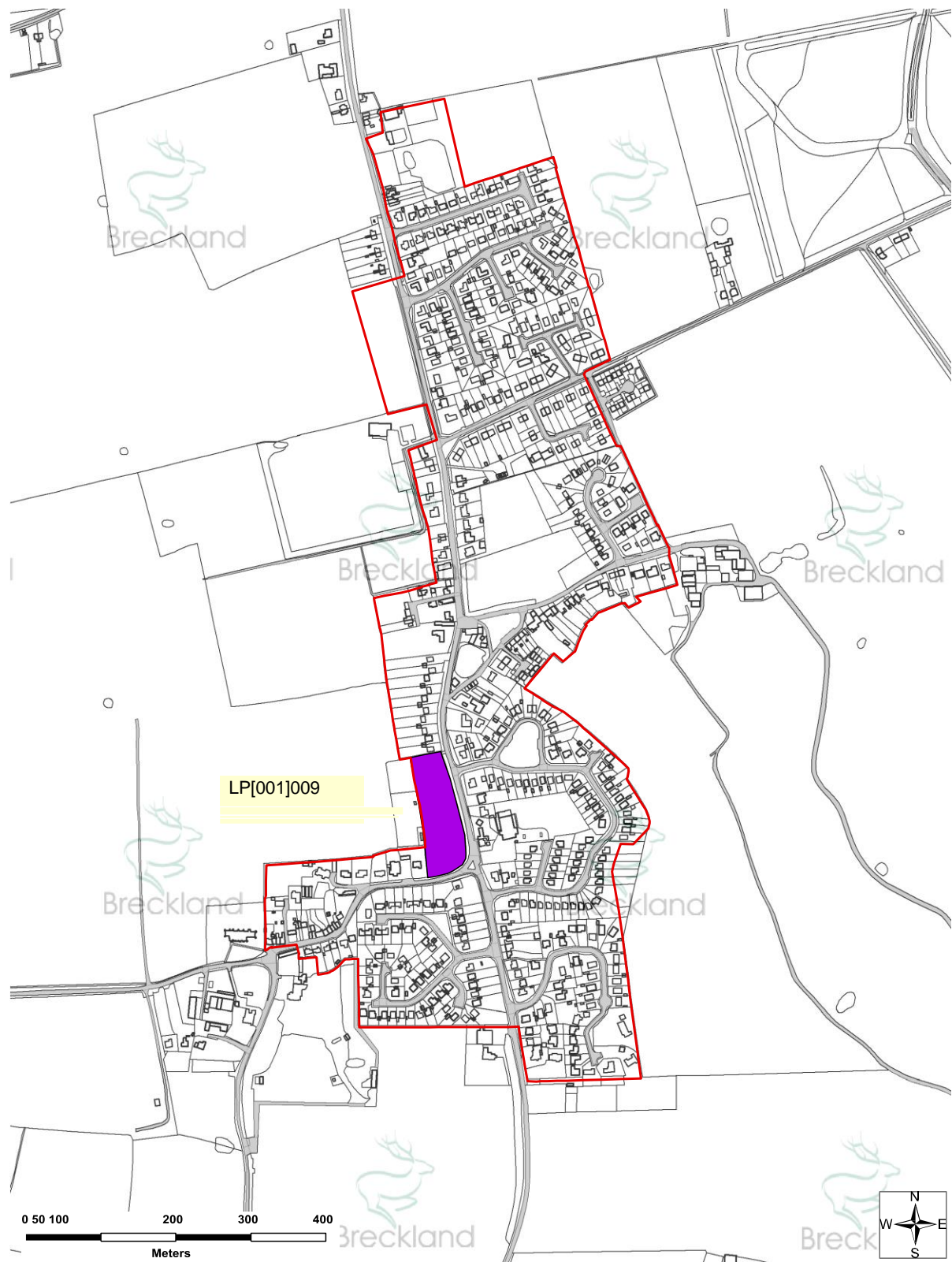
3.186 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 1411. Ashill was identified as a Local Service Centre through the Core Strategy and continues to be identified as a Local Service Centre village through the Local Plan as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

- Ashill VC Primary School;
- Ashill Food and Wine Newsagents;
- McTaggarts Freehouse and Ashill Community Centre; Regular bus service to Swaffham and Watton; and
- From IDBR (2016) shows that there are 22 registered businesses within the parish.

3.187 The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment shows that most of the land surrounding the village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'Shipdham Plateau'.

3.188 The land surrounding Ashill is of grade 3 agricultural quality.

Map 3.3 Summary of Ashill Allocation



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Ashill Housing Allocation

Land between Church Street and Hale Road (LP[001]009)

Land amounting to approximately 0.8 hectares is allocated for a residential development of at least 20 dwellings (average density 25 dwellings per hectare). Development will be subject to compliance with adopted **Development Plan** policies and **the following criteria (MM59)**:

1. Development should provide equivalent sized allotment land that is both suitable and accessible;
2. **The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets, with particular regard to the Grade I listed Church of St. Nicholas, the Grade II Listed 'The Glebe', and the non-designated 19th Century School and attached master's house;**
3. Facilitate a safe crossing point on Hale Road;
4. Provision of safe highway access from Hale Road; and
5. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified. (MM59)**

3.189 The site is situated upon 0.8 hectares of Grade 3 allotment land within the existing settlement boundary. The site is located within the centre of Ashill and, as such, has good access to the local shop, primary school, public transport and community facilities. The southern boundary of the site fronts onto Church street while the eastern boundary fronts onto Hale Road. There is existing linear development to the north and south of the site with Ashill VC Primary school to the east between cul-de-sac development. Natural screening to the west of the site is good due to mature trees and hedging.

3.190 The site has very few constraints. The site is currently situated on allotment land, which would need to be re-provided in a suitable and accessible location.

3.191 The Historic Characterisation Study, 2017, indicated that development proposals must respect the setting of the nearby non-designated heritage asset and respect the views to the Grade I listed Church of St. Nicholas. A non-designated heritage asset is defined in the Government's Planning Practice Guidance as 'buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified by local planning authorities as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions but which are not formally designated'. The 19th Century school with attached master's house is identified within the study as a non-designated heritage asset. Due to the location of this site in relation to designated and non-designated heritage assets, the scheme design proposal will need to be informed via a detailed appraisal of the asset's significance.

3.192 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported. (MM60)

Banham

3.193 Banham is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period, providing an additional 117 dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of this 117 there are currently 17 completions and 58 commitments. 42 additional dwellings are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan (MM61).

3.194 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 1481. Banham is identified as a Local Service Centre village through the Local Plan as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

- Banham Community Primary School; Post Office;
- Banham Barrel, Village Hall, Shop;
- Bus service to Norwich, Diss and Quidenham; and
- The Inter-Departmental Business Register (2016) shows 45 businesses within the parish. Larger employers include Banham Zoo.

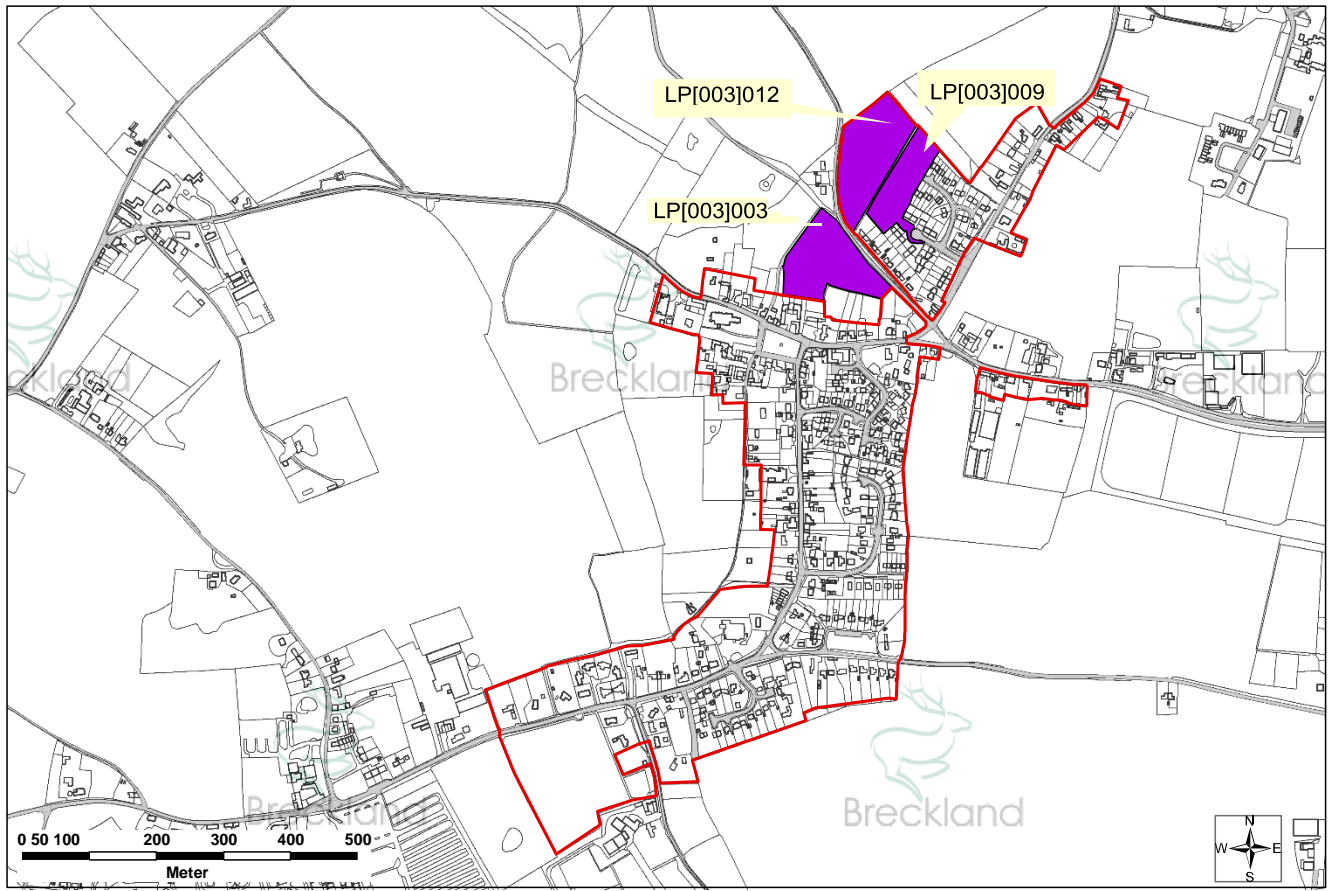
3.195 Banham has a rich historic environment with an extensive conservation area with a number of listed buildings.

3.196 The Breckland Landscape Character Fringe Assessment shows that the land surrounding the village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'The Buckenham's Tributary Farmland' and of Moderate/High Landscape sensitivity.

3.197 The majority of the settlement is situated upon Grade 3 Agricultural Land with a small area of Grade 2 to the north of the settlement and a small area of Grade 4 Agricultural Land to the north west.

3.198 Banham Zoo operates as a significant tourist attraction and local employer within the Parish. Applications for non-operational 'enabling' development which supports the retention, enhancement or expansion of these facilities will be considered in line with relevant strategic policies in this plan.

Map 3.4 Summary of Banham Allocation.



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Banham Housing Allocation

Land adjacent to Gaymer Close and to the south of Greyhound Lane (LP[003]003, LP[003]009 & LP[003]012)

Land amounting to 2ha (sites LP(003)009 and LP[003]012) is allocated for a residential development of at least 42 dwellings. The provision of open space is required in accordance with Policy ENV 04 and will be provided on land to the south of Greyhound Lane (LP[003]003). Development will be subject to compliance with adopted Development Plan policies and the following criteria: (MM62)

1. Access to residential development to be provided from Wayland Way including associated improvements to the local highway and footway provision to the satisfaction of Norfolk County Council as Highway Authority, including a footpath link from the housing development to Greyhound Lane. Subject to demonstration of highway safety in consultation with Norfolk County Council as the Highway Authority, there may be potential for a second or alternative vehicular access onto Greyhound Lane (MM62);
2. Appropriate density to reflect and respect existing development;
3. Appropriate use of height and scale to ensure the site's position as a gateway to the settlement;
4. Retention of native hedgerow and trees on the site boundary, where appropriate, with further natural screening to be provided on the north west boundary of the residential site;
5. The scheme will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets, with particular regard to the conservation area. An archaeological assessment is required to support the application;
6. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures are provided, and where possible included as part of landscaping schemes;
7. Subject to provision of equivalent replacement new open space of a minimum of 0.75ha including a Local Area for Play (LAP) on land south of Greyhound Lane (LP[003]003). The risk of surface water flood and fluvial flood risk is required to be addressed in the planning application, and appropriate solutions implemented to improve drainage and ground conditions to enable the open space and LAP to be in use throughout the year; and
8. Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified.

3.199 The site comprises three parcels of land which total approximately 3.2ha. All parts of the site are within 800m (10 minutes walking distance) to key services, meaning that the site is sustainable and will limit the use of personal car journeys.

3.200 Land adjacent to Gaymer Close is located adjacent to existing development on Wayland Way which forms the access to the site. The eastern part of the site (0.75ha) is currently used as open space. At present there is no physical infrastructure or child play equipment on site.

3.201 Land to the south of Greyhound Lane is situated upon 1.2 hectares of Grade 2 agricultural land to the north west of the existing settlement boundary. There is existing development to the north, south and east of the site with agricultural land to the west. This site is within Banham Conservation Area. The site is subject to constraints in terms of access, fluvial flood risk (partly within zone 3a) and surface water flood risk and therefore is considered unsuitable for residential development.

3.202 A landowner agreement for the three parcels of land has presented the opportunity to improve the open space and play facilities for the village by relocating the equivalent area of open space on the land to the south of Greyhound Lane. The existing open space and adjacent undeveloped agricultural land is suitable for a development of 42 dwellings. A footpath link from the proposed new housing development to the new open space on Greyhound Lane will ensure new residents have good access to open space.

3.203 Development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken as to inform an appropriate design response. In this particular instance, the setting of the conservation area will be an additional factor in the formation of proposals.

3.204 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported (MM63).

Bawdeswell

3.205 Bawdeswell is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period, providing an additional 49 dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of these 49, there are currently 6 completions. A site for at least 36 dwellings is proposed for allocation through the Local Plan, but these are already included within the completions and commitments (MM64).

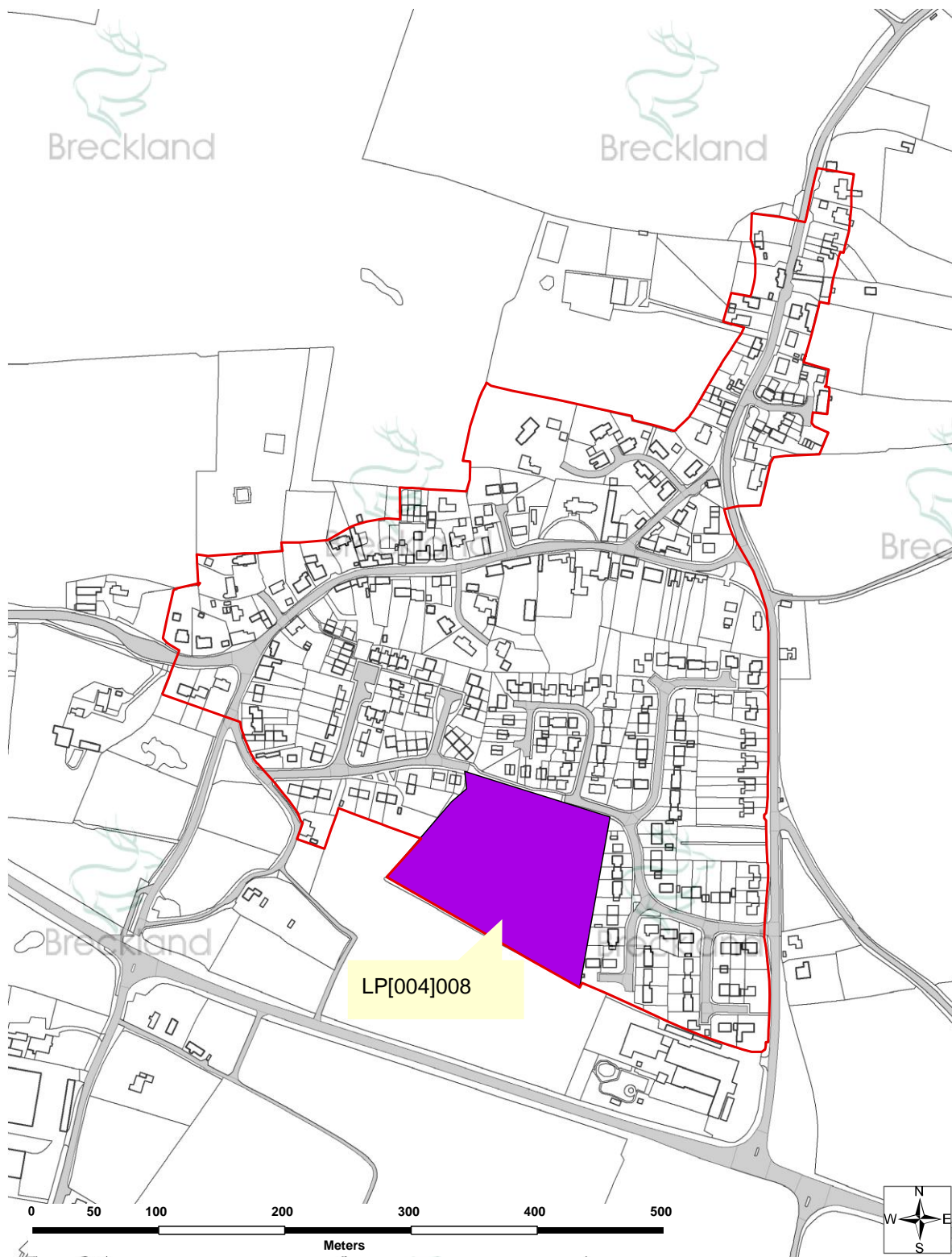
3.206 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 828. Bawdeswell is identified as a new Local Service Centre village as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

- Bawdeswell Community Primary School; McColls Shop;
- The Old Workhouse & Village Hall;
- X29 bus service with two hourly journeys between Norwich and Fakenham; and
- The Inter-Departmental Business Register (2016) shows 23 businesses within the parish. Larger employers within the parish include Bawdeswell Garden Centre, including the Bluebell Square Shopping Centre.

3.207 Bawdeswell has a rich historic environment with an extensive conservation area and a number of listed buildings around the church.

3.208 The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment shows that the settlement is located within the character area 'Wensum and Tud Settled Tributary Farmland', where development will have to be taken into consideration. The majority of the settlement is situated upon Grade 3 Agricultural Land with Grade 2 Agricultural land to the south, east and west.

Map 3.5 Summary of Bawdeswell Allocation.



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Bawdeswell Housing Allocation

Land off Hall Road (LP[004]008)

Land amounting to 1.7 hectares is allocated for a residential development of at least 36 dwellings. **The provision of open space is required in accordance with Policy ENV 04 (MM65).** Development will be subject to compliance with **adopted Development Plan policies and** the following criteria:

1. Provision of safe highways access from Hall Road;
2. Appropriate density and scale to reflect and respect existing development;
3. Retention of important trees and hedgerows. Screening should be provided to the south of the site; and
4. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified (MM65).**

3.209 This is a greenfield site located to the south of Bawdeswell. The site is located adjacent to existing residential development off Hall Road and Paradise Lane. The site is therefore closely related to the built form of the village. The site itself is well related to the services and facilities within Bawdeswell. The school, public house, convenience shop, garden centre, cafe, shop and community facilities are all within walking distance. In addition the site is well related to the bus stops.

3.210 To the south of the site is Fakenham Road (A1067), which is the main road between Fakenham and Norwich. The site would be visible from the A1067, however it would be separated from it by other fields. Appropriate native screening should be provided on this boundary.

3.211 The site benefits from very limited constraints. The historic characterisation study highlights that development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response.

3.212 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported (MM66).

Garboldisham

3.213 Garboldisham is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period, providing an additional 50 dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of these 50 there are currently 10 completions and 5 commitments. 35 dwellings are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan. (MM67)

3.214 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 969. Garboldisham is identified as a Local Service Centre village through the Local Plan as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

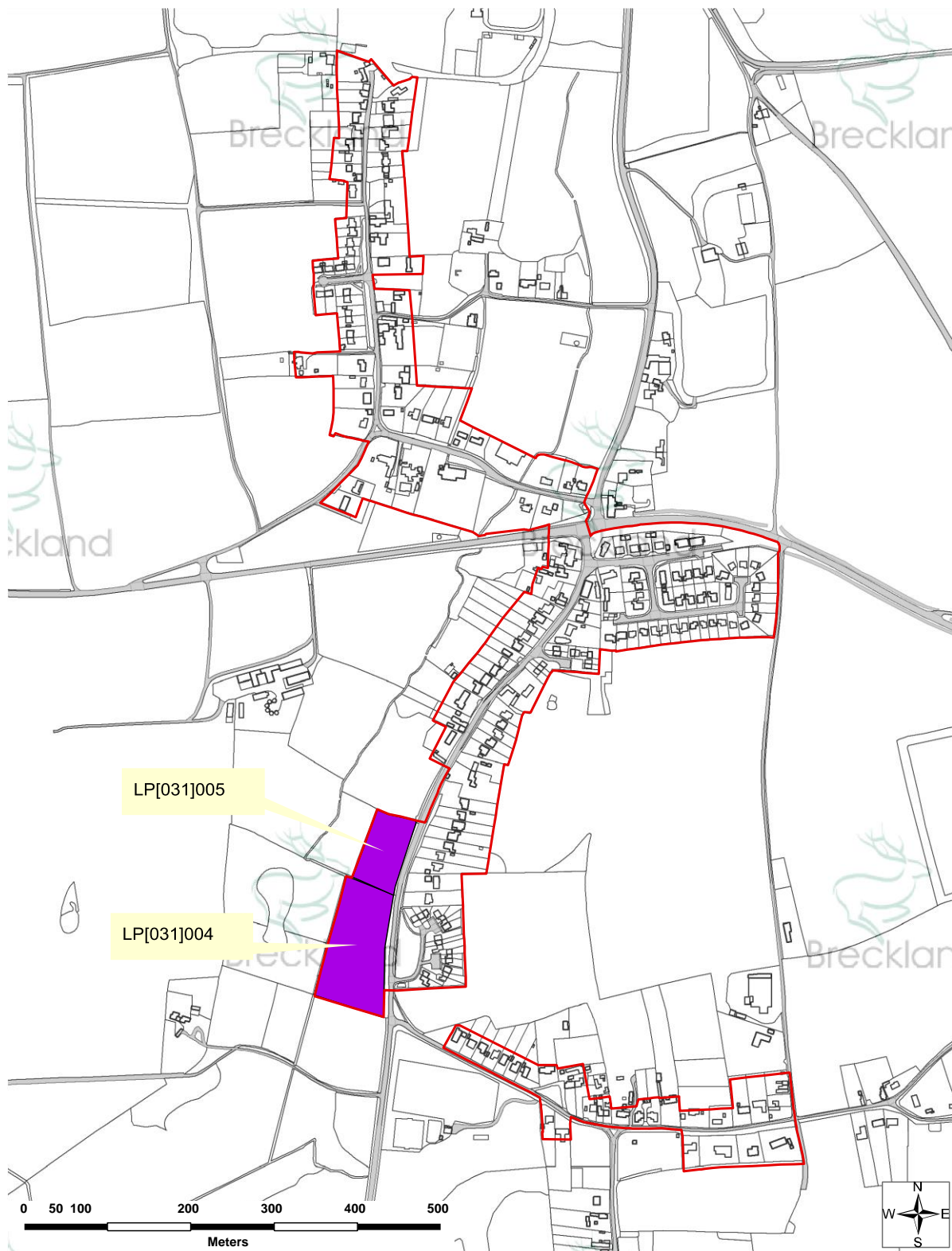
- Garboldisham CE VC Primary School; Shop and Post Office;
- Village Hall;
- The Fox Public House - recently re-opened as an asset of community value, currently operating friday-sunday. Bus service to Bury St Edmunds; and
- There are 25 businesses in the inter-departmental business register 2016. The largest employer within the village is Mervyn Lambert Plant Hire.

3.215 Garboldisham has a rich historic environment with an extensive conservation area with several listed buildings.

3.216 The Breckland Landscape Character Fringe Assessment shows that the land to the north and south of the village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'The Brecks – Heathland with Plantation,' a small section of land to the north east is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'North Lopham Plateau' and the west and south west of the village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'Little Ouse Tributary.'

3.217 The Water Cycle Study (WCS) has indicated that the Waste Water Treatment Works which serve the village do not currently have available flow headroom at the discharge point into the Little Ouse, to accommodate the growth proposed within the Local Plan. Improvements would therefore be needed to the treatment works. The WCS has indicated that a technically feasible engineering solution can be delivered to accommodate all of the growth proposed. The upgrades are within the limit of conventional treatment and should be included within Anglian Water's business plan going forward.

Map 3.6 Summary of Garboldisham Allocation



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Garboldisham Housing Allocation

Land to the west of Hopton Road (LP[031]004 and LP[031]005)

Land amounting to approximately 1.45 hectare is allocated for residential development of at least 35 dwellings. A minimum of 1 Local Area for Play (LAP) will be provided within the site, alongside related landscaping and facilities. Development will be subject to compliance with **adopted Development Plan policies and (MM68)** the following criteria:

1. Provision of safe highways access from Hopton Road;
2. Provision of improvements to the footpath network to provide safe pedestrian access on Hopton Road;
3. Appropriate density to reflect and respect existing development;
4. A masterplan approach should be included to ensure a cohesive development, with particular regard to respecting site levels and landscape;
5. A site specific flood risk assessment should be included with the planning application. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures should be provided within the site. Where possible this should be included as part of the landscaping scheme;
6. **Development proposals in Garboldisham should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential capacity limitations at Garboldisham Waste Water Treatment Works and within the foul sewerage network. A Utilities Statement will be required to support the planning application to demonstrate how capacity will be made available in time to serve the site (MM68);**
7. The site is underlain by a defined Mineral Safeguarding Area for sand and gravel. Any future development on this site will need to address the requirements of Norfolk Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy CS16 - 'safeguarding' in relation to mineral resources;
8. Appropriate use of height and scale to ensure the site's position as a key gateway to the settlement; and
9. **The scheme will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets.**

3.218 This is a greenfield site, located on grade 4 agricultural land to the south of Garboldisham on Hopton Road. The site is situated within a gateway location into Garboldisham from Suffolk. The Development along Hopton Road is predominantly linear in nature, and characterised by detached dwellings. This site is opposite Thomas Bole Close, which includes terraced properties around a central area of open space. Land to the west and south of the site is in agricultural use. The site is closely related to the recreation ground within Garboldisham. The other services and facilities within the village are located within walking distance of this site.

3.219 The principal highways and pedestrian access to the site will be provided from Hopton Road. Improvements will be required to ensure suitable viability splays and connection to the footpath network along Hopton Road.

3.220 The historic characterisation study has indicated that development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken to inform an appropriate design response. This site will need to be designed and developed in tandem with site LP[031]005 due to shared complexities relating to site levels and landscape impact. A masterplan approach to the development is therefore required.

3.221 The Water Cycle Study (2017) indicates that the WwTW is at capacity and there is no available headroom in the discharge permit. Solutions are readily achievable within the limits of conventional treatment methods and would not present a barrier to growth, nor affect phasing of development in this location. However due to the acute issue with capacity identified in the Water Cycle Study, it is recommended a Utilities Statement is submitted to support the planning application (MM69).

3.222 The sequential test has indicated that the western boundary of this site is subject to 1 in 1000 and, to a lesser extent, 1 in 100 year flood events. A site specific flood risk assessment should be included with any application to address issues of surface water flooding and appropriate mitigation requirements. The extent and location of the surface water flooding along the western boundary will need to be taken into consideration through the layout of the scheme. The use of SUDs should be implemented to manage increased run off from new development.

Great Ellingham

3.223 Great Ellingham is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period, providing an additional 88 dwellings over the plan period to 2036. There are currently 36 completions and 159 commitments, meaning that Great Ellingham has already exceeded the numbers required over the plan period and, as a result, it is not proposed to allocate further sites through this plan. (MM70)

3.224 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 1132. Great Ellingham is identified as a Local Service Centre village through the Local Plan as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

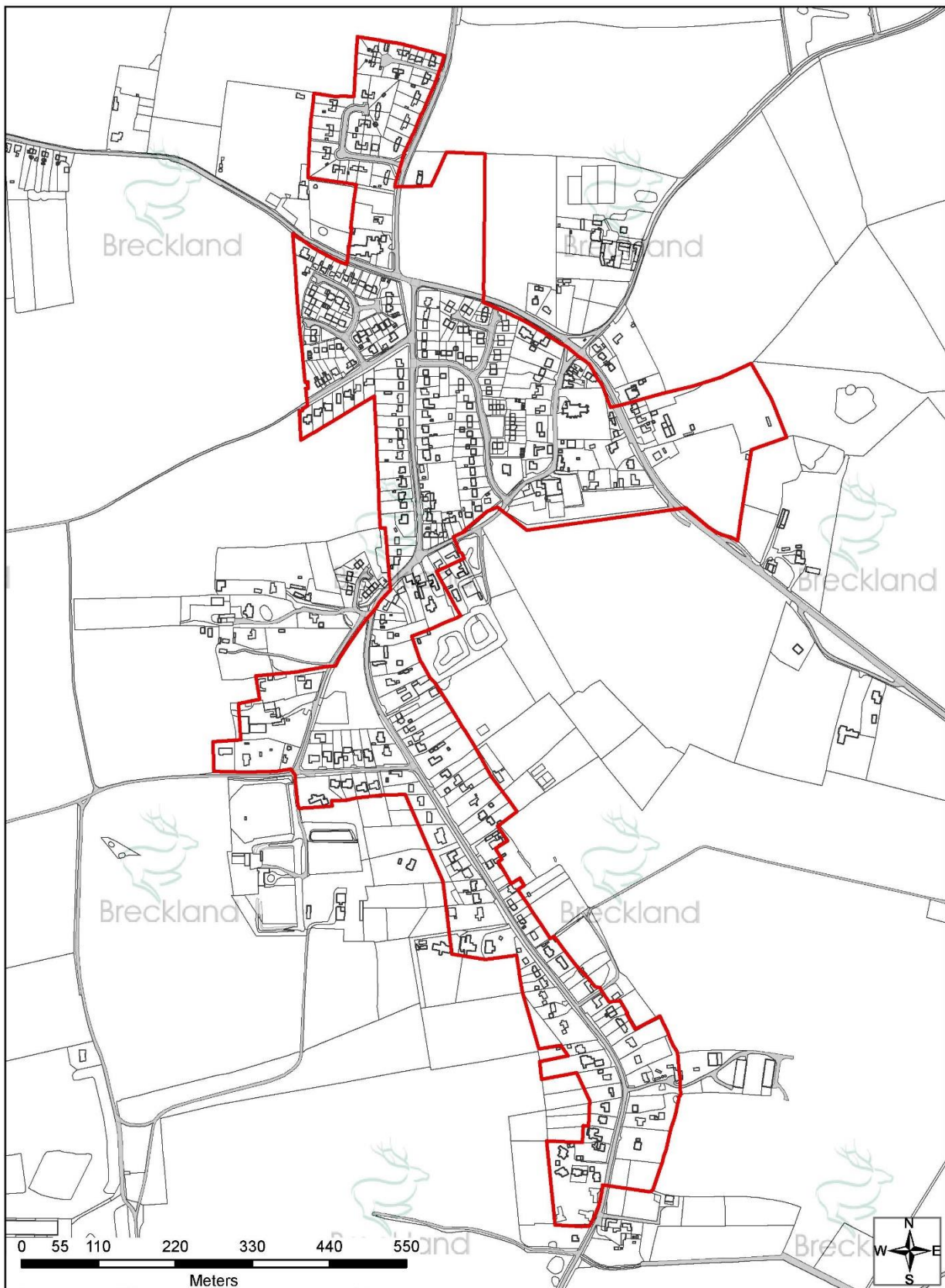
- Great Ellingham Primary School;
- Great Ellingham Village Stores and Post Office; The Crown Public House, Village Hall;
- Bus service to Attleborough and Norwich; and
- From IDBR Data (2016) there are 55 registered businesses.

3.225 Great Ellingham has several listed buildings within and around the settlement.

3.226 The Breckland Landscape Character Fringe Assessment shows that the north of village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'Watton Ridge Plateau' and the south of the village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'River Thet Tributary Farmland.' Both are of moderate sensitivity.

3.227 Land to the south of the settlement is predominantly of Grade 3 quality agricultural land while most of the area to the north is of Grade 2 quality.

Map 3.7 Great Ellingham Settlement Boundary



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Harling

3.228 Harling is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period to 2036. The village will provide an additional 250 dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of these 250, there are currently 126 completions and 39 commitments. 85 dwellings are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan (MM72).

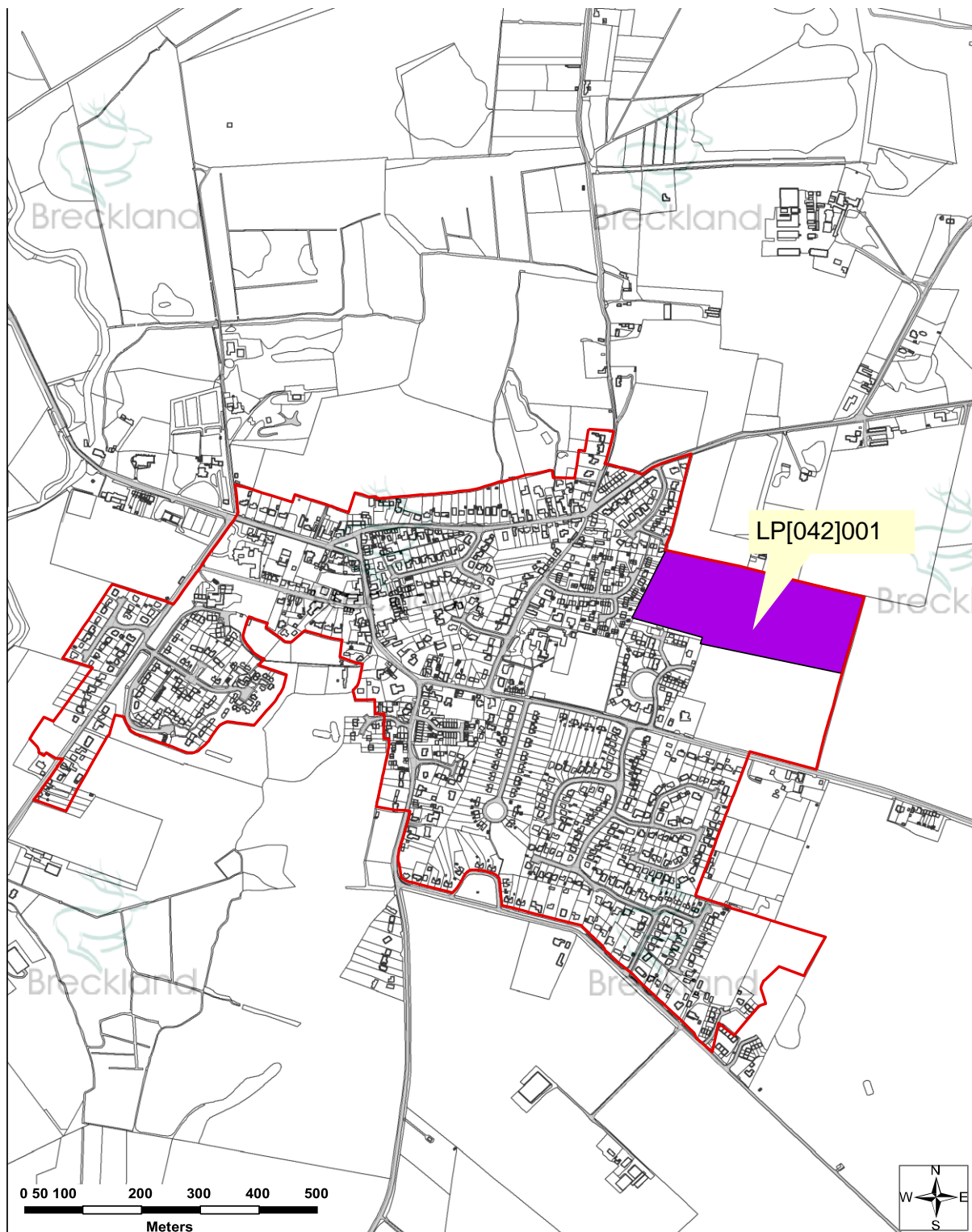
3.229 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 2142. East Harling was previously allocated for development through the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD with a single site for 50 dwellings which has the benefit of planning permission and is now being built out. East Harling is identified as a Local Service Centre village as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

- East Harling Primary School and Nursery;
- East Harling Shopper, Butchers, Fish and Chip Shop;
- The George & Dragon Public House, the Old Swan Public House, Doctors and Village Hall; No.10a bus service between Harling and Norwich; and
- The Inter-Departmental Business Register (2016) shows there are 85 registered businesses in Harling. Additionally there is significant employment at Roudham (less than 2km from East Harling village).

3.230 The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment Fringe Study shows that most of the land surrounding the village is of moderate sensitivity (East Harling Heathlands). There is an area of moderate-high sensitivity to the west/south west (Middle Harling Valley Floor) and an area of high landscape sensitivity to the north of the settlement (East Harling Fen).

3.231 The land to the east of Harling is predominantly Grade 3 agricultural land with the land to the west being Grade 4 agricultural land.

Figure 3.2 Summary of the Harling Allocation.



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Harling Housing Allocation

Land off Kenninghall Road (LP[042]001)

Land amounting to approximately 5.3 hectares is allocated for a residential development for at least 85 dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with **adopted Development Plan policies** the following criteria:

1. The provision of safe access to the site from Kenninghall Road. **A second access point will also be required from Mount Pleasant Drive (MM73);**
2. Retention and enhancement of trees and hedgerows to provide screening;
3. The layout and design of the site will have regard to adjoining development, particularly in regard to density, massing and scale;
4. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified;**
5. **The provision of open space is required in accordance with Policy ENV 04 (MM73);**
6. **The development will need to address through an appropriate legal agreement the widening of Kenninghall Road and provision of a footway along the frontage of the site and west all the way to Mount Pleasant Drive;**
7. **The development will need to extend of the 30mph speed limit on Kenninghall Road to include entire site frontage;**
8. **The development should consider the proximity of the foul pumping station in the design and layout of the scheme, and allow for a distance of 15 metres from the boundary of the curtilage of the dwellings to reduce the risk of nuisance/loss of amenity associated with the operation of the pumping station; and**
9. **The scheme will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets, with particular regard to the East Harling Conservation Area (MM73).**

3.232 The site is an arable field which is classified as grade 3 agricultural land. The site is well related to the built extent of Harling, existing residential development is located to the west and south-west. The primary school is also located to the south-west of the site. Land directly to the south of the site has planning permission under application 3PL/2014/0620/F for 37 dwellings. Access to the site will be required to be met through the existing development to the south of the site, off Kenninghall Road.

3.233 The site benefits from very limited constraints. The site is considered to be in a sustainable location, with good access to services and facilities within the village. The Breckland Historic Characterisation Study noted that the development proposal

for the site should demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. Development of the site should have regard to the surrounding densities.

3.234 Due to the size of the site it would be expected to provide onsite open space facilities. This should include as a minimum, a Locally Equipped Area for Play (LEAP).

3.235 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported (MM74).

Hockering

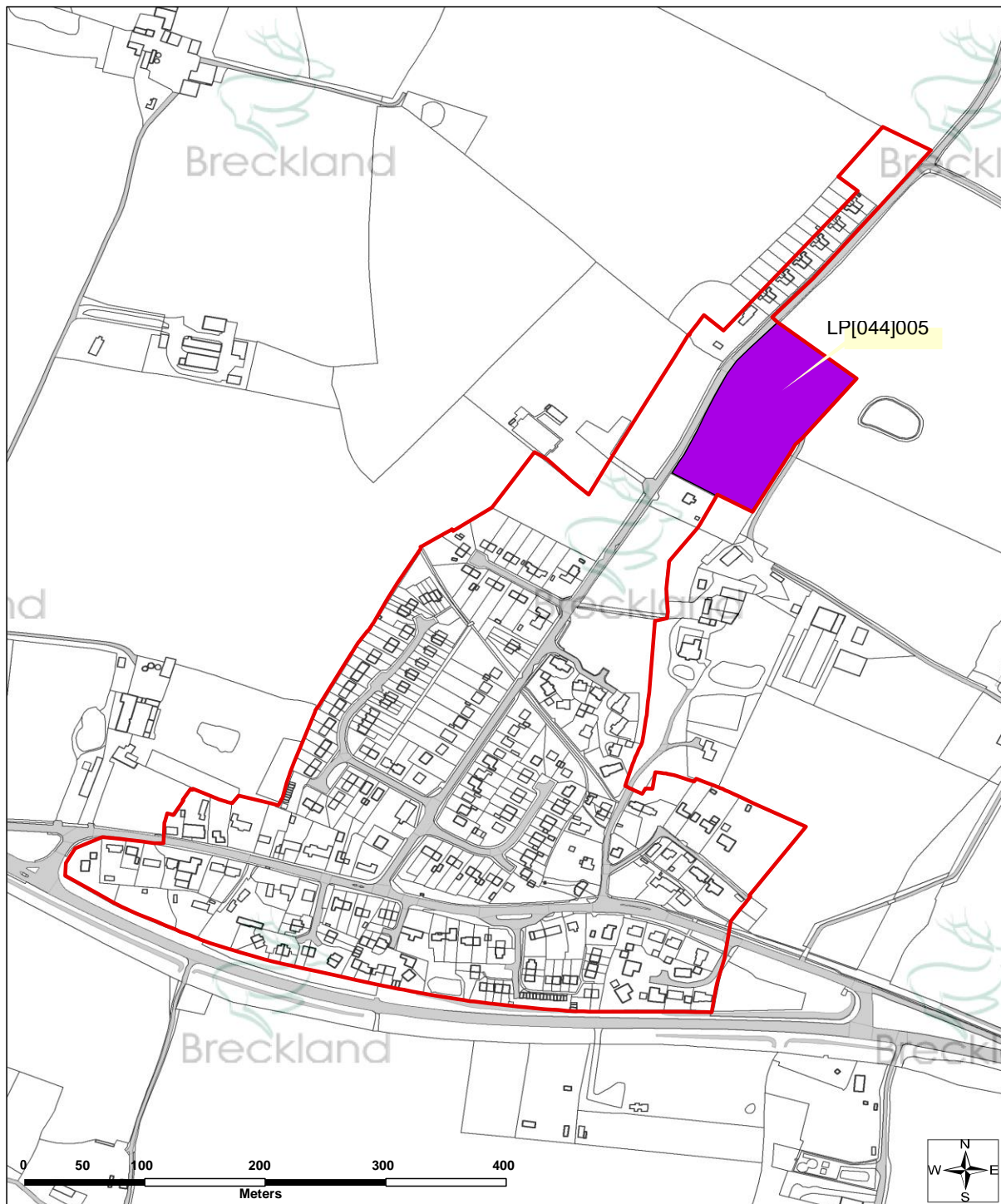
3.236 Hockering is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period 2036. The village will provide an additional 98 dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of these 98 there are currently 6 completions and 67 commitments. 25 additional dwellings are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan (MM75).

3.237 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 711. Hockering is identified as a Local Service Centre village through the Local Plan as it meets the five criteria by having the following services:

- Hockering Primary School; Shop and Post Office;
- The Victoria Public House, Village Hall;
- The village is located on the X1 bus route, which provides an hourly service between Dereham and Norwich; and
- The Inter-Departmental Business Register (2016) shows 19 businesses within the parish.

3.238 The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment shows that the entire village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'River Tud '. Hockering Wood, situated to the north west of the settlement, is an ancient woodland and a designated SSSI.

Map 3.8 Summary of the Hockering Allocation.



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Hockering Housing Allocation

Residential Allocation - Land to the east of Heath Road (LP[044]005)

Land amounting to approximately 1.2 ha is allocated for a residential development of at least 25 dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with **adopted Development Plan policies and (MM76)** the following criteria:

1. Access to the site is from Heath Road;
2. Retention of existing boundary native hedgerow and trees, where possible, to act as screening from the wider landscape and for ecological benefit;
3. Appropriate density to reflect and respect existing development;
4. Appropriate use of height and scale to ensure the site's position as a key gateway to the settlement;
5. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified.**

3.239 The site is situated upon **1.2 (MM77)** hectares of agricultural land of Grade 3 quality. This site was originally submitted as part of a significantly larger site, however this has been reduced to reflect the housing target within the village. The site is located to the north of Hockering with access onto Heath Road. **Part of the site is subject to a planning application for 12 dwellings.** Planning approvals have recently been granted on land to the west of Heath Road.

3.240 The site is located on a gateway into the village from the north and the scale of the development should reflect this location. Adjacent to the site is the playing field and there are good links into the village from the site.

3.241 Development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. In this particular instance, respecting the topography of the land and the views of the landscape to the west will be additional factors in the formation of proposals.

3.242 No fundamental constraints to the delivery of the site were identified through the site assessments.

3.243 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If

acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported (MM77).

Kenninghall

3.244 Kenninghall is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period 2036. The village will provide an additional 66 dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of these 66, there are currently 27 completions and 4 commitments. Due to constraints regarding alternative sites, particularly around the historic environment, it is proposed that only 15 dwellings will be allocated through the Local Plan. 20 further dwellings will be delivered through Policy HOU 03 (MM78).

3.245 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 941. Kenninghall is identified as a Local Service Centre village through the Local Plan as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

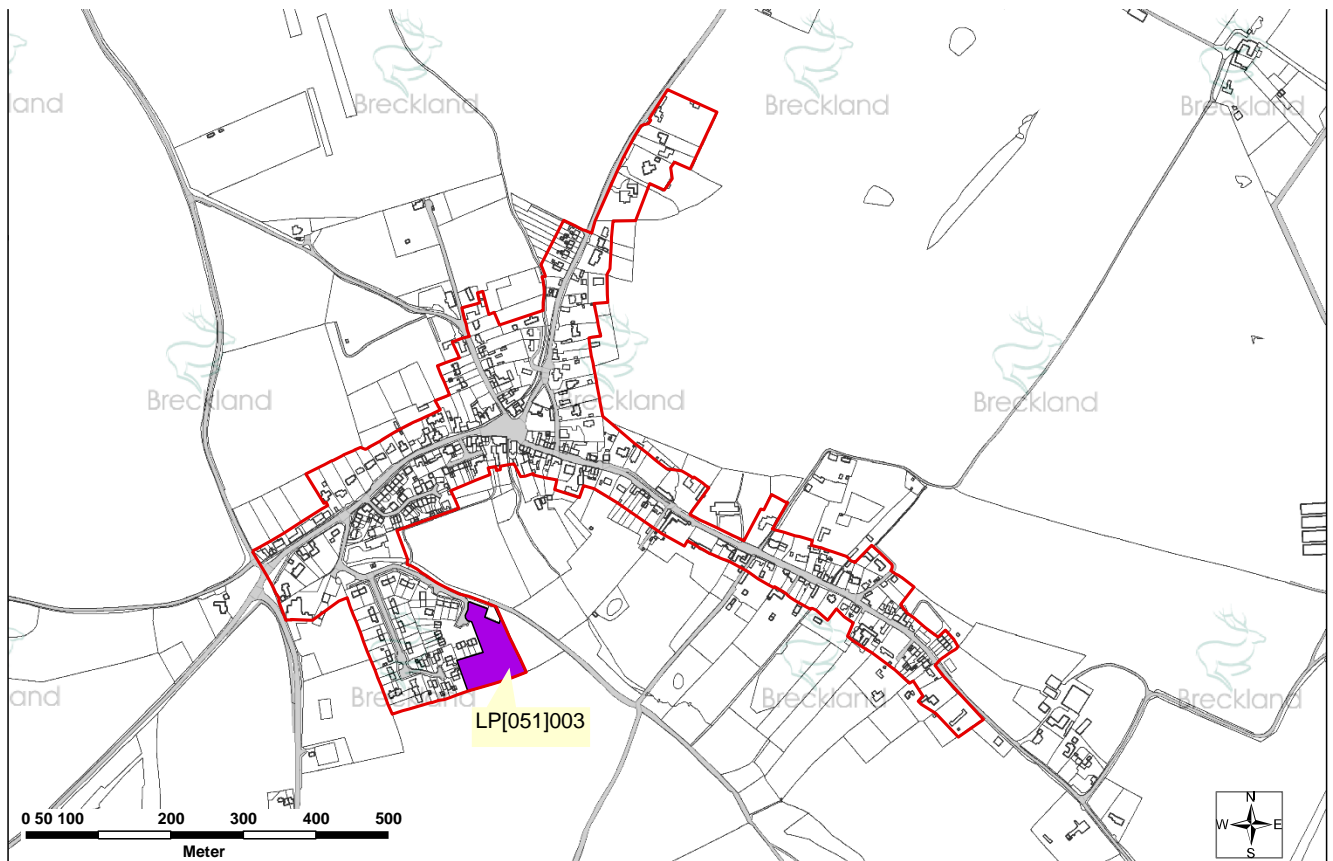
- Kenninghall Primary School; Kenninghall Store and Post Office;
- The Red Lion Public House, The White Horse Public House (Closed), Village Hall, Doctors Surgery; Bus service to Norwich; and
- From IDBR (2016) there are 38 registered businesses.

3.246 Kenninghall has a rich historic environment with an extensive conservation area with a number of listed buildings.

3.247 The Breckland Landscape Character Fringe Assessment shows that the land to the south and east of the village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'The Buckenhams Tributary Farmland,' and land to the north and west of the village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'The Brecks – Heathland with Plantation.'

3.248 The majority of the land surrounding Kenninghall is of grade 3 agricultural quality, with an area of grade 4 land encompassing the east of the settlement.

Map 3.9 Summary of the Kenninghall Allocation.



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Kenninghall Housing Allocation

Land off Powell Close (LP[051]003)

Land amounting to approximately 0.6 hectares is allocated for a residential development of at least 15 dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with adopted **Development Plan** policies and **the following criteria (MM77)**:

1. **The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets, with particular regard to the Conservation Area (MM79);**
2. Provision of safe highway access onto Powell Close;
3. The layout and design of the site will provide an appropriate response to the established pattern of development at Powell Close;
4. The site is underlain by a defined Mineral Safeguarding Area for sand and gravel. As the site is under 1hectare it is exempt from the requirements of Norfolk Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy CS16– 'safeguarding', in relation to mineral resources. If the site area is amended in the future to make the area over 1 hectare CS16 will apply; and
5. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified (MM79).**

3.249 The site is situated upon 0.6 hectares of Grade 3 agricultural land to the south of the existing settlement boundary. There is existing development to the north and west of the site with agricultural land to the south and the east. The site also adjoins the conservation area. Norfolk County Council Highways, through consultation, raised no objection to the site subject to a safe access and adequate visibility.

3.250 The site itself is within 800m (10 minutes walking distance) to key services within the village: Primary school, shop & post office, doctors surgery, village hall and bus stop.

3.251 The site benefits from limited constraints; however, the Historic Characterisation Study (2017) sets out that development proposals "must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. In this particular instance, the existing pattern of established development will be an additional factor in the formation of proposals".

3.252 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul

sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported. (MM80)

Litcham

3.253 Litcham is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period, providing an additional 32 dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of these 32, there are currently 7 commitments and 3 completions. Due to constraints regarding sites submitted it is proposed that 22 further dwellings will be delivered through Policy HOU 03 (MM81).

3.254 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 618. Litcham was identified as a Local Service Centre through the Core Strategy and continues to be identified as a Local Service Centre village through the Local Plan as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

- Primary school and High School; Post Office and General Store;
- The Bull Public House and Restaurant, Village Hall and Litcham Health Centre; Good range of bus services; and
- The Inter-Departmental Business Register (2016) shows 22 businesses within the parish.

3.255 Litcham has a rich historic environment with an extensive conservation area and a number of grade II listed buildings along with the 12th century grade I listed church. The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment shows that most of the land surrounding the village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'River Nar Tributary Farmland' The majority of the land to the north of Litcham is Grade 2 agricultural land with the land to the south being of Grade 3 agricultural quality.

3.256 As part of the preparation of the Local Plan, earlier iterations have assessed sites for inclusion within the settlement boundary. There are no suitable sites which have been put forward. As such no allocation is included within the Local Plan, but the need is to be met through a criteria based policy, HOU 03.

Map 3.10 Litcham Settlement Boundary.



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Mattishall

3.257 Mattishall is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period, providing an additional 149 dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of these 149, there are currently 26 completions and 111 commitments, with a further 12 with decision to grant subject to a section 106, meaning that Mattishall has already exceeded the numbers required over the plan period and, as a result, it is not proposed to allocate further sites through this plan (MM82).

3.258 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 2617. Mattishall is identified as a Local Service Centre village as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

- Mattishall Primary school;
- Post Office, 2 shops, butchers and a pharmacy;
- Village Hall, Swan Inn, Fish and Chip Shop and Mattishall Sports and Social Club; Konnect bus 4 to Norwich, Konnect bus 13a to Easton College; and
- The Inter-Departmental Business Register (2016) shows 79 businesses within the parish.

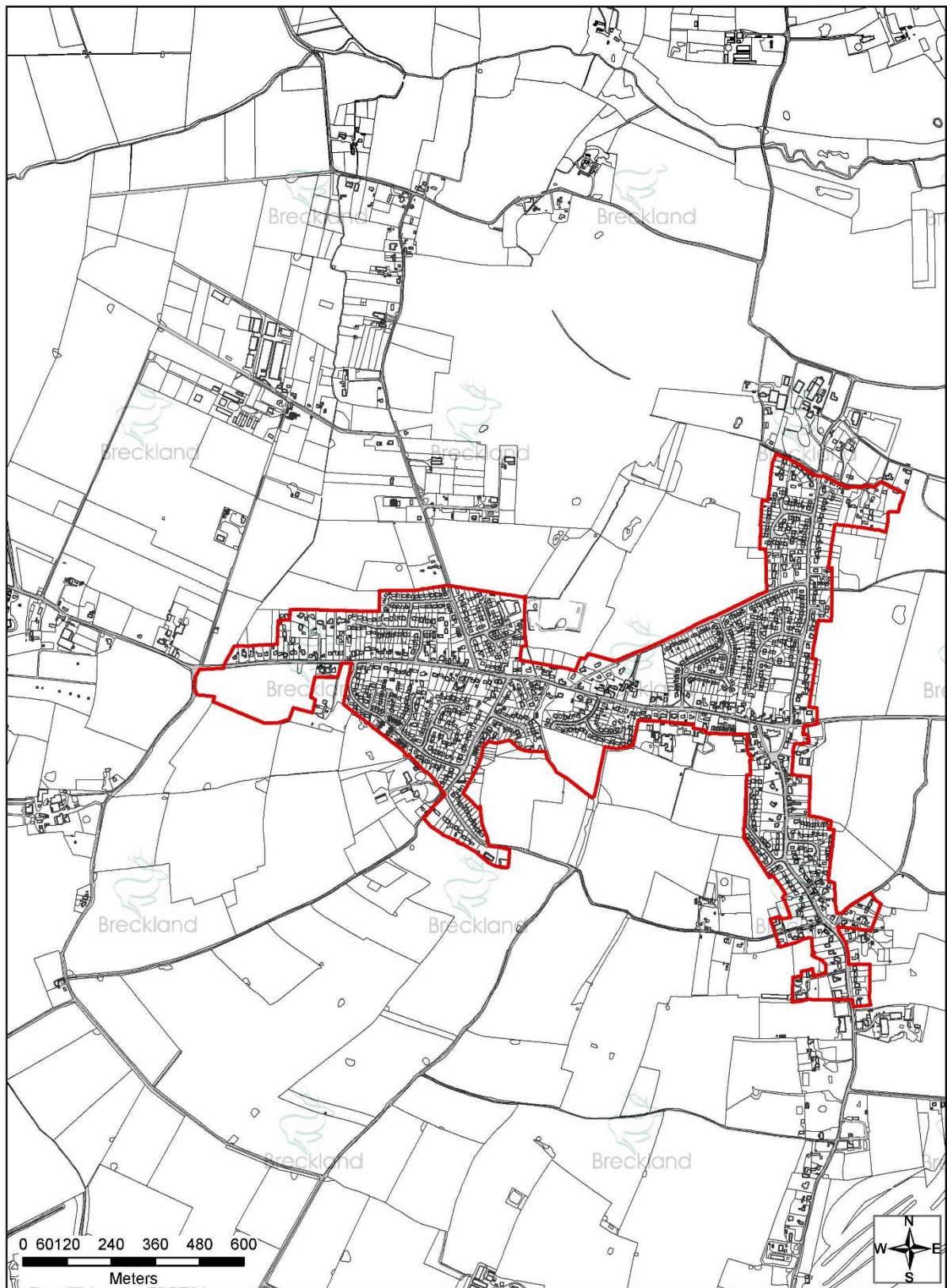
3.259 Mattishall has a rich historic environment with two separate conservation areas with a number of listed buildings.

3.260 The Breckland Landscape Character Fringe Assessment shows that most of the land surrounding the village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'Mattishall Hall Small Scale Plateau', which is of Moderate/High Landscape sensitivity. The land to the east of the settlement is located within the Landscape Character Area 'Mattishall Burgh Large Scale Plateau Farmland', which is of Moderate Landscape Sensitivity.

3.261 The majority of the land surrounding Mattishall is of Grade 3 Agricultural quality.

3.262 As part of the preparation of the Local Plan, earlier iterations have assessed sites for inclusion within the settlement boundary. There are no suitable sites which have been put forward. As such no allocation is included within the Local Plan, but the need is to be met through a criteria based policy, HOU 03.

Map 3.11 Mattishall Settlement Boundary.



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Narborough

3.263 Narborough is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period, **providing an additional 160 dwellings over the plan period** to 2036. Of these, there are currently 18 completions and 92 commitments, **with a further 10 with decision to grant subject to section 106. 40 additional dwellings are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan (MM84).**

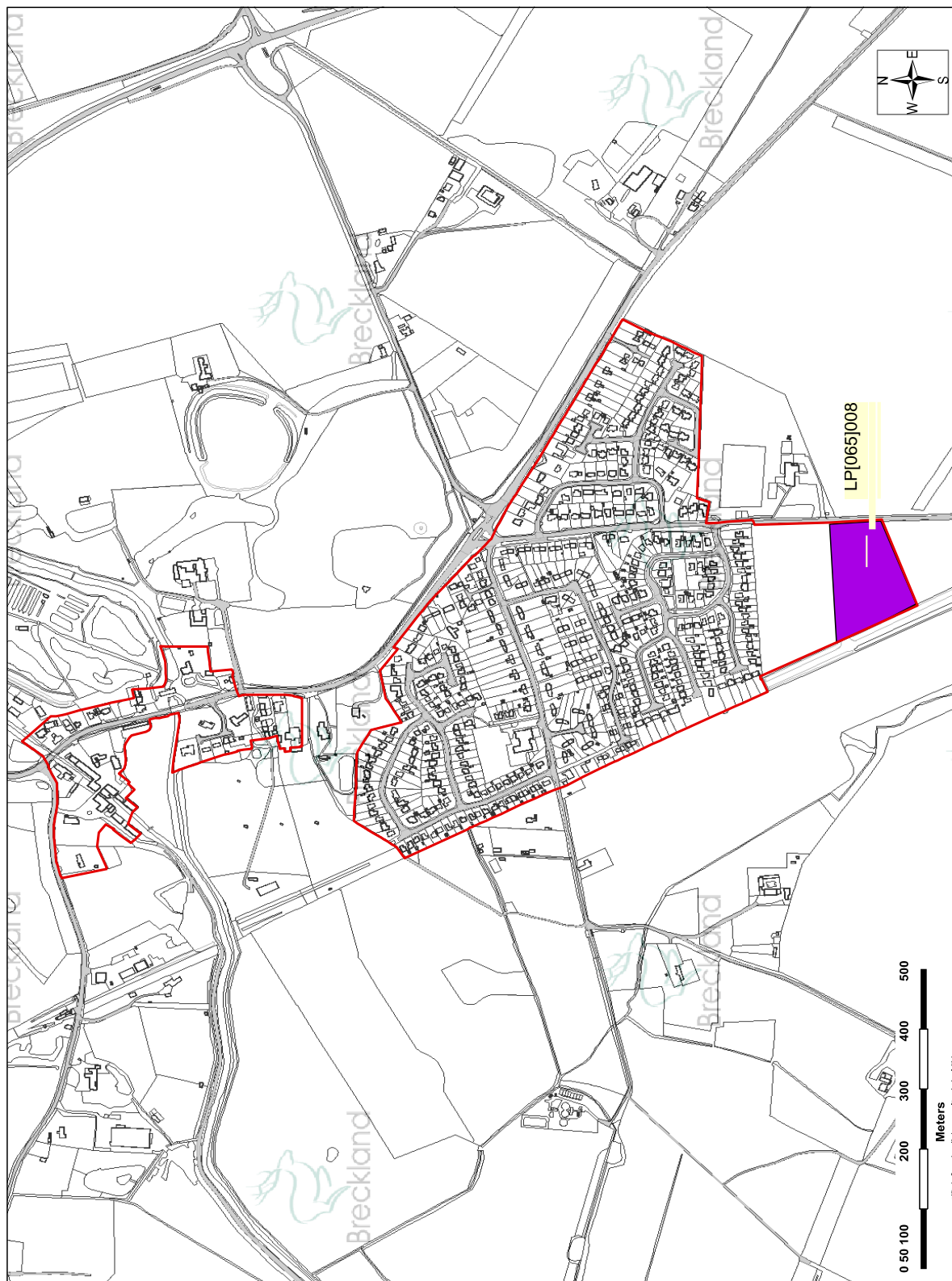
3.264 The 2011 Census showed that the village had a population of 1094. Narborough was previously identified as a local service centre village through the Local Development Framework and was allocated 50 dwellings, on a single site to the south of the village off Chalk Lane. The village is closely related to the A47 trunk road.

3.265 Narborough is identified as a Local Service Centre village as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

- Narborough Primary School; Post office;
- Community facilities in the form of a community centre, The Ship Inn Chinese restaurant and a doctors surgery;
- The village has a regular bus service and is located on the X1 route between Peterborough and Lowestoft; and
- There are a good range of businesses and employment opportunities within the village.

3.266 The River Nar is located on the north of the village. This area is included within the Narborough Estate Valley Floor character area which had a high sensitivity to change as set out within the settlement fringe landscape character area. This area also incorporates a conservation area. The majority of the village falls within the Narborough Farmland and Plantation character area which has a moderate sensitivity to change.

Map 3.12 Summary of the Narborough Allocation.



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Narborough Housing Allocation

Land to the south of Chalk Lane (LP[065]008)

Land amounting to approximately 1.7 hectares is allocated for a residential development of at least 40 dwellings. **The provision of open space is required in accordance with Policy ENV 04 (MM85).** Development will be subject to compliance with adopted **Development Plan** policies and the following criteria:

1. The principle access is provided from Chalk Lane;
2. New structural landscaping is provided on the southern boundary of the site to minimise the impact of the new settlement edge formed by the development;
3. Important boundary trees are retained within the detailed site design;
4. Suitable improvements to Chalk Lane;
5. Suitable improvements to pedestrian and cycle links from the site to the village along Chalk Lane are provided;
6. A pre-application enquiry with Anglian Water Services is required for this site in accordance with the Water Cycle Study to demonstrate that sufficient capacity is available to transfer wastewater for treatment. Where insufficient capacity within the wastewater network is identified, financial contributions may be sought;
7. Submission of a project level Habitats Regulation Assessment to determine the impact of proposed development on Breckland SPA/SAC and to assess habitat suitability, the need for additional survey work and mitigation strategies where required; and
8. **The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets. An archaeological assessment is required to support the application (MM85).**

3.267 The site is situated upon 1.7 hectares of greenfield land with an agricultural land grade of 3. The site is well related to the Narborough built form. It is adjacent to the settlement boundary, with the land to the north of the site currently under construction for 55 new dwellings. The northern site was allocated previously through the Site Specifics Policies and Proposals DPD. The site is within 800m of Narborough Primary School and approximately 600m from a bus stop. The site is also located to the west of the community centre, children's play area and playing fields.

3.268 There are limited constraints regarding the site; however, it is noted that the site is within relatively close proximity to the Railway Embankment SSSI, but not adjacent to it. As a result of the distance from the SSSI, it is considered that there are unlikely to be any detrimental effects on the SSSI as a result of the identification of the site. The remaining part of the former railway line backs on to the site and is of

some biodiversity interest, although it is considered that this is not an overriding constraint to development provided that the detailed site design has regard to this important feature. The settlement fringe landscape character assessment includes this site within the Narborough Farmland and Plantation Character Area which has a moderate sensitivity to change. The site is located on a minor gateway into the village and this should be considered through any application. There is screening at the western edge of the site, adjacent to the dismantled railway line, however there is no screening to the east or north of the site.

3.269 The proposed allocation is within 1500m and 3km of the Brecks SPA. The Breckland Local Plan Submission HRA identifies that there is a likely significant effect on European sites through the screening of allocations in the Local Plan. Due to a lack of data it is not possible to rule out the potential impact of development on functionally linked land for Stone Curlews. The policy requires a project level HRA, which may consist of additional survey work and will determine site specific mitigation measures.

3.270 The Historic Characterisation Study, 2017, indicated that the site would have limited impact upon the historic environment, but that "Development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. Preserving trees on the site, respecting the site's location on the edge of the settlement and the site being a prominent gateway into the village will be additional factors in the formation of proposals."

3.271 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported. (MM86)

Necton

3.272 Necton is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period to 2036, **providing** an additional **283** dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of these **283**, **80** are currently completed and a further **124** are committed. **79 additional dwellings are proposed to come forward through the plan period. Of these 79, 61 are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan, of which 46 currently have decision to grant subject to section 106, and a further 18 dwellings are proposed to be delivered through Policy HOU 03. (MM87).**

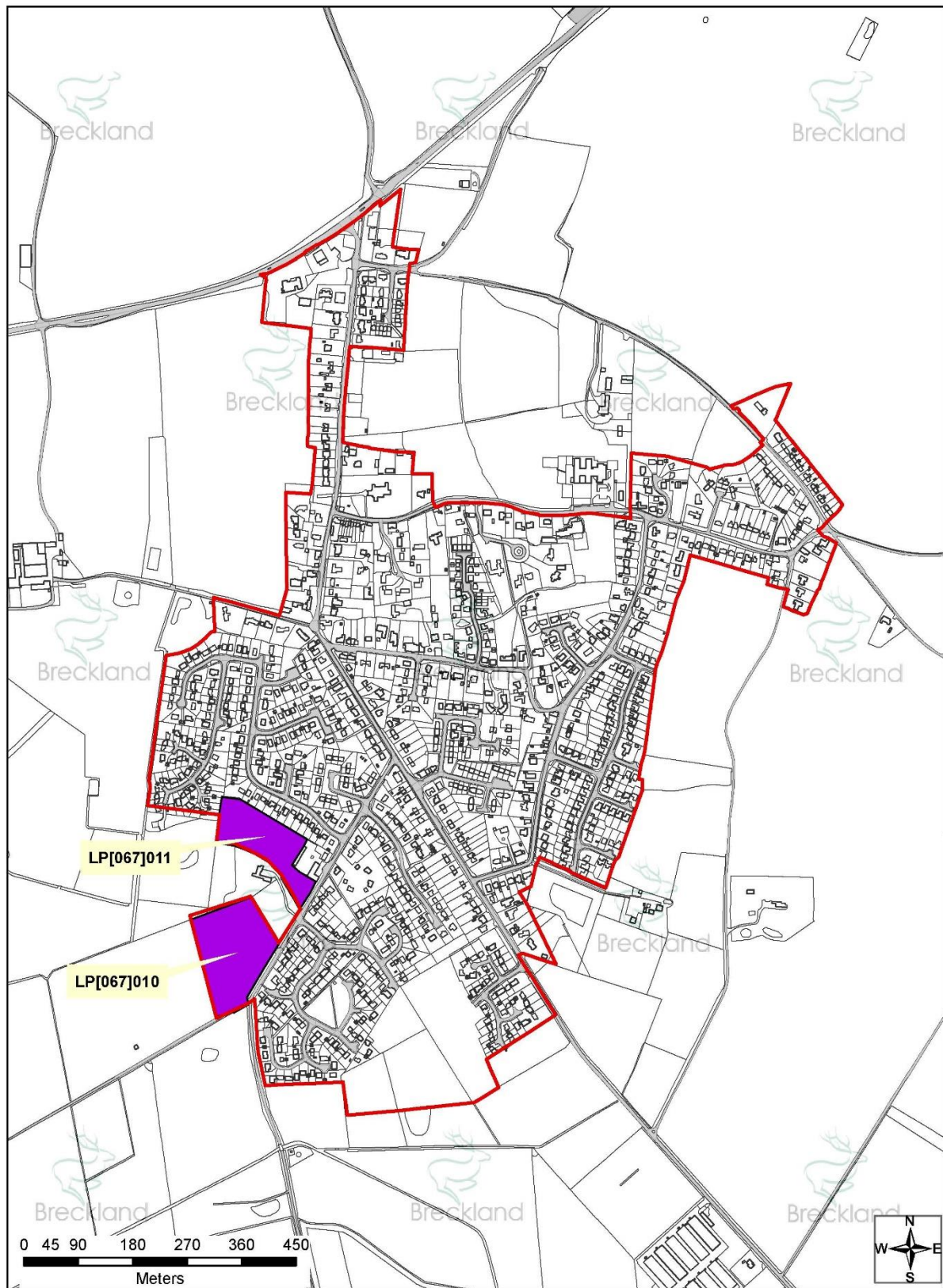
3.273 Necton was previously identified as a local service centre village through the Local Development Framework, however it did not receive an allocation due to the level of committed development within the village. The village is closely related to the A47 trunk road and has a population of 1923 (as of the 2011 census).

3.274 Necton is identified as a Local Service Centre village as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

- Necton Primary School; Sherwood Stores and Post Office;
- Community facilities in the form of a community centre, the Windmill Inn Pub and doctors surgery;
- The village has a regular bus service and is located on the X1 route between Peterborough and Lowestoft; and
- The IDBR (2016) shows 39 businesses within the parish.

3.275 The Settlement Fringe Landscape Character area includes the majority of the village within the Holme Hale Small Scale Tributary Farmland which has a moderate to high sensitivity to change. This is a slightly higher sensitivity than the land to the north and north-east of the village, which falls within the Sparham Hall Open Tributary Farmland which has a moderate sensitivity to change.

Map 3.13 Summary of the Necton Allocations.



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Necton Housing Allocation 1 (MIN23)

Land off North Pickenham Road (LP[067]010)

Land amounting to 1.7 hectares is allocated for residential development of at least 46 dwellings. Development will be permitted subject to compliance with adopted **Development Plan (MM89)** policies in the Local Plan and the following criteria:

1. Principal highway access is provided from North Pickenham Road;
2. Suitable improvements to pedestrian and cycle links from the site to the village along **the North Pickenham Road** are provided;
3. **The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets (MM89);**
4. Important boundary trees are retained within the detailed site design;
5. New structural landscaping is provided to the south boundary of the site to minimise the impact of the new settlement edge formed by the development;
6. The site is underlain by a defined Mineral Safeguarding Area for sand and gravel. Any future development on this site will need to address the requirements of Norfolk Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy CS16 - 'safeguarding' in relation to mineral resources; and
7. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified (MM89).**

3.276 This site currently includes buildings and land associated with Erne Farm. The land representation for this site also included land south of Brown's Lane with a view that this would be used to provide open space. Norfolk County Council highways have not raised any objections to the site. **A planning application on the site now has decision to grant subject to a section 106 agreement for 46 dwellings (3PL/2016/0983/O) (MIN24).**

3.277 The site is located within flood zone 1, there are higher areas of flood risk located to the south, but not on the site itself. The site is adjacent to the settlement boundary to the east of North Pickenham Road, however it is detached from the settlement boundary to the north which finishes at Mason's Drive. To the north of the site is the property Greensleeves, and there is a tree preservation order on the woodland at the front of the property.

3.278 The site has reasonably good access to the services and facilities within the village. However it is distant from the primary school, village hall and playing fields.

3.279 The historic characterisation study highlights the importance of Erne Farm and associated barn, which date from around 1817 and are constructed from

shuttered clay, which is rarer than clay lump. These buildings are considered to be non-designated heritage assets and are worthy of retention. The study states that "Development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. Preserving the site as a key gateway into the village, retaining the trees on site that are subject to TPOs and considering the impact upon the non-designated heritage assets will be additional factors in the formation of proposals." This has informed the proposed density of the site which has been reduced in order to conserve and protect the non-designated heritage asset.

3.280 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported (MM90).

Necton Housing Allocation 2 (MIN25)

Land between North Pickenham Road and Masons Drive (LP[067]011)

Land amounting to 1.1 hectares is allocated for residential development of approximately 15 dwellings. Development will be permitted subject to compliance with adopted **Development Plan (MM91)** policies and the following criteria:

1. Principal highway access is provided from North Pickenham Road;
2. Suitable improvements to pedestrian and cycle links from the site to the village along Chalk Lane are provided;
3. **The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets (MM91);**
4. Important trees are retained, including the mixed deciduous woodland to the rear of the site protected under TPO 2006 No.2;
5. The site is underlain by a defined Mineral Safeguarding Area for sand and gravel. Any future development on this site will need to address the requirements of Norfolk Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy CS16 - 'safeguarding' in relation to mineral resources; and
6. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified.**

3.281 This site is located to the south of the village and directly adjoins the settlement boundary at Masons Drive. The site is accessed via North Pickenham Road, and NCC highways through their consultation comments, have not raised any objections to the development of the site. The site is well related to the services and facilities within Necton.

3.282 The site is greenfield land with an agricultural land grade of 3. The settlement fringe landscape character assessment includes this site within the Holme Hale Small Scale Tributary Farmland character area which has a moderate to high sensitivity to change. The site is located on a key gateway into the village and this will need to be considered through the planning application stage. The rear section of the site includes a woodland which is protected under a tree preservation order, this restricts the site area. There are also a significant number of trees at the front of the site which restrict visibility into the site.

3.283 The site benefits from few constraints; however, the Historic Characterisation Study (2017) outlined that development proposed must "demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. In this particular instance, preserving the site as a key gateway into the village, retaining the trees on site that are subject to TPOs

and considering the impact upon the non-designated heritage assets will be additional factors in the formation of proposals."

3.284 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported. (MM92)

North Elmham

3.285 North Elmham is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period to 2036, **providing** an additional **95** dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of these, **81** are currently either completed or committed. **41 additional dwellings are proposed to come forward through the plan period. Of these 41, 27 are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan and a further 14 dwellings are proposed to be delivered through Policy HOU 03 (MM93).**

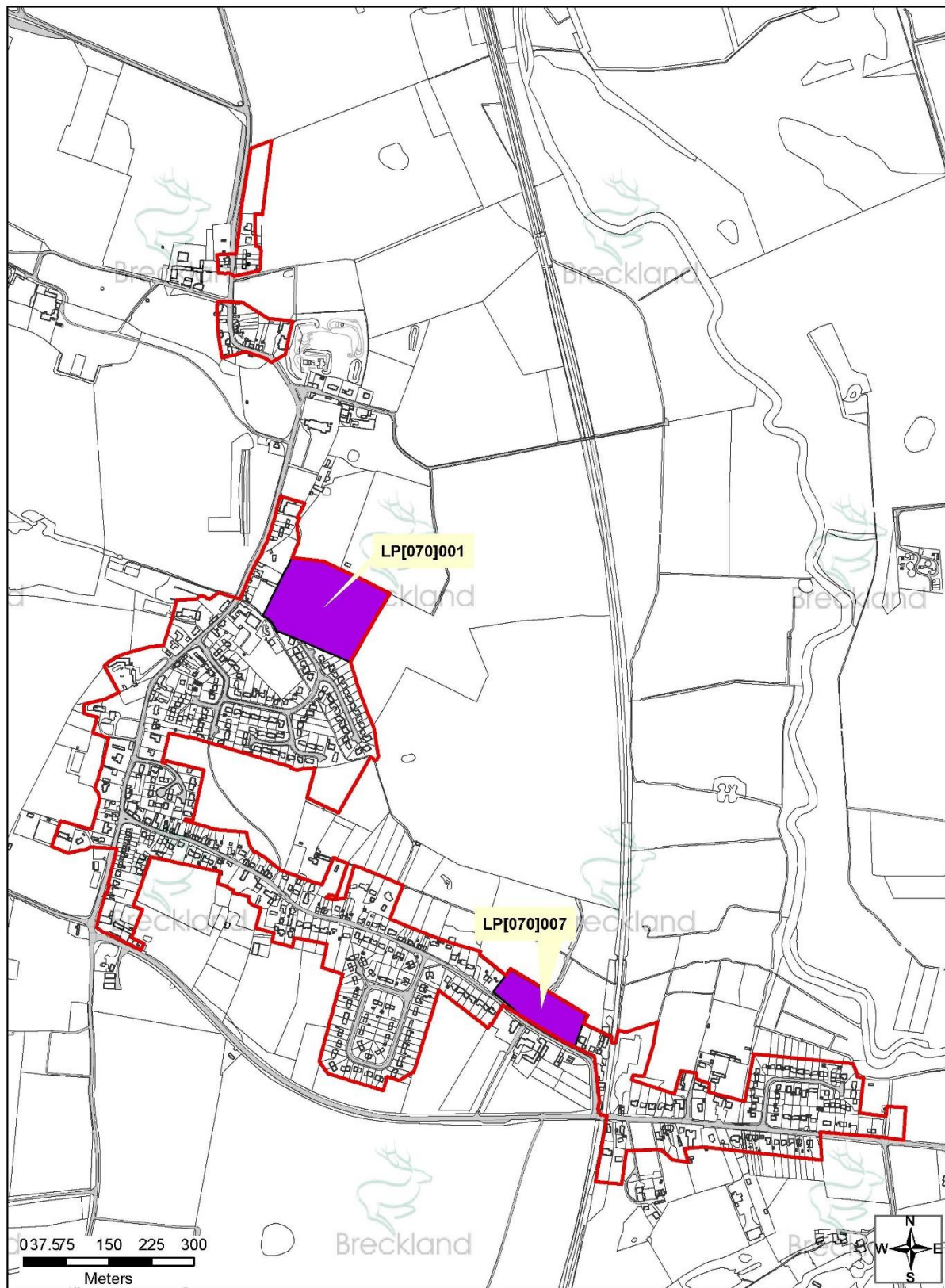
3.286 The 2011 Census showed that the village had a population of 1433. North Elmham was previously identified as a local service centre village through the Local Development Framework however it was not allocated for development but instead for the protection and enhancement of services and facilities.

3.287 North Elmham is identified as a Local Service Centre village as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

- North Elmham Primary School; Shop and Post Office;
- Community facilities in the form of a village hall, two public houses the Kings Head and the Railway Tavern, a cafe, takeaway and a doctors surgery;
- The village has a regular bus service; and
- There are a good range of businesses and employment opportunities within the village. The Inter-Departmental Business Register (2016) shows 41 businesses within the parish.

3.288 The settlement fringe landscape character assessment notes that there are two main landscape character areas surrounding the village. Land to the west is included within the Elmham Park Tributary Farmland character area which has a high sensitivity to change. This character area includes Elmham Park which is listed on the historic parks and gardens register. To the east is the County School Station Valley Floor character area which has a moderate sensitivity to change. The village contains two conservation areas. The River Wensum runs to the east of the village and is a special area of conservation.

Map 3.14 Summary of the North Elmham Allocations.



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North Elmham Housing Allocation 1

Land at Holt Road (LP[070]001)

Land amounting to approximately 2.4 hectares is allocated for a residential development of at least 16 dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with **adopted Development Plan policies and (MM95)** the following criteria:

1. Principal highways access will be provided from Holt Road;
2. Public car parking for local facilities provided within the site;
3. Provision of public footpaths to the primary school, Cathedral Drive and the adjacent community woodland;
4. **The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets (MM95);**
5. Retention of boundary trees and appropriate screening should be provided with the development;
6. A site specific flood risk assessment should be included with the planning application. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures should be provided within the site. Where possible, these should be provided as part of a landscaping scheme;
7. The site is underlain by a defined Mineral Safeguarding Area for sand and gravel. Any future development on this site will need to address the requirements of Norfolk Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy CS16 - 'safeguarding' in relation to mineral resources; and
8. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified.**

3.289 This site is predominantly greenfield land however there are some buildings on Holt Road which would be demolished in order to form safe access. The allocation site adjoins the main built up area of North Elmham, it is close to the village centre and is bounded on two sides by existing development. This site would be located within walking distance of the main services and facilities within the village, which includes a primary school, doctors surgery, public houses, village hall, shop and post office.

3.290 The boundary of this site which adjoins Holt Road is within one of North Elmham's conservation areas. The predominant form and character of the area along Holt Road is linear development, however there are areas where this isn't the case. The settlement fringe landscape character assessment includes this site within the Elmham Park Tributary Farmland character area which has a high sensitivity to change. The assessment notes the intact nature of the conservation area. The site is also in close proximity to North Elmham park which is a designated historic park and

garden. The historic characterisation study notes that development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response.

3.291 The sequential test indicates that approximately 15% of the site is situated within an area of 1 in 1000 year flood event and, to a lesser extent, 1 in 100 year and 1 in 30 year flood event in relation to surface water. Furthermore, approximately 10% of the site is situated within flood zone 2 and 3a. The areas of fluvial and surface water flooding are located on the southern boundary of the site. A site specific flood risk assessment should be submitted with any planning application. The use of SUDs may be appropriate within this site to manage increased run off from new development.

3.292 There is currently congestion from on-street car parking along Holt Road. Development of this site offers the opportunity to alleviate this congestion due to the location of the primary school, doctors surgery and village hall. This is currently included within the planning application on the site and offers a benefit to the community.

3.293 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported (MM96).

North Elmham Housing Allocation 2

Land to the north of Eastgate Street (LP[070]007)

Land amounting to approximately 0.7 hectares is allocated for a residential development of 11 dwellings. Development will be permitted subject to compliance with **adopted Development Plan policies and (MM97)** the following criteria:

1. Provision of safe highways and pedestrian access from Eastgate Street;
2. **The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets. An archaeological assessment is required to support the application (MM97);**
3. The site is underlain by a defined Mineral Safeguarding Area for sand and gravel. As the site is under 1 hectare it is exempt from the requirements of Norfolk Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy CS16– 'safeguarding', in relation to mineral resources. If the site area is amended in the future to make the area over 1 hectare CS16 will apply; and
4. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified (MM97).**

3.294 This site is greenfield pasture land located on Eastgate Street within North Elmham. The allocation site adjoins the built development to the east, west and south. To the north of the site is open countryside. The provision of safe highways and pedestrian access should be achieved from Eastgate Street. The site is located within recognised walking distances of services and facilities within North Elmham.

3.295 This site forms a significant undeveloped gap in the street scene which contributes to the open rural character of this part of Eastgate Street. The site falls within the North Elmham Conservation Area and is located in close proximity to a number of listed buildings. The site creates a break between the main body of the village to the west and development to the east on Station Road. The historic characterisation study notes that development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. The historic characterisation study goes on to note that development should seek to retain views through the site as part of the conservation area towards the valley floor.

3.296 The site is bisected by Old Hall Lane, which was, in the medieval period, one of the principal roads running through North Elmham. There is the potential that significant buried archaeological remains will be present in the area proposed. Any application will need to provide suitable archaeological evidence as part of its determination.

3.297 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported. (MM98)

Old Buckenham

3.298 Old Buckenham is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period to 2036, **providing** an additional **73** dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of these **73**, there are currently **17** completions and **19** commitments. **37 additional dwellings are proposed over the plan period. Of these 37, 20 are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan and a further 17 are proposed to be delivered through Policy HOU 03 (MM99).**

3.299 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 1270. Old Buckenham is identified as a Local Service Centre village through the Local Plan as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

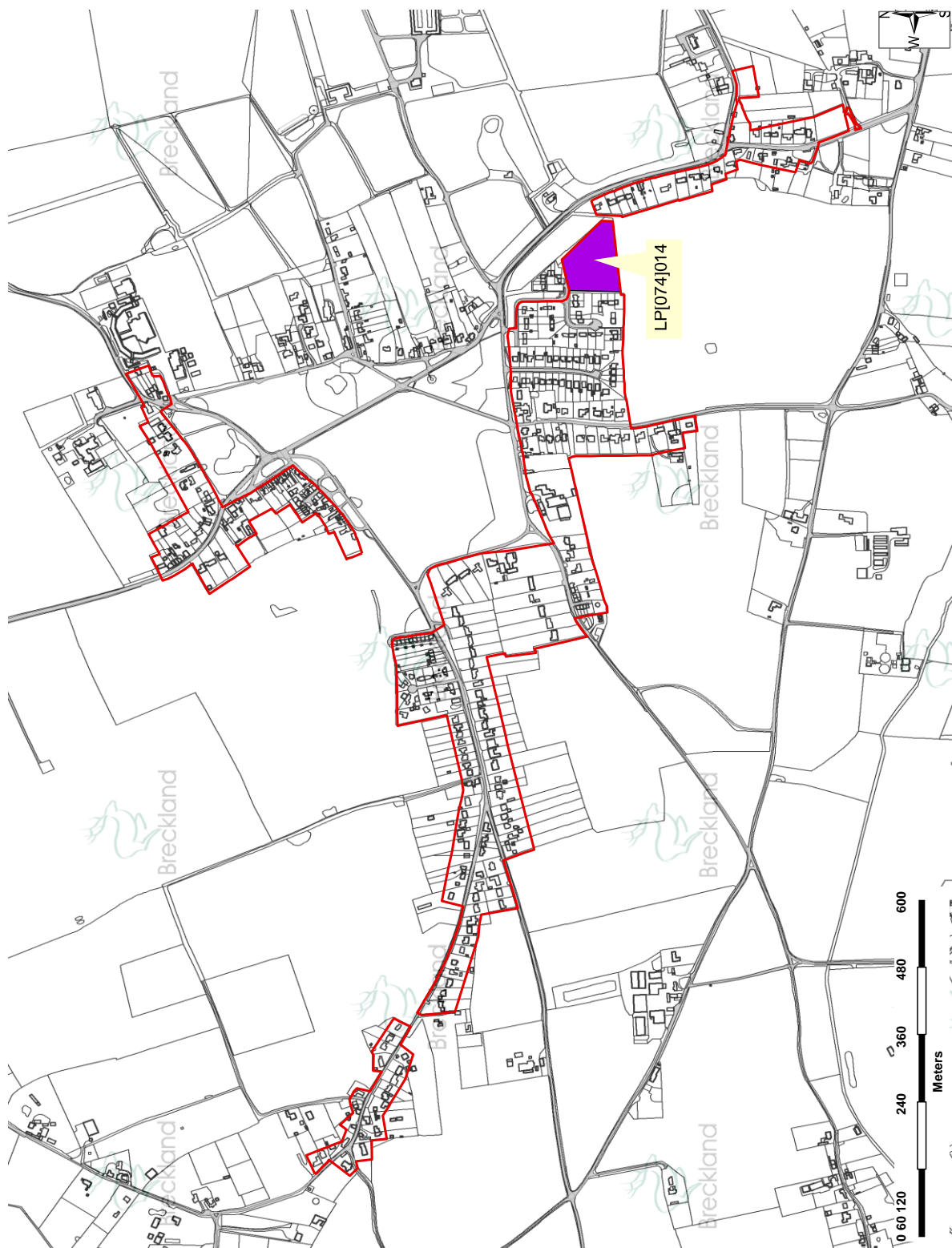
- Primary School and High School; Shop and Post Office;
- Village Hall, Ox & Plough Public House;
- Regular bus service to Norwich and Diss; and
- The Inter-Departmental Business Register (2016) shows 49 businesses within the parish.

3.300 Old Buckenham has a rich historic environment with an extensive conservation area with a number of listed buildings.

3.301 Old Buckenham is reputed to have the largest village green in Britain.

3.302 The Breckland Landscape Character Fringe Assessment shows that the land surrounding the village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'The Buckenham Tributary Farmland,' which is of High Landscape sensitivity.

Map 3.15 Summary of the Old Buckenham Allocation.



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Old Buckenham Housing Allocation (MIN26)

Land off St. Andrew's Close (LP[074]014)

Land amounting to 0.9 hectares is allocated for a residential development of at least 20 dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with **adopted Development Plan policies and (MM100)** the following criteria:

1. Appropriate **use of height, scale and density** to reflect and respect existing development;
2. **The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets;**
3. Access on to St Andrews Close;
4. Retain appropriate screening between the site and the B1077; and
5. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified (MM100).**

3.303 The site is situated upon 0.9 hectares of Grade 3 greenfield land to the east of the St Andrews Close. The site adjoins the existing settlement boundary to the east and south west of the site, with agricultural land to the south of the site.

3.304 The site itself is within 800m (10 minutes walking distance) to key services, meaning that the site is sustainable and will limit the use of personal car journeys.

3.305 The site is situated with the 'Buckenham Settled Tributary Farmland' Landscape Type where development considerations include conserving the small scale rural road pattern, ensuring that new development within the settlements reflects the use of local materials; and monitors development and boundary treatments to the settlement edges.

3.306 The Historic Characterisation Study determined that development of the site would have limited impact on the historic environment. Development proposals must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. The existing pattern of development to St. Andrews Close will be an additional factor in the formulation of proposals.

3.307 **The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported. (MM101)**

Shipdham

3.308 Shipdham is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period, providing an additional 282 dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of these 282, there are currently 75 completions and 152 commitments. 78 additional dwellings are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan (MM102).

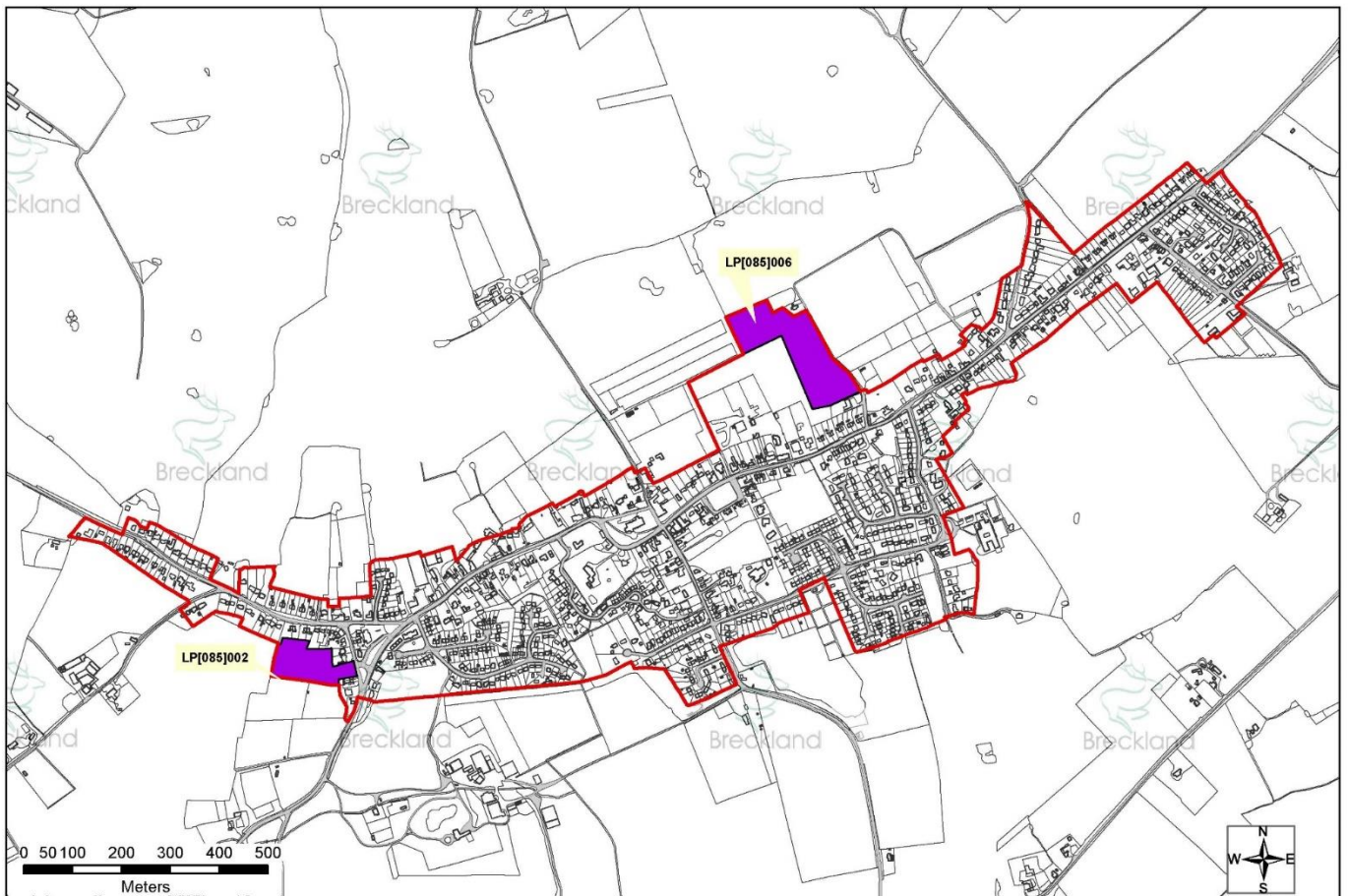
3.309 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 2057. Shipdham is identified as a Local Service Centre village as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

- Thomas Bullock Primary School;
- 2 Shops and Post Office;
- Village Hall, Golden Dog Public House, Doctors Surgery; King's Cafe, Bullock Park Pavilion;
- Regular bus service to Dereham, Swaffham and Watton; and
- The Inter-Departmental Business Register (2016) shows 69 businesses within the parish.

3.310 Shipdham has a rich historic environment with an extensive conservation area and a number of listed buildings, predominantly around the church.

3.311 The Breckland Landscape Character Fringe Assessment shows that most of the land surrounding the village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'Crows Hill and Thorpe Row Arable Plateau', which is an area of moderate/high sensitivity.

Map 3.16 Summary of the Shipdham Allocations



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Shipdham Housing Allocation 1 (MIN28)

Old Nursery, Land behind Old Post Office Street (LP[085]002)

Land amounting to 1.1 ha is allocated for a residential development of at least 23 dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with adopted Development Plan policies and (MM104) the following criteria:

1. Retention of existing access point from Old Post Office Street with implementation of additional off-site highway improvements to improve the safety of the Watton Road/Old Post Office Street junction to the satisfaction of Norfolk County Council as Highway Authority;
2. Appropriate density and design to reflect and respect existing development;
3. Retention of existing boundary trees and hedges, where appropriate;
4. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures are provided;
5. Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified; and (MM104)
6. The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets, with particular regard to the Conservation Area.

3.312 The site is situated upon 1 hectare of Grade 3 agricultural land to the southwest of the existing settlement boundary. There is existing development to the north of the site and the east. Agricultural land is located to the south and the west. This site currently has the decision to grant planning permission for 23 dwellings (planning reference 3PL/2015/1267/O) and is currently awaiting the completion of a section 106 agreement.

3.313 There are no known fundamental constraints regarding the site. The Historic Characterisation Study determined that development of the site would have limited impact on the historic environment. (MIN29)

3.314 The Breckland Settlement Fringe Landscape Assessment indicated that the site is situated within the Crows Hill and Thorpe Row Arable Plateau which is a landscape that is classified as having Moderate/High sensitivity to change.

3.315 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported. (MM104)

Shipdham **Housing Allocation 2 (MIN30)**

Land west of Brick Kiln Lane (LP[085]006)

Land amounting to 2.4 ha is allocated for a residential development of at least 55 dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with **adopted Development Plan policies and (MM105)** the following criteria:

1. Access to be obtained from Chapel Street through permitted development site: Old Coal Yard, Chapel Street including associated highway and footway improvements;
2. Appropriate density and design to reflect and respect existing development;
3. Retention of existing boundary trees and hedges, where appropriate;
4. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures are provided;
5. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified; and**
6. **The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets, with particular regard to the Conservation Area (MM105).**

3.316 The site is situated upon 2.4 hectares of Grade 3 agricultural land to the north of the existing settlement boundary. There is existing development to the south of the site with agricultural land to the east. To the west of the site there is an outline planning permission on the Old Coal Yard site, previously an allocated site (SH1) through the Adopted Site Specific Policies and Proposals Development Plan document, and this would allow for appropriate access onto the preferred site.

3.317 The site itself is within 800m (10 minutes walking distance) to key services, meaning that the site is sustainable and will limit the use of personal car journeys.

3.318 The Breckland Settlement Fringe Landscape Assessment indicated that the site is situated within the Crows Hill and Thorpe Row Arable Plateau which is a landscape that is classified as having Moderate/ High sensitivity to change.

3.319 **There are** no known fundamental constraints regarding the site. The Historic Characterisation Study determined that development of the site would have limited impact on the historic environment. **(MIN31)**

3.320 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If

acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported (MM106).

Sporle

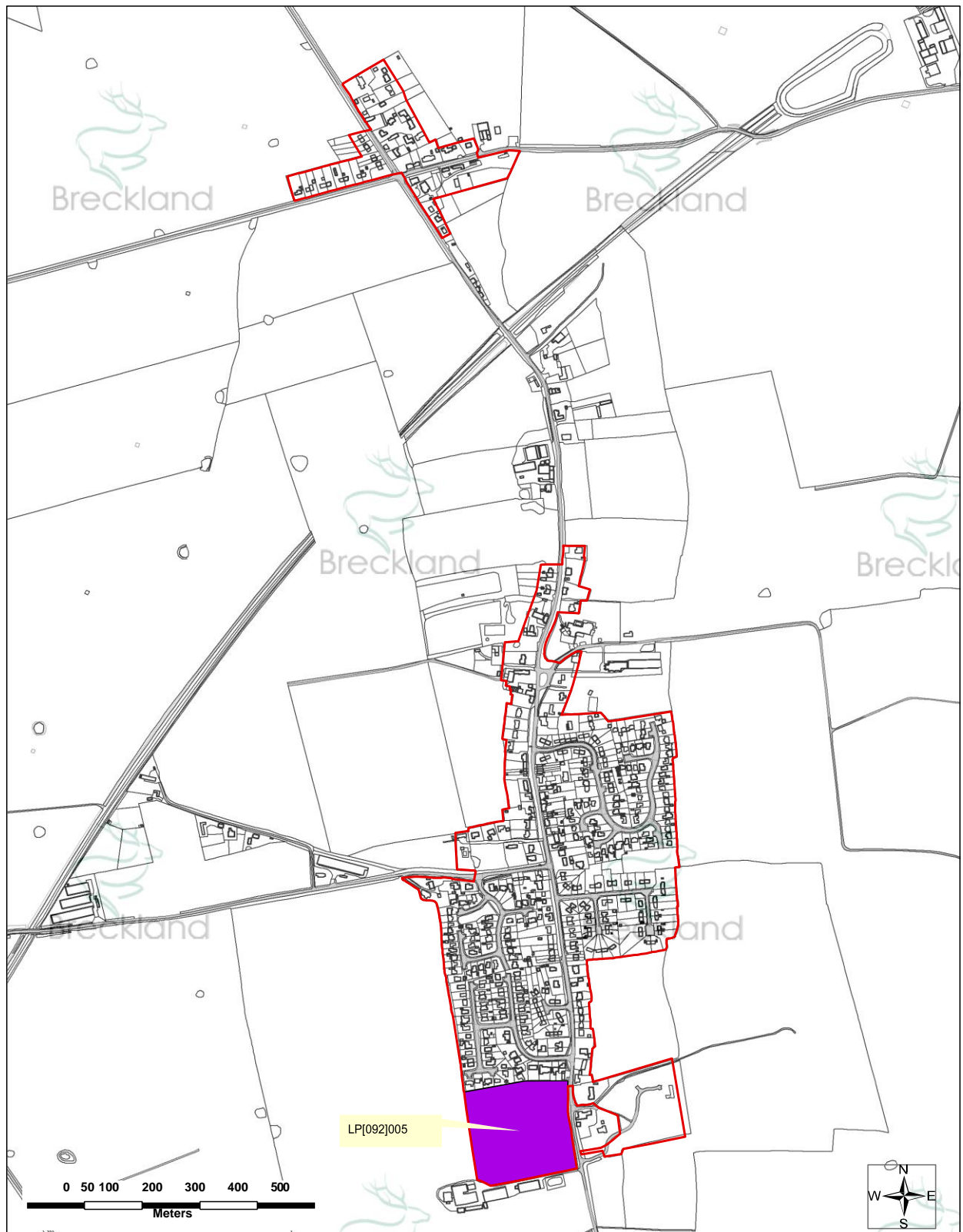
3.321 Sporle is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period, providing an additional 72 dwellings over the plan period to 2036. There are currently 19 completions and 18 commitments. 35 additional dwelling are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan (MM107).

3.322 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 1011. Sporle is identified as a Local Service Centre village as it meets the criteria by having the following services:

- Sporle Church of England Primary School;
- Shop and post office;
- Village Hall, Peddars Inn Public House;
- Frequent bus service; and
- The IDBR (2016) shows that there are 22 businesses within the parish.

3.323 The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment shows that most of the land surrounding the village is situated within the Landscape Character Area 'River Wissey settled tributary farmland'. 3.318 The land to the north and east of the settlement is predominantly agricultural land of grade 3 quality, while the area to the west and south of the settlement is grade 2.

Map 3.17 Summary of the Sporle Allocation.



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Sporle Housing Allocation 1 (MIN32)

Land to the north of Essex Farm (LP[092]005)

Land amounting to approximately 2.1 hectares is allocated for a residential development of at least 35 dwellings. **The provision of open space is required in accordance with Policy ENV 04 (MM108).** Development will be subject to compliance with adopted **Development Plan** policies and the following criteria:

1. The principle access is provided from The Street;
2. New structural landscape is provided on the southern boundary of the site to minimise the impact of the new settlement edge formed by the development;
3. Suitable improvements to pedestrian and cycle links from the site to the village along The Street are provided;
4. The site specific flood risk assessment included with the planning application shall address the significant overland flow path running through the site. If the flow path cannot be avoided then it should be demonstrated how any proposed mitigation to achieve flood free development does not worsen flooding elsewhere. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures should be included as part of the landscaping scheme;
5. **The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets. An archaeological assessment will be required to support the application (MM108); and**
6. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified.**

3.324 The site is situated upon 2.1 hectares of Grade 2 agricultural land to the south of the existing settlement boundary. There is existing development to the north and east of the site. Essex Farm is located to the south of the site and agricultural land is located to the west.

3.325 The site adjoins the existing settlement boundary and is within 800m (10 minutes walking distance) of key facilities, but just outside of 800m of the school.

3.326 The site is located within the 'River Wissey settled tributary farmland' and development guidelines in this area include ensuring important views are maintained.

3.327 The Historic Characterisation Study, 2017, indicated that development proposals must respect the setting of the nearby heritage asset, the Grade II Listed Wolferton House. Due to the location of this site in relation to the designated heritage

asset, the scheme design proposal will need to be informed via a detailed appraisal of the asset's significance.

3.328 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported (MM109).

Swanton Morley

3.329 Swanton Morley is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy and it will see 10% growth through the plan period, providing an additional 184 dwellings over the plan period to 2036. Of these 184, there are currently 84 completions and 15 commitments. 85 additional dwellings are proposed for allocation through the Local Plan* (MM110).

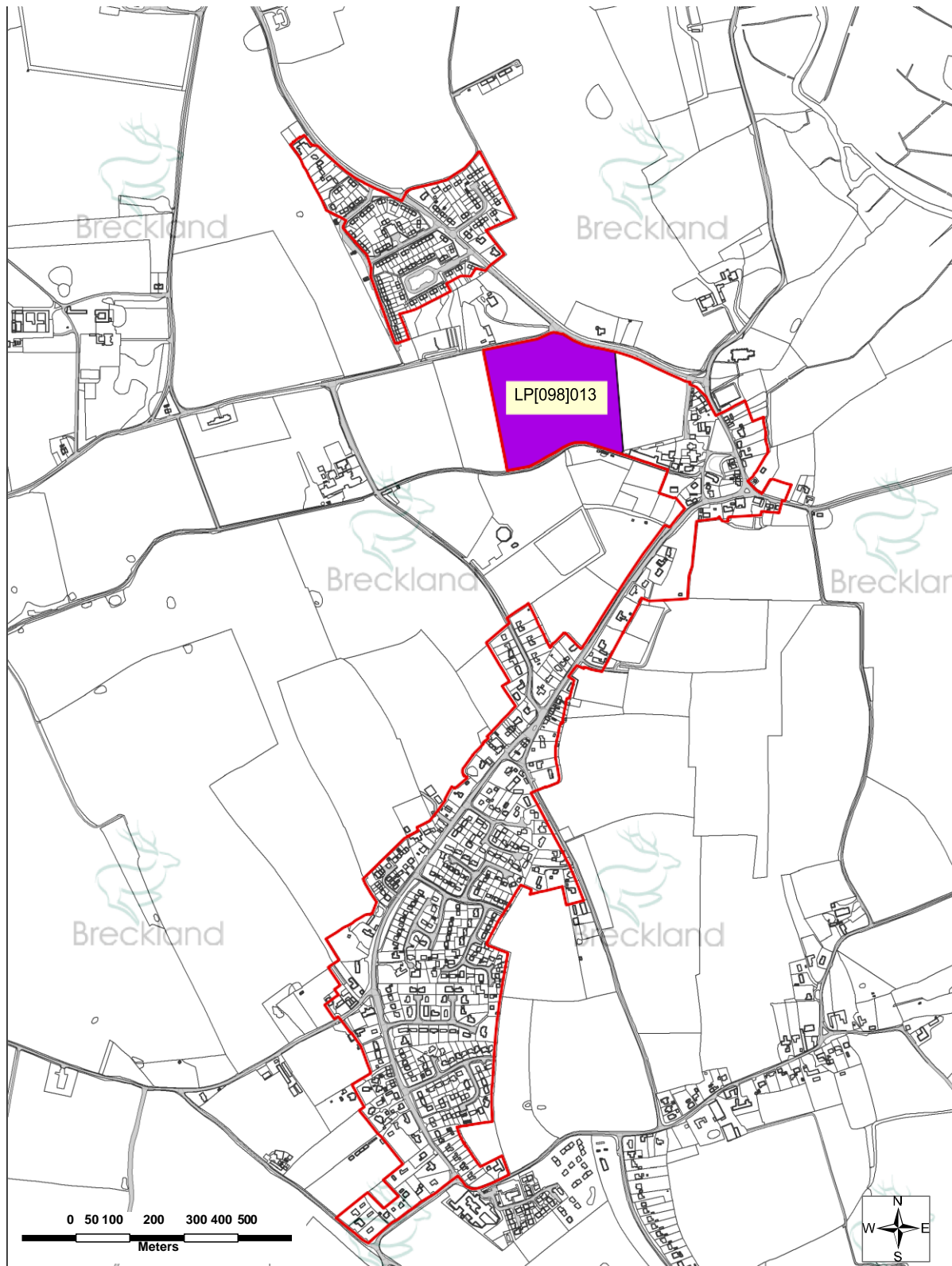
3.330 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 2100. Swanton Morley was previously identified as a local service centre village through the Local Development Framework and was allocated 50 dwellings, on a single site to the north of the village. This site is now under construction. The village contains Robertson Barracks which is the base for 1st The Queens Dragoon Guards.

3.331 Swanton Morley is identified as a Local Service Centre village as it meets the criteria by having the following services: Swanton Morley Primary School; Village shop and post office; butchers; Community facilities in the form of public houses Darby's and The Angel, village hall and doctors surgery; The village has a regular bus service to Norwich; and There are a good range of businesses and employment opportunities. The Inter-Departmental Business Register (2016) shows 52 businesses within the parish.

3.332 The River Wensum runs to the north-east of the village and the settlement fringe landscape character area classifies this as the most sensitive area of the village in relation to landscape change. The majority of the village lies within the Northall Green Enclosed Arable Farmland character area which has a moderate sensitivity to change. The hamlet of Woodgate is located to the south east of Swanton Morley and incorporated within the parish boundary. The landscape character assessments notes the importance in landscape terms of avoiding the coalescence of these two settlements.

3.333 Swanton Morley parish council is currently preparing a neighbourhood plan, when adopted this will form part of the development plan for the area. *The neighbourhood plan provides the opportunity to meet the parish's aspirations for further growth.

Map 3.18 Summary of the Swanton Morley Allocation.



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Swanton Morley Housing Allocation

Land off Rectory Road (LP[098]013)

Land amounting to 4.9 hectares is allocated for a residential development of at least 85 dwellings. Development will be subject to compliance with **adopted Development Plan policies and (MM111)** the following criteria:

1. Provision of safe highways access to the site from Rectory Road;
2. Retention of important boundary trees and hedgerows to provide appropriate screening for the site;
3. Provision of suitable pedestrian access to Harkers Lane public right of way;
4. The layout and design of the site will provide an appropriate response to the established pattern of development in the area, including with regard to density;
5. **The provision of open space is required in accordance with Policy ENV 04;**
6. **Development proposals should have regard to the findings of the Water Cycle Study which indicates potential issues with the wastewater network capacity. Applications will need to demonstrate appropriate solutions have been identified (MM111);**
7. A site specific flood risk assessment should be provided with the application. Appropriate sustainable surface water attenuation measures may need to be provided within the site, and where possible included as part of a landscaping scheme;
8. Layout of the scheme should not prejudice future development on adjoining land;
9. **The scheme's design will preserve or where possible enhance the setting of nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets;**
10. **Development should have regard to the cumulative effects of the site alongside the 52 dwellings approved under the application 3PL/2014/0083/F. (MM111)**

3.334 This site forms an extension of the Hopkins Homes site on Rectory Road which is currently under construction. The site which is currently under construction was allocated through the Site Specifics Policies and Proposals DPD. The preferred allocation is a greenfield site, with an agricultural land grade of 3. The principal access to the site should be achieved from Rectory Road. Hoe Road East is not suitable for vehicular access without significant improvement.

3.335 The site is well located to services and facilities within the development. To the rear of the site is Harkers Lane which is a public right of way and provides a walking route to the primary school. The development should provide suitable access to Harkers Lane. The settlement fringe landscape character assessment includes this site within the Northall Green Enclosed Arable Farmland character area which has a

moderate sensitivity to change. The junction of Rectory Road with Town Street represents a key gateway within Swanton Morley.

3.336 The site has limited constraints. The historic characterisation study has indicated that development proposals for the site must demonstrate that a full analysis of the immediate and wider context of the site has been undertaken so as to inform an appropriate design response. Development should respect the form and character of the surrounding area, including the lower densities on Hoe Road East.

3.337 The Councils Water Cycle Study identifies potential capacity limitations with the wastewater network transferring foul sewerage to the Waste Water Treatment Works. Applicants are encouraged to work with Anglian Water Services and the Council to demonstrate sufficient capacity is, or can be made available in the foul sewerage network in time to serve the development. Temporary solutions may be acceptable in the interim, or phasing of the development may be required. If acceptable permanent solutions are not possible, proposals will not be supported (MM112).

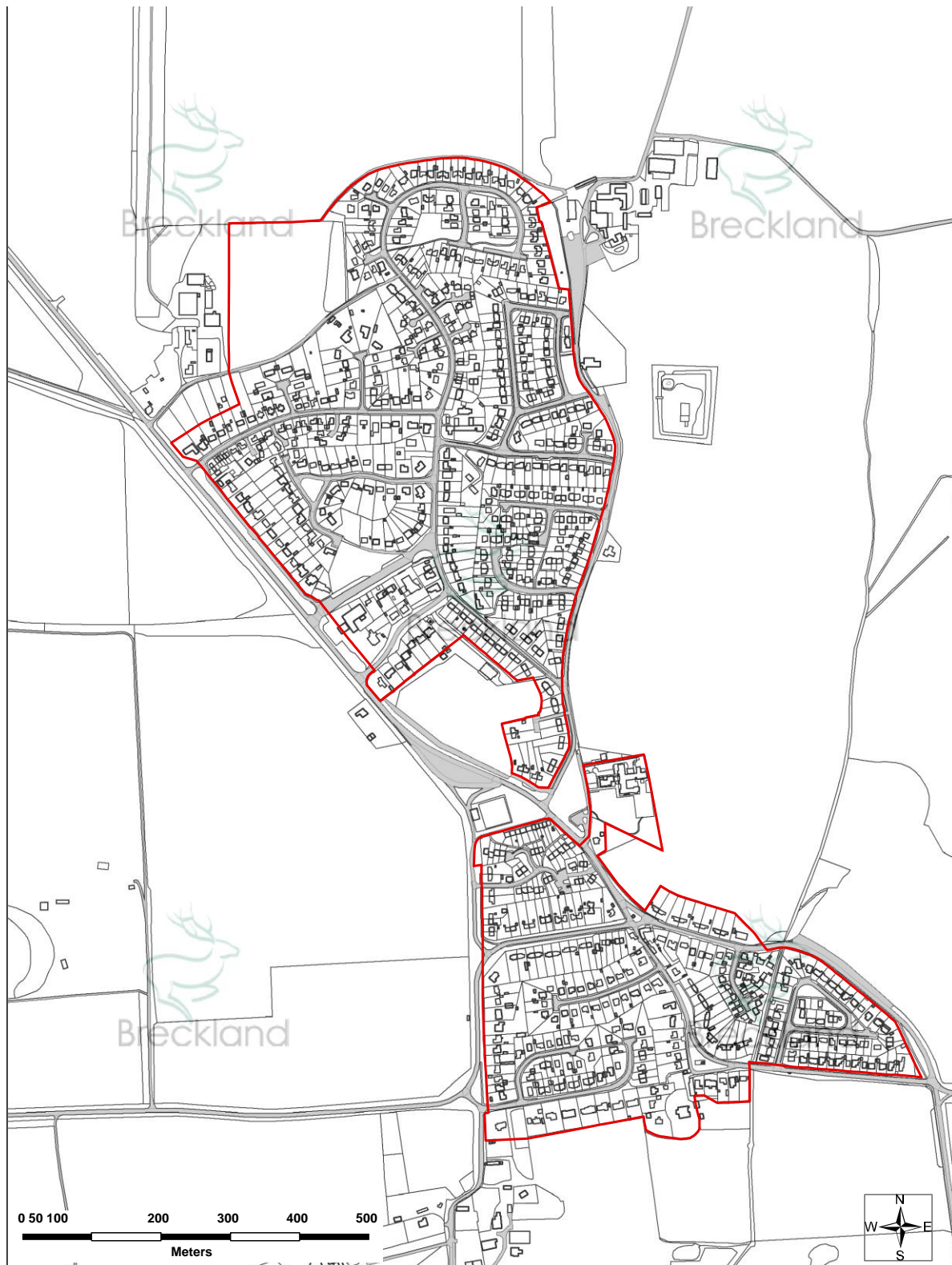
Weeting

3.338 Weeting is identified as a Local Service Centre through the locational strategy, however it is not proposed for housing growth and is instead allocated solely for services protection and enhancement. The village is located within close proximity of the Breckland Farmland Special Protection Area (SPA) and is covered by the 1500m buffer zone which is designated for the protection of the Stone Curlew which is the special interest feature of the SPA. Due to the environmental constraints surrounding the village it is not considered that an allocation is appropriate.

3.339 The 2011 Census showed that there was a population of 1839. Weeting was previously identified as a local service centre village through the Local Development Framework and for the reasons set out above, it was not designated for growth.

3.340 Weeting is identified as a Local Service Centre village as it meets the criteria by having the following services: Weeting Primary School; Village shop and post office; Community facilities in the form of the Saxon public house, a village hall and a fish and chip takeaway; The village has a regular bus service between Kings Lynn and Thetford. There is also a rail service in the neighbouring town of Brandon; and There are a good range of businesses and employment opportunities. There are two employment areas within the village at Fengate Drove and to the east of Mundford Road.

Map 3.19 Weeting Settlement Boundary



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4 Transport

Transport

4.1 This chapter sets out the Council's approach to managing growth in car travel and its linked impacts on the local economy, the environment and communities. Norfolk's third Local Transport Plan, 'Connecting Norfolk' sets out a vision that by 2026 Norfolk will have a transport system that allows residents and visitors a range of low carbon options to meet their transport needs and attracts and retains business investment in the county.

4.2 The District's economy is such that there are high levels of out commuting and commuting to and from the District's key settlements and market towns which puts pressure on the road network during peak periods. In addition, within Breckland services such as health and education tend to also be sited within the key settlements and market towns. This means that significant numbers of people must travel relatively long distances to access everyday facilities, often with the added challenge of variable quality public transport.

4.3 Two strategic vehicular routes run through the District. The A11 connects Norwich with Cambridge connecting the strategic growth areas of Attleborough, Thetford and Snetterton Employment Area. Following a high profile campaign, the remaining single carriageway section of the A11 between Thetford and Barton Mills was dualled during 2013 and 2014. This completes the dualling of the A11 between the M11 and Norwich.

4.4 The A47 runs west to east from Birmingham to Lowestoft connecting Swaffham and Dereham but at present is not fully dualled. The A47 Alliance comprises local authorities, local enterprise partnerships (LEP's), the business community, MPs and stakeholders stretching from Lowestoft to Peterborough. This body has presented a clear business case and lobbied Central Government to commit funding for improvements to the A47. The Government has committed to investment of over £300m for improvements along the A47 for delivery in the early 2020s.

4.5 Strategic road improvements must not be at the expense of environmental quality and significantly must not result in an adverse impact to the integrity of Breckland SPA, unless it can be demonstrated that there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) in accordance with the Habitats Directive. Early evidence gathering in relation to the SPA interest is required for strategic transport improvements which impact on The Brecks, in order to inform the appraisal of options and project design. Road improvements will not be promoted within 200m of Breckland SAC and within 1500m of Breckland SPA unless IROPI can be demonstrated.

4.6 Public transport services in the District are principally provided by the bus due to the rural nature of the District. Bus services focus on linking the District's market towns with shopping and employment destinations at Norwich, King's Lynn and Bury St. Edmunds. Infrequent services link rural areas with market towns, principally on market days. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan details a number of the allocated development sites in the Plan which present the opportunity to divert existing bus

routes to serve new residents and improve overall connectivity, funded by developer contributions.

4.7 Reducing the reliance on the private car and promoting active lifestyles are mutually beneficial aims which can be achieved by supporting sustainable travel options. However, it should be recognised that for some communities public transport, walking and cycling are not realistic options, and therefore travel by car will remain an essential option for many people living in more remote rural areas. Recognising that there is a need to manage the growth in car travel, the Council seeks to widen sustainable transport choices and, particularly for shorter local journeys, encourage a reduction in car use. Additionally, to assist in reducing the need for longer distance travel, the Council will focus on retaining rural employment and local facilities in smaller settlements and encouraging home working.

4.8 The District, in common with many other places, has an ageing population where the car will, over time as people get older and live longer, become a less feasible method of transport for an increasing number of residents. The 2011 Census shows that 15.5% of the households within Breckland do not have access to a car. This figure illustrates a general trend within the East of England, with an average of 18.5%, and reflects the rural nature of the District.

4.9 Sustainable transport policy TR 01 therefore seeks to widen the choice of travel opportunities using public transport, walking and cycling. In accordance with the principles of housing policy, parking standards may need to be reviewed over time to provide for new initiatives in line with climate change and low carbon objectives. This might include: provision of dedicated spaces with charging points for electric vehicles; small and low-carbon vehicles; shared community 'pool' vehicles, and local delivery vehicles.

4.10 Norfolk County Council's Cycling and Walking Action Plan (2016) seeks to encourage walking and cycling within the District illustrating the advantages to productivity, health and wellbeing, reducing carbon emissions and encouraging tourism. The Action Plan highlights the following cycling trails within the District: Peddars Way; Little Ouse Way; Nar Valley Way; Wensum Way; and Angles Way.

4.11 When considering the opportunities to encourage walking and cycling within the district, it is also necessary to consider the perceptions of safety. Studies have shown that the perceptions of safety in relation to both walking and cycling can result in people choosing to make journeys by the private car (MM113).

4.12 Sustrans, a leading charity enables people to travel on foot and by bicycle, promotes a number of circulars within Breckland including: The Thetford Circular; the Swaffham Loop; and Route 13, which runs from Fakenham to London and passes through the market towns of Dereham and Watton and also connects the District to the north Norfolk coast.

4.13 To encourage the use of low emission vehicles to support improvements in air quality, the Council will be working in partnership with Norfolk County Council to achieve the appropriate provision of electric vehicle charging points, particularly for large scale housing, retail and commercial developments.

Policy TR 01 Sustainable Transport Network

The Council will work in partnership to promote a safe, efficient and convenient sustainable transport system. This will be achieved through:

- a. supporting improvements to the road and rail connections both within the District and to the wider area;
- b. locating development so as to ensure wherever possible, new development is **accessible to sustainable modes of transport** and **makes** provision for improved public transport; (MM114)
- c. promoting improved access to, and interchange between, all modes of transport to key settlements and town centres;
- d. reducing the need to travel by private car in towns and villages and increasing the proportion of shorter journeys made on foot or cycle; thereby providing a genuine alternative to the car and helping to facilitate a modal shift and commensurate reduction in carbon emissions; and
- e. promoting and improving safety, security and healthy lifestyles by encouraging walking and cycling, creating and improving links to existing routes and, for new developments, ensuring the provision of facilities such as secure, accessible bicycle parking with changing facilities on site.

Development should:

- seek to minimise the need to travel;
- promote opportunities for sustainable transport modes;
- not adversely impact on the operation or safety of the strategic road network;
- improve accessibility to services; and support the transition to a low carbon future.

Policy TR 02 Transport Requirements

Developments should be of high quality, sustainable in design, construction and layout as well as offering maximum flexibility in the choice of travel modes for all potential users. Proposals will be permitted that:

- integrate satisfactorily into existing transport networks;
- mitigate impacts on the local or strategic highway networks arising from the development itself, or the cumulative effects of development, through the provision of, or contributions towards, any relevant transport improvement deemed to be necessary, including those secured by legal agreement;
- protect, and where possible enhance, access to public rights of way;
- provide safe, suitable and convenient access for all users, including appropriate parking and servicing provision in terms of amount, design and layout (Appendix 2 provides a starting point) (MM115); and
- avoid inappropriate traffic generation and do not compromise highway safety.

Development proposals that are likely to generate a significant number of heavy goods vehicle movements will be required to demonstrate by way of a Routing Management Plan that no severe impacts will be caused to the efficient and safe operation of the road network and no material harm caused to the living conditions of residents.

Major development proposals should include an assessment of the impacts of new development on the existing transport network; and demonstrate how they will maximise connectivity within and through a development and to the surrounding areas, including the provision of high quality and safe pedestrian and cycle routes (MM115). Where potential transport impacts are identified, developers will be expected to produce Transport Assessments to assess the impacts and identify appropriate mitigation, together with Travel Plans where appropriate.

5 Environment

5.1 This section relating to protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment of the District cover policy issues that include the protection of specific environmental or conservation assets, and more widely the general landscape of the District.

5.2 Breckland is a diverse District for biodiversity, geodiversity and landscape quality, characterised by mixed landscape character areas including 'settled' and 'plateau' farmland to the north. The landscape changes to the west and south of the District, where the Brecks contains extensive areas of heathland within a forest and arable context. A significant proportion of the Brecks is designated as a European Special Protected Area (SPA) site, forming the largest terrestrial protected area in Norfolk. The heathland serves as an important habitat designated for its suitability to support internationally important bird species, particularly Stone Curlew, Woodlark and Nightjar.

5.3 Breckland contains a wealth of other protected areas such as Redgrave and South Lopham Fen which is one of only four sites within Norfolk designated under the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands of International Importance. Breckland also has a number of internationally important sites for biodiversity known as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) which are the most important sites for wildlife in the country. These include Norfolk Valley Fens, River Wensum and Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens.

5.4 Within Breckland, there are four Local Nature Reserves (LNR), at Litcham Common (an area of varied heathland), the Great Eastern Pingo Trail situated between Stow Bedon and Hockham (a mix of wetlands, woodlands and grasslands), land west of Weeting and grass heathland at Barnham Cross Common in Thetford. The latter is also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and located within the Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA).

5.5 Aside from the many designated environmental assets Breckland also has a vast area of tranquil countryside. The wider rural area shapes the character of the District and provides a scenic backdrop to the scattered market towns.

5.6 The settlements within Breckland are diverse in both size and type and embrace a wide range of building forms, architectural styles and building materials. District wide there are over 1,500 Listed Buildings as well as numerous buildings within the 50 Conservation Areas that cover 45 different parishes. The rich and diverse built heritage of the District contributes to its distinctive and individual characteristics.

5.7 The planned levels of growth could impact on the District's natural and historic environment. The policies in this section aim to ensure that natural and historic environmental quality of Breckland is maintained and, where possible, enhanced.

Green Infrastructure

5.8 The NPPF requires Local Authorities to plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. Green infrastructure is the network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Recognising the value of all green space, not just protected landscapes, green infrastructure is a term used to cover all types of green space, large or small, public or private; including water bodies such as river corridors.

5.9 Green infrastructure performs many functions and plays a significant role in helping to attract people, employment and investment to the District. Green infrastructure also helps in meeting social and environmental goals, such as encouraging active, healthy lifestyles and helping the District to be resilient to more frequent occurrence of extreme weather events resulting from climate change.

5.10 As a predominantly rural District, Breckland has a vast green infrastructure network, stretching from the protected European sites, through to hedgerows and trees across the northern farmlands, to back gardens and local parks. Although there is no District wide green infrastructure study the value of the green infrastructure network is nevertheless well understood and recognised. Rather than identify key green linkages for protection, the Council is seeking in its policy to recognise the value of all green infrastructure and the contribution it makes to the local area in which it is located.

5.11 The green infrastructure policy requires developers to recognise the intrinsic value of green infrastructure and ensure that proposed development does not harm the green infrastructure network within the District. The policy assists the plan strategy and the objective of achieving sustainable development through the protection and enhancement of the key environmental assets of the District. Standards for the protection and provision of recreational open space and trees and landscape are dealt with under separate policies in the Plan.

5.12 Breckland District Council has worked collectively with other Local Planning Authorities in Norfolk to produce the Norfolk Strategic Framework. This document forms a set of agreements for working together on strategic, cross boundary planning matters. In order to deliver effective green infrastructure linkages we must look wider than administrative boundaries, seeking improved connectivity across Norfolk and beyond to bordering counties. Strategic green infrastructure corridors and habitat core areas for Norfolk have been identified as shown on the Norfolk Green Infrastructure Map. Further work is being undertaken on a Norfolk Green Infrastructure Strategy, which will aid Local Plans in protecting and where appropriate enhancing the relevant assets.

5.13 Implementation of the policy will be supported by consideration of more detailed local green infrastructure strategies (both existing and future strategies), where applicable. In areas where green infrastructure strategies have been produced, including for the market towns of Dereham and Thetford, development

proposals should have regard to the overarching strategy for improving green infrastructure linkages. Development proposals should also be informed by made Neighbourhood Plans which often highlight significant green spaces of importance to the community in their policies, and can also include new designations of local green space.

5.14 Unlike smaller, urban areas it is not feasible to identify every component of green infrastructure in an extensive rural district. However, even in the absence of a specific green infrastructure strategy for an area, opportunities to improve connectivity of green areas should still be considered. By identifying green areas in the vicinity of a development site, it is possible to consider the possibility of improving connections through developing the site, where appropriate. An example could be the provision of footpaths and cycle ways through sites connecting existing publicly accessible green spaces, or small undeveloped wildlife corridors such as a public green connecting a pond on site to a hedgerow and fields beyond at the boundary of a site. (MM116)

5.15 The HRA identifies the need for further green infrastructure and open space as part of a suite of measures to prevent additional recreational pressure for development at Thetford, Mundford and Swaffham and to prevent urban effects on sensitive heathland sites including Barnham Cross Common, Thetford Heath, Thetford Golf Club and Marsh and at East Wretham and Brettenham. For larger development sites allocated through the Local Plan specific green infrastructure requirements are set out in relevant site allocation policies.

Policy ENV 01 Green Infrastructure

The network of green infrastructure in the District, including water bodies and the strategic green infrastructure corridors shown on the Policies Map (MM118), should be safeguarded, retained and, where opportunities arise, enhanced. Enhancement of the green infrastructure network will be sought through the promotion of positive action, and the development management process.

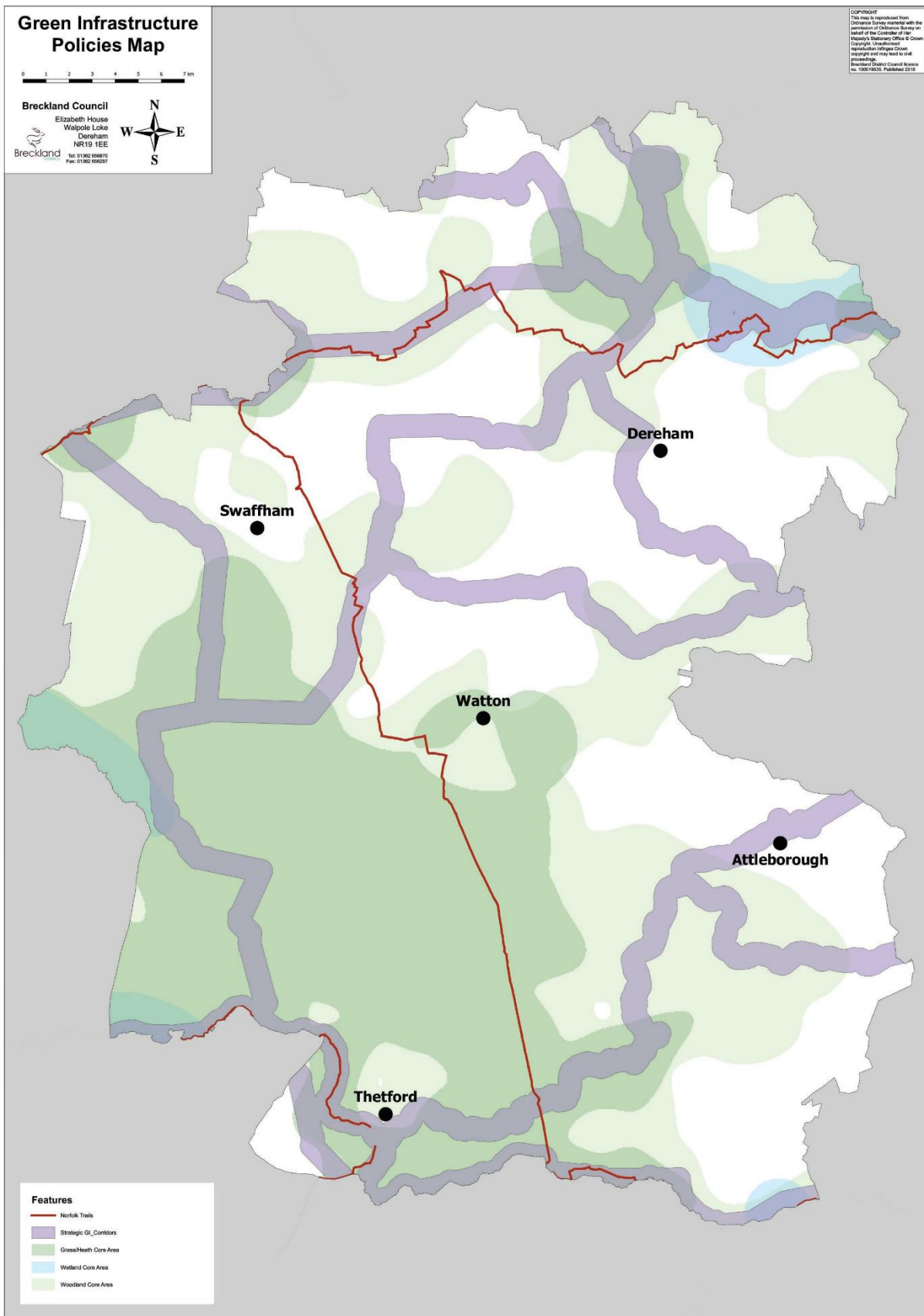
New developments will be expected to exploit opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure and enhance existing connectivity; recognising the intrinsic value of the green infrastructure network and ensuring that the functionality of the network is not undermined as a result of development.

Through its layout and design, new development should respond to the location of existing green infrastructure and support appropriate uses and functions. Where it is considered that the development will have a detrimental effect on the quantity or function of existing green infrastructure, compensatory provision will be required in the form of new and/or enhancements to the existing green infrastructure. Where appropriate, the Council will seek to secure through planning obligations provision for the future management and/or maintenance of green infrastructure, in accordance with Policies ENV

04 and INF 02 (MM118). Developments that fail to exploit opportunities to integrate and enhance the existing local green infrastructure network will not be favourably considered.

Development proposals should also have regard to Council endorsed strategic green infrastructure strategies and made neighbourhood plans when considering opportunities on site to provide connections and linkages with the wider network of green infrastructure.

The absence of a detailed green infrastructure strategy for an area should not prevent the consideration of opportunities for linking strategic green areas at a higher level when preparing development proposals. As a starting point, green areas in the local vicinity of a site including designated areas of open space (in line with policy ENV 04), local green space designations, Public Rights of Way and areas protected by environmental designations should be identified to explore possible opportunities for improving connectivity between sites, where appropriate, and in the context of balancing other planning considerations for the site. (MM118)



Biodiversity protection and enhancement (MM119)

5.16 The planning system has an important part to play in meeting the UK's national and international commitments for habitats and species. In considering sustainable development proposals, the Council will have regard for the relevant biodiversity legislation and policy. Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) places a duty on all public authorities in England and Wales to have regard, in the exercise of their functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The National Planning Policy Framework states that the planning system should contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, seeking net gains where possible and establishing coherent ecological networks. Regard should also be had to The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (MM119), and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. A key purpose of biodiversity legislation and policy is to embed biodiversity protection, restoration and enhancement as an integral part of policy making.

5.17 Breckland has a wide range of sites which are protected for their biodiversity or geological interest. The ecological network in the District is inherently connected to the wider Norfolk area and should be viewed as a component part of a much wider network which stretches beyond the District's boundaries. There are a range of protected sites in the District, arguably the most famous being The Brecks, an extensive area of largely conifer plantation and arable farmland but with extensive areas of heathland within the forest and arable landscape. The Brecks also includes fen, grazing marsh and naturally fluctuating waterbodies (meres and pingos).

5.18 A significant proportion of The Brecks, including arable farmland, is designated as European protected sites, forming the largest terrestrial protected area in Norfolk. These are designated for their suitability to support internationally important bird species, particularly Stone Curlews, Woodlark and Nightjar.

5.19 The District also contains a number of river valleys, including the Wensum, Waveney, Yare/Blackwater, Nar, Whitewater, Tud, Wissey, Little Ouse and Thet. These have extensive areas of wetland habitats, comprised mainly of grazing marsh with areas of fen and reedbed; many of the rivers are recognised as chalk streams. Some of these habitats are European protected sites.

5.20 Other key ecological features of the District include extensive areas of woodland and shelter-belts, often associated with large estates, and arable landscape features, comprising Scots pine shelter-belts, hedgerows, mature trees, copses, ponds and field margins. Some of these areas are designated as County Wildlife Sites, of which Breckland has more than any other District in Norfolk. Designated or not, these areas are key components of the ecological network at a local scale and collectively, when viewed as part of the green infrastructure network, amount to a significant biodiversity resource.

5.21 From The Brecks to the Norfolk Valley Fens, the range of sites with conservation and environmental interest is broad. Protected sites in Breckland as shown on the policies map comprise: Internationally designated sites Special

Protection Areas (SPAs); Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); Ramsar sites; Nationally designated sites Ancient Woodland; Sites of Special Scientific Interest; National Nature Reserve; Locally designated sites Local Nature Reserves; Roadside Nature Reserves; Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites; County Wildlife Sites.

5.22 The sites designated under the protections listed above are the key biodiversity sites and geological features in the District. The different sites benefit from varying degrees of protection based on the rarity of the habitat and the diversity of species that they support. The range and quality of these sites is crucial not only for the wildlife they support but also as an educational and cultural resource and in supporting the overall quality of life in Breckland. As such, these areas are key components of the aspiration of achieving successful and sustainable development in Breckland.

5.23 When preparing applications applicants should consider the potential effects of the application on biodiversity demonstrating that potential effects have been avoided, and where this is not possible, adequately mitigated for. Biodiversity net gains and contribution to ecological networks should be sought **for all development, and this should be proportionate to the scale of the proposal and any potential impacts. A development with limited or no impacts on biodiversity should still seek to demonstrate a biodiversity net gain (MM119)** wherever possible. If, when considered alone or with existing and known future projects, an application is likely to affect a European site the applicant must provide a report accompanying the application showing the site(s) that may be affected together with sufficient information **and appropriate evidence** to enable the Council if necessary to undertake **a Habitats Regulations Assessment, including consideration of likely significant effects either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, and where necessary are in depth assessment of any identified potential effects and proposed mitigation measures, to inform an appropriate assessment (MM119)**. The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the whole process of assessment, including - where one is required - the appropriate assessment stage.

Policy ENV 02 Biodiversity protection and enhancement (MM120)

The highest level of protection will be given to European Sites, with development only permitted where **the proposal is in accordance with the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (MM120)**.

Where measures to mitigate for potential adverse effects **on European sites are required**, the proposed mitigation measures must be justified as fit for purpose with appropriate evidence, **to inform the Council's Habitats Regulations Assessment (MM120)**.

Development likely to have an adverse effect (either directly or indirectly) on a

site of national, regional or local biodiversity, or geological interest, as identified on the Policies Map, will not be permitted unless:

- a. it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposal that outweigh the need to safeguard the special ecological / geological interest of the site, and;
- b. it has been demonstrated, where development would result in significant harm, that it cannot be reasonably located on an alternative site that would result in less or no harm, and;
- c. residual harm, after all measures to prevent and adequately mitigate **have been applied**, will be adequately compensated for.

Where the Council considers that a designated site, protected species or any species or habitat, **particularly where listed as a Priority Habitat or Species under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), (MM120)** may be **adversely** affected by a development proposal, an **ecological assessment (EclA)** will be required to be submitted with the planning application to assess effects on flora and fauna, **commensurate with the scale of the impact and the importance of the species**.

In accordance with the stepwise approach to protecting biodiversity **(the mitigation hierarchy)**, all development with the potential to affect biodiversity should demonstrate how such effects have been considered, **by firstly demonstrating how effects have been avoided, and then** how effects that cannot be avoided have been minimised. **Residual harm, after all measures to prevent and adequately mitigate have been applied, must be adequately compensated for.**

All development should demonstrate how net gains for biodiversity are being secured as part of the development, proportionate to the scale of development and potential impacts (if any).

Where development is permitted, the authority will consider the need for conditions or planning obligations to ensure the protection and enhancement of the site's nature conservation and / or geological interest. Wherever a proposed development may have a detrimental impact upon a designated site or protected species, appropriate conditions and/or planning obligations will be used to ensure that **the appropriate mitigation measures incorporated within the proposal are fully implemented, and monitored where required.**

Policy ENV03 outlines specific requirements that apply to The **Breckland Special Protection Area (MM120)**.

Breckland (MM121) Special Protection Area

5.24 Covering 39,434ha of heathland, forest and arable farmland, The Brecks is of European value to birdlife. Designated in 2006 as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the European Council's Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, The Brecks habitat is important for a range of ground-nesting birds including the Stone Curlew, Woodlark and Nightjar. The East of England supports 65% of the UK's breeding pairs of Stone Curlew where most breeding is located within the Brecks. The rich biodiversity of The Brecks is also recognised through other statutory conservation designations including four Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), numerous SSSI and National Nature Reserves (NNR), where the latter (NNRs and SSSIs) make up 40% of the total area.

5.25 Evidence used to support the adoption of the Core Strategy in 2009 included research to inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Core Strategy which examined the effects of housing and roads on the distribution of the Stone Curlew in The Brecks. The adopted mitigation policy required that any new development which may impact on the SPA must be subject to Appropriate Assessment. **The measures are defined by buffers (Map 5.1).** New development **will not normally be** permitted within 1,500m of the edge of the SPA **(primary buffer represented by red cross hatching) (MM121)** unless it can be demonstrated by an appropriate assessment that the development would not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA. Such circumstances may include the use of existing buildings and development where completely masked from the SPA by existing development.

5.26 Stone Curlews are also found outside the SPA; these birds are clearly part of the SPA population and functionally linked. Accordingly, **a secondary buffer (represented by blue cross hatching) indicated** areas that have been identified where there are concentrations of Stone Curlew **(most recently using data from 2011-2015).(MM121)**

5.27 Within these areas development may be brought forward, providing a project level Habitats Regulations Assessment can demonstrate adverse effects have been prevented, for example where alternative land outside the SPA can be secured to adequately mitigate for the potential effects.

5.28 In 2013 a "Further Assessments of the Relationship between Buildings and Stone Curlew Distribution" study was carried out to update previous work on the effect of buildings and roads on Stone Curlews in The Brecks. Including new analysis and using additional survey data, this study report focused on the effects of buildings on the **distribution of breeding** Stone Curlew in The Brecks. The report provides strong support for the continuation of a 1500m zone around the areas capable of supporting Stone Curlews. Within this zone additional development is likely to have a significant effect on the SPA.

5.29 The 2013 research also suggests that the planting of woodland/screening as a mitigation measure is unlikely to be effective and that the effect of nest density is strongest as a result of the amount of buildings. One of the key aims of the research

was to differentiate the effects of nest density due to different building classes. Due to the sample size and number of buildings identified there needs to be an element of caution applied to the results, however, the research indicates that there was no evidence of a negative impact of agricultural or commercial buildings. As such, the analysis suggests that project level HRA for non-residential development in the SPA buffer zones may be able to demonstrate that adverse effects can be ruled out.

5.30 A draft protocol entitled 'Agricultural Buildings and the Breckland Special Protection Area stone curlew constraint zone' was produced by Natural England (2013) with input from stakeholders. **Agricultural buildings** which meet certain criteria should result in a simplified Habitats Regulations Assessment. This has been reflected in the policy wording. **Further consideration of the evidence is required to determine whether other building types could also be added.** (MM121)

5.31 Further analysis of the most recent Stone Curlew survey data allowed for some minor revisions to the primary (red) and secondary (blue) buffers to ensure they remain founded upon up to date information. Areas where data is absent, but could potentially provide functionally linked land, is identified by orange cells. Here a likely significant effect is presumed until project level Habitats Regulations Assessment provides additional information. (MM121)

Urban effects and recreational pressure

5.32 A report providing a comprehensive analysis of current and projected visitor patterns to European protected sites across Norfolk was commissioned by Norfolk County Council and the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership on behalf of Local Authorities and completed in 2017. The report entitled 'Visitor surveys at European protected sites across Norfolk during 2015 and 2016' highlights that whilst survey areas in The Brecks received a much lower number of visitors than other survey sites such as those on the Norfolk coast, the proportion of local visitors (with Norfolk postcodes) was significantly higher to sites in The Brecks. The report presents evidence that of all designated sites included in the survey, Breckland SPA had the highest proportion of local visitors to the Brecks, from the settlements of Thetford, Mildenhall, Swaffham, Mundford, Brandon (of which Mildenhall and Brandon are outside the District within Suffolk). There is therefore evidential support for mitigation strategies to apply to new development in those settlements.

5.33 Policy ENV 03 requires a Monitoring and Mitigation Framework to ensure that no adverse impact on the integrity of Breckland SPA will occur due to urban effects and recreational pressure arising from growth proposed in the Local Plan. The Framework will consist of measures that monitor and address recreational pressure from proposed allocated sites – both at the individual site level where necessary, and the consideration of cumulative pressure. Partnership working with the Forestry Commission, Natural England, RSPB and Norfolk Wildlife Trust and neighbouring Local Planning Authorities will enable more detailed consideration of proposed developments and the likely pressure points (publicly accessible sites/sites at greater risk due to urban effects) in and around Breckland SPA and Breckland SAC. This will enable refinement of the type of monitoring that needs to be put in place and any mitigation required to address identified impacts of development.

Once a planning application is made, the Council will use the Monitoring and Mitigation Framework and its outputs to aid consideration of development proposals, and for HRA screening.

5.34 The Thetford SUE represents the largest area of planned growth within the District which would result in increased recreational pressure in The Brecks. A number of strategic mitigation measures were accepted as part of the adopted Thetford Area Action Plan in July 2012 which have **not been superseded** through this Local Plan. Further measures have been incorporated within a number of site allocation policies within the plan to ensure that mitigation is provided to reduce the impact of recreational pressure on designated sites.

Policy ENV 03 The Brecks Protected Habitats & Species

The Council requires that a Habitats Regulations Assessment is undertaken on all proposals for development that are likely to have a significant effect on The Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA) which is classified for its populations of Stone Curlew, Woodlark and Nightjar, and/or Breckland Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is designated for its heathland habitats. Development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA or the SAC.

Stone Curlew

Plan level Habitats Regulations Assessment has been undertaken to identify where built development is likely to significantly affect the Breckland SPA. Map 5.1 identifies a 1,500m buffer zone from the edge of those parts of the SPA that support, or are capable of supporting, Stone Curlew, where new built development would be likely to significantly affect the SPA population. The plan level Habitats Regulations Assessment also identifies areas that have a functional link to the SPA, because they support Stone Curlew outside, but in close proximity to the SPA boundary. These areas also have a 1500m buffer zone, within which new built development would be likely to significantly affect the SPA population.

A conclusion of no likely significant effect can be met where the proposed building is located further than 1500m away from the SPA boundary (red primary buffer) or the identified (blue secondary buffer) or possible (orange square cells) areas that have a functional link (see Map 5.1). (MM122)

Development within the SPA boundary, or located less than 1500m away from the SPA boundary or identified areas that have a functional link (see Map 5.1) will not normally be permitted.

Where a proposed building is outside the SPA but within 1500m of the SPA boundary or identified **or possible** areas that have a functional link (see Map 5.1), there may be circumstances where a project level Habitats Regulations Assessment is able to demonstrate that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA. **For agricultural buildings**, applicants must provide

evidence to show how their proposal meets the criteria listed in Natural England's "Agricultural Buildings and the Breckland SPA Stone Curlew constraint zone" advice note, or successor document. Circumstances where the proposal is able to conclusively demonstrate that it will not result in an adverse effect on Breckland SPA may include where the proposal is:

- More than 1500m away from potential stone curlew inside the SPA;
- A new building that will be completely masked from the SPA by existing built development;
- A proposed re-development of an existing building that would not alter its footprint or increase its potential impact;
- A new agricultural building of less than 120 sqm;
- An extension to existing agricultural buildings of less than 120 sqm or 100% of the original, whichever is less.

Large developments adjacent to, or just outside the primary or secondary buffer, particularly where occurring in an isolated area with few other buildings, are likely to also require project level assessment.

Woodlark and Nightjar

Development within 400m of the SPA that support, or are capable of supporting Woodlark and/or Nightjar will not normally be permitted. The Council will consider the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment to determine the implications of development on Nightjar and Woodlark on a case by case basis, depending on the location and nature of the proposal.

Recreation pressure and urban effects

Plan level Habitats Regulations Assessment has identified the potential for increased disturbance to Nightjar, Woodlark and Stone Curlew as a result of recreation, and the potential for other urban effects such as increased fire, litter and eutrophication to significantly affect Breckland SPA and SAC.

Monitoring and Mitigation Framework

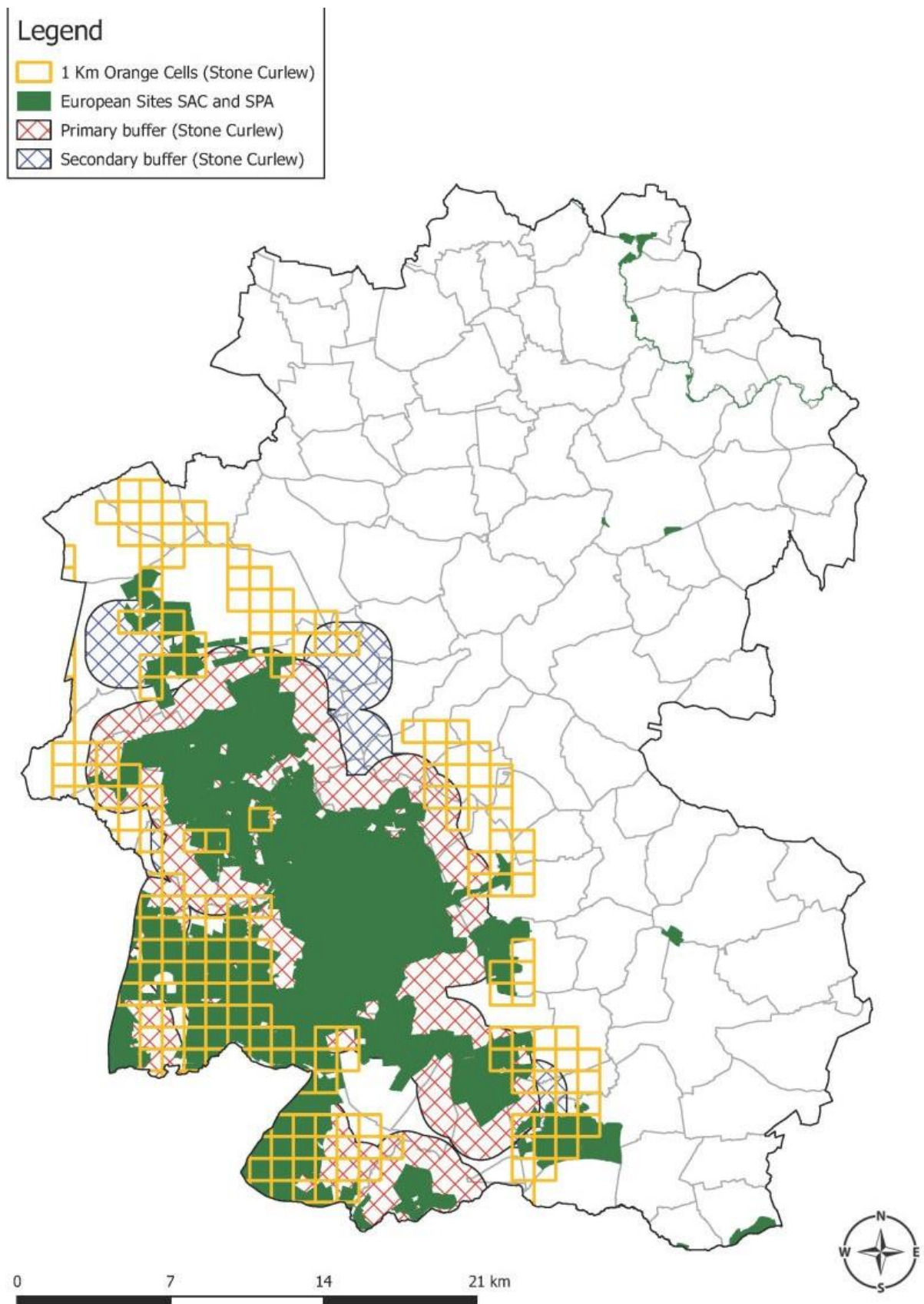
The Council commits to a framework of measures that will enable it to co-ordinate the necessary monitoring and mitigation measures required to demonstrate that the increases in visitor pressure arising from new development in the District will be addressed before adverse effects on European sites occurs. These will include as a minimum the following measures to be implemented following adoption of the Plan:

- Creation of an advisory group;
- Production of a monitoring programme;
- Identification of mitigation measures; and
- Defining funding to support the above measures.

The Council will work with partners to develop a framework for managing and monitoring urban effects. Proposals for development where urban heaths at

Thetford (Barnham Cross Common, Thetford Heath, Thetford Golf Club and Marsh), East Wretham or Brettenham are likely to be used as local greenspace will need to demonstrate the inclusion of mitigation measures that contribute to the framework to address the potential impact urban effects on Breckland SPA/SAC. (MM122)

Map 5.1 SPA Primary and Secondary Buffers



Open Space, Sport and Recreation

5.35 Open space is defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as 'land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground'. Allotments are also included under the definition of open space. Open space should be taken to mean all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity.

5.36 The NPPF at paragraph 73 states that policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments is then used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.

5.37 In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. An audit of all open space provision within Breckland District, excluding Thetford Forest⁽¹⁾, was undertaken in 2015. The Open Space Assessment evaluated the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space and recreational land provision in the Breckland District (excluding Thetford Forest) and recommended standards and effective mechanisms in order for appropriate provision to be secured to meet future needs. The assessment shows that Breckland District has a deficit, both quantitatively and qualitatively, in outdoor playing space provision.

5.38 The study shows that when assessing overall playing space in the District at a Fields in Trust (FIT) **guidance** of 2.56 ha per 1000 population, 70% of the parishes in the District do not meet the FIT **guidance**. The five market towns of Attleborough, Thetford, Dereham, Swaffham and Watton have the largest deficiencies in total playing space provision for their populations compared to the FIT **guidance (MM124)**, with Thetford having the largest deficiency of any parish in the District.

5.39 Furthermore, 70% of the parishes in the District do not meet the FIT **guidance** for children's play area provision. The 5 market towns of Attleborough, Thetford, Dereham, Swaffham and Watton have the highest proportion of children in addition to the highest deficiency of provision in children's play compared with the FIT **guidance**. Thetford has the highest percentage of children compared to the other four market towns, but also has the highest deficiency of children's play areas against the FIT **guidance (MM124)**.

¹ Thetford Forest was excluded from the audit because not all of the forest is publicly accessible. Large areas remain a working forest managed by the Forestry Commission and an important supplier of timber. Thetford Forest also extends into Suffolk. It was considered that the inclusion of such a large area would compromise the open space figure for Breckland and show a disproportionate surplus and/or deficiency

5.40 Only 30% of the parishes in Breckland meet the FIT outdoor sports **guidance**. The five market towns have an average or above quality score, despite having a deficiency in the amount of space. Whereas the majority of the rural parishes have an average or below sports quality score, despite having **a lower level of deficiency against the FIT guidance (MM124)**. A similar pattern was found following the 2010 assessment and consequently the policy focus is to improve the quality, rather than quantity, of rural sports pitches.

5.41 The Accessible Natural Green Space Standard (ANGST) requires that sites of at least 2ha in size, of accessible green space, are available per 1000 people based on no one living more than 300m from the nearest area of natural green space. It also recommends that no one should live 2km from at least one accessible site of at least 20ha; 5 km from at least one accessible site of at least 200ha; and 10km from at least one accessible site of 500ha.

5.42 In conclusion, the Breckland Open Space, Sport and Recreation study recommended that:

- The **standard found acceptable in the open space assessment (MM124)** of 2.56 ha of open space (0.8 ha for children's play and 1.76 ha for outdoor sport) per 1000 population should be used as a local standard for open space provision;
- There should be a greater focus on provision of new facilities to address quantitative deficits, which will be delivered through new housing development;
- The Local Plan should allocate additional areas of open space; All new children's play and outdoor sports areas should be designed **having regard to** FIT and Sport England standards to ensure the highest quality of open space area is provided; and
- In terms of outdoor sports, all dwellings in major housing areas must be within 1.2km of outdoor sports areas as recommended by FIT. Outdoor sport areas should be located near to public transport routes, have good provision for car parking and have easy access for pedestrians and cycles. In terms of children's play areas, all dwellings in housing areas should be within 100m of a local area of play (LAP), 400m of a local equipped area for play (LEAP) and 1000m of a neighbourhood equipped area for play (NEAP) as recommended by FIT.

5.43 Planning obligations sought need to be in accordance with regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2010) requiring the provision of infrastructure necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, reasonable in scale and kind and directly related to the development. Developers cannot be required to meet existing shortfalls in infrastructure provision.

5.44 The HRA identifies the need for further open space as part of a suite of measures to prevent additional recreational pressure for development at Thetford, Mundford and Swaffham and to prevent urban effects on sensitive heathland sites including Barnham Cross Common, Thetford Heath, Thetford Golf Club and Marsh and at East Wretham and Brettenham. Project level HRA's may identify requirements

for additional open space or the specific provision of open space as part of the mitigation measures to protect European sites.

Policy ENV 04 Open Space, Sport & Recreation

Open space designations as identified through the 2015 Open Space Assessment are shown on the Policies Maps (MM125).

Existing Provision

Development that would result in the loss of existing designated open space will only be permitted if:

- (a) it can be demonstrated (through a local assessment) that there is an excess of recreational or amenity open space in the settlement and the proposed loss will not result in a current or likely shortfall during the plan period; or
- (b) recreational facilities within the open space will be enhanced by the proposed development on an appropriate portion of the open space; or
- (c) the community would gain greater benefit from the developer providing a suitable alternative recreational or amenity open space in an equally accessible and convenient location.

The development of existing open space with an ecological value (a known biodiversity or nature conservation interest) will not be permitted, **unless there is a space of equal or 'greater' value provided as part of the proposal (MM125).**

New Provision

All new residential development **of 11 or more dwellings will be** expected to provide a contribution towards outdoor playing space equivalent to 2.56 hectares per 1,000 population*, which equates to 25.6m² of outdoor playing space per person. As set out in the Open Space Assessment (2015), this 25.6m² is broken down to 17.6m² of outdoor sport area and 8m² of children's play space.

There is a presumption that for developments comprising of 25 dwellings or more **outdoor playing space** will be provided within the development site. Where on-site provision is provided, the space should be of an appropriate type to serve the needs of the development, well related to the proposed residential properties **and having regard to** relevant standards.

Within residential development priority should be given to the provision of children's play areas since the facility is most likely to be required within an easy reach of dwellings and will be required to conform to the 0.8ha per 1000 people standard in provision of children's play area.

It is recognised that there may be cases where the direct provision of outdoor playing space on-site is not the preferred option. It may be that outdoor playing space does not represent an efficient use of land in the context of the site location or that there is a deliverable opportunity to secure a more meaningful area of outdoor playing space that better serves the whole community in close proximity to the application site. Contributions in lieu of on-site provision for sites of 25 or more dwellings will be the exception and will need to be supported by robust evidence from the applicant that on-site provision is not appropriate and/or viable. For sites of less than 25 dwellings, on-site provision will be preferable, but may not be appropriate in all cases and proportionate evidence will be required from the applicant to demonstrate that on-site provision is not appropriate (MM125). Any contribution will need to be towards a specific deliverable scheme in consultation with the relevant parish council and the developer contributions policy in this document. It will be secured through a section 106 agreement. Where it is not possible to accommodate outdoor sports areas on-site, negotiations will occur on a site-by-site basis to determine specific provision and financial contributions, taking into account the financial viability of the development.

In addition to the on-site and off-site contributions, a contribution will be required for 10 years maintenance of the facility. Off-site contribution will be proportional to the type of facility provided and will be calculated having regard to the need for land acquisition, provision of facilities and 10 years maintenance (MM125).

Where it can be established through an up-to-date Open Space Assessment that a proposal is located in a Parish assessed to have sufficient play space provision other forms of open space, informed by the findings of the Open Space Assessment would be considered as potential to mitigate the specific impacts arising from the proposal.

Local Green Space

Applications relating to Local Green Space will be determined in accordance with national policy.

* The population resulting from a particular development is calculated using the occupancy rates set out below. Using these occupancy rates it is possible to calculate the level of outdoor playing space needs for any given development.

5.45 Forms of outdoor sports provision and ancillary facilities can include, but are not limited to: multi-use games areas, sports playing pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts, parking and sports pavilion/changing rooms. Having regard to the availability and quantum of land sought, proposals to improve the provision of sports facilities on-site will be considered favourably. Outdoor sports areas will be expected to

provide equipped facilities. Open space can perform both important recreational activity space and important environmental functions, such as moderating surface water run- off, air pollution and wind speeds, as well as providing wildlife habitats to aid biodiversity. The Council will consider the multi-functionality of open space to provide both outdoor playing space and other functions (including use as SuDS) within individual developments. Regard will be had to the primary purpose of the space and the level of usage of the site as outdoor playing space. It will be expected that they will be provided as outdoor playing space for the large majority of the time (MM126).

Table 5.1 Occupancy rates

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 Bedrooms | 1.5 persons |
| 2 Bedrooms | 2.0 persons |
| 3 Bedrooms | 2.5 persons |
| 4 Bedrooms | 3.0 persons |
| 5 Bedrooms or more | 3.5 persons |

5.46 Contributions in line with the standards will be required for all additional new residential units **developments of 11 or more dwellings**. This includes most specialised types of housing including agricultural dwellings, affordable housing and staff accommodation **and permanent mobile homes**. **Net additions of 11 or more dwellings arising as a result of the development of replacement dwellings or extensions to existing dwellings will also be required to make provision.** (MM126)

5.47 Replacement dwellings will not be required to make a provision unless additional units are being created. If additional units are being created then the net gain of units will be subject to providing a contribution.

5.48 Extensions to dwellings will not be subject to making a provision unless where new units of accommodation are being created. This is applied whether or not the unit is tied by condition to the main house, for example staff accommodation. Provision will not be sought where the unit is for a dependant relative, and a specific planning condition or obligation is attached, limiting the occupation's use to that purpose.

5.49 Permissions for temporary mobile homes will not be expected to provide open space, **but provision may be sought from developments of 11 or more permanent mobile homes**.

5.50 It is accepted that certain development will not create demand for all elements of open space requirements. For example the occupants of a sheltered housing scheme, nursing homes, hostel accommodation, where the occupancy is controlled, would not be expected to use all children's play areas. In these cases it would not be appropriate for the Council to apply that element of the standard. However, it is worth noting that although children's play areas may not be appropriate, there is an element of amenity area or **other forms of open space** (MM126) communal space that could benefit residents of the new proposal. Such cases will be considered individually on their own merits.

Table 5.2 Summary of exceptions to open space contributions

| | |
|---|---|
| Developments where the Council will seek to apply the play and outdoor sports space standard. | Development that is likely to be considered exceptions to the play and outdoor playing space standards |
| All new residential development leading to a net addition of 11 or more dwellings (MM127) | Replacement dwellings (on a one for one basis) |
| | Extensions and annexes within the curtilage of a main property for dependent relatives |
| Conversion or part conversions creating additional independent residential units with separate facilities (11 or more) | Sheltered housing schemes, nursing homes, controlled hostel accommodation (However, other forms of open space may be considered appropriate) |
| Bedsit accommodation with shared facilities resulting in 11 or more household spaces | Temporary permission for mobile homes |
| Permanent permission for 11 or more mobile homes | |

Local Green Space

5.51 The NPPF introduced a new designation of “Local Green Space” as a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. Paragraph 76 of the NPPF says that ‘By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.’

5.52 National policy also states the designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and

- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

5.53 Breckland District Council supports neighbourhood plan groups in identifying Local Green Spaces in their Neighbourhood Plans. The Policies Maps will be updated in recognition of any Local Green Spaces designated in made neighbourhood plans. (MM128)

5.54 The 2015 Open Space Assessment reviewed sites submitted to the Council by Parish Councils at the time of the study and the recommendations have been carried forward into the Local Plan. The following are designated as areas of Local Green Space that are in conformity with the NPPF criteria:

Table 5.3 Local Green Space designations

| | |
|--------|---------------|
| LDLGS3 | Little Dunham |
| LDLGS4 | Little Dunham |
| TLGS9 | Thetford |

Figure 5.1 Key to Local Green Space Maps





Map 5.2 Little Dunham Local Green Space

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Map 5.3 Thetford Local Green Space

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Landscape Character

5.55 Breckland includes extensive tracts of the nationally and regionally significant Brecks heaths and woodland in the south and west of the district. The importance of these areas has been recognised in The Brecks Landscape Character Assessment (LCA, 2013). The LCA identified eight distinct, and sensitive, valued character areas within the Brecks, with the core landscape types being the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic, the Brecks Plantation and the River Valleys.

5.56 The Brecks Landscape Character Assessment (2013) covers only The Brecks area of the District (south and west). A District wide LCA was produced in 2007, which states that the rest of the District is generally characterised by river valleys with their associated tributary farmland rising up to the clay plateau farmland which stretches from the Lophams in the south-east to Colkirk in the north-west.

5.57 The different sub types of landscape identified by the LCAs have a varying capacity to accommodate new development, depending on their nature and location. Development will not be permitted where it would be significantly detrimental to the landscape's characteristics or defining features.

5.58 In determining proposals for new development, regard shall be had to the Council's Landscape Character Assessment, ensuring that all proposals respect the key visual sensitivities of the landscape that are a fundamental part of its character. The integration of new development into the existing landscape will be expected to be achieved in all development proposals without causing harm to the features that define them. The Council will give high protection to the River Valleys and Chalk Rivers from development that would harm their defining landscape characteristics.

5.59 The entire landscape is considered through both the Landscape Character Assessment and the Settlement Fringe study, both of which form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan.

5.60 Breckland's Landscape Character Assessment has previously identified river valleys as areas which should have high protection from development due to their important environmental quality. It is considered that this approach should continue within the Local Plan.

Policy ENV 05 Protection and Enhancement of the Landscape

The landscape of the District **is valued for**, its benefit to the rural character and in the interests of biodiversity, geodiversity and historic conservation. **Development proposals will be expected to contribute to and where possible enhance the local environment by recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside (MM129).** Development should have particular regard to maintaining the aesthetic and biodiversity qualities of natural and man-made features within the landscape, including a consideration of individual or groups of natural features such as trees, hedges and woodland or

rivers, streams or other topographical features.

Development proposals will have regard to the findings of the Council's Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and Settlement Fringe Landscape Assessment. Development should also be designed to be sympathetic to landscape character.

High protection will be given to The Brecks landscape, reflecting its role as a regionally significant green infrastructure asset. Proposals within The Brecks Landscape Character Areas will not be permitted where these would result in harm to key visual features of the landscape type, other valued components of the landscape, or where proposals would result in **an unacceptable (MM129)** change in the landscape character.

High protection will also be given to the river valleys and chalk rivers in Breckland as identified in the Landscape Character Assessment, recognising their defining natural features, rich biodiversity and the undeveloped character of their shallow valleys.

Trees and Hedgerows

5.61 Trees, hedgerows and other natural features form an essential part of Breckland's landscape character, enhancing the aesthetics of an area, the quality of the environment and providing a habitat for a range of wildlife. They can also help to reduce noise and prove beneficial in terms of atmospheric pollution and flood mitigation.

5.62 Where new development is proposed the preference will always be to incorporate existing natural features into the development. However, there may be instances where the loss of important natural features is unavoidable, for example to enable a scheme to fulfil important objectives such as economic development or the provision of housing. Where the loss of such features is demonstrably unavoidable adequate replacement provision, preferably by native British species, of the same or greater value will be sought.

5.63 Some trees in the District have protected status, mainly under the designation of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or those located in a conservation area. A TPO is an order made by a LPA in England to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of amenity. A TPO prohibits cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage and wilful destruction of trees without the LPA's prior written consent.

Policy ENV 06 Trees, Hedgerows and Development

Trees and significant hedge and shrub masses form part of the green infrastructure network and should be retained as an integral part of the design of development except where their long-term survival would be compromised by their age or physical condition, or there are exceptional and overriding benefits in accepting their loss.

Development requiring the loss of a protected tree or hedgerow (including preserved trees, protected hedgerows, trees in Conservation Areas, ancient trees, aged and veteran trees and trees classified as being of categories A or B in value (BS5837:2012) will only be permitted where:

- a) it would allow for a substantially improved overall approach to the design and landscaping of the development that would outweigh the loss of any tree or hedgerow.

Where the loss of such features is demonstrably unavoidable, adequate replacement provision, preferably by native species will be sought (MM130). Where the loss of a tree is accepted in these circumstances, developers will be required to ensure the loss is suitably compensated for, taking into account the size and condition of the tree.

Development Affecting Trees and Hedgerows

Where a proposed development retains existing trees and hedgerows on-site, or where development occurs within a tree root protection area, provision must be made for their care and protection throughout the duration of the development with mitigation measures being put in place to ensure that development works do not have a harmful impact on existing trees. To ensure that tree cover and habitat is retained, it is important that both the short term and long term impacts that a development may have on trees is evaluated at the earliest opportunity. Accordingly the Council may require that a Tree Survey, Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Tree Protection Plan and Method Statement be undertaken by a suitably qualified professional in accordance with BS5837:2012.

The Historic Environment & Heritage Assets

5.64 Paragraph 126 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that: “local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment”. The NPPF also states that local plans should include strategic policies to deliver the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment (paragraph 156) and should identify land where development is inappropriate because of its environmental or historic significance (paragraph 157).

5.65 The historic environment of Breckland is recognised as a unique and irreplaceable resource. Breckland District is fortunate to possess a rich and diverse architectural heritage, displaying the use of a wide range of materials, dictated prior to industrialism by the immediate geology and landscape of the surrounding area. Typically, the use of brick, flint, chalk, clay lump and timber framing for walling with thatch; clay tiles and, in later years following industrialism, slates for roofing.

5.66 The District also contains numerous designated heritage assets: over 1,500 Listed Buildings and a wealth of other important non-designated buildings that contribute to both the urban and rural contexts and the historic environment as a whole. Breckland also has 50 Conservation Areas, 200 scheduled monuments and 9 Historic Parks and Gardens included on the Historic England Register, designated to assist in the conservation and enhancement of particular features of historic or architectural interest.

5.67 The character of these areas is defined by the combination of elements such as the mixture and style of buildings, the extent and form of open spaces, the quality and relationship of buildings, prevalent building materials and the amount of trees or

other green features. These features contribute to the overall character of the area and need to be recognised and respected in proposals for new development.

5.68 There are many types of heritage asset within the District, some of which are protected through national or local designations, others which have no formal designation or protection. The Council has developed two separate policies to deal with the different types of assets.

Designated Heritage Assets

5.69 There are a total of 50 Conservation Areas in the District, most based on historic village centres. It is important that the nature of conservation areas and historic buildings is maintained to ensure their protection for future generations and their continued contribution to the economic prosperity of the District. Social, environmental and cultural benefits are derived from this link to the past and it helps to reinforce a sense of place, quality of life, local identity and character.

5.70 Known individual heritage assets are identified in Norfolk County Council's Historic Environment Record, whilst a number of existing documents analyse particular aspects of the heritage significance of the District. **In addition the record includes a number of non-designated heritage assets (MM131).**

5.71 There are 1,536 Listed Buildings in the District, including 113 Grade I and 102 Grade II*. Whilst the majority of the listed buildings in the District are in good or reasonable repair, a number of buildings are in severe disrepair. There are 25 Grade I or Grade II* Listed Buildings at Risk as registered by English Heritage.

5.72 There are also 9 Registered Parks and Gardens (all Grade II), 130 scheduled monuments, plus three shared with adjoining Local Authorities.

5.73 Breckland Council understands that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and the policy below aims to conserve designated heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance.

Policy ENV 07 Designated Heritage Assets

The significance of designated heritage assets **(including their settings)**, such as listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens **and** conservation areas, will be conserved, **or wherever possible** enhanced. **Great weight shall be given to their conservation. (MM132)** Proposals that **may** affect the significance of a designated heritage asset will be required to provide **proportionate evidence to the assets importance**, sufficient **to identify its significance, including any contribution that its setting makes** to enable any impact to be **fully assessed, in accordance with national policy**.

Development that will affect any designated heritage asset will be subject to comprehensive assessment and **should** conserve **or**, wherever possible, enhance the **architectural and historic** character, appearance and setting of **the asset**. Where a proposed development will affect the character or setting of a Listed Building, particular regard will need to be given to the protection,

conservation and potential enhancement of any features of historic or architectural interest; **including** within the curtilage of a listed building that predates 1st July 1948.

The conversion of **listed** buildings for economic or residential purposes in locations that would otherwise be unacceptable will be considered where this would ensure the retention and ongoing conservation of the building. Proposals will be considered having regard to national policy and relevant guidance.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

5.74 Alongside the designated heritage assets of the District, Breckland also has a range of non-designated historic assets which contribute to the character of the countryside, such as a variety of traditional dwelling types, domestic and agricultural ancillary buildings, chapels, commercial and industrial buildings, railway structures and structures associated with wartime use. Many of the known non-designated heritage assets are listed in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record, and regard should be had to this if proposals may affect a non-designated asset. In addition to this there will be a number of currently unknown heritage assets of, as yet, undefined significance. These assets play an essential role in reinforcing a sense of local character and distinctiveness in the locality. Regard should be had to all heritage assets when designing development.

5.75 The Council will protect and improve the built environment, paying special regard to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment through positive action and partnership working. The historic environment makes a significant contribution to sustainable communities through sustaining economic vitality, providing social and cultural links to the past and ensuring a dynamic and varied built environment. New development must make a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the historic environment. Other heritage assets and locally important parks and gardens will be conserved and where possible enhanced. In conjunction with Policy ENV06, landscapes that form the setting to the built and historic environment will also be conserved and enhanced.

Policy ENV 08 Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Development **should** be expected to conserve, **or** wherever possible enhance the **historic** character, appearance and setting of non-designated historic assets. Proposals that could affect previously unrecognised heritage assets will be expected, through agreement with the Council, to undergo an appropriate assessment, **proportionate** to the significance of the asset. The assessment must provide sufficient information for any impact to be **fully** assessed. **In weighing applications that are likely to directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be undertaken, having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset. (MM133)**

The conversion of non-designated buildings identified in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record, or through Neighbourhood Plans, of particular architectural or historic merit for economic or residential purposes in locations that would otherwise be unacceptable will be considered where this would ensure the retention of the building. Proposals will be considered having regard to relevant national policy and relevant guidance.

In the case of traditional dwellings which positively contribute to the character of Breckland, applications for replacement will be expected to be accompanied by a Design and Access Statement which includes a structural survey that demonstrates that the demolition is necessary and that there is no alternative and viable solution of renovation to provide an acceptable standard of accommodation.

Development proposals should identify assets of archaeological significance. An archaeological evaluation will be required for development sites that are known or thought to have the potential to include non-designated heritage assets with archaeological interest. Where appropriate, archaeological remains should be left in situ following further design/engineering work. If the benefits of a particular development are considered to outweigh the importance of retaining archaeological remains in situ, satisfactory excavation and recording of remains will be required before development is begun. (MM133)

Flood Risk & Surface Water Drainage

5.76 All new development should be located so as to minimise flood risk and increased flood risk resulting from that development. The policy approach is to steer development towards areas of low flood risk, Flood Zone 1. National policy requires that a sequential and exception test be applied by reference to identified flood zones.

5.77 Flood risk across Breckland is not as widespread compared to many areas of Norfolk; flooding usually occurs adjacent to rivers and other watercourses or in low-lying areas. However, it can also occur elsewhere, such as surface water flooding, groundwater flooding caused by springs, or where buildings or other structures affect the natural drainage of the land. Evidence on flood risk is contained within the latest Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Sequential Test, completed in 2017.

5.78 Norfolk County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) with responsibility for managing local flood risk and surface water flooding and the take up of sustainable drainage systems and is tasked with coordinating the management of local flood risk and the provision of advice to LPAs on drainage for new major development.

5.79 The Water Cycle Study, SFRA and any subsequent Surface Water Management Plan will inform the level of detail required to accompany planning applications identified in any designated groundwater protection zones and/or critical drainage catchments, or other areas where there is evidence that there is likely to be

an increased risk of surface water flooding (e.g. as a result of specific topography with catchment areas feeding into identified flood-vulnerable areas).

5.80 This policy requires surface water drainage issues to be addressed in planning applications, both to ensure that such issues and associated flood risk are considered, and to ensure that the impact of drainage measures on the form and visual appearance of developments is properly taken into account in the assessment of new development. Where necessary the Council will seek to impose Grampian conditions to ensure that appropriate upgrades are completed to the sewerage network in advance of new development taking place.

5.81 The use of soft landscaping and permeable surface materials should be maximised. On-site rainwater storage (ponds, basins and swales), living roofs and walls (where appropriate) will be required unless the developer can provide justification to demonstrate that this would not be practicable or feasible within the constraints or configuration of the site and would compromise wider regeneration objectives.

Policy ENV 09 Flood Risk & Surface Water Drainage

All new development will:

- be located to minimise the risk of flooding, mitigating any such risk through design and implementing sustainable drainage (SuDS) principles.
- incorporate appropriate surface water drainage mitigation measures to minimise its own risk of flooding and should not materially increase the flood risk to other areas. Particular care will be required in relation to habitats designated as being of international importance in the area and beyond which are water sensitive, as well as habitats designated of regional or local importance.

Developers will be required to show that the proposed development would:

- i) not increase green field run off rates and vulnerability of the site, or the wider catchment, to flooding from surface water run-off from existing or predicted water flows;
- ii) wherever practicable, have a positive impact on the risk of surface water flooding in the surrounding area adjacent to the development; and
- iii) address potential impact of infiltration upon groundwater Source Protection Zones and/or Critical Drainage Catchments.

This will be minimised through the installation of infiltration and attenuation measures to dispose of surface water in accordance with sustainable drainage system (SuDS) principles and the refinements to, and evolution of, the technical evidence base and guidance (as may be updated and superseded over the life of this Plan).

Proposals for vulnerable development in medium (zone 2) and higher flood risk areas (zones 3a and 3b) (MM134) must be accompanied by a site-specific flood risk assessment, clearly identifying whether the development will be safe

for its lifetime, taking account of the vulnerability of its users, and whether there may be any potential increase or reduction in flood risk elsewhere. In line with the sequential test, areas of functional floodplain should be protected from development. Where possible, through proposals for re-development, opportunities to reinstate areas of functional flood plain should be taken (e.g. reducing building footprints or relocating to lower flood risk zones).

Consideration should be given to assessing opportunities to undertake river restoration and enhancement as part of a development to make space for water. Enhancement opportunities for renewing assets will be encouraged, where viable (e.g de-converting, the use of bio-engineered river walls, raising bridge so fits to take into account climate change). Any proposals for enhancement and restoration of the river corridor should be subject to consultation with Norfolk County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority, and in relevant cases with neighbouring authorities.

In the case of major development on unallocated sites, **if the sequential test shows that it isn't possible to use an alternative site, the applicant will need to submit an additional exception test in line with national policy on Flood Risk Assessments. (MM134)**

All applications should reflect best practice and the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) guidance, and any updated version (currently April 2017) providing the appropriate information required to assist in the determination of such application as issued by the LLFA. This includes the requirement to provide details of means of adoption and maintenance of the systems over the lifetime of the development at the pre-application stage. **In adherence with this guidance, drainage strategies must also consider the potential increase in the volume of run-off from a development as a result of increases in the area of impermeable surfaces. Although run-off rates may be restricted to equivalent greenfield rates, the duration over which the site could discharge at this rate is likely to increase. (MM134)**

Renewable Energy

5.82 The NPPF supports the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate and encourages the use of renewable resources, including the development of renewable energy. National policy as a whole supports and encourages the development of renewable energy sources. As a result of EU Directive 2009/28/EC, the UK committed to a legally binding target to achieve 15% of all energy generated from renewable resources, including electricity, heat and transport, by 2020. The 2006 Energy Review has an aspiration that 20% of electricity is to be from renewable resources by 2020. The overarching strategy to reduce carbon emissions to meet the requirements of the Directive and the Climate Change Act is contained in the UK Renewable Energy Strategy and the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan.

5.83 Renewable energy is central to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In meeting the challenge and to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy, the Council recognises the need to have a positive strategy to promote renewable energy generation, whilst at the same time ensuring that the adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily, including the cumulative landscape and visual impacts.

5.84 There are many different types of renewable energy choices, from solar energy, wind and biomass through to energy efficient installations such as combined heat and power and ground source heating. All of these technologies and methods of construction have a role to play in meeting Government targets and are seen as positive outcomes for the District. The Council will therefore support and encourage the generation of energy from renewable sources. These will be permitted unless there are unacceptable site specific or other impacts that could not be outweighed by wider environmental, social, economic and other benefits.

Solar Photovoltaic Farm Planning Considerations (MM135)

5.85 As a rural District, Breckland is particularly suited to solar farms. The Government's solar Photovoltaic (PV) strategy was published in 2014. The aim is to create more financial certainty and investor confidence in order to realise the long term potential for solar PV in the UK at a large and small scale. There is no cap on capacity. It is the Government's ambition to see "more ambitious deployment, perhaps approaching 20 Gigawatts (GW) early in the next decade". The past four years has seen a growth in the delivery of such facilities and their associated energy production capacity, but as at June 2013, the capacity of PV was 2.4 GW, forecast to reach 10 GW by 2020.

5.86 Whilst large scale facilities provide an opportunity for greater energy production (as well as potential enhancement to biodiversity), it is also of importance that they are carefully planned and screened to ensure any amenity and visual impacts are minimised. The NPPF states that applicants for energy development should not have to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy and that applications should be approved if their impacts are (or can be made) acceptable.

5.87 The Governments' Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on renewable and low carbon energy sets out a set of planning considerations at a national level to assess the impact of large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms. Development proposals should have regard to the PPG, in addition to this local policy on renewable energy in order to ensure the proposal is acceptable and can be supported by the Council. Key planning considerations include the quality of agricultural land, the visual and landscape impact, the effect on landscape of glint and glare and on neighbouring uses and aircraft safety, the impact of security infrastructure such as lights and fencing and the impact on the setting of heritage assets.

5.88 The Council will consider favourably opportunities for biodiversity enhancements around arrays, the potential for complete restoration of the land and appropriate mitigation such as landscape buffers (trees and hedgerows) where compatible in the context of the Council's Landscape Character Assessment and Settlement Fringe Study. (MM135)

5.89 Whilst large scale ground-mounted PV solar farms developments can have a negative impact on the rural environment, particularly in undulating landscapes, the visual impact of a well-planned and well-screened solar farm can be properly addressed within the landscape if planned sensitively.

Anaerobic Digestion Planning Considerations (MM135)

5.90 Anaerobic digestion (AD) is a natural process in which micro-organisms break down the organic matter found in wet biomass waste (such as sewage sludge, animal manure and slurry and waste food) in the absence of oxygen, to produce biogas (mainly a mixture of around 60% methane and 40% carbon dioxide) and digestate (a nitrogen rich fertiliser). The National Non-Food Crops Centre (NNFCC) runs the Government's Anaerobic Digestion Portal (<http://www.biogas-info.co.uk/>) – a gateway to information on anaerobic digestion, biogas and digestate. Reference should also be made to 'The Anaerobic digestion strategy and action plan', published by government on 14 June 2011 and an update on progress on detailed actions published in July 2012. Anaerobic Digestion proposals are regarded as waste treatment facilities, where feedstock is classified as waste under relevant legislation and so relevant related national and county best practice guidance and policies will apply.

5.91 Anaerobic Digestion proposals raise a number of planning issues including visual and landscape impacts arising from industrial scale plant / buildings; location concerns (in sustainability terms relative to the source of biomass and where relevant combined heat and power (CHP); electricity and/or gas grid connection), potential odour impacts, air emissions, noise impacts, protection of the water environment and traffic impacts. Failure to supply adequate environmental information to accompany planning applications for anaerobic digestion projects can be a key cause of delay in determining a planning application. Breckland Council therefore encourages early pre-application engagement on all renewable energy projects to optimise project assessment and delivery.

Wind energy development

5.92 In recent years, new wind energy development in Norfolk has been driven by the favourable conditions offshore, and the potential for larger turbines producing higher amounts of energy. Within Breckland, a substation has been constructed near Necton, to enable the energy generated from offshore wind farms to connect to the National Grid.

5.93 In consideration of onshore wind turbines, the written ministerial statement made on 18 June 2015 specifies that when considering applications for wind

energy development, local planning authorities should (subject to the transitional arrangement) only grant planning permission if:

- the development site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan; and
- following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore the proposal has their backing.

5.94 The PPG on renewable and low carbon energy clarifies that whether the proposal has the backing of the affected local community is a planning judgement for the local planning authority.

5.95 The Local Plan has not identified suitable areas for wind energy and therefore these areas are only able to be identified in Neighbourhood Plans (MM135).

All Renewable Energy Environmental Concerns

5.96 In relation to all renewable or low carbon energy development the Government's NPPG also states that: the need for renewable or low carbon energy does not automatically override environmental protections; cumulative impacts require particular attention, especially the increasing impact that large scale solar farms can have on landscape and local amenity as the number of solar arrays in an area increases; local topography is an important factor in assessing whether large scale solar farms could have a damaging effect on landscape and recognise that the impact can be as great in predominately flat landscapes as in hilly or mountainous areas; also, that great care should be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on views important to their setting.

Policy ENV 10 Renewable Energy Development

The Council supports proposals for new renewable energy and low carbon development, subject to consideration of the impact of the development and whether this can be made acceptable. (MM136) Proposals will be considered having regard to the extent to which there are:

- i. adverse impacts on the local landscape, townscape or designated and non-designated heritage assets assessed in line with Policies ENV 05, ENV 07 and ENV 08 in the plan;
- ii. adverse effects on residential amenity by virtue of outlook / overbearing impact, traffic generation, noise, vibration, overshadowing, glare or any other associated detrimental emissions, during construction, operation and decommissioning;
- iii. an irreversible loss of the highest quality agricultural land;
- iv. cumulative impacts of renewable energy development on an area; and
- v. adverse impacts upon designated wildlife sites; nature conservation interests; and biodiversity, assessed in line with Policies ENV 02 and ENV 03 in the plan.

Proposals will be permitted where the impact is, or can be made, acceptable. Applications will be expected to demonstrate that any adverse impacts can be mitigated. Proposals for renewable energy development including the landward infrastructure for offshore renewable schemes requiring planning permission will be assessed to determine whether the benefits they bring in terms of the amount and usability of energy generated outweigh any adverse impacts (MM136). When attributing weight to any harm, in addition to other relevant policies in the Local Plan, regard will be given to national policy and guidance, statutory duty and legislation which seeks protection and enhancement of the landscape; designated and non-statutory heritage assets.

Where appropriate the authority will consider the need for planning conditions requiring the decommissioning and removal of all plant and ancillary equipment, and if necessary the restoration of land, on the cessation of use.

Solar Energy Development

The effective use of land by focusing large scale solar farms on previously developed and non agricultural land, will be encouraged provided that it is not of high environmental value.

Particular factors that the Council will need to consider where a proposal involves greenfield land include:

- the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary and poorer quality land has been used in preference to higher quality land, where possible; and
- that the proposal allows for continued agricultural use where applicable and/or encourages biodiversity improvements around arrays.

Wind Energy Development

Proposals for wind energy development will only be permitted if:

- the development site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in an adopted Neighbourhood Plan; and
- following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore the proposal has their backing. (MM136)

6 Economy and Employment

Economic Development

6.1 The size and dispersed nature of the area's population presents significant challenges for the Council in delivering balanced economic growth. Breckland's strategic position is emphasised by the good road communications offered by the A47 and A11, the latter of which has recently benefited from major improvements providing a complete dualled road linking Norfolk to the rest of the country for the first time. The five market towns, Attleborough, Dereham, Swaffham, Thetford and Watton, are an essential component of the economic and social structure, acting as service centres to their rural hinterlands. The area has seen a rapid population growth, increasing pay levels and low rates of unemployment and there is a trend for the overall number of jobs to increase. However, average wages remain relatively low in comparison with regional and national levels due to a lower level of qualifications of people in the District and a low level of skills required by many of the available jobs.

6.2 The Employment Growth Study and Employment Land Review 2013 for Breckland, identifies that Breckland has a relatively successful economy recording significant job growth over the last two decades. The business base is dominated by small and medium-sized businesses but with below average levels of business start-ups and self-employment. Workforce productivity is relatively low which may in part reflect a slight mis-match in the local economy between lower skilled jobs available, and a more highly qualified resident workforce, many of which commute out of the District to higher paid employment elsewhere.

6.3 Employment space in the District is dominated by industrial uses and tends to be concentrated around Breckland's larger towns. The rural economy also accommodates important hubs of economic activity, particularly with regards to small scale office and workshop space. The District has seen moderate levels of new development over the past eight years, the majority for B1c/B2 manufacturing uses and B8 warehousing.

6.4 Demand for employment space remains steady, focused upon small scale industrial accommodation. The majority of commercial property market activity is concentrated within the settlements of Thetford and Dereham and, to a lesser extent Attleborough, with very limited activity occurring outside of these key areas. Some of the District's stock is dated and/or poorly specified with evidence that this issue has been constraining industrial activity – specifically in the past in terms of attracting new industrial occupiers.

6.5 Within this context, the Employment Growth Study and Employment Land Review 2013 identified a number of policy issues for consideration:

- Consider rationalising existing and future supply of industrial space by seeking to concentrate this space in the District's key locations and areas of strongest market demand (such as Thetford and Attleborough). This would help support critical mass of development on fewer sites, provide a clearer

signal to potential investors and also support any necessary upfront infrastructure works. Future development of employment space in the District should also build upon, and take advantage of, significant infrastructure improvements associated with the duelling of the A11 from Fiveways to Thetford as well as the proposed Thetford SUE which will also provide a key driver of economic growth within the District over the plan period.

- In the more peripheral areas of the District where demand levels are weaker, it may be necessary to adopt a flexible approach to bringing forward employment sites by allowing the development of other higher value non-B uses on part of allocated sites, in order to unlock the site's potential and fund any associated infrastructure works.
- At the same time, the Council could consider releasing some of the District's poorer quality and poorer performing sites in more peripheral locations characterised by relatively low market demand and that suffer from constraints to (re)development (such as proximity to residential uses). This would help to ensure an appropriate distribution of employment space across the District in accordance with market demand.
- Over the longer term (i.e. 20 year plan period), it is recommended that any new provision of office space follows an enterprise centre type model, with small units for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and local start-ups and shared workspace and networking opportunities. It is also recommended that any new office space is focused upon Breckland's town centres, benefiting from a more attractive working environment and range of facilities for staff.
- Given the rural nature of much of the District, it is also important that the Local Plan continues to recognise the important role of rural settlements in providing employment space and opportunities for local residents. This is unlikely to justify specific land allocations, however the provision of a positive policy framework (e.g. re-use of buildings) that encourages rural enterprise and diversification schemes represents the most appropriate way of ensuring that rural needs can be met.

6.6 The NPPF requires LPAs to develop a clear understanding of the business needs and markets operating in their areas. It also sets out the need for evidence to be assembled to understand the need for land and floorspace, existing and future supply of land for economic needs as well as understanding the qualitative issues associated with existing employment provision.

6.7 The Employment Growth Study and Employment Land Review 2013 for Breckland, considered the requirements from the NPPF. The study also utilised a number of demographic and economic models as well as involving local stakeholders to map out possible growth scenarios for the District. Four different scenarios of future employment space requirements were considered for the period up to 2031; these were based on a number of approaches which reflect economic growth, past development trends and potential labour supply factors. The majority of these scenarios point to a lower level of future economic growth in Breckland than the District has achieved in the recent past, partly reflecting a more pessimistic post-recession economic outlook. The overall space requirements relating to these

scenarios range from 134,235sq.m to 310,180sq.m of all types of employment space, implying in broad terms a need for between 31.6 ha and 74.7 ha of employment land. The majority of this spatial requirement relates to industrial (B1c/B2/B8) uses.

6.8 The Local Plan seeks to deliver 64 Hectares of employment land over the plan period. This figure sits between the 'Policy on' job growth scenario, which takes account of planned investment and intelligences about future sector/site based potential as an uplift on East of England Forecasting Model projections and the past trends in completions of employments space scenario. The Employment Growth Study and Employment Land Review 2013 recommended that allocating at least the baseline job growth requirement whilst providing capacity within the District to meet the slightly higher alternative 'policy-on' requirement.

6.9 The completions data has been assessed between 2012-2016 to ensure that the data used within the 2013 study is still accurate. Whilst the level of completions over the period has increased slightly when averaged over the 12 year period this would not result in a dramatic increase in the amount of employment land required. The baseline projections of employment growth and scenarios accounting for planned investment are also still considered to be up to date as of 2017.

6.10 The emerging SHMA has considered an approach to “balance out” the need for new dwellings with the expected level of new jobs forecast for the Central Norfolk Housing Market Area(HMA), utilising the latest information from the East of England Forecasting Model. For Breckland, an uplift is applied to the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for the District to account for the growth in jobs.

6.11 The Local Plan seeks to save policies in Dereham, Swaffham and Thetford totalling at least 34 hectares of employment land. At least 10 hectares of employment land in Attleborough and at least 20 hectares of employment land in Snetterton has been allocated through the Local Plan. It is considered that this increase in employment provides a balanced approach across the District over the plan period.

6.12 Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan moved to the Submission Draft Plan stage in February 2017. Throughout the Neighbourhood Plan making process, the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan has sought to allocate the 10 hectares of employment land and has actively sought to highlight an area of search for employment land. Due to the progression of the Local Plan and the need for certainty around the provision of employment land in the area, the Local Plan has sought to allocate the area that the Neighbourhood Plan has identified.

6.13 Located in the centre of the District, Watton accommodates a reasonable amount of industrial space (with a focus on light industry and engineering) and a steady flow of industrial requirements from local occupiers. The office market is very small in scale, with very limited accommodation for office users. Available supply of employment space comprises just over 2ha made up of small pockets of undeveloped land and outstanding planning permissions across the town's existing sites (including at Norwich Road Industrial Estate, Threxton Road Industrial Estate).

This demand / supply balance appears to be relatively well matched, with no identified need for additional employment space in Watton.

Policy EC 01 Economic Development

For the period 2011 – 2036, 64 Hectares of employment land will be allocated to allow for a range and choice of employment sites to meet economic need and demand.

The distribution of these new employment allocations will reflect sustainability principles, the overall spatial strategy and the development needs of local communities. The spatial distribution will be as follows:

Attleborough – at least 10Ha

Dereham - at least 3Ha (consisting of the specific allocations identified in the Sites Specific Policies and Proposals DPD - **Policy D5** – which **is not being superseded by the Local Plan**) (MM137)

Swaffham – at least 9Ha (consisting of the specific allocations identified in the Sites Specific Policies and Proposals DPD– Policies SW2 and SW3 - which **is not being superseded by the Local Plan**)

Thetford – at least 22Ha (consisting of the specific allocation identified in the Thetford AAP- Policy TH30 – **is not being superseded by the Local Plan**)

Snetterton – at least 20Ha

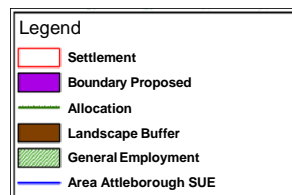
6.14 Policy EC 01 sets out the amount of employment land to be allocated within the Local Plan. It proposed that for the period 2011 - 2036, 67 hectares of employment land would be allocated to allow for a range and choice of employment sites to meet economic need and demand. The distribution of the new employment allocations proposed **is (MM138)** as follows:

- **Attleborough** - at least 10 hectares, **as allocated in this Plan**
- **Dereham** - at least 3 hectares (consisting of the specific allocations identified in the **Site Specific Policies and Proposals DPD – Policy D5** which **is not being superseded by the Local Plan**)
- **Swaffham** - at least 9 hectares (consisting of the specific allocations identified in the site specific policies and proposals DPD - Policies SW2 and SW3 - which **are not being superseded by the Local Plan**)
- **Thetford** - at least 22 hectares (consisting of the specific allocations identified in the Thetford AAP – Policy TH30 – **which Is not being superseded by the Local Plan**)
- **Snetterton** - at least 20 hectares, **as allocated in this Plan (MM138)**

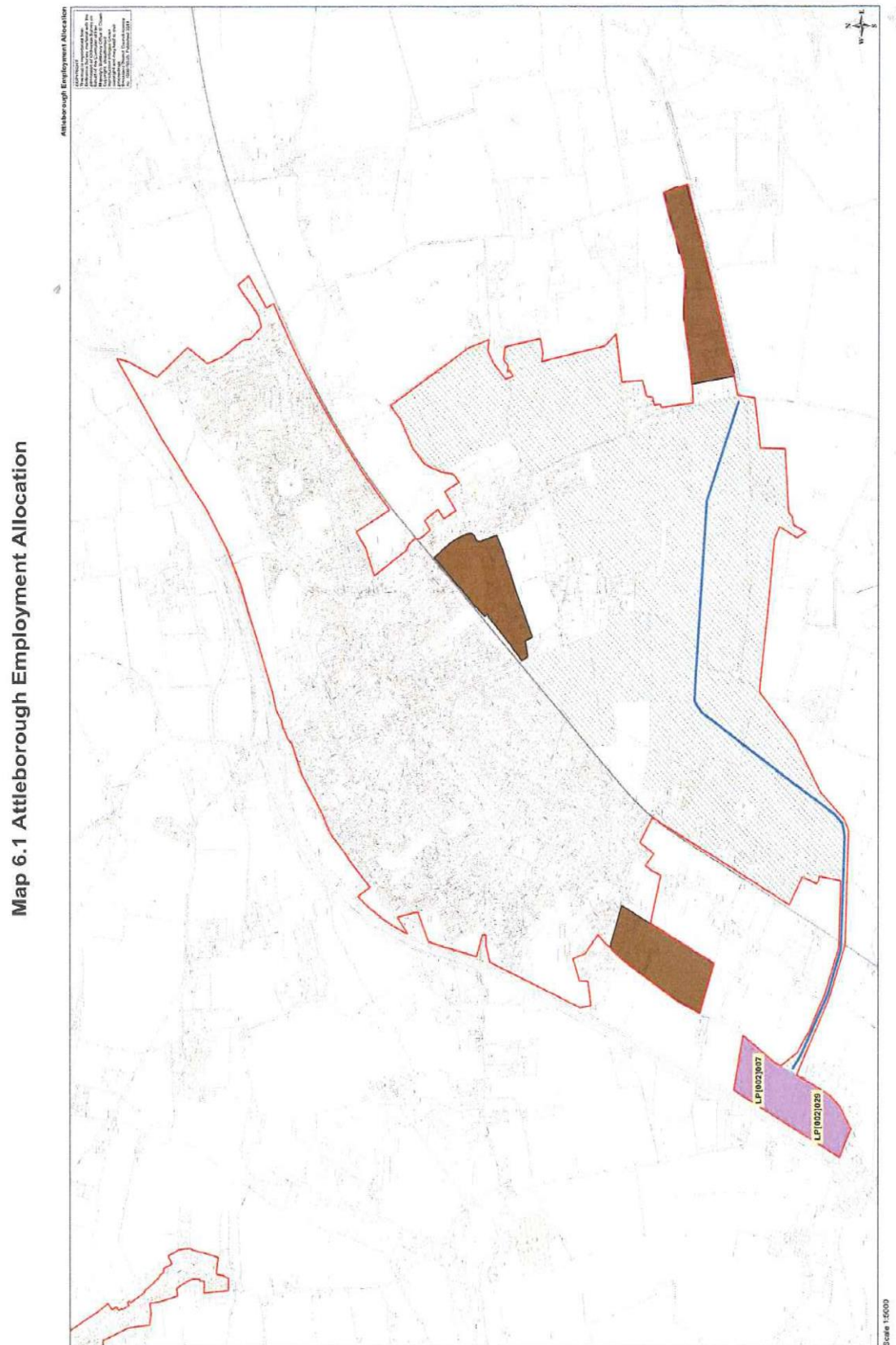
6.15 The approach to Dereham, Swaffham and Thetford is to carry forward allocations identified within both the Site Specific Policies and Proposals DPD and Thetford Area Action Plan. It is not therefore proposed to allocate new sites through the Local Plan.

6.16 In line with the Employment Growth Study the Local Plan seeks to allocate 20 additional hectares of employment land at Snetterton Heath and 10 hectares of employment land at Attleborough. The 10 hectares of employment land at Attleborough has been identified through the Neighbourhood Plan, but has been formally allocated through the Local Plan in order to ensure that the requirements of the Employment Growth Study are fulfilled through the lifetime of the plan.

**Figure 6.1 Key for
Employment maps**



Picture 6.1 Map- Attleborough Employment Allocation (MIN33)



6.17 The allocation, proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan, totals approximately 12.5 hectares; however, in line with government guidance, a 20% reduction has been applied to convert from gross to net resulting in approximately 10 hectares net internal employment land.

6.18 The emerging policy LE. P1 in the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan Submission Draft February 2017 seeks to allocate land to the west of London Road for 10 ha of employment land as a result of evidence undertaken to support both the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan. This Local Plan policy provides the strategic context for the allocation with the intention that the Neighbourhood Plan will provide detailed policy criteria to shape the development of the employment site. As the Neighbourhood Plan is in its final submission stage (as of February 2017) and has not yet been subject to examination or referendum only limited weight can be applied to the draft Neighbourhood Plan policies. However, the emerging policy LE. P1 has been formed by evidence, is in conformity with the Council's strategic policy direction and has been subject to public consultation and therefore the policy in the Local Plan provides a link to the emerging Neighbourhood Plan policy.

6.19 The Grade II White Lodge Inn sits immediately to the east of this site. It is a low rise building which sits in open land. A further collection of Grade II listed buildings are located further to the east of the site, Potmere Farmhouse and associated barns. Consideration should be given to the wider setting of these heritage assets in forming development proposals as well as the potential for archaeological interest on the site. (MM141)

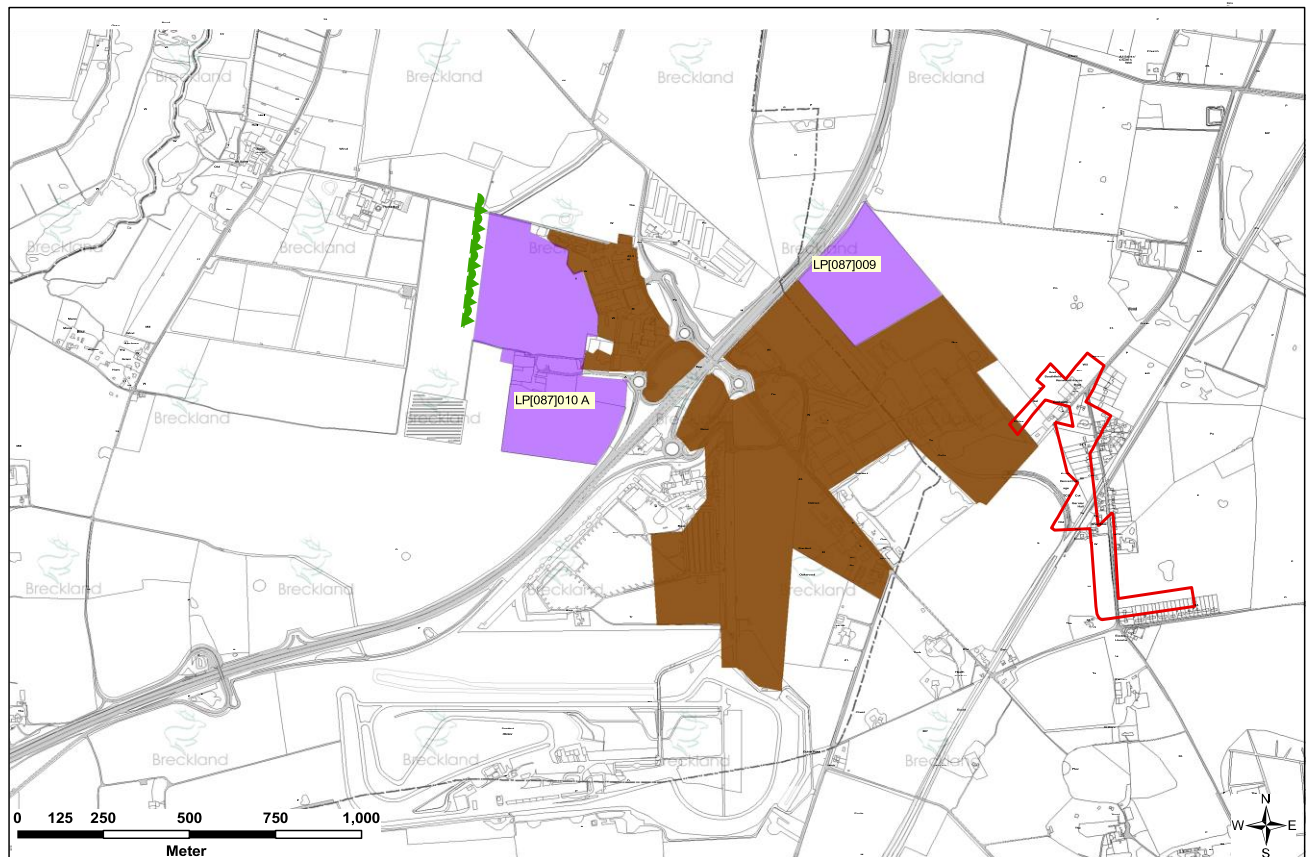
Attleborough Employment Allocation

Land to the west of London Road (LP[002]029 & LP[002]007)

Land amounting to **at least (MM136)** 10 hectares (net) is allocated for employment use (within Classes B1 and B2 of the Use Classes Order) to the west of London Road. Development will be subject to compliance with the following criteria:

1. Provision of safe highway access from London Road;
2. Appropriate design, layout and landscaping in keeping with the site's location as a key gateway into Attleborough from the A11; and
3. The planning application will have regard to emerging Policy LE. P1 in the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan Submission Draft February 2017 or the final Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan, if brought into force.
4. **Development proposals will be informed by the presence of designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings. The scheme design will seek to conserve and, where possible, enhance the setting of heritage assets. (MM140)**

Map 6.2 Summary of Snetterton Heath Allocations



6.20 The two allocated sites provide a total of 28.82 hectares, however in line with government guidance, a 20% reduction has been applied to convert from gross to net with a further 10% reduction applied to allow for appropriate landscape screening, layout and design, resulting in a total of 20 hectares net internal employment land from the two preferred sites.

6.21 Further to this, a change to the General Employment Area (GEA) is proposed by removing the landfill site from the GEA (SNE 01) and reallocating this to the area to the north of site LP[087]011 (SNE 02). This change seeks to reflect the existing uses on the GEA. The proposed area of landfill to be removed is 7.8 hectares, and the extension proposed to the GEA, as shown on the maps, is 11.1, however when the 30% gross to net multiplier and 10% landscaping multiplier is applied this comes to 7.77 hectares.

Snetterton Employment Allocation 1

Land to the north west of the General Employment Area (LP[087]010A)

Land amounting to 14 hectares (net) is allocated for employment use (within Classes B1 and B2 and B8 of the Use Classes Order) to the north west of Snetterton North General Employment Area. Development will be subject to compliance with the following criteria:

1. Development is laid out in a manner that does not preclude the potential for future development in the vicinity;
2. Proposals for employment development within class B1 and B2 of the Use Classes Order (as amended) will be preferred;
3. Provision of safe highway access from Chalk Lane;
4. Suitable noise attenuation measures (which could include building design measures, screening, fencing or bunding) are provided to avoid harm to nearby residential amenity;
5. Provision of new structural landscaping to the western boundary of the site.

6.22 The site is situated upon 20 hectares of grade 3 agricultural land with the A11 to the south of the site and the existing General Employment Area to the east. The site frontages onto the A11 and has access to the existing general Employment Area through Chalk Lane. Norfolk County Council Highways, through consultation responses, have not raised any objections regarding the site.

6.23 The site has very few constraints; however, it is noted that the site is within close proximity (1.3km) to the village of Snetterton North End. However; due to the topography of the landscape and appropriate screening it is not anticipated to have a significant impact upon the existing residential properties.

Snetterton Employment Allocation 2

Land to the east of the General Employment Area (LP[087]009)

Land amounting to approximately 6 hectares (net) is allocated for employment use (Within Classes B1, B2 and B8 of the Use Classes Order) to the east of the Snetterton South General Employment Area. Development will be subject to compliance with the following criteria:

1. Provision of safe highway access from Harling Road;
2. Proposals for employment development within class B8 of the Use Classes Order (as amended) will be preferred;
3. Appropriate design and layout in keeping with the site's location as a key gateway with frontage onto the A11; and
4. Appropriate noise attenuation measures are provided at the northern border of the site with the A11 trunk road, if required.

6.24 The site is situated upon 8.8 hectares of Grade 3 agricultural land to the north of the existing General Employment Area. The site frontages onto the A11 to the north and has access to the existing General Employment Area through Harling Road. Norfolk County Council Highways, through consultation responses, have not raised any objections regarding the site.

6.25 The site is currently subject to a live planning application (3PL/2013/0727/D) comprising a mix of B1, B2 and B8 uses. The permission proposes access to Harling Road, which has been completed.

6.26 No fundamental constraints to the development of the site have been identified.

Policy EC 02 - Snetterton Heath

(MM142)

The distribution of employment development across the site is subject to the following:

1. Within area LP[087]010A (MIN34) as defined on the policies map, 20ha of land is allocated for B1 and B2 use. The layout of any development should not prejudice future expansion of the site;
2. Within the southern extent of the Snetterton General Employment Area as defined on the policies map, proposals for employment use within classes B1 and B2 of the Use Classes Order (as amended) will be preferred. Proposals that are associated with motorsport, automotive and advanced engineering will be encouraged;
3. Within the eastern extent of Snetterton General Employment Area as defined on the policies map, proposals for employment development within class B8 of the Use Classes Order (as amended) will be preferred; and
4. Proposals that create a new edge to the employment area shall be expected to provide appropriate boundary treatment to minimise the impact on the landscape, having regard to the principles of the Landscape Character Assessment

Reasoned Justification

6.27 Draft Strategic Policy PD06 that was subject to consultation in January/February 2016 identifies Snetterton Heath for an allocation of at least 20ha of new employment land over the plan period. The existing area is characterised by a number of different types of employment use that have developed as distinct clusters of activity which have established over time. This policy seeks to reflect the findings of the Cambridge to Norwich Technology corridor study and previous work under the auspices of the Rural Enterprise Valley (REV) by promoting motorsport and advanced engineering associated with the race track, as well as building on the area's successes within the distribution and manufacturing sectors. The policy seeks to direct particular types of activity within the 'B use classes' to specific areas of the site to promote clustering and capitalise on the inter-relationships between the activities carried out across the site.

6.28 The northern extent of Snetterton Heath, north of the trunk road, has a mixed character with a range of general industrial uses and planning permission was granted on 19th January 2016 for a new general industrial operator. In this area, proposals for new general industrial development would be acceptable having regard to the nature of the existing development.

6.29 The southern extent of Snetterton Heath, south of the A11 and south-west of Heath Road, is characterised by the motor racing track and former Snetterton Park

and comprises a range of existing buildings and established land uses. This area has excellent visibility from the A11 and provides the opportunity to direct the development and intensification of motorsport and advanced manufacturing uses, building on the proximity of this part of the site to the race track. The area provides opportunities for co-location and access to the track for automotive testing and related activity. (MIN35)

6.30 The eastern extent of the site (south of the A11 and north-east of Heath Road) contains a range of principally storage and distribution uses, including a rail head. Therefore, to ensure the delivery of the overall vision for the site, it is appropriate to direct new uses falling within Class B8 of the Use Classes Order to this location. Such uses do not require such close relationship to the track and due to their higher land take and lower employment density, such uses are therefore best directed towards this area of the site. This area offers potential opportunities to support the transshipment of goods to road from rail.

6.31 The General Employment Area boundary for Snetterton Heath is proposed to be amended to exclude an existing landfill site that does not provide deliverable opportunities for employment development within the plan period. An additional area of brownfield land at the former Snetterton Park is proposed to be included in the designation in order to provide an opportunity to support re-development for B class employment development to this part of the site. This approach will help to support the wider vision for the site.

6.32 The above strategic approach to the use of the site will ensure that the greatest opportunities for clustering and maximising higher job density uses in key locations are maximised.

(MM143)

Economy

6.33 In accordance with the NPPF this chapter includes policies that support sustainable economic growth within Breckland, through the creation of jobs and prosperity to meet the development needs of business. As a predominantly rural area, economic policies should be tailored to ensure they are flexible enough to accommodate needs, to respond rapidly to changes in economic circumstances, whilst facilitating flexible working practices.

6.34 The NPPF (paragraph 28), requires planning policies to positively support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity. It has put a strong emphasis on promoting the rural economy and to support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas. It also states that the Local Plan should:

- promote diversification of agriculture and other land-use based rural businesses;
- support rural tourism; and

- promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

6.35 The performance of Breckland's economy is largely dependent on a healthy rural economy. Whilst larger scale employment space is dominated by industrial uses, and tends to be concentrated around Breckland's larger towns, the rural economy accommodates important hubs of economic activity, particularly with regards to small scale office and workshop space, as well as being a key employment sector in the District. Agricultural businesses are scattered across the rural area of the District which presents challenges for delivering balanced economic growth.

6.36 Rural business is now increasingly driven by technology. There has been significant growth and development in the agri-science sector which has been continuously driving efficiency and innovation of agriculture businesses. The overspill of high-tech research activities in this region has benefited from a wide range of rural businesses in Breckland. Small and medium scale rural enterprises represent a significant portion of the economic activities in Breckland due to the rural nature of the District. Therefore, diverse and thriving rural enterprises contribute significantly to prosperity and the creation of more opportunities for jobs across the District.

General Employment Areas

6.37 As identified on the Policies Map, there are a significant number of employment areas across the District, each of which makes a contribution towards the local economy and provides an important source of local employment.

6.38 Employment uses are traditionally defined as Use Classes B1, B2 and B8 under the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987. However the diversification of the economy means that employment opportunities now emanate from a wider range of uses. These can be complementary to existing industrial uses and provide valuable supporting services such as cafes and nurseries. However, the intensification of individual uses or the cumulative impact of a number of non B1, B2, B8 uses in the same vicinity can reduce the functionality of employment areas for industrial based employers.

6.39 Proposals will be expected to complement their surroundings and not result in any unacceptable impacts on amenity or a severe impact on the local highways network. Proposals will also be encouraged to contribute towards the identified need to make provision for both small and start-up businesses.

6.40 The policy incorporates proposals for mixed use developments to address an issue raised in the Employment Growth Study, suggesting the need for a flexible approach to bring forward employment sites by allowing the development of other higher value non-B uses on part of allocated sites, in order to unlock the site's potential and fund any associated infrastructure works. **Mixed use developments include elements of development that do not fall within the B1, B2 and B8 Use Classes. The typical situation is for proposals that involve development that is a town**

centre use and/or residential development. Town centre uses are defined in the glossary of the NPPF as follows:

“Retail development (including warehouse clubs and factory outlet centres); leisure, entertainment facilities, the more intensive sport and recreation uses (including cinemas, restaurants, drive-through restaurants, bars and pubs, nightclubs, casinos, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres and bingo halls); offices; and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities).” (MM144)

6.41 Appropriate proposals to diversify and ensure the long term sustainability of existing employment areas will therefore be supported where they contain a significant employment element; contribute positively to the viability of the employment land and would not undermine, and are otherwise compatible with, existing employment uses.

6.42 National policy is clear that local authorities need to plan for future needs of economic development but a balance needs to be struck between making land available and not reserving land that has little likelihood of being taken up. For an employment site that is considered as having no reasonable prospect of coming into use, justification would be needed as to whether the site is no longer suitable, available and/or economically viable, including evidence of appropriate marketing and future market demand.

6.43 In all cases the marketing process requires that the premises were appropriately and extensively marketed for a minimum of twelve months, unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant that this is not appropriate. Evidence of marketing can include, but is not limited to: Copies of the letter(s) of instruction to the Commercial Agent and dated copies of the Agent's property details; details and evidence of all marketing activity; and logs of any enquiries and how these were pursued. At the culmination of the marketing period, there is an expectation that there would be a written submission from the Commercial Agent (or other specialist) as to the reasoning the site has not been taken up for the use for which it was marketed. In all cases, prospective applicants are advised to agree an appropriate marketing strategy prior to the submission of a planning application. (MM144)

Policy EC 03 General Employment Areas

Sites that are identified as General Employment Areas, **employment allocations that have not been superseded by this Plan and proposed employment allocations in this Plan, as illustrated (MM145)** on the Policies Map will be protected for employment use. Proposals to accommodate new employment development (B1, B2 and B8 uses) will be permitted on General Employment Areas where the following criteria apply:

- a. It is not a town centre use¹, unless the location is sequentially preferable and need has been demonstrated;
- b. It will not undermine the function of the wider employment area;

- c. The scale, bulk and appearance of the development is compatible with the character of its surroundings;
- d. There is no significant detrimental health impacts, (assessed through a health impact assessment where appropriate), on the amenity of neighbouring land uses and the character of the area by virtue of increased levels of noise, odour, emissions, or dust and impacts on light; and
- e. The traffic generated does not have a severe adverse impact on local amenity, highway safety or the operation of the highways network.

Proposals for mixed-use development in identified employment areas will be supported provided that they:

- Incorporate a significant employment element (B1, B2 and B8 uses) (MM145);
- Support the improvement of an employment area that is in need of upgrading; and
- Are compatible and do not constrain the operations of adjoining businesses.

Where the site is considered as having no reasonable prospect of coming into use justification would be needed as to whether the site no longer suitable, available and/or economically viable, including evidence of appropriate marketing and future market demand. (MM145)

¹ unless it is a proposal for mixed use development

Employment Development Outside of General Employment Areas

6.44 The majority of employment development will be provided for in the strategic employment allocation outlined in Policy EC 01 and on established employment areas as outlined in Policy EC 03. However, in a rural District such as Breckland there will be a need to provide for those businesses which support the rural economy and improve opportunities for rural communities to live and work in close proximity. It is recognised that the changes made over recent years to the permitted development rights for the change of use of agricultural buildings are relevant to the operation of this policy (see Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015).

6.45 Proposals for the expansion of existing rural businesses, new businesses which are either related to rural activities (such as agriculture and forestry) or where there are clear sustainability advantages for businesses being located close to the market they serve, will generally be supported. The demonstration of sustainability advantages should include evidence of reduced need to travel, re-use of previously developed land or existing buildings and enhanced opportunities for rural communities to access employment in their locality. Such evidence should be professionally prepared and provided in a sustainability statement accompanying the proposal.

6.46 Additionally, there are a number of businesses which, due to the nature of their activities, cannot reasonably be expected to locate on established employment areas which are often within, or on the edge of, built up areas. Such uses include those activities which would be detrimental to local amenity and therefore need to be located some distance from residential areas. A number of employment sites are provided for in the rural areas away from settlements, including Shipdham Airfield (Cranworth), Snetterton and Roudham and available land within these areas should be investigated in the first instance.

6.47 In order to ensure that business development in the rural areas is sustainable, proposals will be expected to make best use of previously developed sites or the replacement of existing rural buildings. In the case of replacement buildings, the policy applies to large modern agricultural buildings which can be intrusive in landscape terms because their design and construction has been a specific response to agricultural requirements. The clear and substantial improvement in terms of size and scale requires that replacement buildings will have a significantly reduced volume and a reduced visual impact. Design and Access Statements accompanying replacement rural buildings for business use should address criteria (d) to (f) inclusive and the requirements of planning policy relating to design, amenity and accessibility.

6.48 Proposals for employment development within close proximity to Breckland SPA will be restricted and assessed in accordance with Policies ENV 02 and ENV 03.

Policy EC 04 Employment Development Outside General Employment Areas

Proposals for employment uses outside of the identified General Employment Areas and allocated sites will be permitted where:

- a. It is demonstrated that there are no other suitable sites available on identified or allocated employment sites; and/or
- b. There are particular reasons for the development not being located on an established or allocated employment site including:
 1. The expansion of an existing business;
 2. Businesses that are based on agriculture, forestry or other industry where there are sustainability advantages to being located in close proximity to the market they serve; or
 3. Industries and / or businesses which would be detrimental to local amenity if located in settlements, including general employment areas.
- c. The development of the site would not adversely affect the type and volume of traffic generated.

Replacement of Rural Buildings

The replacement of rural buildings for B Use Classes as defined in the Use

Classes Order may be considered acceptable where the proposal:

- d. Involves the removal of a building that is substantially intact but is not a traditional building of clear architectural or historic interest;
- e. Represents a clear and substantial improvement in terms of size, scale, impact and design from the original; and
- f. The replacement buildings are well located to the existing buildings, unless it can be demonstrated that an alternative location would be visually less prominent.

The Council will consider the need for appropriate measures in order to maintain the visual appearance and architectural character of buildings and prevent the proliferation of buildings in the countryside.

Existing Employment (Outside General Employment Areas, employment allocations that have not been superseded and proposed employment allocations). (MM146)

Employment uses in locations outside of those outlined in Policy EC 03 are considered important to the economy, particularly those in rural areas. Proposals that will result in a permanent loss of employment uses with no alternative proposed will be considered on their own merits. The loss will be weighed in the planning balance, taking into account factors such as the long term sustainability of the location, individual site constraints and the existing and potential market demand for employment uses.

Retail & Town Centres

6.49 An objective of the Local Plan is to promote the vitality and viability of town centres, including the night time economy, and support the retention of existing rural services. Policies in the Local Plan must also accord with the NPPF which requires LPAs to use up to date evidence to assess needs for retail floorspace, including both the qualitative and quantitative needs over the plan period. The scale of some retail proposals outside town centres has the ability to affect the vitality and viability of town centres, divert trade away from these areas affecting customer choice and potentially committed, existing and planned private investment in centres. In order to understand the potential effects on a town centre from an out of town retail proposal the NPPF allows LPAs to propose locally set floorspace thresholds above which any application must provide an impact assessment. A sequential test should also be applied to applications that are not in the designated town centre.

Retail Hierarchy

6.50 National policy requires that development plans establish a hierarchy of centres in the District, and that new development is proportionate with the position of the centre in the retail hierarchy. The Local Plan encourages vibrant town centres in the District, which attract people and investment so as to maintain and develop the town centres for residents, businesses and visitors. The policy seeks to underpin the town

centre first approach, ensuring that the District's town centres are the main focus for retail and leisure development and are not undermined by inappropriate out of centre ad-hoc development. It also seeks to support longer term regeneration strategies such as the Riverside regeneration scheme at Thetford and provide the foundations for growth and investment and the development of Council action plans such as the emerging "Open for Business" Strategy.

6.51 The key settlements, market towns and local service centres of the District consist of a range of centres of different sizes and characteristics. The vitality of all these is seen as essential for economic prosperity and through linked trips within town centres reduce carbon emissions as well as providing the potential to support sustainable transport initiatives. The 2014 Retail Study recommended that the Local Plan policies should continue to seek to maintain and enhance the existing shopping hierarchy. The study concluded that Thetford and Dereham town centres should be classified as main centres. Thetford as a key centre for development and change and Dereham as the main administrative centre serving a wide hinterland of mid Norfolk. The remaining centres of Attleborough, Swaffham and Watton were identified as generally being at the same level of provision and therefore should be classed as such.

6.52 Consideration has been given to the enhancement of Attleborough in the retail hierarchy due to the proposed residential growth. However, in considering the available capacity for retail development as identified in the 2014 Retail Study which included assumptions on the planned growth levels, it is not considered appropriate to elevate the town in the retail hierarchy. The range, scale and nature of retail service facilities as well as the extent of the rural catchments for the three market towns remain very similar.

Additional Retail Floor Space

6.53 National guidance advises that Local Plans should identify the scale of need for main town centre uses.

6.54 In 2017, the Council commissioned an addendum to the 2014 Retail Study to reassess the quantitative scope for new retail and food and beverage floorspace in Breckland up until 2036, with a second addendum published in May 2018. The Addendum, as updated, (MM147) identified that, in terms of convenience retail floorspace, there was some potential capacity over and above planned commitments in the District. However, the provision should be carefully directed. Swaffham had an over provision of convenience floorspace for the foreseeable future; Watton had very limited capacity to support new development, whilst Attleborough, Dereham and Thetford all had some limited capacity once commitments are taken into consideration. There is also limited capacity indicated for the remaining District outside of the 5 main centres.

6.55 In terms of comparison goods Breckland's market share of expenditure is estimated at less than 43% and there are high levels of "leakage" outside of the District to higher order centres. The 2018 Addendum reinforces this finding with

levels of leakage from the market town catchment areas to outside of the District ranging from 64.8% within Attleborough to 42.5% in Watton. (MM!47)

6.56 In the face of increasing competition from nearby higher order centres the 2014 Retail Study concluded that it would be appropriate and realistic to plan to maintain market shares across the District whilst maintaining the vitality and viability of the town centres.

Impact Assessment Thresholds

6.57 In assessing the appropriate thresholds for any locally defined impact assessment it is also considered appropriate to follow the 2014 Retail Study recommendations. Generally relying on the NPPF threshold of 2,500 sq m gross is considered inappropriate for the retail centres of Breckland as development smaller than 2,500 sq m could have significant adverse impacts on the town centres. In some smaller towns projections suggest that less than 500 sq m gross comparison and convenience goods retail floorspace is required. The retail study by Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners (NLP), recommended that a reduced threshold of 500 sq m gross is appropriate for Attleborough, Swaffham and Watton. In Dereham and Thetford the floorspace projections are generally higher, the centres larger and capable of absorbing more trade diversion and impact. In these centres the 2014 Retail Study recommends that policy should be set requiring an impact threshold of 1,000 sq m gross.

Town Centre Boundaries

6.58 The NPPF requires Councils to define the extent of the town centres and primary shopping areas based on a clear definition of primary and secondary frontages in designated town centres. Policy EC 02 defines these boundaries using set definitions which are based upon those used in the NPPF.

6.59 Evidence suggests that in some centres policies that seek to maintain a proportion of A1 use – retail within the primary and secondary shopping frontages are no longer relevant. As town centres evolve the role of policy must change to support the vitality and viability of the centre by supporting the delivery of a greater range of services. Changes in recent years to the General Permitted Development Order, (GDPO) also have the potential to impact on the retail composition of the high street. Current measures allow for greater flexibility for changes of use e.g Class A uses to C3 - residential use and Class A1 - retail shops to A2 use - financial services. It is important to recognise that the town centres in Breckland act as more than just a retail role but also act as wider service centres for their rural hinterlands. Although it is important to seek to maintain and improve the centres retail offer, policies that seek to retain an unreasonable high proportion of shops may prevent other essential services from being introduced and could prevent the expansion / evolution of the centre. The Local Plan therefore seeks to support retail development by directing it to the Primary Shopping areas in a flexible manner.

Local Centres and Future Provision in the Proposed Urban Extensions

6.60 Local centres are important in providing for daily needs without having to travel to larger, higher order centres. In Breckland they can serve a wider rural community than the local service centre they are located in. It is important that these centres are supported and provision enhanced. The retention of rural shops and community facilities, and the provision of new facilities at an appropriate scale to the settlement, will be supported.

6.61 Two large scale urban extensions are envisaged over the life time of the Local Plan and it is important to plan for the local needs of these developments. The 2014 Retail Study advised that provision of local shopping facilities would be appropriate in these developments at the appropriate scale to ensure that residents have access to day to day shops and services within walking distance of their home. It is essential, however, to ensure that any local centre remains commercially viable and capable of delivery.

6.62 The Local Plan seeks to maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of the five main town centres in Breckland and maintain the local shopping facilities within smaller villages. The strategy is to focus retail and leisure development within town centres in the primary shopping areas and restrict retail and leisure development outside these defined centres where it fails the sequential and /or impact tests, except where it serves a local need in a smaller village.

Policy EC 05 Town Centre and Retail Strategy

Policies in the Local Plan will seek to support and enhance the vitality of the District's hierarchy of centres and seek to direct floorspace requirements in line with the breakdown in the 2017 retail study projections over the plan period.

| Town | Hierarchy | Convenience Requirement (net sq m) | Comparison Requirement (net sq m) | Food and Beverage (gross sq m) |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Thetford | Key Centre | 1,509 (MM148) | 2,986 | 757 |
| Dereham | Main Centre | 839 | 4,793 | 849 |
| Attleborough | Medium Town Centre | 578 | 1,016 | 820 |
| Swaffham | Medium Town Centre | 0 | 737 | 220 |
| Watton | Medium Town Centre | 514 | 1,048 | 181 |

These centres will be the preferred location for retail, food and non-food, office, leisure and cultural facilities and other town centre uses as defined by national policy. Retail and other town centre development will be supported, provided that it is of an appropriate scale that reflects the size and role of the centre, respects the character of the centre, including any special architectural and historic interest and contributes to maintaining and enhancing its existing retail function.

An impact assessment for retail, leisure and/or office schemes will be required on schemes of 1,000 sq m gross and over in Thetford and Dereham and 500 sq m gross and over in Attleborough, Swaffham and Watton. Support will also be dependent on how it reflects need as identified in the 2014 retail study and other evidence. Site selection for retail and other town centre functions should follow the sequential test and prevailing national policies and guidance.

The following definitions apply to the District's retail areas, as shown on the policies maps:

- Town Centre – Defined area, including the primary shopping area and areas of predominantly leisure, business and other main town centre uses within or adjacent to the primary shopping area.
- Primary Shopping Area – Defined area where retail development is concentrated, (generally comprising the primary and those secondary frontages which are contiguous and closely related to the primary shopping frontage).
- Primary Frontage – Primary frontages are areas of mainly shops (Use Class A1).
- Secondary Frontage – Secondary frontage provides greater opportunities for a diversity of uses.

The Local Plan will seek to enhance local provision through focusing retail and leisure proposals within town centres, with retail uses focused within the Primary Shopping Areas. The development of additional retail floorspace outside of defined centres will be restricted where it fails the sequential and impact tests (except where it serves local need). Retail frontages and town centre boundaries will be defined on the policies maps.

The retail role of local service centres will be maintained. The importance of rural shops and facilities will be a material consideration in any application that would result in their loss. Proposals that seek to preserve and enhance the settlement's vitality and viability, or implement environmental improvements, will be supported. Extensions of rural shops and facilities as well as proposals for conversion into shops that are designed to enhance viability will also be supported.

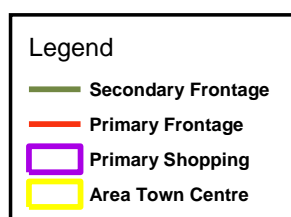
For the Key Settlements of Attleborough and Thetford, a significant proportion of the retail need for the plan period will be met through development of small scale service provision in the Strategic Urban Extensions to serve the expanded communities. Retail proposals will be supported where they seek

to deliver up to 2,400 sq m gross floorspace A1-A5 use in Thetford and up to 1,900 sq m gross floorspace A1-A5 use in Attleborough in a local parade format, which has been informed by the Breckland Retail and Town Centre Study (MM148). Proposals should be well connected to the local catchment, providing pedestrian and cycling links and seek to cater for local shopping needs through the delivery of small units as defined under the Sunday Trading Act (280 sq m gross) capable of serving top-up convenience needs.

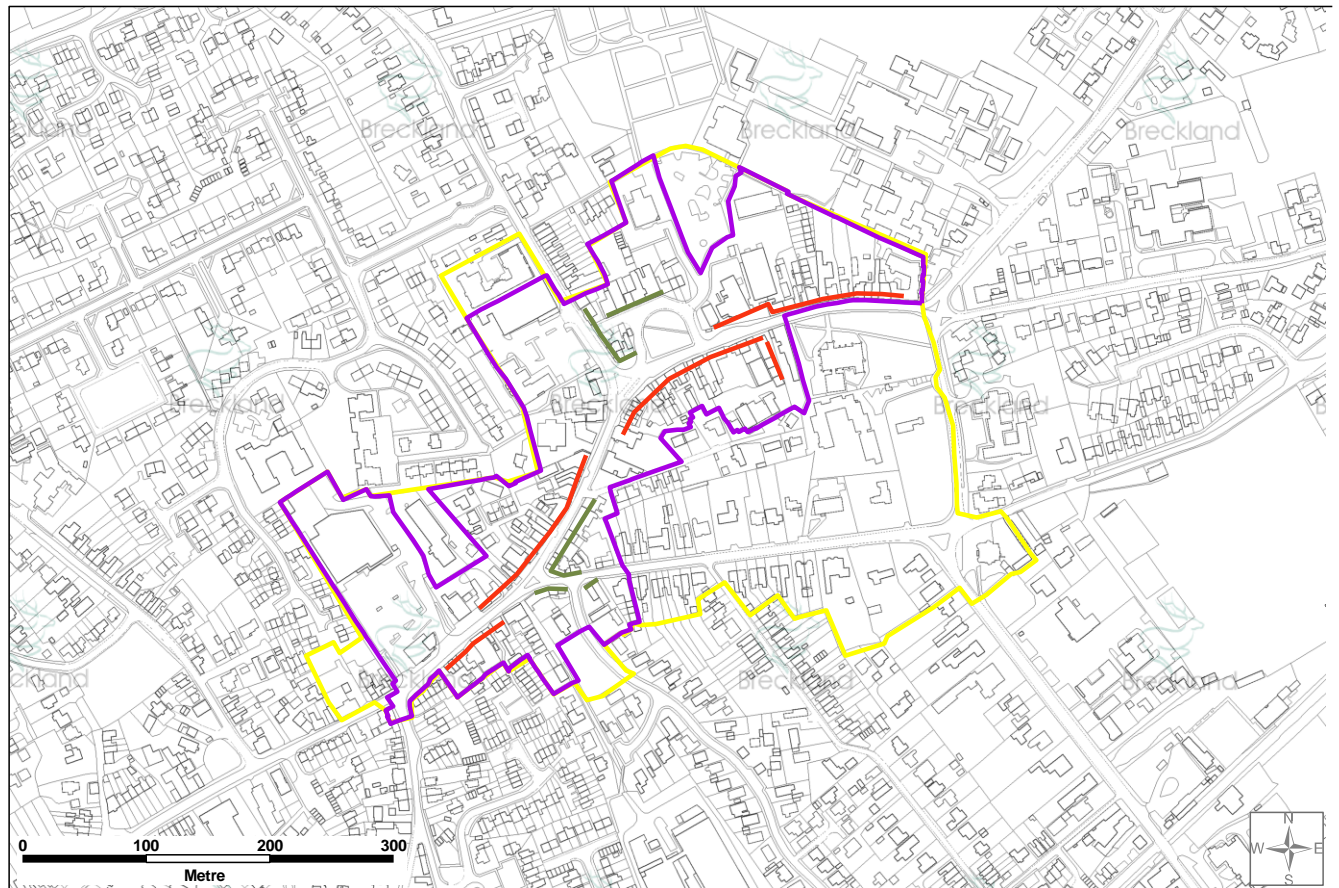
In addition, the Local Plan town centre and retail strategy seeks to:

- Support the diversity of main town centre uses in order to enhance their continued vitality and viability with regard to retail, business, cultural and leisure services;
- Allow the appropriate provision (in line with needs) of larger retail units (over 200 sq m) in town centres through the amalgamation of units in order to attract those retailers requiring larger modern shop units as long as the overall retail mix is enhanced;
- Deliver improvements to the built environment, including public realm, and streetscape. Encourage innovative design and improvements in local design quality. Both of which can contribute to developing a strong local identity and sense of place.
- Work with partners to support the active management of the larger town centres; and
- Promote better accessibility through improvements in pedestrian and cycle environment and the designation and management of car parking where it is demonstrated it will bring a positive improvement.

Figure 6.2 Key to Town Centre Maps

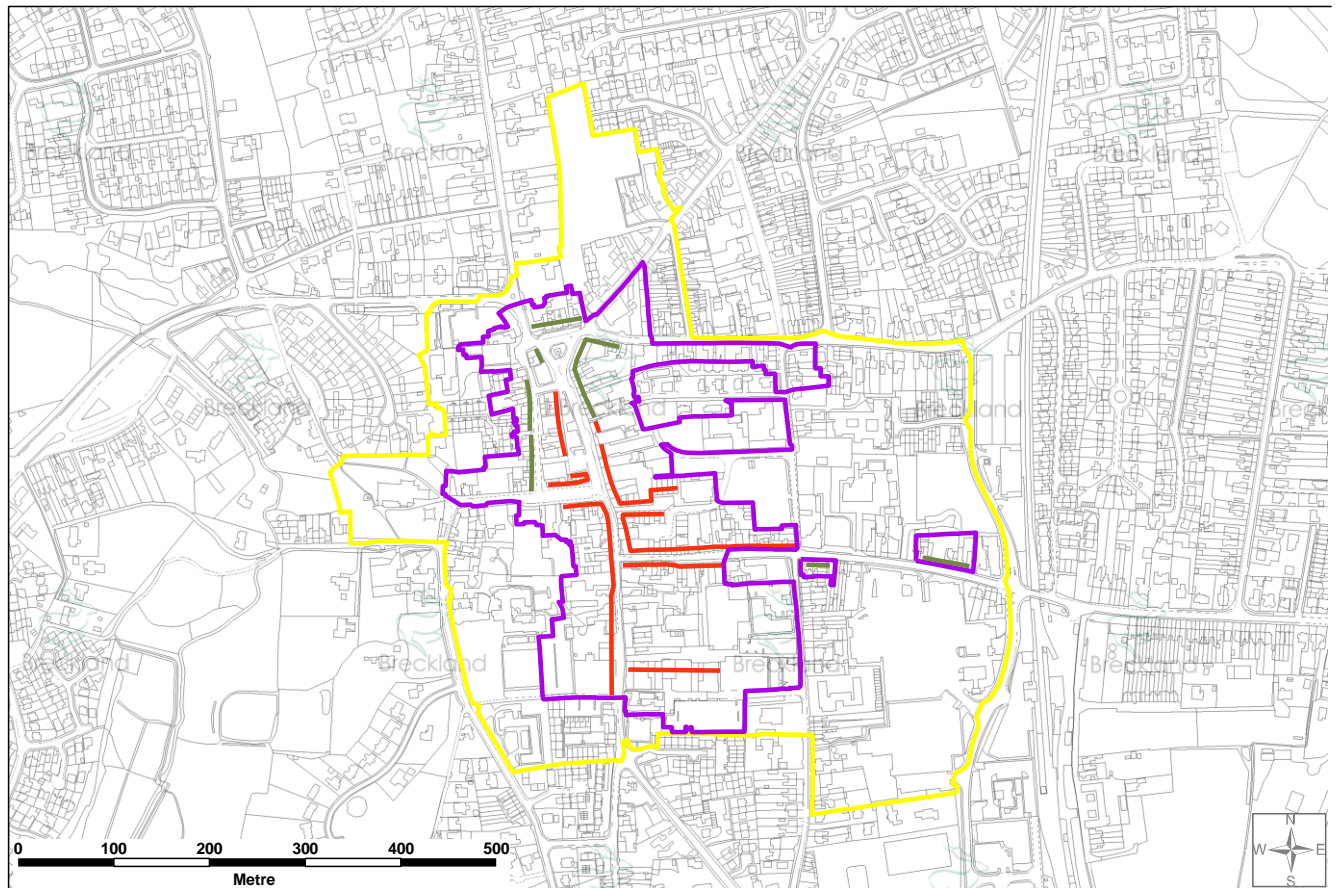


Map 6.4 Attleborough Town Centre Boundary



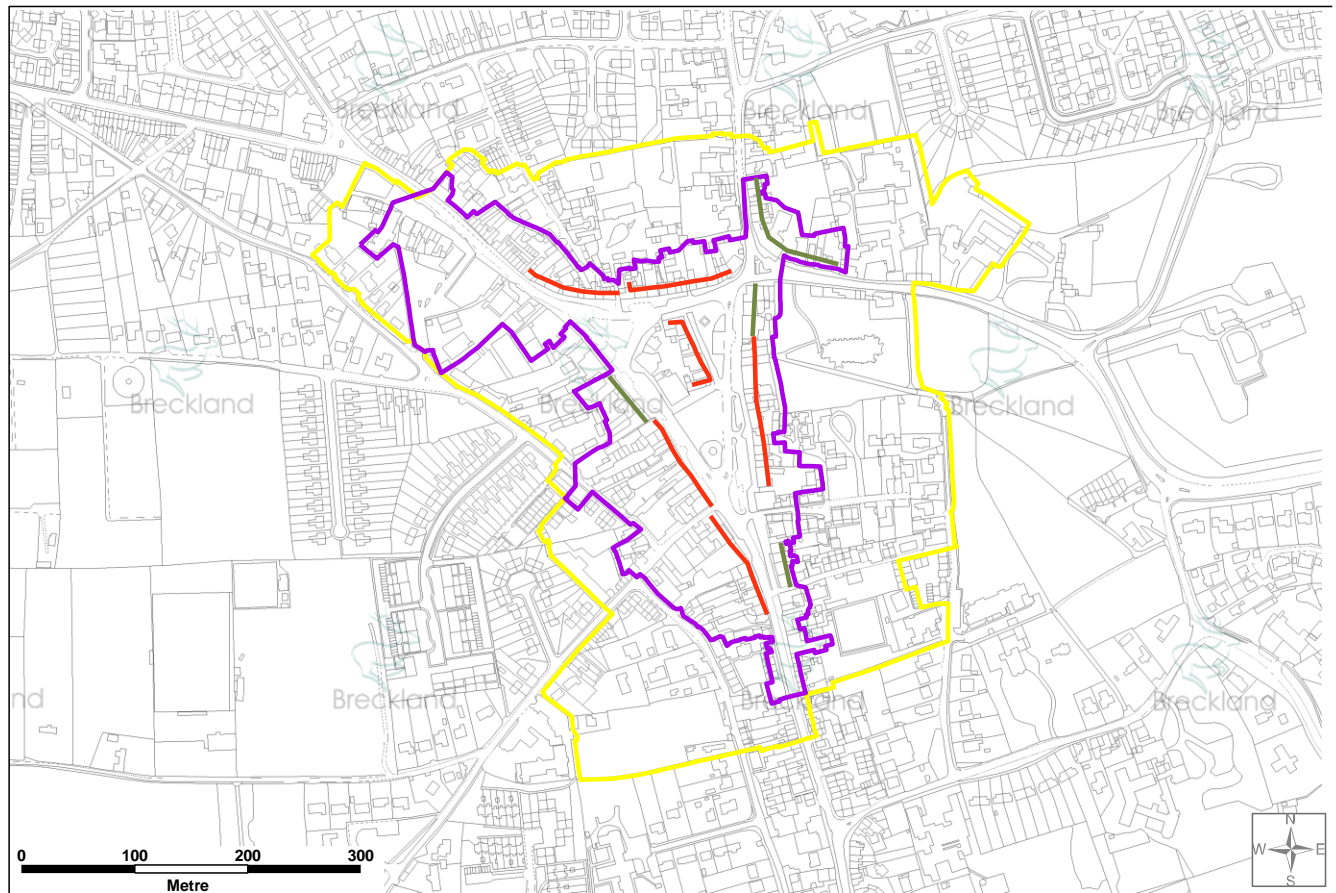
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Map 6.5 Dereham Town Centre Boundary



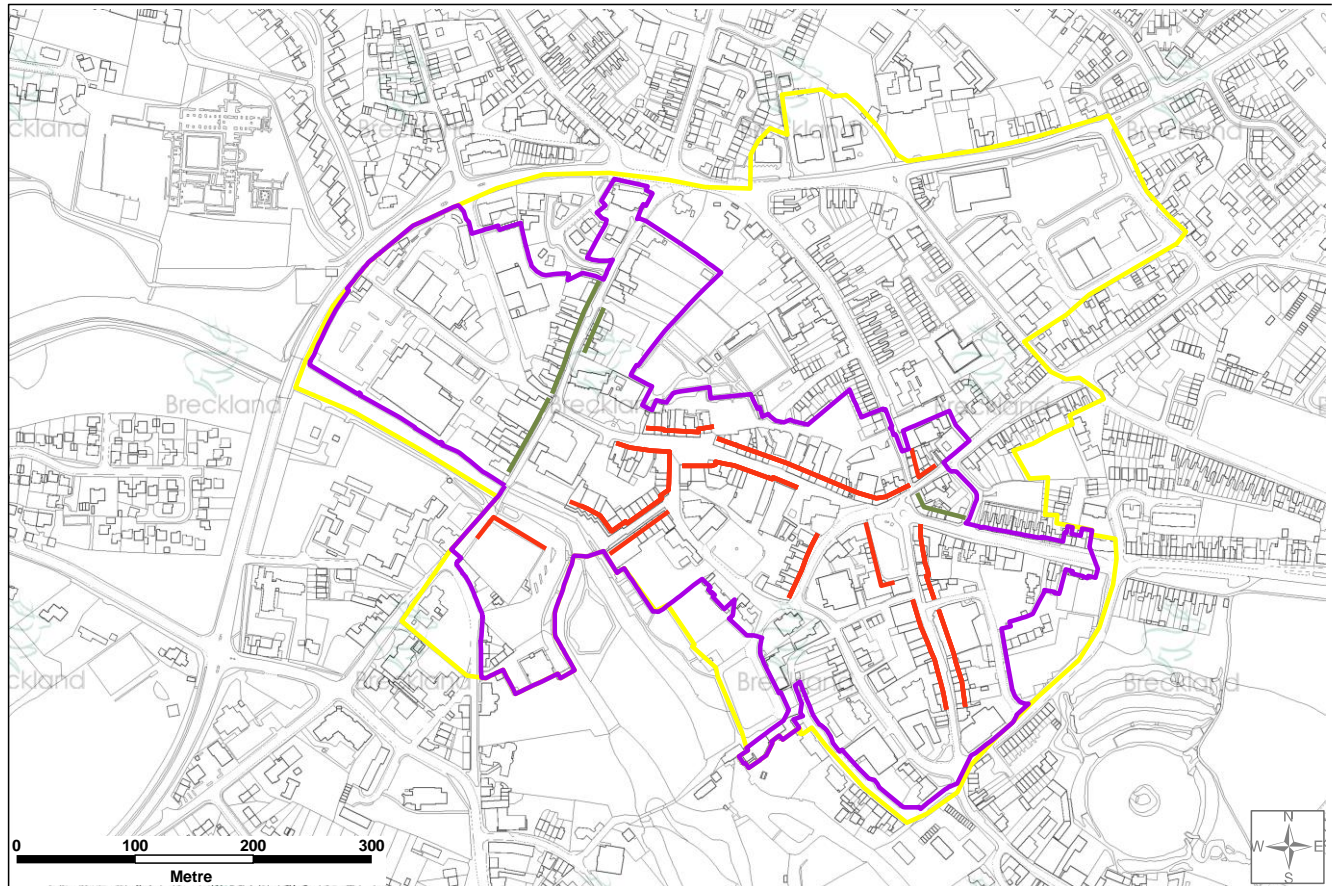
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Map 6.6 Swaffham Town Centre Boundary



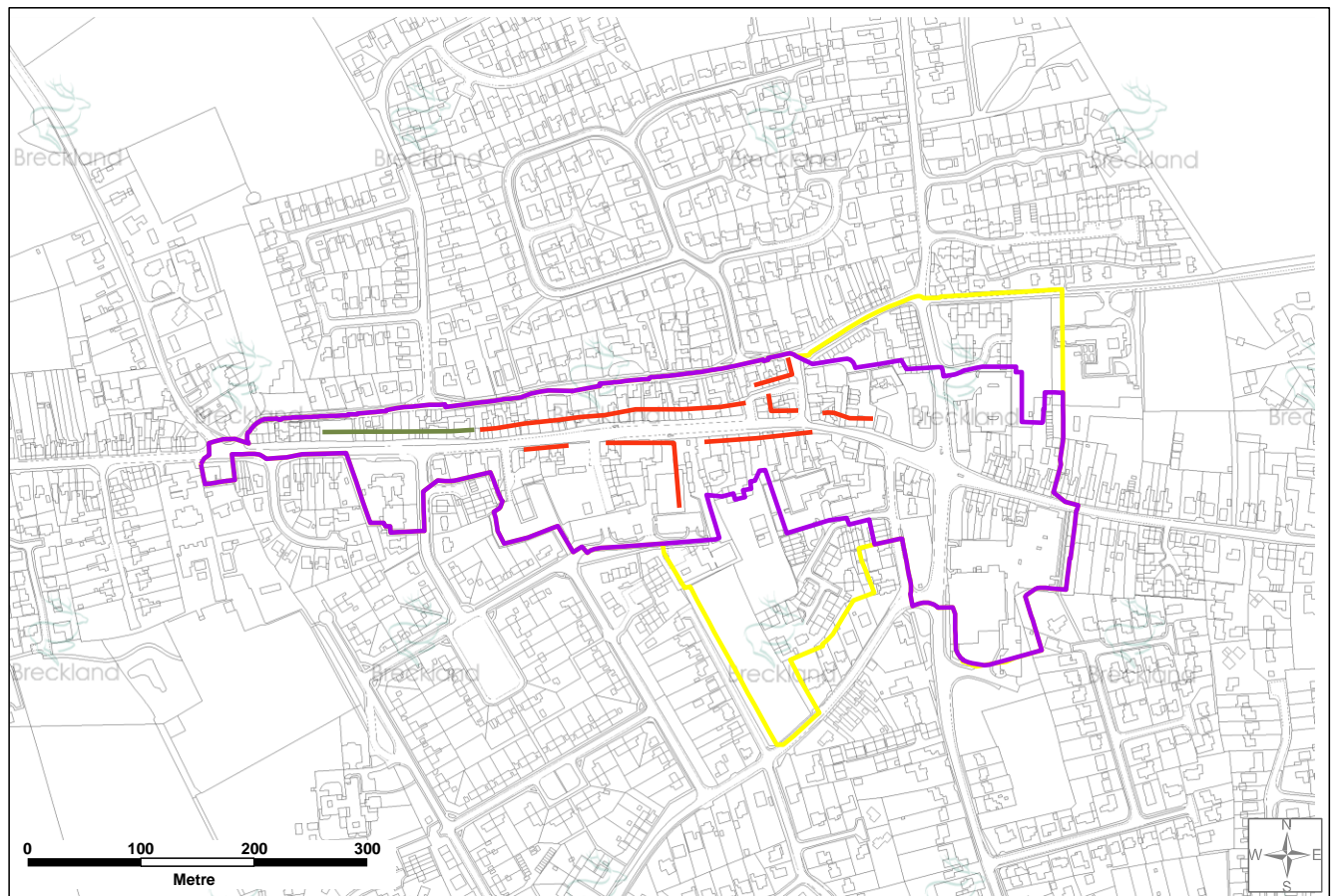
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Map 6.7 Thetford Town Centre Boundary



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Map 6.8 Watton Town Centre Boundary



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Farm Diversification

6.63 This policy reflects the various changes in national planning policy with respect to agricultural development in the countryside (see Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015) and (Amendment) (2018) (MIN37).

6.64 In order to ensure that agricultural businesses are sustainable and competitive, well-conceived proposals relating to the diversification of farm businesses will be supported where they can help ensure the long-term viability of existing farm businesses and provide rural employment opportunities.

6.65 A wide range of types of development may be appropriate for diversification including farm shops, leisure and recreation uses, tourism related development, sporting activities and equestrian uses. A careful balance is however required to ensure that scale and character of farm diversification proposals do not conflict with wider countryside objectives, introduce new amenity concerns or have a negative impact on the natural environment or the highways network.

6.66 Existing buildings should be re-used, where possible, to provide any accommodation needed in association with alternative uses.

Policy EC 06 Farm Diversification

Proposals for farm diversification requiring planning permission will be permitted on existing farm-holdings provided that:

- a. They would make a positive contribution to the continued viability of the farm holding;
- b. They would retain or enhance the character of traditional farm buildings;
- c. Where possible, the proposal re-uses existing buildings of substantial and permanent construction which are structurally sound and capable of conversion without major alterations or the development is well-related to existing buildings if no suitable buildings are available for re-use;
- d. The agricultural diversification is subservient to the main agricultural use of the farm;
- e. Wherever possible, they add value to produce emanating from the farm or produced locally, or contribute to the tourism economy;
- f. The scale and nature of the diversification proposals are appropriate for the location and would not have an unacceptable impact on residential amenity, biodiversity, natural environment, landscape character and the enjoyment of the countryside;
- g. They do not require new dwellings within the rural area to support the enterprise;
- h. They do not create extensive areas of hard-standing, and
- i. The volume and type of traffic that would be generated is appropriate to the accessibility of the site and the standard of the local highway network.

Visitor Economy - Tourism

6.67 Breckland's environmental and heritage assets, including the heaths and woodlands of the Brecks, the traditional market towns and the general tranquillity and remoteness of the Breckland countryside are the particular factors which attract tourists to the area. Whilst it is recognised that tourism is an important contributor to the Breckland economy and that some tourist development will seek to locate in the countryside, it is important that tourist related development takes place in a sustainable manner in line with local and national policies in order that it does not adversely affect the Breckland environment which attracts the tourist activity. The Brecks, Wensum Valley and Thetford Forest are key areas that attract visitors for both day trips and short stays. There are a wide network of footpaths, cycleways, bridleways, and public rights of way that provide excellent leisure and recreational opportunities. In addition, tourist attractions such as Banham Zoo also form large employers within the District.

6.68 Tourism is a growing part of the local economy. However, if not properly managed, it could have adverse impacts on the District's environment and the daily life of local people. The challenge is to enable and manage sustainable tourism, which will safeguard the countryside, heritage and culture for future generations while providing benefits to the local economy.

6.69 Sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit rural businesses will be supported where these respect the character of the countryside. The Council will also support the provision and expansion of tourist /visitor facilities in appropriate locations where identified needs are not met by existing facilities in rural service centres.

6.70 The policy recognises the valuable contribution that tourist related industries make to the local economy. The provision of visitor accommodation through new-build, conversion or expansion will be supported in appropriate locations. Proposals will be supported in line with the development hierarchy and in the rural area should be in accordance with the proposed rural policies in this Plan including the housing policies HOU 04 and HOU 05. Proposals for tourism development that may have an effect on Sites of European, National & Local Nature Conservation importance such as the Breckland SPA, the River Wensum and the Norfolk Valley Fens SAC, will have to meet the proposed environmental policies, covering Sites of European, National & Local Nature Conservation, notably ENV 02 and ENV 03. Camping and caravan sites are considered as tourism development not outdoor recreation.

6.71 In a rural District such as Breckland there are opportunities for hotel accommodation, cultural and leisure development to support the market towns and where applicable contribute to regeneration programmes. National planning policy identifies cultural facilities, leisure and hotels as town centre uses and therefore such uses are subject to the sequential approach and proposals should conform to the policy direction for town centres EC02. Proposals for serviced tourist accommodation in the rural areas should represent the most sustainable option to meet a particular need because it is a road related facility meeting the needs of road users or it

involves the re-use of sustainably located traditional rural buildings such as a complex of redundant farm buildings or a large country property.

Policy EC 07 Tourism Related Development

The enhancement and expansion of **existing** tourism attractions, and tourism infrastructure will be supported in accordance with the development strategy where this would benefit the local economy; **the environment and infrastructure can accommodate the visitor impact**; and **proposals would** be of a suitable scale and type for **their** location. (MM149)

Proposals for new tourism related development attracting a significant number of visitors should be located within, or be accessible to, the five market towns. Smaller development proposals **involving new tourism related development** should be of a suitable scale and type to protect the character of the townscape and landscape within which they are situated.

All development proposals will be assessed against the extent to which they meet the following criteria:

- Bring regeneration benefits, particularly through the redevelopment of brownfield land;
- Are accessible by sustainable modes of transport **or where a proposal is not readily accessible by sustainable modes of transport, it can be demonstrated that the development relies on a specific geographical resource or contributions are made to improve accessibility**;
- Offer the potential to improve access to rights of way, **and/or** green infrastructure; and
- **In the case of proposals in the countryside, demonstrate the need for a rural location for that development.** (MM149)

Camping and caravan sites will be supported where there is an unmet need. Proposals should be small in scale to limit impact on landscape and amenity and utilise, or be well related to, existing rural buildings.

Advertising and Signage

6.72 The design of advertisements and signage can have a great impact on the character or appearance of an individual building or surrounding area. This is particularly the case in the main settlements of the District where the majority of businesses are located. Sensitive design can ensure that proposed advertising and signage does not harm the character of an area. New or altered signs and advertisements should be designed to respect the building of which they are part as well as any adjoining shopfronts and the general street scene.

6.73 To prevent inappropriate displays, the Council will seek to ensure that advertisements are of an appropriate scale and size, are well designed and are sympathetic to both the building on which they are to be displayed and the general characteristics of the locality. Standardised or corporate displays that have no regard to the character of the building on which they are to be displayed or the general characteristics of the locality will be unlikely to be acceptable.

Policy EC 08 Advertising and Signs

Advertisements and signs (illuminated and non-illuminated) should be sensitively designed and located having regard to the character of the building on which they are to be displayed and/or the general characteristics of the locality. The size, scale, materials, colour scheme and any means of illumination selected should be appropriate to the local area and in areas of historic value, such as conservation areas, particular regard should be had to any impact of proposals on the historic character of the frontage. Proposals which obscure features of architectural or historical interest, or are uncharacteristic of a building's design, will not be permitted.

7 Communities

Design

7.1 The Council must plan for growth, and it is therefore important that top priority is placed on high quality design when considering planning applications for new development. In doing so the objective is to improve the District's built environment and protect its distinctive character. A full survey and record of the District's character, The Breckland Characterisation Study, was completed in 2017 providing an understanding of character and context, and variation across the different settlements across the District, informing the planning, development and design process.

7.2 The Council believes that good quality development is based on a clear understanding of the site and its context. A new building cannot be divorced from its surroundings, nor can a new group of buildings be divorced from their surroundings or their relationship to each other. Development should have regard to the form, function and structure of an area, place or street and the scale, mass and orientation of surrounding buildings. Design-led developments that respond to site characteristics and local context make the greatest contribution to improving the built environment and in areas of poor or ill-defined character development should build on the positive elements that can contribute to establishing an enhanced character for the future function of the area.

7.3 Development should be designed so that it can be adapted to meet changing social, economic or technological conditions. Adaptability will need to reflect the different pressures that will be placed on a building throughout its lifetime. This might include changing family circumstances or ageing of the occupier in the case of a dwelling house, or changes in industry or economic base for commercial premises.

7.4 Development should complement the natural landscape, natural features and built form that surrounds it. In considering development proposals consideration will be given to the shape and configuration of a building or buildings, and its style, design and arrangement. Regard will also be had to the distinctive features or qualities of a proposed building and its surroundings and the contribution new development makes to these features or qualities.

7.5 Consideration will be given to the density of buildings in a particular area and the landscape/townscape effect that any increase in density would bring. The real or perceived heights and scales of buildings relative to each other and their surroundings will be an important consideration, as will the relationship of the density, scale and height. Subordination will be a key consideration when determining proposals for extensions. The scale and proportion of an addition should be subservient to the host building.

7.6 The way that a building, or group of buildings are laid out on a site can have a profound effect on their appearance and how they are used. When considering new development regard will be had as to whether the layout makes the best use of

features of the site in terms of its appearance, function and making the best use of layout to improve energy efficiency.

7.7 The space that surrounds, and is in between, buildings can be just as important as the buildings themselves. Therefore, for all new developments consideration will be given to the incorporation, preservation and enhancement of natural features on a site. Boundary treatments should be complementary to the built design and be incorporated such as to enhance the design of development. Areas of enclosure should be logically set out and support the practical functionality of an area.

7.8 The way in which a building is detailed, the quality of materials and how they are used can have a significant effect upon the overall appearance of a development. Consideration will therefore be given to how the detailing and materials used in a particular development gives expression to an overall design. Detailing and materials help the cohesiveness of a development, with particular consideration to the junctions of walls, roofs and fenestration. Therefore, detailing and materials should be a key part of the building design, stemming directly from the functional needs of the building, and not be used as an afterthought to add decoration to an otherwise bland design.

7.9 Crime prevention should be a fundamental part of the design process, the physical structure of new development will be expected to integrate crime prevention measures alongside the other principles of good design.

7.10 The Council envisages design reviews taking place during the assessment of large and complex sites. However, the Council recognises the benefits of early engagement in line with paragraph 62 of the NPPF and will facilitate constructive dialogue at the pre-application stage. (MM150)

Policy COM 01 – Design

New development should be designed to the highest possible standards. All new development must achieve a specification of high architectural, urban and landscape design quality and contribute to the distinctive character and amenity of the local area. The Council will promote high quality design in the District by requiring that the design of new development meets the following criteria:

- a. Preserves or enhances the special character of the historic environment, and complements the district's heritage assets, in accordance with policy ENV 07 & ENV 08;
- b. Integrates to a high degree of compatibility with the surrounding area, in terms of: layout, form, style, massing, scale, density, orientation, materials, and design, in order to reinforce the positive and distinctive local character and amenity as described in the Breckland Historic Characterisation Study (2017);
- c. Incorporates sustainable design and durable construction, observing best practice in energy efficiency and climate change mitigation, and is

- accessible and adaptable to different activities and land uses and the changing needs of all, including disabled and older people;
- d. Consists of high quality details and materials that respects or improves local character;
 - e. Responds appropriately to, and is completely integrated with, the existing layout of buildings, surrounding streets, open spaces and patterns of development. The layout of new development should create direct, recognisable, through routes that improve legibility and movement through places, and positively contribute to street frontages;
 - f. Ensures that high quality hard and soft landscaping is integral to layout and design, and opportunities to introduce green urban design solutions are optimised. Specifically, development proposals should respond to: i) landform; ii) levels, slopes and the fall from the ground; iii) trees on and close to the site; iv) natural boundary features; v) the biodiversity of the site and its context; and vi) maximise the use of permeable surfaces;
 - g. Is designed to reduce opportunities for crime and antisocial behaviour, creating safe, secure and accessible environments;
 - h. Provides an appropriate level of amenity for buildings, as outlined in HOU 06;
 - i. Provides high standards of accommodation for housing in terms of size, quality and arrangement of internal space, external private and external communal amenity space, and access to usable open space;
 - j. Creates clear distinctions between private and public space , and integrates building services equipment and facilities in a well-planned manner;
 - k. Requires development to provide appropriate facilities for refuse, recycling and servicing;
 - l. Preserves key and important views, as illustrated in the Breckland Historic Characterisation Study (2017);
 - m. Does not compromise highway safety, enabling safe access for vehicles and for walking and cycling;
 - n. Provides adequate parking as outlined in TR 01 and consideration of safe storage for bicycles;
 - o. Development should be designed to reduce the impact on local air quality, particularly from road traffic, especially in those areas in or likely to impact on, areas identified as 'at risk' of exceeding air quality objectives.

Development that does not fully address **the criteria above** will not be **permitted (MM151)**.

All development proposals should respond to current best practice and demonstrate that they are in general conformity with the design principles set out in established urban design guidance, any subsequently produced design guidance Supplementary Planning Document adopted by the Council or other design guidance endorsed by the Council and/or through neighbourhood planning.

In some cases the Council will request the involvement of a developer funded Design Review, **subject to viability**.

Healthy Lifestyles

7.11 Improving the health and wellbeing of the community is a priority of Breckland Council's Sustainable Community Strategy and a key objective of this Plan. Links between planning and health are apparent throughout the NPPF and accompanying National Planning Practice Guidance; stipulating that LPAs should involve all sections of the community in ensuring health and wellbeing and ensure that health infrastructure is considered in local and neighbourhood plans as well as in decision making.

7.12 The Local Plan seeks to improve the health and wellbeing for all by:

- Ensuring that all development is sustainable, making prudent use of resources, so as not to compromise the wellbeing of future generations;
- Providing incentives for young people who have left the area to return – namely facilitating employment provision, training opportunities and a good spread of housing that meets their needs;
- Protecting and enhancing existing social and community infrastructure – such as education, health, cultural and leisure facilities—to improve community wellbeing in line with an understanding of predicted future needs and current gaps in infrastructure;
- Working with partners to deliver sport and recreation schemes, developing and improving community facilities such as recreational areas and multi-use games areas for young people and creating opportunities for healthier lifestyles;
- Safeguarding and enhancing green infrastructure and providing a comprehensive network of high quality open spaces such as parks and gardens, and natural green spaces; and
- Supporting independent living for older and disabled people.

7.13 Health is influenced by social, economic and environmental conditions and planning policies have a significant role to play in creating the conditions for improving health. Accordingly, proposals for development will be screened to ensure they contribute to improved health outcomes for all and that negative effects are avoided. Development proposals can support strong, vibrant and healthy communities and help create healthy living environments which should, where possible, include making physical activity easy to access and create places and spaces to meet, to support community engagement and social capital.

7.14 The Indoor and Built Sports and Recreational Facilities Study (2017) highlighted that the population in the age band 5-54, the most active population for participation in sport and physical activity, is projected to increase by 1.9% over the 2016-2031 period. However, rates of adult participation across all activities has decreased from 32.7% of all adults participating at least once a week in 2006 to 29.8% in 2016. The study also finds that over 50% of the adult population in Breckland did not participate in any sport or physical activity in 2016.

7.15 The Indoor and Built Sports and Recreational Facilities Study (2017) sets out the need to protect, enhance and provide facilities in the market towns within

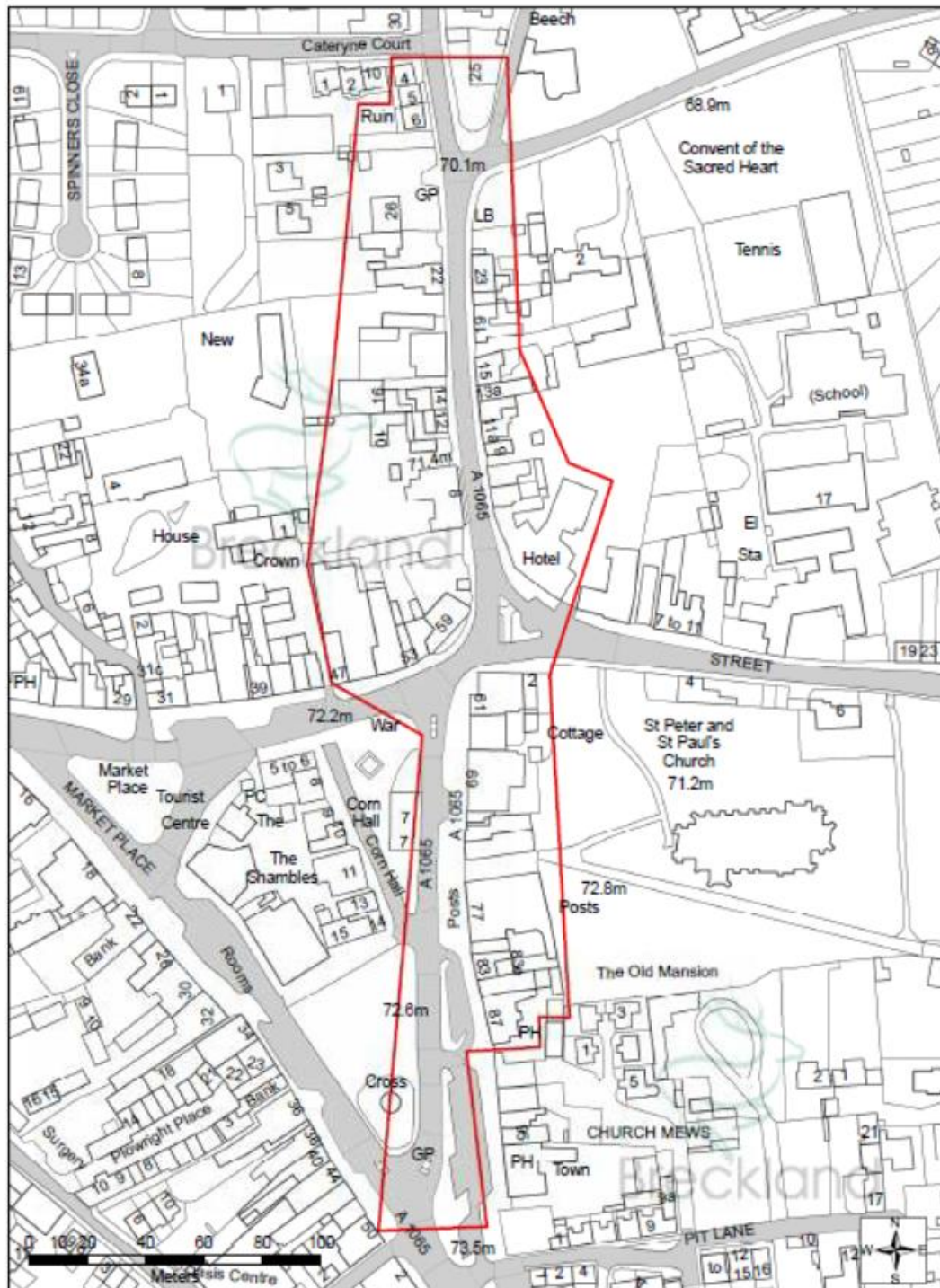
Breckland. The study examined the supply (quantity, quality, accessibility and capacity of provision) and demand (profiles of demographics, current and likely future sport participation and latent demand) of all facilities types within the District in order to 'build a picture' of the provision within the District and provide recommendations going forward to 2031.

7.16 To prevent unacceptable risks from pollution including cumulative effects of pollution on health, the NPPF states (paragraph 120), that the "potential sensitivity of an area or proposed development adverse effects from pollution, should be taken into account." Paragraph 124 adds, "that planning polices should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objections for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air action plan."

7.17 Breckland currently has 1 Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) designated on the 1st of May 2017:

- Swaffham: A1065 running through Swaffham between Whitecross Road to the south and Sporle Road to the north (Map 7.1)

Map 7.1 Swaffham AQMA



7.18 Air Quality within the District is updated annually in the Council's Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR). This document provides an annual update of areas that are considered to be AQMAs or 'at risk'.

Policy COM 02 Healthy Lifestyles

New development will be expected to take appropriate steps to avoid/mitigate potential negative effects on the health of the population and facilitate enhanced health and well-being through the provision of conditions supportive of good physical and mental health. Where possible, new development should also seek to reduce disparities in health between different parts of Breckland by addressing detrimental environmental social and economic conditions (MM152).

Development in Air Quality Management Areas and those areas identified as affecting or likely to affect the control of relevant pollutants within the Air Quality Management Area, should be consistent with the local air quality action plan.

Developers will be expected to demonstrate the above, through the following criteria:

- i. A Health Impact Assessment where the Council considers there are likely to be clear health implications from the proposal;
- ii. A Healthy Planning Checklist for development of 5 dwellings/1,000m² of non-residential development or more.
- iii. An assessment of the likely impact of the development on air quality, for development of 5 dwellings/1,000m² of non-residential or more, in or impacting on areas identified as 'at risk' of exceeding air quality objectives.

7.19 Development where there are likely to be clear health implications will require a formal Health Impact Assessment. These will normally be, but not limited to, large and complex proposals (MM153). In such cases the developer will be required to commission such an assessment from an independent and reputable body. For developments of five or more dwellings, or non-residential development above 1,000 square metres, a Healthy Planning Checklist should be included as part of the supporting documentation with planning applications. Further information on the Healthy Planning Checklist is available in Appendix 2 of the Norfolk Health Protocol (Planning in Health - an engagement protocol between local planning authorities, public health and health sector organisations in Norfolk, March 2017).

7.20 Health Impact Assessment is a well-established and widely used range of techniques. The purpose of HIA is essentially to systematically check that a policy or project will not have unforeseen and negative effects. Approaches to HIA may range from a quantitative emphasis, relying heavily on epidemiological analysis (3) to a

3 Epidemiology studies the causes, distribution and control of diseases in populations

qualitative analysis, drawing on community or stakeholder perceptions, or a combination. The methodology should be agreed with the NHS Norfolk/NCC Public Health at an early stage.

Protection of Amenity

7.21 A core planning principle identified in the NPPF (at paragraph 17) is to always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings.

7.22 The following policy, applying to all forms of development within the District including changes of use, taken together with policy COM 01, seeks to ensure a high-quality design and quality of life for all existing and future occupiers of land and buildings. This policy sets out relevant considerations for assessing the effects of proposals relating to amenity issues.

7.23 The development of land and buildings presents the opportunity to provide improvements to the social and economic well-being of everyone living, working or visiting the District. The protection of the amenities of the District is fundamental to the economic and social well-being of the District. If Breckland is to thrive in the region it must be promoted as an attractive place to work as well as live; the District's environmental and cultural assets are key to this promotion.

7.24 For the purposes of this policy, 'amenity' is defined as those desirable features of a place that ought to be protected or enhanced in the public interest. For example, residential amenity includes the protection of adequate levels of sunlight/daylight, access, privacy, outlook, private open space, as well as safeguarding from unacceptable noise and disturbance (including traffic), smell, dust, insects and light pollution from, for example, commercial or agricultural uses etc.

7.25 The potential impact of development needs to be considered both on an individual as well as cumulative basis. The continuance of existing businesses should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on it because of the introduction of new and incompatible land uses. Such matters will be an important planning consideration in relation to amenity expectations.

Policy COM 03 Protection of Amenity

For all new development consideration will need to be given to general amenity impact issues, especially residential amenity. Development will not be permitted which causes unacceptable effects on the residential amenity of neighbouring occupants, or does not provide for adequate levels of amenity for future occupants. In assessing the impact of development on the living conditions of occupants, regard will be had to the following amenity considerations:

1. The protection of adequate areas of usable and scheduled private amenity space for the occupiers of existing dwellings (MM154);
2. The provision of adequate areas of usable and secluded private amenity space for the occupiers of proposed dwellings, in keeping with the character of the immediate surrounding areas;
3. Overlooking of windows of habitable rooms and private amenity space;
4. Overbearing impact/visual dominance;
5. Overshadowing of private amenity space;
6. Loss of daylight and/or sunlight to existing windows of habitable rooms;
7. Odour, noise, vibration or other forms of nuisance such as artificial light pollution, insects and vermin; and
8. Other forms of pollution (including contaminated land, dust, air pollution, for example the emission of particulates etc).

Community Facilities

7.26 The Local Plan aims to support thriving **urban and (MM155)** rural communities whilst protecting the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. Whilst the delivery of new development - in particular housing - will be directed to the most sustainable locations in line with the locational strategy, there is a need to support the settlement hierarchy, rural economy and sustainable communities through the retention and development of local services and community facilities, such as village halls, schools, rural shops and public houses.

7.27 For the purposes of this policy community facilities are defined as:

- local shops;
- meeting places;
- indoor and outdoor sports venues;
- recreation/play areas;
- cultural buildings;
- public houses;
- petrol filling stations; and
- places of worship.

7.28 These, and the provision of new facilities at an appropriate scale to the settlement, will be supported.

7.29 The NPPF supports economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development. Planning policies and decisions should:

- Plan positively and promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings and places of worship;

- Ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community; and
- Support sustainable growth of rural businesses, diversification of agricultural businesses and rural tourism and leisure developments.

7.30 It is recognised that local shops, and other community facilities such as pubs, post offices, petrol filling stations and sports and leisure facilities perform a valuable role in providing for daily needs in local communities across Breckland, not only reducing the need to travel for convenience goods shopping, but helping to maintain a sense of place and uniqueness for Breckland's rural communities. The loss of a valued local community facility or service can significantly reduce a community's ability to meet its day to day needs and also have an adverse impact on the wellbeing and social interaction of that community.

7.31 Accessibility to facilities and services remains a key issue for many communities in the District. In order to reduce the need to travel to access everyday facilities and to maintain sustainable communities, the Council supports the provision and retention of community facilities as reflected through the proposed hierarchy of centres.

7.32 The strategic economic policy direction regarding the retail hierarchy seeks to maintain and support the, provision in smaller villages serving more localised rural needs. The policy approach being to retain essential, facilities especially where they are the only such facility within a village. Local retail provision will be supported at a scale proportionate to the existing size and catchment but not to a level which would undermine similar provision in neighbouring villages. Other community facilities such as pubs, village halls, libraries, places of worship and schools also play a vital role in ensuring Breckland is a great place to live, work, learn and visit.

7.33 Proposals which would result in the loss of a community facility must demonstrate that efforts have been made to retain the facility and that opportunities for conversion to alternative community uses have also been explored. Supporting information should typically include:

- Marketing information such as the length of time for sale and the asking price;
- Details of the level of interest generated and any offers received;
- Consultation with, and level of interest from, the local community / service providers on a possible alternative community use;
- Whether there is scope for the multi-use of buildings or innovative ways of combining a range of services and facilities on one site.

7.34 In addition, under the Localism Act 2011, local communities can propose to add to the local register an asset of community value. Neighbourhood Plans are also well placed to highlight the valuable role of local centres and community facilities and can identify deficiencies in the provision of community facilities and help to safeguard existing ones.

Policy COM 04 Community Facilities

The creation, enhancement and expansion of community facilities will be supported where this would enhance the existing offer, benefit the local economy and be of a suitable scale and type for its location and in locations in close proximity to the area that they will serve.

Proposals, including change of use (outside permitted development rights), which result in the loss of local community buildings (most recently used for this purpose where the use has ceased), will not be permitted unless:

- It can be demonstrated that there is no local need for the facility or that its continuing function is no longer viable following appropriate marketing; **or**
- An equivalent facility in terms of quality is provided to serve the same community in an accessible location;

All proposals relating to the provision, loss or redevelopment of Indoor Sports Facilities will have regard to the key findings and recommendations of the Indoor Sport and Built Sports and Recreational Facilities Study (2017). (MM156)

8 Infrastructure and Delivery

Telecommunications

8.1 Modern and effective telecommunications systems are essential for the continuing development of the economy and the planning system has an important role in facilitating the improvement and expansion of the telecommunications network. However, whilst there are considerable economic and social benefits associated with the development of telecommunication infrastructure, it is important that such development does not have a significant adverse impact on amenity or environmental quality. Therefore, the Council will seek to ensure that acceptable provision can be made for telecommunications development, whilst ensuring that any adverse impacts associated with development are minimised.

8.2 The visual impact of telecommunications development is a particularly important consideration. When seeking approval for the installation of new telecommunications equipment, applicants will be expected to demonstrate that they have taken all reasonable measures to minimise the visual impact of the proposed development on the local environment. In particular, the design and siting of installations should be informed by the context of the wider locality, including the careful consideration of the height, scale, siting, colours and materials to be used. Installations should also be sited where they would not impede roadside visibility splays and sight lines. Any building-mounted installation should also be sensitively designed so that the architectural quality and character of the building is not compromised.

8.3 The provision of suitable broadband infrastructure can be an important factor which helps attract investment to the District and facilitates home working. The need for SuperFast broadband is a key issue for Breckland and more widely Norfolk. Therefore, proposals to improve broadband speeds and coverage will be expected and supported.

8.4 Some telecommunications development benefits from permitted development rights under Part 24 of the General Permitted Development Order 1995, (as amended). Where the development is subject to the prior approval procedure, prior approval will be required by the Council where there is considered to be a significant visual or other impact in terms of the siting and appearance of the development.

Policy INF 01 Telecommunications

The Council will support proposals for the provision and improvement of telecommunications infrastructure provided that:

- The installation and any associated apparatus is sited and designed to avoid any unacceptable impact on visual and residential amenity, highway safety, **the historic environment (MM157)** and the character and appearance of the area where it would be sited;

- Any building-mounted installations would not have an unduly detrimental impact on the character or appearance of the building; and
- It has been demonstrated that there are no reasonable opportunities for sharing a site, mast or facility with existing telecommunications infrastructure in the area that would not result in a greater visual impact.

The Council expects proposals for residential and business development to include sufficient on-site SuperFast and UltraFast broadband infrastructure to enable connectivity to wider networks.

Developer Contributions

8.5 To deliver the Spatial Strategy it will be necessary to direct development to locations where, in order to achieve the wider sustainability advantages of the Strategy, it is known that existing infrastructure will need to be upgraded to meet the needs of all the new development. This is especially important when considering the sustainable urban extensions to Thetford and Attleborough, the growth for Dereham and strategic employment provision for Snetterton and Thetford Enterprise Park.

8.6 The Council, in conjunction with partners has prepared an Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) to identify infrastructure needs and priorities and address any potential funding shortfalls. The principal focus of the IDP is the planned growth along the A11 corridor reflecting the spatial strategy and particular circumstances and challenges identified through evidence gathering.

8.7 The provision of infrastructure is a prerequisite of all development and the Council will make best use of planning conditions and contributions as a means of providing infrastructure and enhancing facilities and services.

8.8 Where infrastructure deficiencies exist, the Council is committed to achieving a consistent and co-ordinated approach to providing new or improved infrastructure through partnership working. The work with partners will involve other delivery bodies, authorities, developers and other agencies and will positively foster a number of delivery mechanisms. Breckland Council will use its role to support and facilitate infrastructure provision including fully utilising the role of planning contributions and by taking a pro-active perspective in the development and implementation of Multi-Agency Agreements and Local Area Agreements influencing Breckland. Taking this approach to infrastructure provision will also enable disruption to the highway network to be managed, thereby reducing waiting times during construction and resultant emission of pollutants.

8.9 Ensuring infrastructure provision keeps pace with new development is a key component of delivering the Spatial Strategy for Breckland and meeting the various needs of the community. Directing the majority of growth to those areas with available key infrastructure such as healthcare, schools, energy supply, water treatment, transport facilities and other community infrastructure such as sport and recreation, libraries and community buildings will be the basis for sustainable

communities in Breckland. This approach will deliver increased local accessibility to key services, ensuring their viability, whilst at the same time making the most of investments in existing infrastructure provision across Breckland.

8.10 The design of infrastructure through partnership, working with developers and infrastructure providers should mitigate any significant adverse impact on the landscape and ecologically sensitive areas within Breckland and ensure, where possible, benefits to the economic and social wellbeing of the local community.

8.11 On-site infrastructure will be secured based on the needs of each proposal and delivered directly by the developer, or through financial contributions and/or land. Off-site infrastructure will be secured through developer contributions. The Council will continue to seek developer contributions which, as appropriate, may for example include the following:

- Utilities;
- Transport infrastructure (including walking, cycling and public transport/community transport initiatives);
- Affordable Housing;
- Community Infrastructure (including education, libraries, town and village halls, police and fire service provision);
- Open Space;
- Green Infrastructure;
- Biodiversity management mitigation and management;
- Landscaping (including street furniture and lighting);
- Flood Defences;
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); and
- Waste Management/recycling and composting facilities.

8.12 This list of infrastructure examples is meant as indicative only and should, therefore, not be viewed as being exhaustive.

8.13 Planning obligations are restricted in terms of 'pooling' contributions to no more than five obligations for the same infrastructure project, or type of infrastructure. In calculating the amount of developer contributions payable, account will be taken of the total quantum of development, including any previously implemented permissions.

Policy INF 02 Developer Contributions

The Council will secure site specific developer contributions **for developments of 11 or more dwellings (which have a maximum combined gross floorspace of no more than 1,000 square metres (gross internal area)), excluding rural exception sites**, in order to properly service, manage and mitigate the impact of development, **subject to viability**, which: **(MM158)**

1. Directly related to the development, is necessary to make the development acceptable and fairly and reasonably relate in scale and

- kind; and
2. Cannot be secured by planning conditions.

Details of significant infrastructure requirements are identified within the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Developer contributions will be required to secure infrastructure which is necessary to ensure:

1. The delivery of affordable housing;
2. The delivery of community infrastructure (including education, libraries, town and village halls, police and fire service provision);
3. The delivery and ongoing maintenance of formal and informal open space including allotments, sport and recreation, play space or other facilities (or financial contribution) required directly to serve the development and contribute to local community facilities;
4. Pedestrian and highway safety improvements necessary to **mitigate the impact of development on the wider highway network and to (MM158)** secure satisfactory access to the development;
5. A range of sustainable modes of transport that occupants and visitors to the development are able to access;
6. The provision of health care facilities;
7. The delivery of environmental infrastructure (biodiversity management, landscaping, flood defences, SUDs, waste management) **and, where necessary their maintenance; and**
9. The delivery of any other infrastructure requirements in a made Neighbourhood Plan.

The delivery of development will need to align with the provision of infrastructure. As such, development may require to be phased to ensure the provision of infrastructure in a timely manner. Planning obligations may be used to secure the phasing arrangement. Commuted payments will be sought to secure the necessary future maintenance of infrastructure.

Implementation Strategy

8.14 The NPPF sets a requirement for Local Plans to plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area. Furthermore, paragraph 162 states that "Local Planning Authorities should work with other authorities and providers to: assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for transport, water supply, wastewater and its treatment, energy (including heat), telecommunications, utilities, waste, health, social care, education, flood risk and coastal change management, and its ability to meet forecast demands".

8.15 The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) addresses the requirements set in the NPPF and therefore forms a key part of the evidence base for this Local Plan. Dividing the information on infrastructure into a number of subheadings; Transport, Water, Energy, Telecommunications, Education, Community Facilities, Health, Community Safety and Green Infrastructure, the IDP identifies the infrastructure

requirements to deliver growth proposed in the Breckland District Local Plan over the plan period up until 2036.

8.16 A range of evidence has been gathered to develop the IDP through the commissioning of evidence, consideration of existing sources of data and information and primarily through ongoing dialogue with infrastructure providers. The evolving draft IDP has also been informed by ongoing feedback from statutory consultees. Reviewing comments made at each stage of Local Plan consultation, the IDP reflects discussions with external organisations to further understand, or where applicable seek potential resolutions to, identified infrastructure constraints. The IDP details information, including that received from statutory consultees such as Norfolk County Council in respect of highways and education and the Clinical Commissioning Group for health care provision. Feedback from statutory consultees and infrastructure providers has identified potential solutions for infrastructure constraints that, in some cases, will affect the development phasing of sites.

8.17 The IDP document examines infrastructure projects and provides a consideration for each of whether it is critical, essential or desirable (as defined below) in order to help inform which infrastructure requirements are necessary for the deliverability of a specific allocation in the Local Plan.

- Critical – The development is dependant on the delivery of this infrastructure and will not be permitted without it. Examples include a new electricity power substation to provide power to businesses at Snetterton, where there is currently insufficient electricity capacity for expansion.
- Essential – The infrastructure is essential to the delivery of the development but there may be a number of options for the type of infrastructure provision and the costs associated with it. The infrastructure is necessary but is not so critical that the entire development is dependant on securing a specific identified piece of infrastructure.
- Desirable – Infrastructure that is sought to enhance the development. The development is not entirely dependent on this infrastructure.

8.18 A combination of funding mechanisms will be used to deliver new and improved infrastructure in Breckland; the primary source of funding coming from developers and landowners through legal agreements accompanying the grant of planning permission. For major development the sites will be phased to ensure essential infrastructure is delivered or funding provided prior to the completion of new developments. Other sources of funding include grant aid from New Anglia Local Economic Partnership, public funding and private investment. Some improvements to infrastructure are not contingent on the Local Plan such as the Better Broadband for Norfolk initiative and improvements to the strategic road network such as the A47.

8.19 The purpose of monitoring and review is to assess the delivery and implementation of the new Local Plan. The Breckland Authority Monitoring Report produced on an annual basis provides a robust and effective review and monitoring approach. The Local Plan policies will be complemented by a monitoring framework to assess their effectiveness through robust monitoring mechanisms. This will allow

the performance of the policies to be assessed and thereby serve to inform any subsequent changes post Plan adoption which may be required to ensure delivery of the Plan.

8.20 The Council is committed to delivering growth in accordance with the policies and proposals in this Local Plan. The implementation of the policies in the Breckland Local Plan will be assessed through a monitoring framework set in the Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR will contain monitoring indicators, which provide a trigger for the Council to act in accordance with this policy. (MM159)

8.21 If the AMR indicates that the overall level of growth and/or that the delivery of specific development allocations are not being achieved, the Council will take a proactive approach to overcome issues affecting implementation, through the use of the following measures, where appropriate:

1. Undertake an assessment of the relevant policy and implementation procedure to establish the issues affecting delivery; and/or
2. Review the delivery of site-specific allocations; and/or
3. Review the mechanisms for financial contributions to development, which may be impacting on development viability; and/or
4. Consider external funding opportunities accessible to either the developer or the Council such as grants or loans to aid delivery; and/or
5. Develop further working relationships with various partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors in order to look at ways to facilitate implementation; and/or,
6. Consider the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents to provide clearer guidance as to how policies should be implemented and/or
7. Consider a partial or full review of the Plan, where considered necessary.

Policy INF03 sets out the Council's commitment to undertake an immediate partial review of the Plan, with regard to housing, non-travelling gypsy and travellers, accessibility of homes standards and economic development. This shall be completed and submitted for examination 3 years after the date of adoption of this Plan or by November 2022, whichever is soonest. (MM159)

Policy INF 03: Local Plan Policy Review (MM160)

The Council will undertake an immediate partial review of the Plan, with regard to the following matters:

- Policy HOU 01 Development Requirements (minimum): To consider housing need and the subsequent strategy for meeting the identified need.
- Policy HOU 08 Gypsy and Travellers: To consider the needs of non-travelling gypsy and travellers and identify suitable provision to meet such a need.
- Policy HOU 10 Technical Design Standards for New Homes: To consider the accessibility of homes standards.

- Policy EC 01 Economic Development: To consider the effect of the dualling of the A47 on the Plan's economic strategy.

The partial review of the Plan will be submitted for examination 3 years after the date of adoption of this Plan or by November 2022, whichever is soonest. In the event that the review is not submitted for examination by this time, then the Council's policies that relate to the supply of housing, economic development and gypsy and travellers will be deemed to be out-of-date.

Appendix 1 - Housing Trajectory

| | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Completions | 346 | 329 | 425 | 491 | 619 | 793 | | | | | | | |
| SHMA Requirement | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 |
| Annualised Housing Target Liverpool Shortfall Requirement | | | | | | | 647 | 647 | 647 | 647 | 647 | 647 | 647 |
| Revised annual - stepped without shortfall | | | | | | | 584 | 584 | 584 | 584 | 584 | 622 | 622 |
| Stepped trajectory with shortfall split via Liverpool methodology | | | | | | | 619 | 619 | 619 | 619 | 619 | 657 | 657 |
| Projected Completions | | | | | | | 510 | 757 | 912 | 983 | 945 | 763 | 775 |

Appendix 1 - Housing Trajectory

| | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 | 2030/31 | 2031/32 | 2032/33 | 2033/34 | 2034/35 | 2035/36 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Completions | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SHMA Requirement | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 | 612 |
| Annualised Housing Target Liverpool Shortfall Requirement | 647 | 647 | 647 | 647 | 647 | 647 | 647 | 647 | 647 | 647 | 647 | 647 |
| Revised annual - stepped without shortfall | 622 | 622 | 622 | 622 | 622 | 622 | 622 | 622 | 622 | 622 | 622 | 622 |
| Stepped trajectory with shortfall split via Liverpool methodology | 657 | 657 | 657 | 657 | 657 | 657 | 657 | 657 | 657 | 657 | 657 | 657 |
| Projected Completions | 713 | 610 | 800 | 800 | 697 | 590 | 534 | 580 | 530 | 560 | 535 | 470 |

Appendix 2 - Parking Standards

Table .1

| Use Class of Development Proposal | Minimum Car Parking provision for Disabled Users | Minimum Car Parking provision (number of Spaces) | Minimum Cycle parking Provision (no of Spaces) |
|--|---|---|--|
| A1 , A2 and laundrettes and the retail floorspace of other uses not specifically covered elsewhere | 1 per 400m ² | 1 per 20m ² | 1 per 70m ² |
| Food Retail within A1 | 1 per 280m ² | 1 per 14m ² | 1 per 70m ² |
| A3 and A4 | 1 per 100m ² | 1 per 5m ² | 1 per 25m ² plus 1 per 4 staff |
| A5 | 1 per 100m ² | 1 per 3m ² | 1 per 25m ² plus 1 per 4 staff |
| B1 | 1 per 600m ² | 1 per 30m ² | 1 per 36m ² |
| B2 | 1 per 1200m ² | 1 per 60m ² | 1 per 60m ² |
| B8 and outside growing and storage areas of garden centres | 1 per 2000m ² | 1 per 100m ² | 1 per 80m ² |
| C1 | 1 car space for disabled users 20 bedrooms | 1 per bedroom | 1 per 5 bedrooms plus 1 per 4 staff |
| C2 | 1 car space for disabled users per 10 other car spaces | 1 per 3 beds or 1 per dwelling unit plus 1 per 2 staff | 1 per 20 beds plus 1 per 4 staff |
| C3 | In Line with current Norfolk County Council parking standards. | Minimum of 2 spaces per dwelling | None for houses with garages or private gardens 1 per dwelling for all other dwellings |
| D1 | 1 car space for disabled users per 10 other car spaces plus D1 drop-off/pick-up point plus additional space for ambulance parking/drop-off. | 1 per staff plus 2 per consulting room | 1 per 4 staff plus 1 per consulting room |

| Use Class of Development Proposal | Minimum Car Parking provision for Disabled Users | Minimum Car Parking provision (number of Spaces) | Minimum Cycle parking Provision (no of Spaces) |
|---|---|--|---|
| Day Care Centres | 1 car space for disabled users per 10 other car spaces plus drop-off/pick-up point | 1 per staff plus 1 per 4 persons attending | 1 per 100m ² plus 1 per 4 staff |
| Creches and Nurseries | 1 car space for disabled users per 20 other car spaces plus drop-off/pick-up point | 1 per full time equivalent staff plus drop-off/pick-up point | 1 per 15 children plus 1 per 4 staff |
| Primary and Secondary Schools | 1 car space for disabled users per 20 other car spaces plus drop-off/pick-up point plus public transport provision | 1 per 2 staff | 1 per 5 children plus 1 per 4 staff |
| Higher and Further Education | 1 car space for disabled users per 20 other car spaces plus public drop-off/pick-up point plus public transport provision | 1 per 2 staff plus 1 per 15 students plus drop-off/pick-up point plus public transport provision | 1 per 3 students plus 1 per 4 staff |
| Art galleries, Museums, Public/Exhibition halls and Libraries | 1 car space for disabled users per 600m ² plus drop-off/pick-up point | 1 per 30m ² | 1 per 30m ² plus 1 per 4 staff |
| Places of Worship | 1 car space for disabled users per 200m ² | 1 per 10m ² | 1 per 10m ² |
| D2 | 1 car space for disabled users per 440m ² plus bus/coach drop-off/pick-up point | 1 per 22m ² | 1 per 20 seats or 1 per 75m ² plus 1 per 4 staff |
| Motor service centres | 1 car space for disabled users per 600m ² | 1 per 30m ² | 1 per 4 staff |
| Motor vehicle showrooms | 1 car space for disabled users per 900m ² | 1 per 45m ² | 1 per 4 staff |

Appendix 3 - Policy HOU 04 settlement boundaries

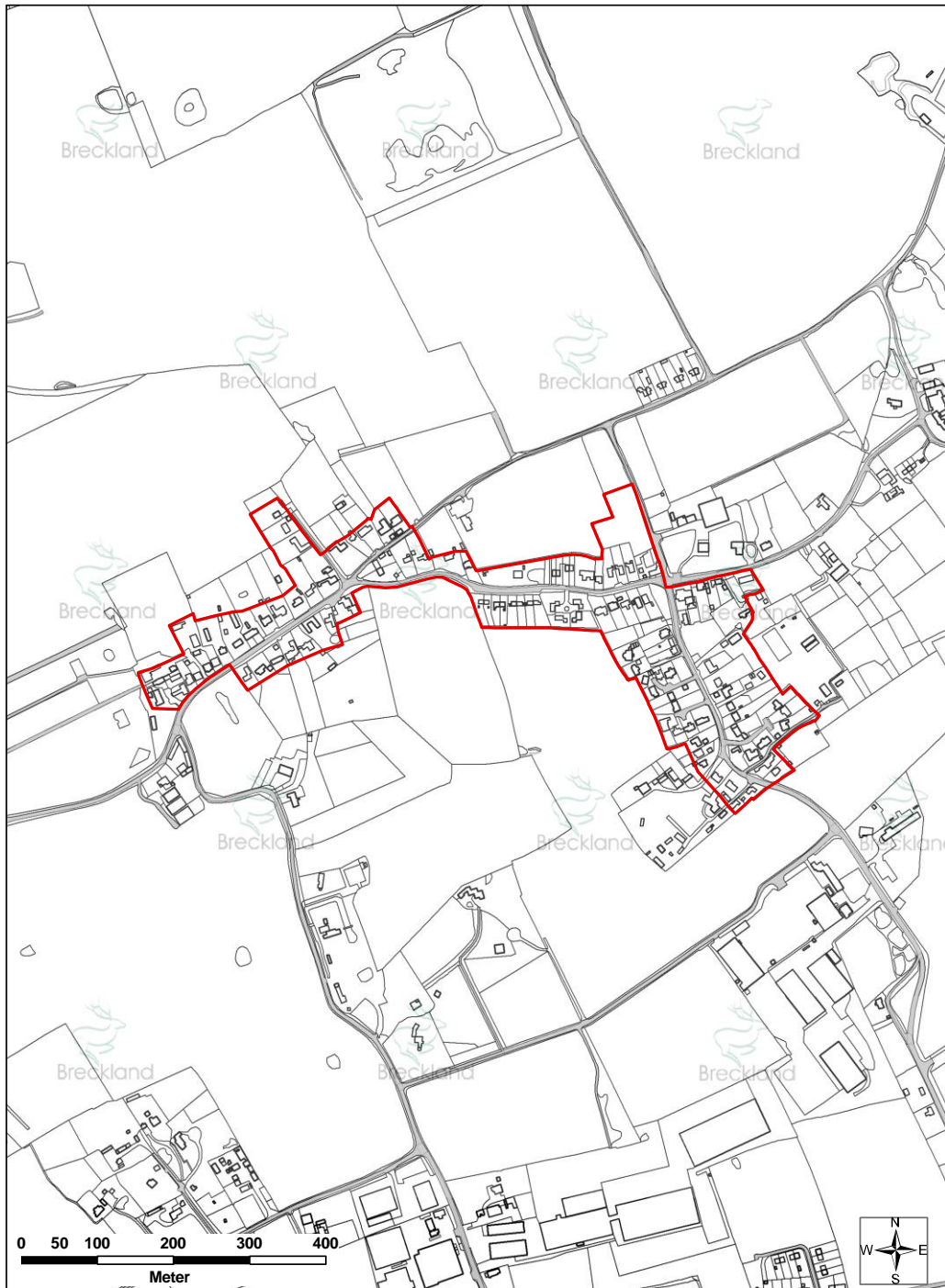
Settlement Boundaries

.1 The following key relates to the settlement boundary maps in this section.

**Figure .1 Key to
Settlement Boundary
Maps**

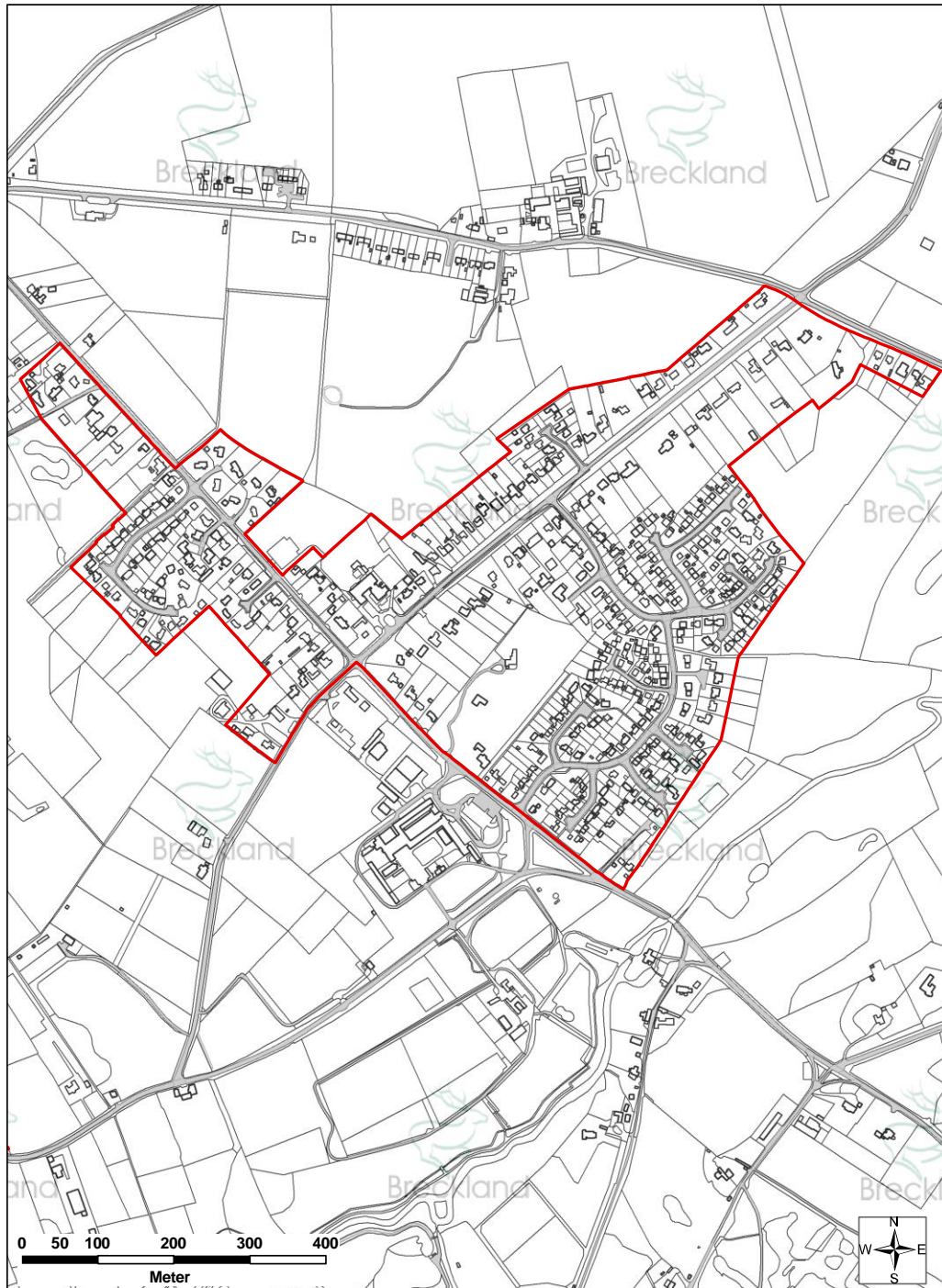


Map .1 Beeston Settlement Boundary



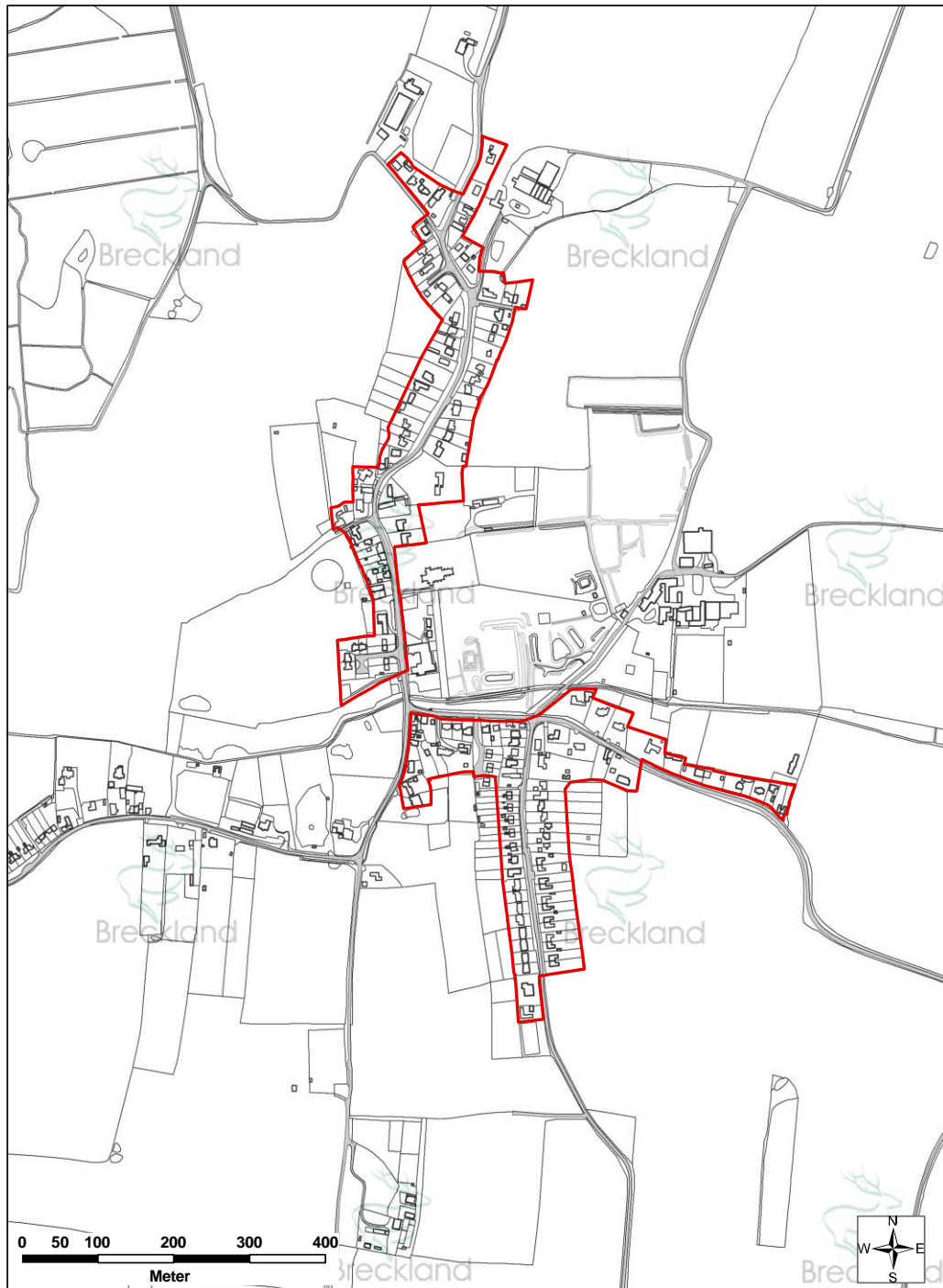
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Map .2 Beetley Settlement Boundary



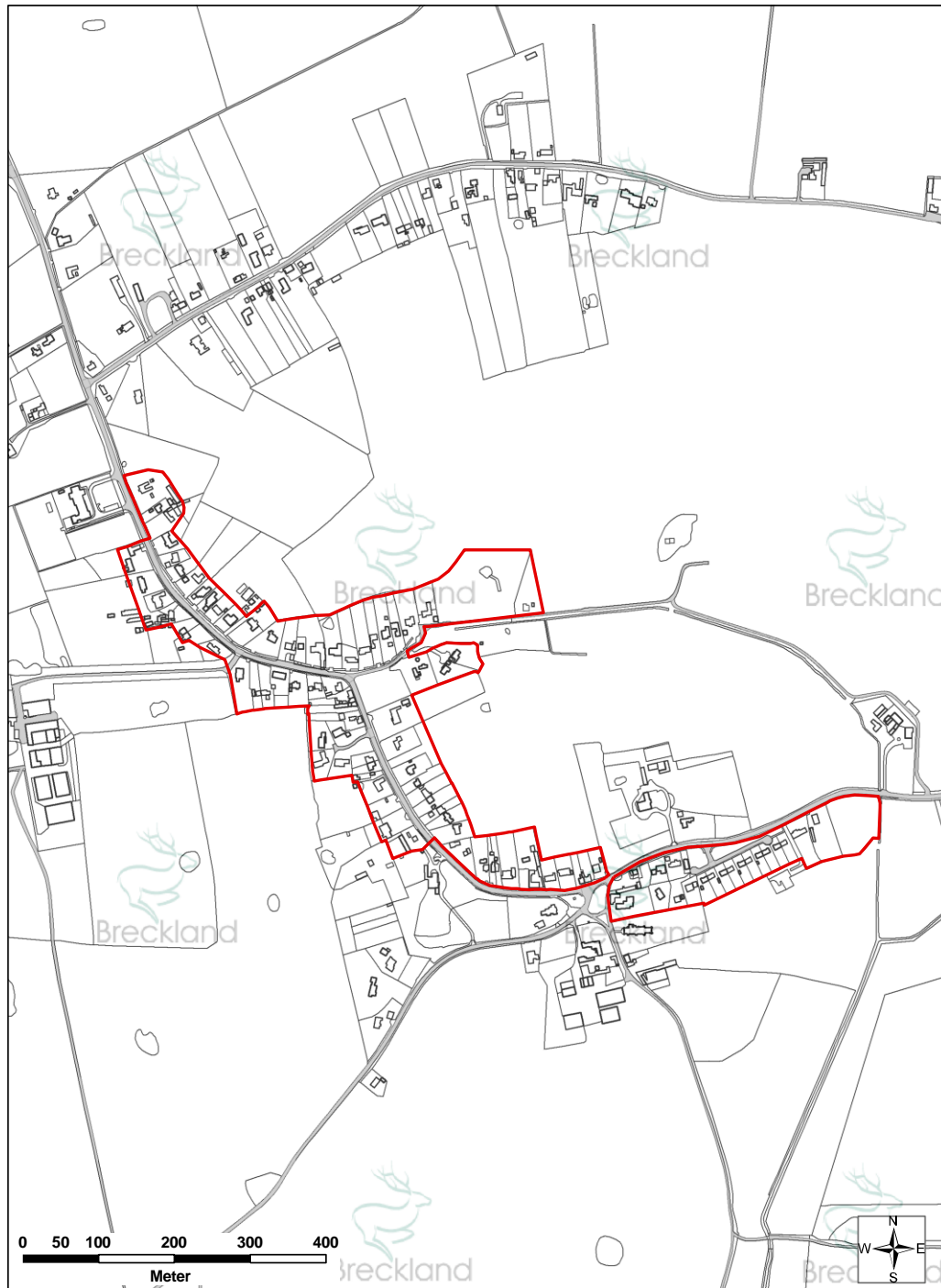
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Map .3 Carbrooke Settlement Boundary



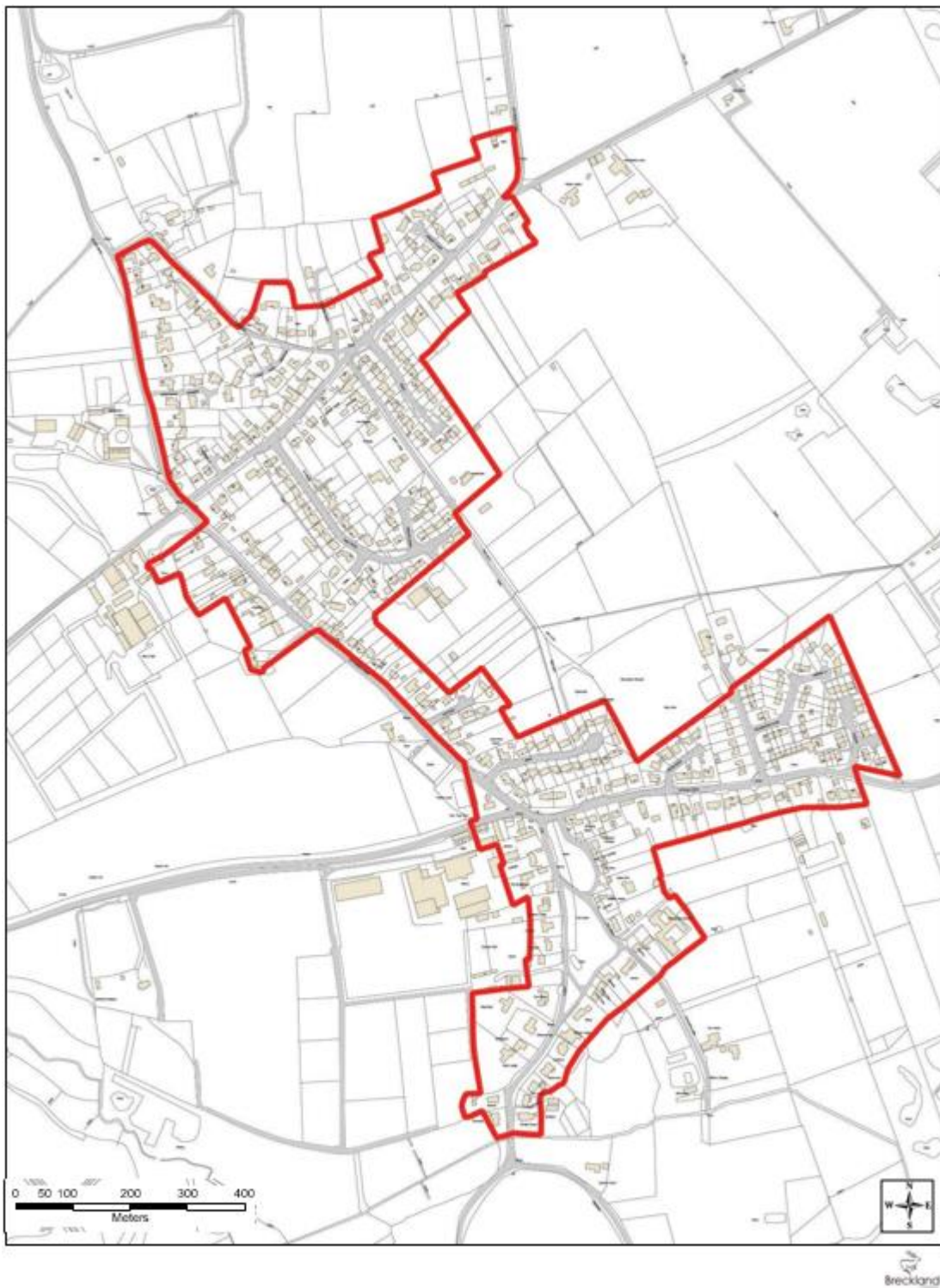
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Map .4 Caston Settlement Boundary



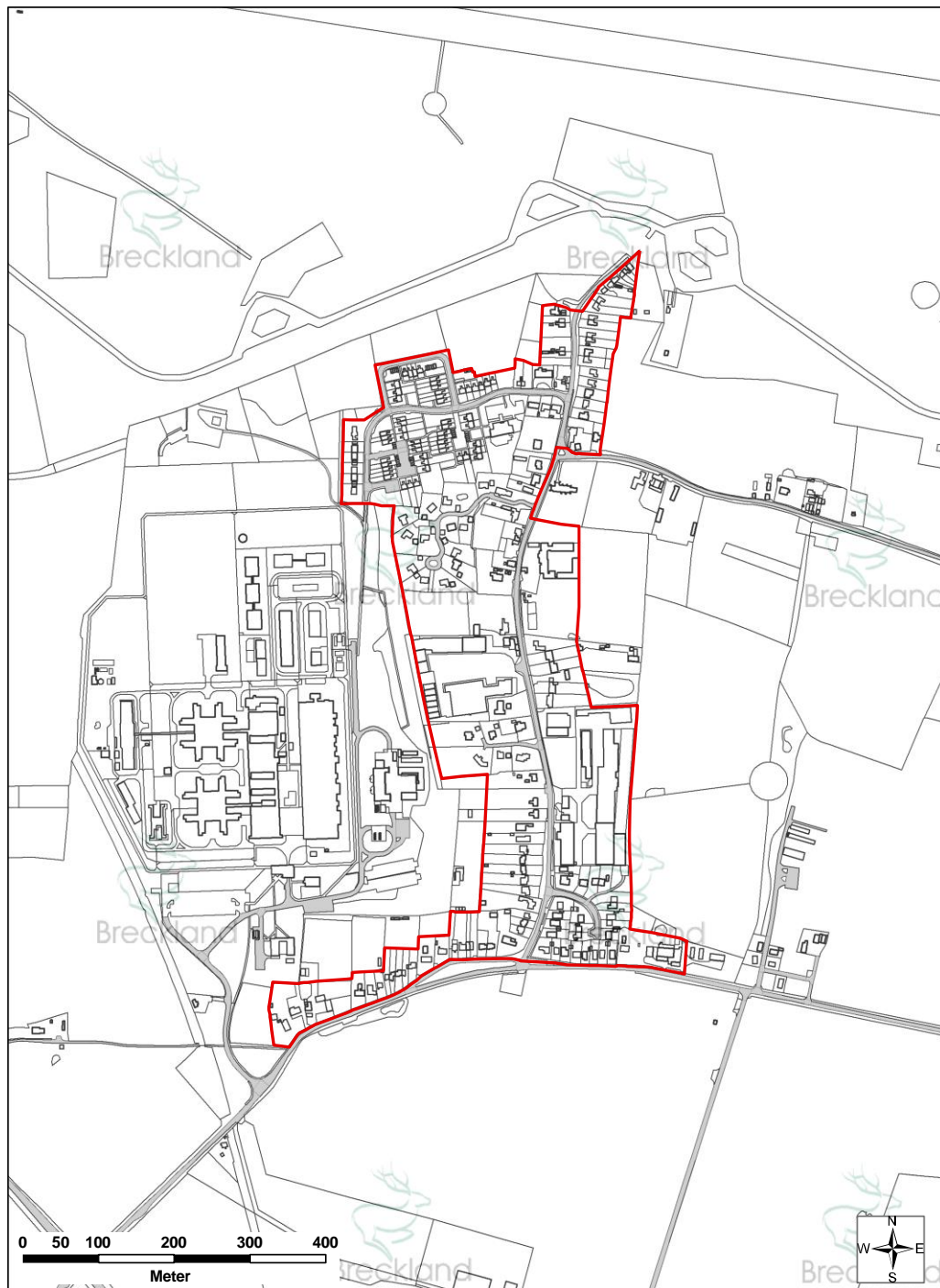
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Map .5 Gressenhall Settlement Boundary



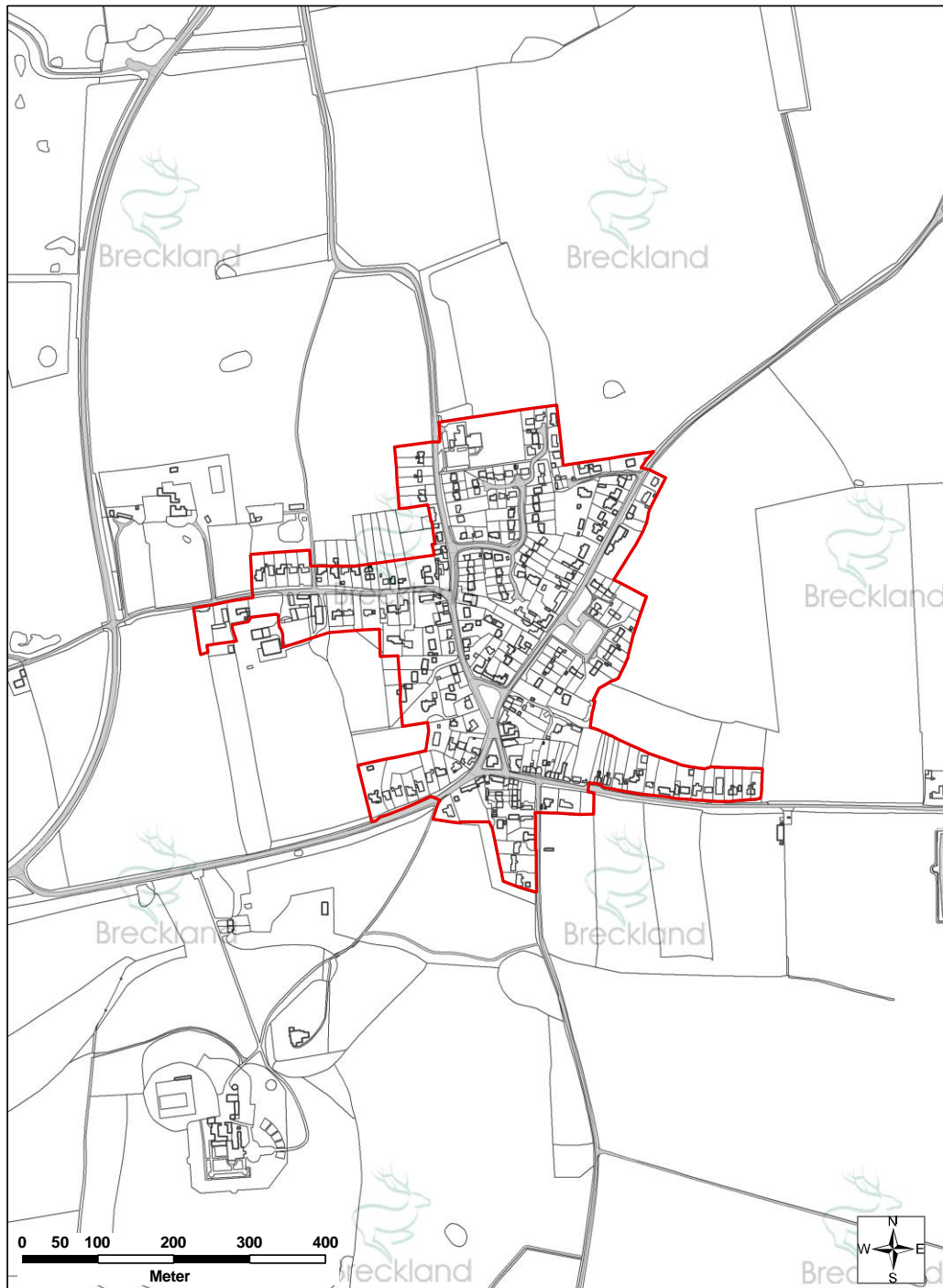
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Map .6 Griston Settlement Boundary



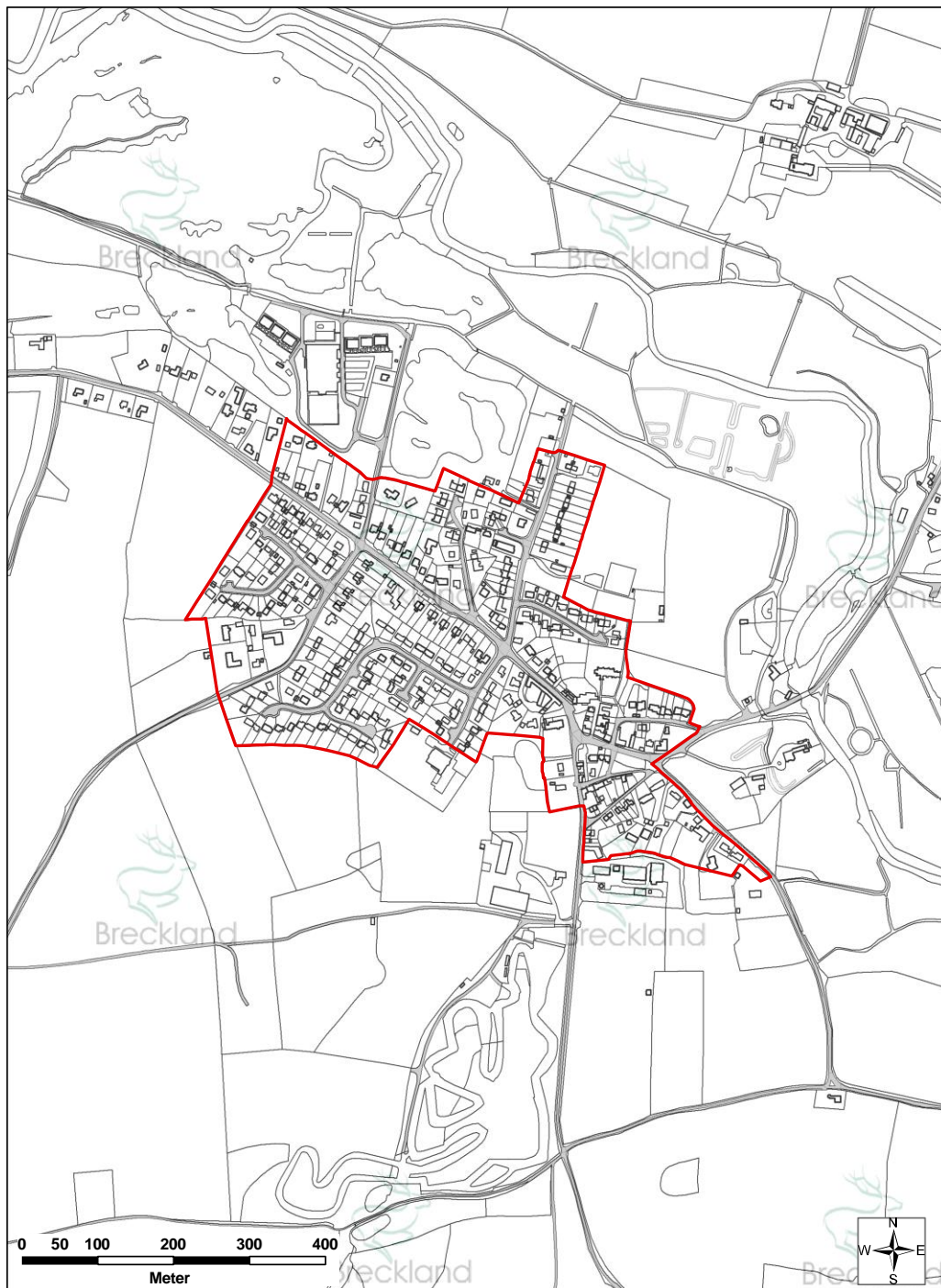
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Map .7 Hockham Settlement Boundary



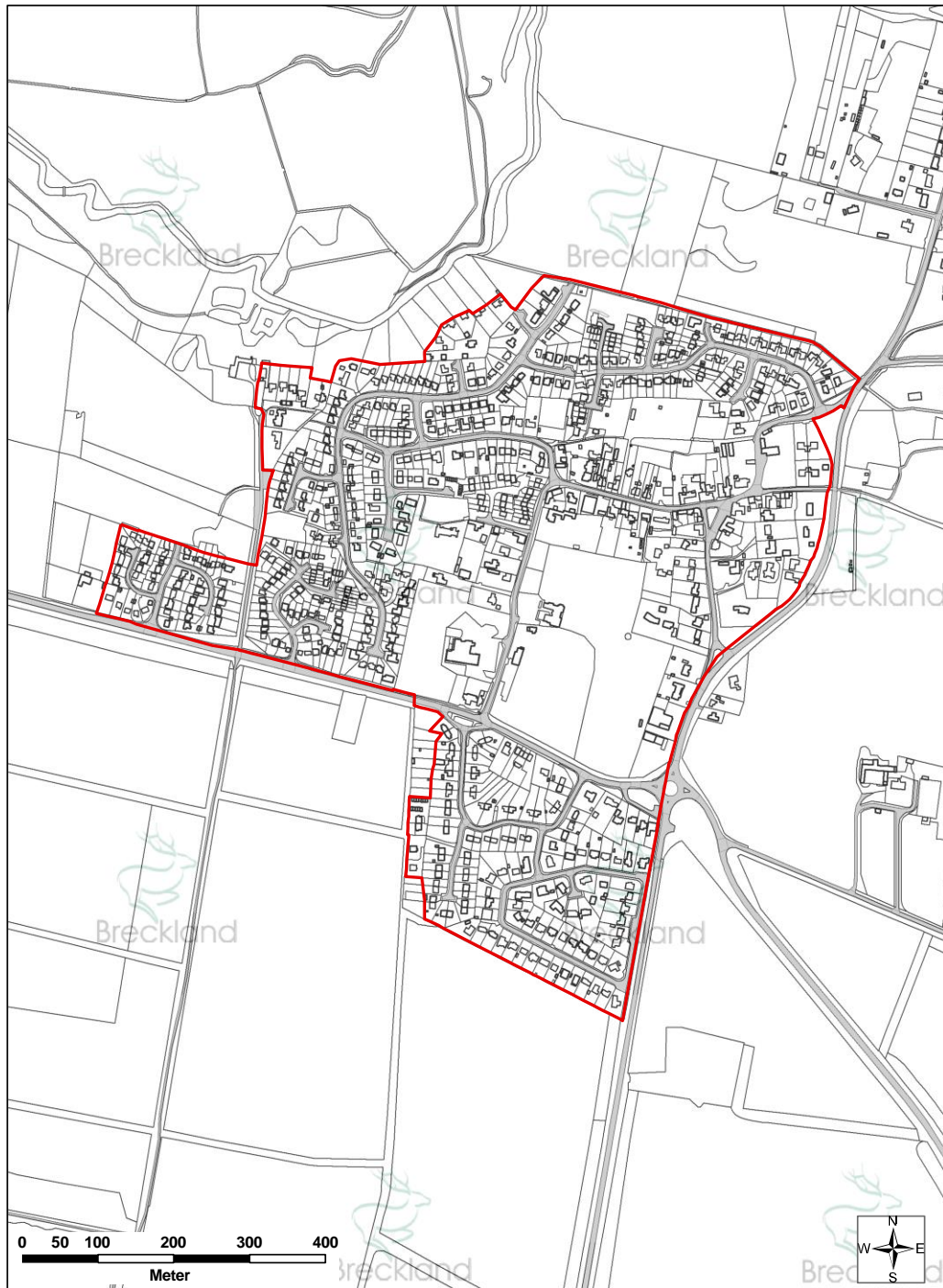
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Map .8 Lyng Settlement Boundary



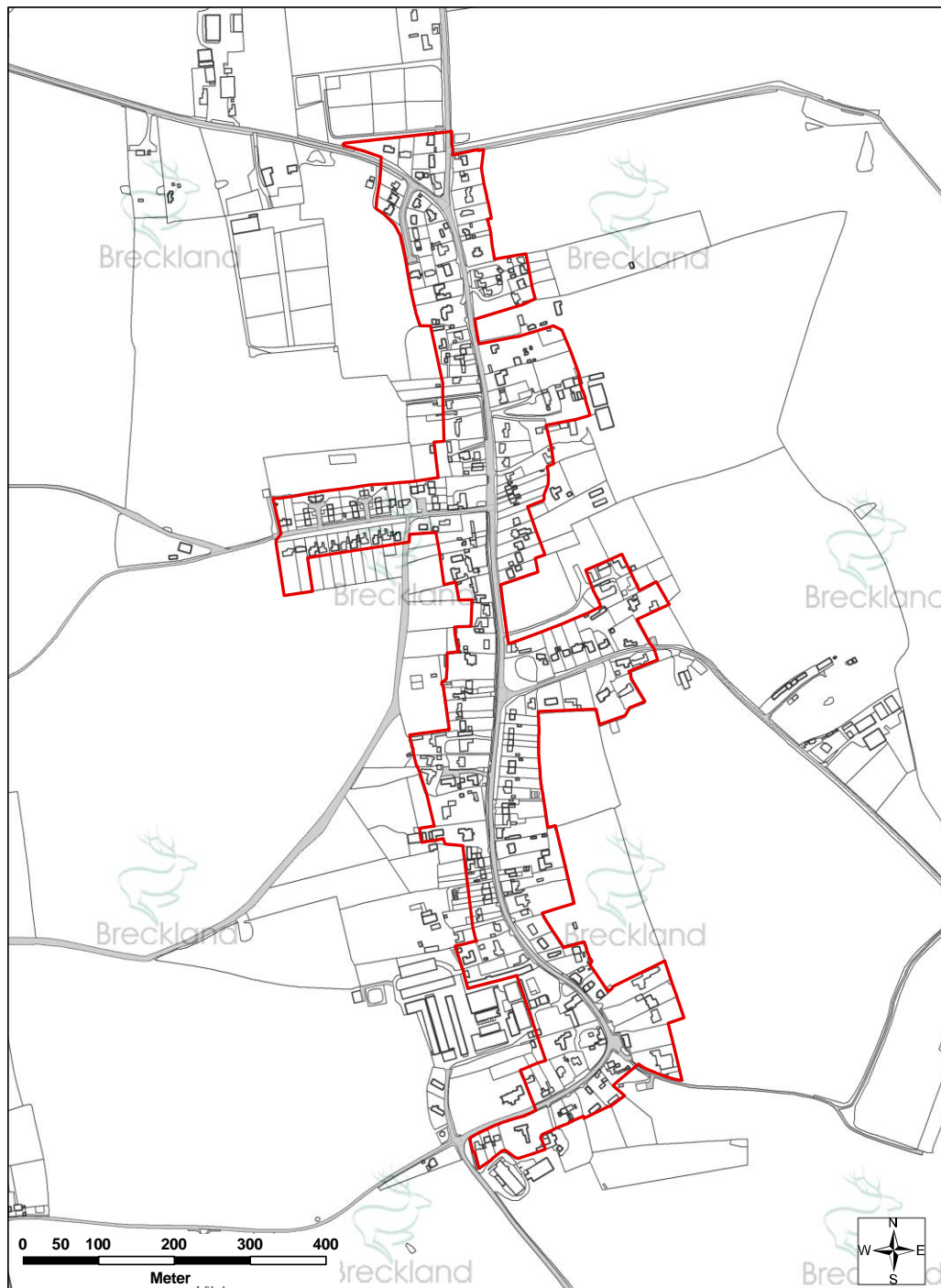
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Map .9 Mundford Settlement Boundary



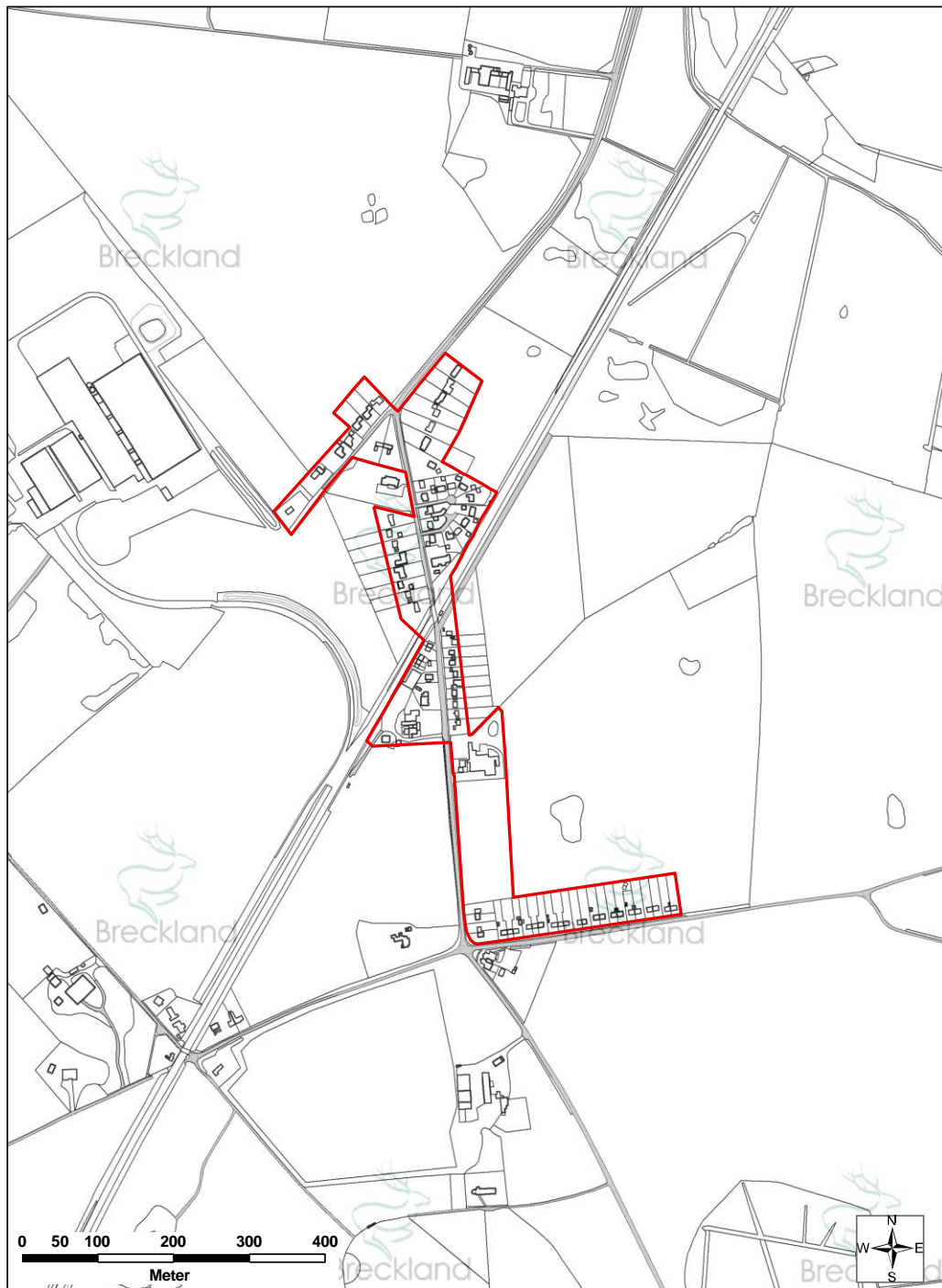
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Map .10 North Lopham Settlement Boundary



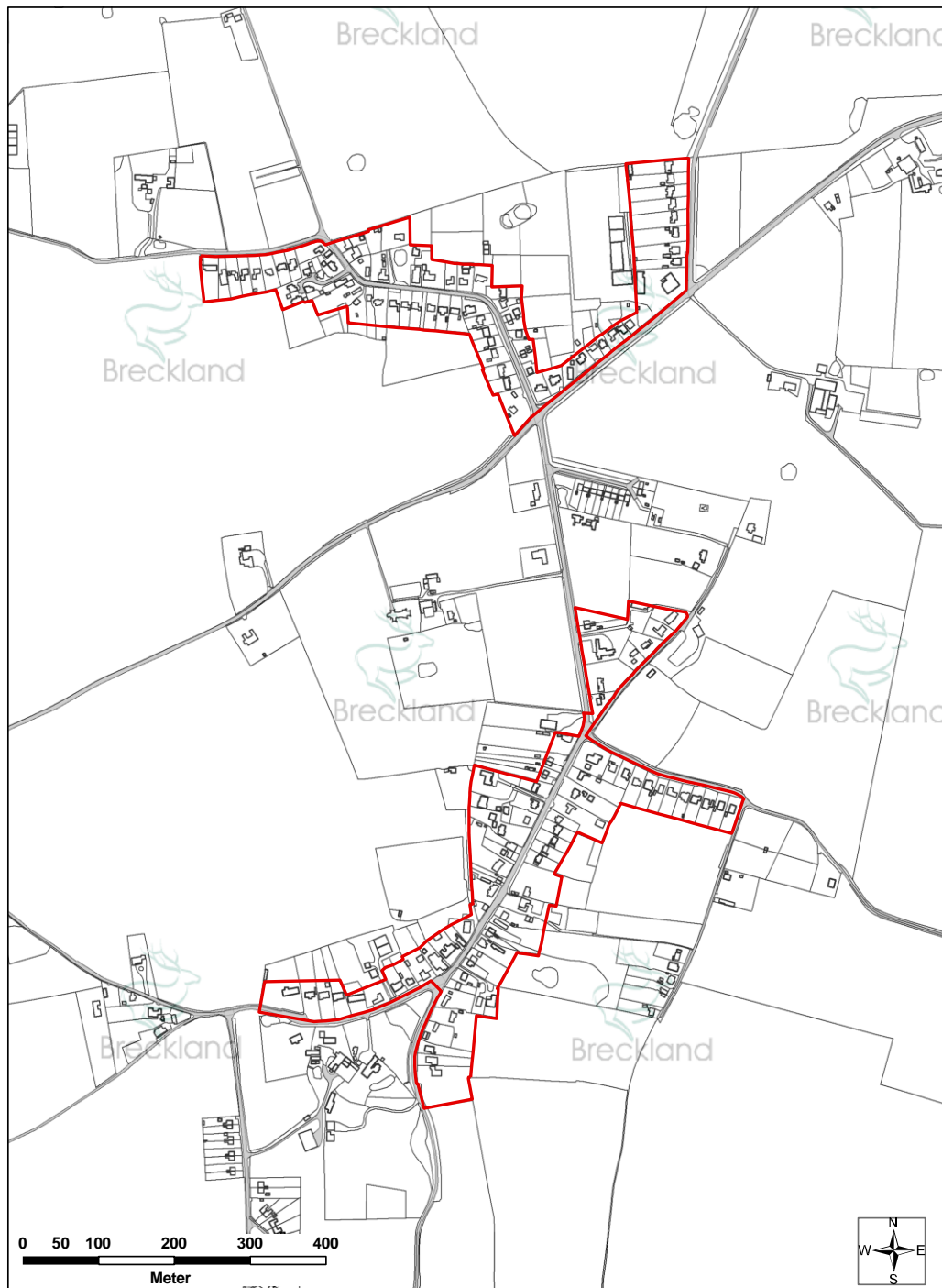
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Map .11 Quidenham Settlement Boundary



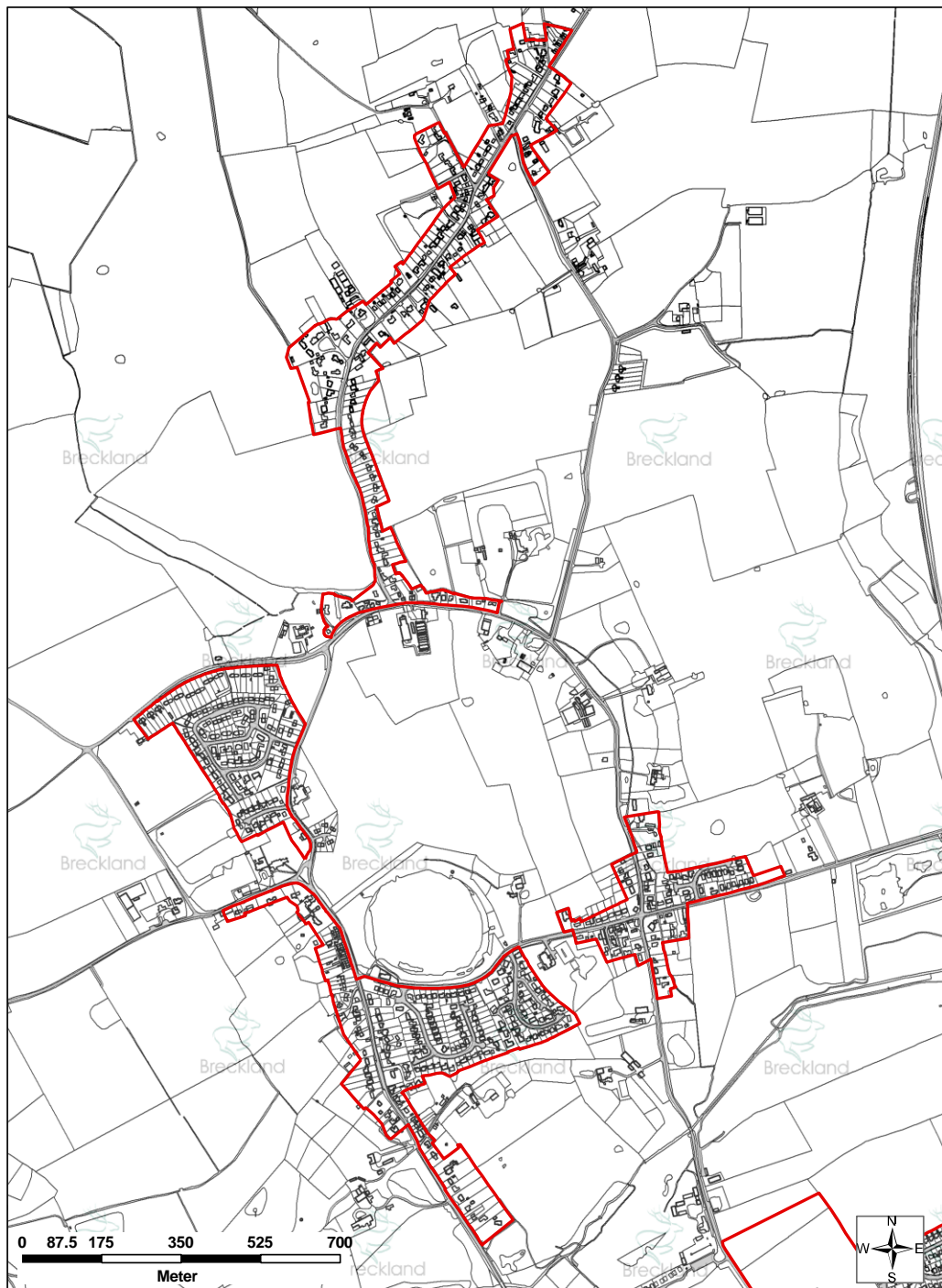
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Map .12 Rocklands Settlement Boundary



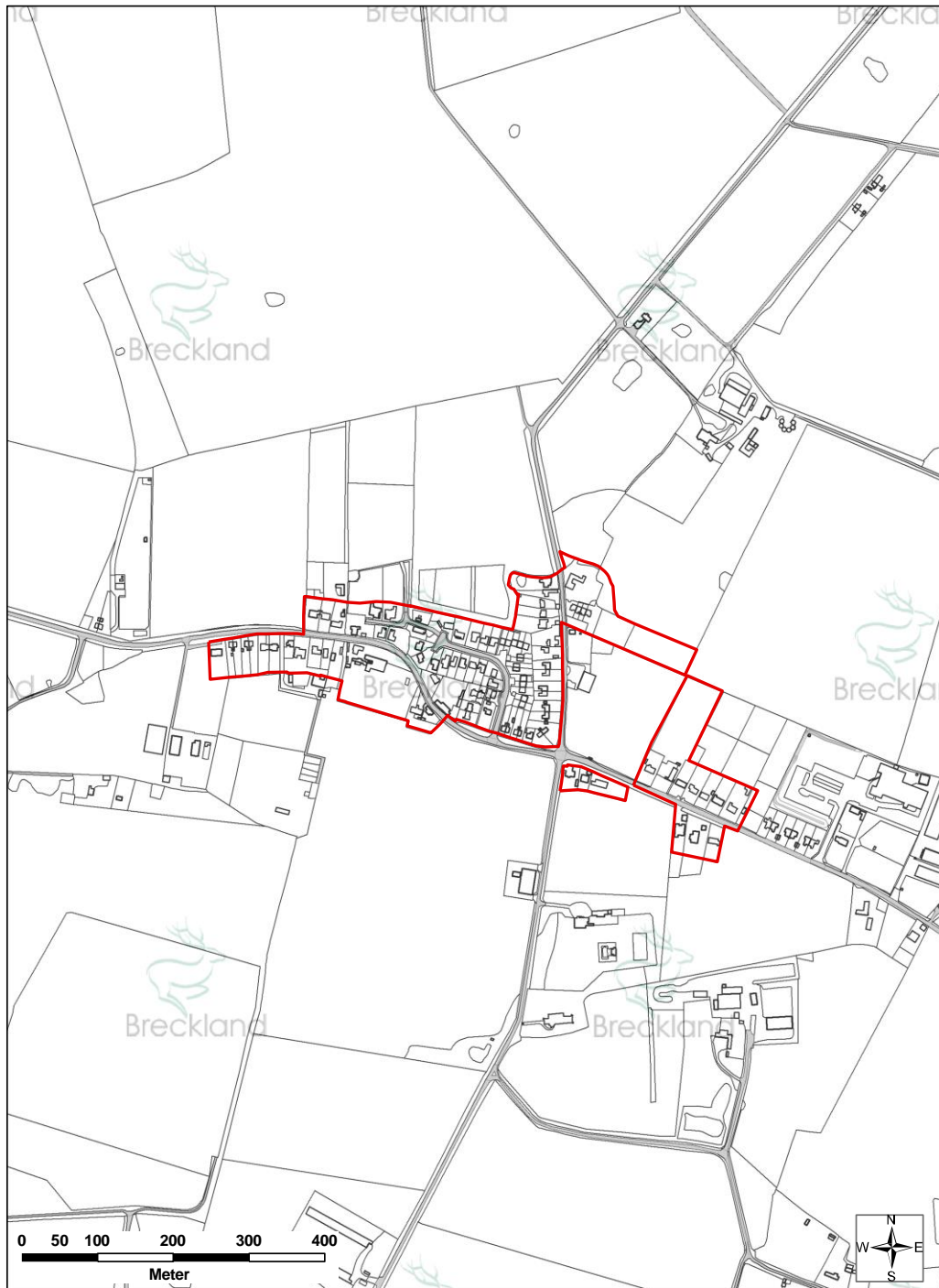
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Map .13 Saham Toney Settlement Boundary



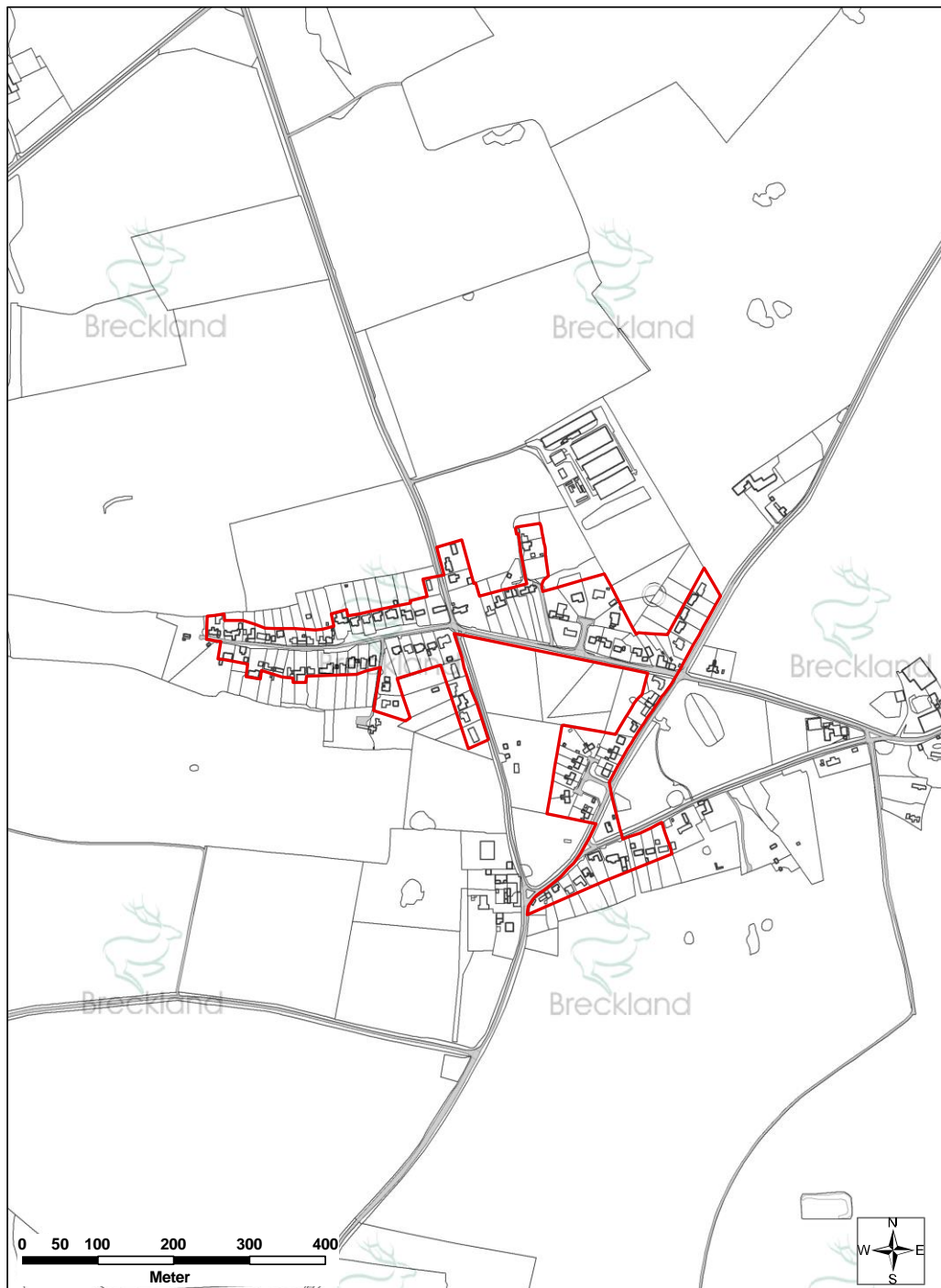
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Map .14 Shropham Settlement Boundary



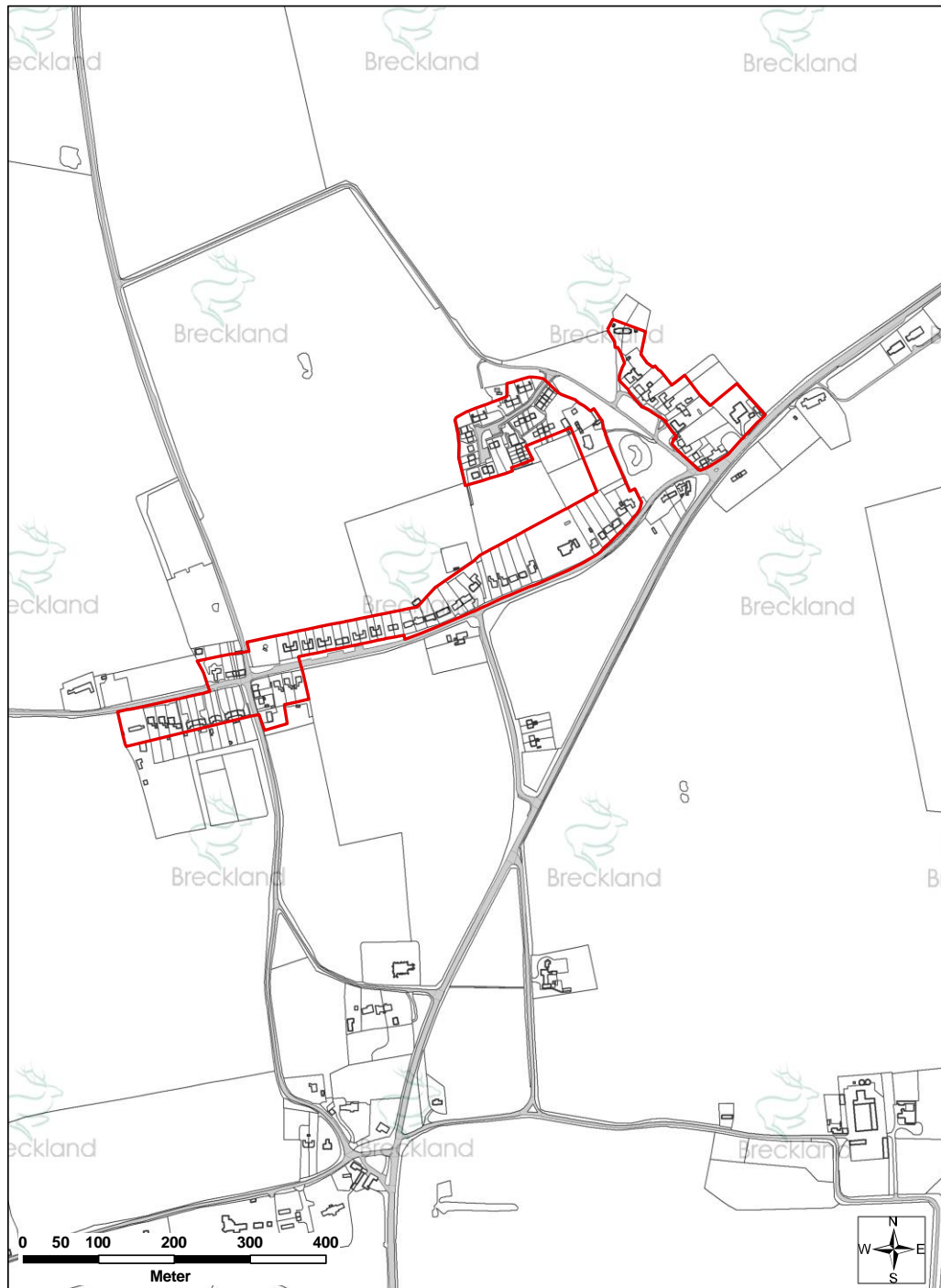
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Map .15 Thompson Settlement Boundary



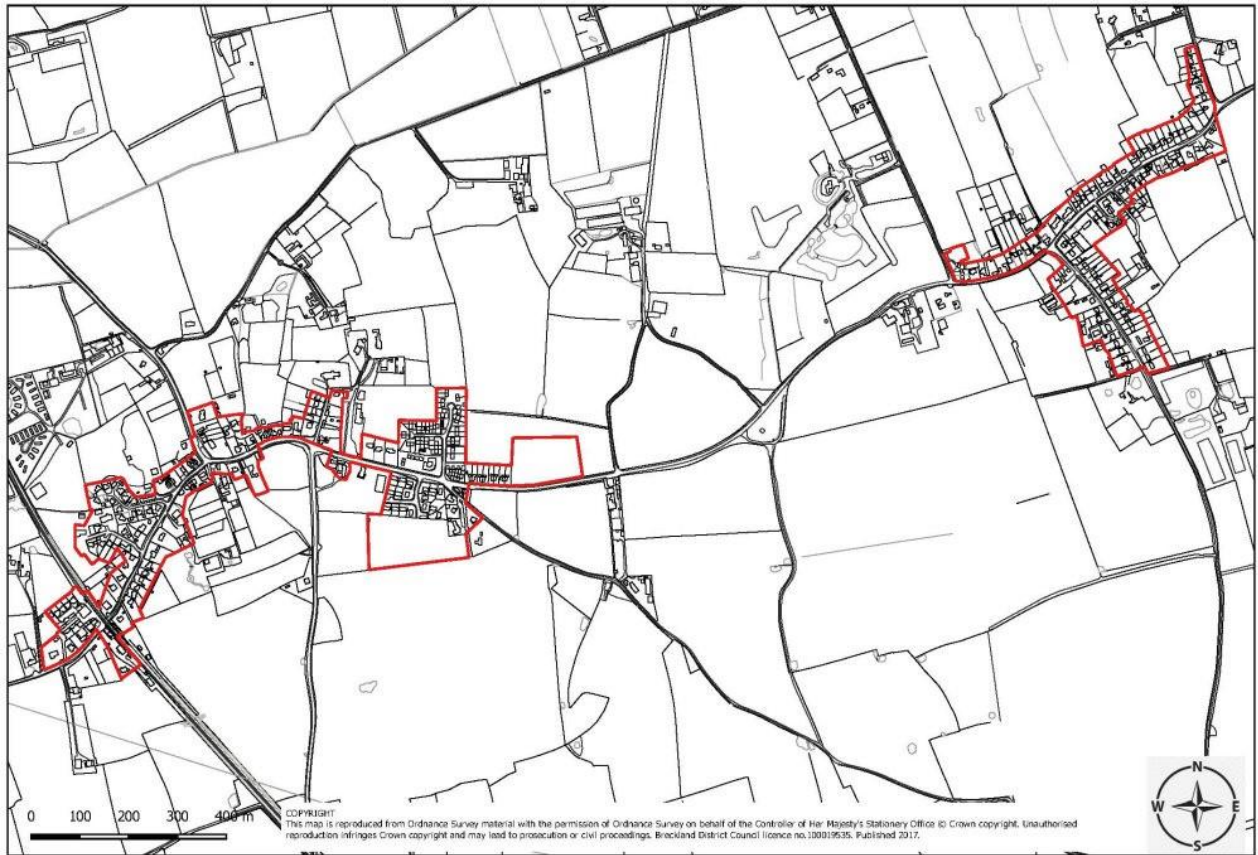
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Map .16 Weasenham Settlement Boundary



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Map .17 Yaxham Settlement Boundary



Appendix 4 - List of Saved Policies

Saved Policies

| | Superseded/Not Superseded/ Delete | New Local Plan Policy | Reason (where it is proposed to Delete or Not Supersede Policy) |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Core Strategy and Development Control Policies | | | |
| Policy SS 1 Spatial Strategy | Supersede | Policy GEN03 | |
| Policy CP 1 Housing | Supersede | Policy HOU01 | |
| Policy CP 2 The Travelling Community | Supersede | Policy HOU08 | |
| Policy CP 3 Employment | Supersede | Policy EC01 | |
| Policy CP 4 Infrastructure | Delete | n/a | Rely on national planning policy and the infrastructure delivery plan |
| Policy CP 5 Developer Obligations | Supersede | Policy INF02 | |
| Policy CP 6 Green Infrastructure | Supersede | Policy ENV01 | |
| Policy CP 7 Town Centres | Supersede | Policy EC05 | |
| Policy CP 8 Natural Resources | Delete | n/a | Rely on the NPPF |
| Policy CP 9 Pollution and Waste | Delete | n/a | Rely on the NPPF |
| Policy CP 10 Natural Environment | Supersede | Policy ENV 02 and Policy ENV03 | |
| Policy CP 11 Protection and Enhancement of the Landscape | Supersede | Policy ENV05 | |
| Policy CP 12 Energy | Supersede | Policy ENV10 | |
| Policy CP 13 Accessibility | Supersede | Policy TR01 and Policy TR02 | |
| Policy CP 14 Sustainable Rural Communities | Supersede | Policy HOU03, Policy HOU04 and Policy HOU05 | |
| Policy DC 1 Protection of Amenity | Supersede | Policy COM03 | |
| Policy DC 2 Principles of New Housing | Supersede | Policy HOU06 | |
| Policy DC 3 Replacement Dwellings and Extension in the Countryside | Supersede | Policy HOU11 | |
| Policy DC 4 Affordable Housing Principles | Supersede | Policy HOU07 | |
| Policy DC 5 Affordable Housing on Exception Sites | Supersede | Policy HOU14 | |

| | Superseded/Not Superseded/ Delete | New Local Plan Policy | Reason (where it is proposed to Delete or Not Supersede Policy) |
|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Policy DC 6 General Employment Areas | Supersede | Policy EC03 | |
| Policy DC 7 Employment Development Outside of General Employment Areas | Supersede | Policy EC04 | |
| Policy DC 8 Tourism Related Development | Supersede | Policy EC07 | |
| Policy DC 9 Proposals for Town Centre Uses | Delete | n/a | Changes to permitted development rights have meant that the policy is no longer applicable |
| Policy DC 10 Telecommunications | Supersede | Policy INF01 | |
| Policy DC 11 Open Space | Supersede | Policy ENV06 | |
| Policy DC 12 Trees and Landscape | Supersede | Policy ENV06 | |
| Policy DC 13 Flood Risk | Supersede | Policy ENV09 | |
| Policy DC 14 Energy Generation and Efficiency | Delete | n/a | Rely on national policy and Policy HOU 10 |
| Policy DC 15 Renewable Energy | Supersede | Policy ENV10 | |
| Policy DC 16 Design | Supersede | Policy GEN02 and Policy COM01 | |
| Policy DC 17 Historic Environment | Supersede | Policy ENV07 and Policy ENV08 | |
| Policy DC 18 Community facilities recreation and leisure | Supersede | Policy COM04 | |
| Policy DC 19 Parking Provision | Supersede | Policy COM01 and Policy HOU06 | |
| Policy DC 20 Conversion of Buildings in the Countryside | Supersede | Policy HOU12 | |
| Policy DC 21 Farm Diversification | Supersede | Policy EC 06 | |
| Site Specific Policies & Proposals | | | |
| Policy D1 | Not Supersede | n/a | Part of the site has planning permission, part of the site has Permission in |

| | Superseded/Not Superseded/ Delete | New Local Plan Policy | Reason (where it is proposed to Delete or Not Supersede Policy) |
|--------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| | | | Principle. To ensure that the site comes forward as a comprehensive scheme. |
| Policy D2 | Not Supersede | n/a | Site is currently subject to a full planning application which has not been determined. |
| Policy D3 | Delete | n/a | Site has planning permission |
| Policy D4 | Delete | n/a | Site has planning permission for residential |
| Policy D5 | Not Supersede | n/a | Site forms part of employment land supply |
| Policy D6 | Not Supersede | n/a | Site forms main opportunity for retail expansion in Dereham |
| Policy D7 | Delete | n/a | Site has planning permission |
| Policy SW1 | Not Supersede | n/a | Site is currently subject to a full planning application which has not been determined. |
| Policy SW2 | Not Supersede | n/a | Site forms part of employment land supply |
| Policy SW3 | Not Supersede | n/a | Site forms part of employment land supply |
| Policy W1 | Delete | n/a | Site has planning permission |
| Policy W2 | Delete | n/a | Site has planning permission |
| Policy W3 | Delete | n/a | Site has planning permission |
| Policy W4 | Delete | n/a | Site has planning permission |
| Policy NAR.1 | Delete | n/a | Site has planning permission |
| Policy SH1 | Delete | n/a | Site has planning |

| | Superseded/Not Superseded/ Delete | New Local Plan Policy | Reason (where it is proposed to Delete or Not Supersede Policy) |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
| | | | permission |
| Policy SM1 | Delete | n/a | Site has planning permission |
| Policy SB.1 | Supersede | Policy GEN05 | |
| Adopted Thetford Area Action Plan DPD | | | |
| Policy TH 1 National Planning Policy Framework - Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development | Supersede | Policy GEN1 | |
| Policy TH 2 Approach to the Town Centre | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 3 New Retail Development | Supersede | Policy EC05 | |
| Policy TH 4 Transport - Achieving Modal Shift | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 5 The Impact of Change on Pedestrians, Cyclists and Buses | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 6 Thetford Bus Interchange | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 7 Thetford Railway Station | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 8 Healthy Lifestyles | Supersede | Policy COM02 | |
| Policy TH 9 Monitoring and Management of Key Biodiversity Sites | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 10 Allotments | Supersede | Policy ENV04 and Policy INF02 | |
| Policy TH 11 Joe Blunt's Lane | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory |

| | Superseded/Not Superseded/ Delete | New Local Plan Policy | Reason (where it is proposed to Delete or Not Supersede Policy) |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| | | | delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 12 The Thetford Loops | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 13 Indoor Sports Facilities | Supersede | Policy ENV04 and Policy COM04 | |
| Policy TH 14 Energy and Carbon - TAAP Wide | Delete | n/a | Rely on national policy |
| Policy TH 15 Energy/Multi Service(s) Company Development (ESCo/MuSCo) | Delete | n/a | Rely on national policy |
| Policy TH 16 Water and Drainage | Supersede | Policy ENV09 | |
| Policy TH 17 Development in Flood Zones | Supersede | Policy ENV09 | |
| Policy TH 18 Archaeology | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 19 Sustainable Construction Standards for Non-Residential Development | Delete | n/a | Rely on national policy |
| Policy TH 20 Thetford Urban Extension Strategic Design Principles | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 21 Locally Distinctive Features of the Landscape | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 22 Gallows Hill Scheduled Monument | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 23 Existing Buildings in the Thetford Urban Extension | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development |

| | Superseded/Not Superseded/ Delete | New Local Plan Policy | Reason (where it is proposed to Delete or Not Supersede Policy) |
|--|--|------------------------------|--|
| | | | within Thetford |
| Policy TH 24 Surface-Water Management | Supersede | Policy ENV09 | |
| Policy TH 25 Walking and Cycling | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 26 Buses | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 27 A New Railway Station in the Urban Extension | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 28 Changes to the A11 Trunk Road | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 29 Improvements to the Local Road Network | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 30 New Employment Land | Not Supersede | n/a | Site forms part of employment land supply. |
| Policy TH 31 New Local Centre(s) in the Urban Extension | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 32 Connecting to a Decentralised Energy Supply | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 33 Educating Provision in the Thetford Urban Extension | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 34 New Health Facility in the Urban Extension | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of |

| | Superseded/Not Superseded/ Delete | New Local Plan Policy | Reason (where it is proposed to Delete or Not Supersede Policy) |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| | | | development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 35 Community Buildings | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 36 New Bring Recycling Facilities | Delete | n/a | Rely on national policy |
| Policy TH 37 Regeneration proposals in Existing Residential Areas | Not Supersede | n/a | For the satisfactory delivery of development within Thetford |
| Policy TH 38 Existing Employment Areas | Supersede | Policy EC03 | |
| Policy TH 39 Thetford Settlement Boundary | Supersede | Policy GEN05 | |

Appendix 5 HOU 04 Methodology (MM159)

Criteria 2 of Policy HOU 04 sets out for rural settlements with boundaries development should not lead to the number of dwellings in the settlement increasing by significantly more than 5% from the date of adoption of the plan. This includes proposals inside and outside of the settlement boundary. This methodology sets out how the baseline level of dwellings have been calculated for each settlement with boundaries. This methodology provides the most accurate, up to date information for each of the settlements regarding residential dwellings and planning permissions. This data, as set out in the table below, provides the basis for the 5% calculation, which sets a target for the number of dwellings to be built in each of the settlements.

To set the current baseline number of dwellings within the settlement boundary, the Council have used the Address Points Layer, a layer contained on a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping software. Address points provide a record of each property. This data is held by the Spatial Information team at Breckland Council and contains the address points for a range of uses within the District including residential properties and commercial units. This layer was originally derived from Ordnance Survey data; however, post-2004 the Spatial Information team have updated the layer based on planning applications, building control stages of completion and council tax records. This is considered to be the most accurate representation of address points within the District.

The Address Points within each settlement boundary were counted as a baseline for the current number of residential properties within each settlement. Only those address points which were registered as 'Residential', 'Dual Use' (A property with multiple uses, e.g. residential and office) and 'Land, Development, Development Sites' (sites with planning permission) were counted in developing the baseline. Those defined as 'Dual Use' were checked to see if they contained a residential use. Those entries defined as 'Land, Development, Development Sites' were then cross checked with the Housing Land Availability (HLA) layer. The HLA layer is used by the Planning Policy Team to monitor development within the district and is updated at each monitoring period, the data is accurate as of the 31/03/2018.

| Settlement | Number of Dwellings within the settlement boundary* (including planning permissions to 31/03/2018) | 5% growth- Number of dwellings to be built over the plan period to 2036 |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Beeston | 121 | 6 |
| Beetley | 406 | 20 |
| Carbrooke | 167 | 8 |
| Caston | 128 | 6 |
| Eccles Road (Quidenham) | 120 | 6 |
| Gressenhall | 403 | 20 |
| Griston | 301 | 15 |
| Hockham | 258 | 13 |
| Lyng | 325 | 16 |
| Mundford | 668 | 33 |
| North Lopham | 245 | 12 |
| Rocklands | 159 | 8 |
| Saham Toney | 667 | 33 |
| Shropham | 117 | 6 |

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| Thompson | 117 | 6 |
| Weasenham | 118 | 6 |
| Yaxham & Clint Green | 357** | 18 |
| Total | | 234 |

* Settlement boundary as defined in the pre-submission publication policies maps

** This figure does not include 3PL/2016/1499/O for 25 dwellings (allowed on appeal on 14/05/2018)

13 Glossary

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| Affordable Housing | Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. |
| Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) | An AQMA is an area designated where air quality does not already, or is predicted not to, meet air quality objectives. This could be just one or two streets, or it could be a much larger area. It is then a requirement that affected Local Authorities implement a plan to improve air quality - a Local Air Quality Action Plan - that seeks to improve the air quality in areas designated AQMAs. |
| Allocation | An area of land identified for development in a development plan. The allocation will specify the type of development that will be permitted on the land. |
| Amenity | Element of a location or neighbourhood that helps to make it more attractive or enjoyable for residents and visitors. |
| Ancient Woodlands | Woodland that is believed to have existed from at least medieval times and as such probably been continuously wooded since 1600. |
| Area Action Plans (AAP) | Area Action Plans are Development Plan Documents from the previous Local Development Framework system. As specific plans for areas of change or Area Action Plans (AAP) conservation their purpose being to deliver planned growth, stimulate regeneration, protect areas sensitive to change through conservation policies, make proposals for enhancement and resolve conflicting objectives in areas where there was significant development pressure. It is anticipated that over time the content of AAPs be contained within the Local Plan. |
| Authorities' Monitoring Report (AMR) | A report produced each financial year to indicate the progress of production of planning policy documents, and monitor the effectiveness of policies contained Authorities' Monitoring Report (AMR) within the adopted plan. The report will outline action that may need to be taken to meet targets or if policies need to be reviewed (MM160). Changes will be implemented through a revised Local Development Scheme. |

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| Biodiversity | The whole variety of life encompassing habitat diversity, all genetics, species and ecosystem variation including plants and animals. Biodiversity has value in its own right and has social and economic value for human society. |
| Biomass | The total dry organic matter or stored energy of plant matter. As a fuel it includes energy crops and sewage as well as forestry and agricultural residues. |
| Brief / Planning Brief | A planning brief can include site-specific development briefs, design briefs, development frameworks and master plans that seek to positively shape future development. |
| Brownfield Land or Site | Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land(although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage Brownfield Land or Site should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures; land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time. |
| Brownfield Land Register | A register of previously developed land suitable, available and achievable for residential development of at least 0.25ha or capable of supporting at least 5 dwellings that each local planning authority is required to prepare and maintain. |
| Building Regulations | Sets minimum construction standards for building works. They exist to ensure the health and safety of people in and around all types of buildings (i.e. domestic, Building Regulations commercial, and industrial). They also provide for energy conservation and access to and use of buildings. |
| Central Norfolk Housing Market Area, CNHMA | Housing market area in and around Greater Norwich, Broadland, Breckland, North Norfolk and South Norfolk. A Housing Market Area is the area within which most people moving, without changing employment, would stay. |
| Change of Use | A material change in the use of land or buildings from one class of use to another as defined by the Use Classes Order constitutes development and therefore requires planning permission. |
| Commitments & | Commitments - the term used to represent the level of |

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| Completions | <p>development already given planning permission but not yet build out.</p> <p>Completions – the number of dwellings that have been built out following the granting of planning permission.</p> |
| Community Facilities | Facilities providing for the health, welfare, social, educational, spiritual, leisure and cultural needs of the community. Community facilities are defined as: local shops, meeting places, indoor and outdoor sports venues, recreation/play areas, cultural buildings, public houses, petrol filling stations and places of worship. |
| Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) | CIL is a levy that local authorities in England and Wales can choose to charge on new developments in their area. The money can be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the council, local community and neighbourhood want. |
| Community Strategy | A strategy prepared by a community to help deliver local aspirations, under the Local Government Act 2000. |
| Comparison Retail / Shopping | Shopping for items like clothes, products, household and leisure goods which are not bought on a regular basis. |
| Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) | An order issued by the Government or a Local Authority to acquire land or buildings for public interest purposes. For example the redevelopment of certain brownfield land sites. |
| Conservation Area | An area of special architectural or historic interest, designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990, whose character and appearance it is desirable to preserve or enhance. There are special rules on some development in conservation areas. |
| Contaminated Land | Land which contains potentially harmful substances as a result of human activity or from natural causes may be regarded as contaminated land. |
| Convenience Retail | This refers to shopping for everyday essential items like food, drink, newspapers and confectionery. |
| Core Strategy | The Core Strategy is one of the Development Plan Documents which formed part of the Local Development Framework. It set out the long term spatial vision, strategic Core Strategy objectives and core policies for the development of the area. Once adopted, the Local Plan will supersede the current Core Strategy. |
| County Wildlife Site | A site of important nature conservation value within a County |

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| (CWS) | context but which are not protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. |
| Cultural facilities | Includes theatres, cinema, halls, music venues (usually in pubs), libraries, public art installations and art galleries. |
| Deliverable | For sites to be considered deliverable the NPPF states that sites should be available now, offer a suitable location for development now, and be achievable with a realistic Deliverable prospect that housing will be delivered on the site within five years and in particular that development of the site is viable. Sites with planning permission should be considered deliverable until permission expires, unless there is clear evidence that schemes will not be implemented within five years, for example they will not be viable, there is no longer a demand for the type of units or sites have long term phasing plans. |
| Density | A measure of the intensity of residential development. Usually expressed as either the number of dwellings per hectare (dph) or the number of habitable rooms per hectare (hrha). |
| Design & Access Statement | A statement that accompanies a planning application to explain the design principles and concepts that have informed the development and how access issues have been dealt with. |
| Developable | For sites to be considered developable, sites should be in a suitable location for housing development and there should be a reasonable prospect that the site is available and could be viably developed at the point envisaged. |
| Development | Development is defined under the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act as "the carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operation in, on, over, or under land, or the making of any material change in the use of any building or other land." Most forms of development require planning permission. |
| Development Management | The process whereby a Local Planning Authority considers the merits of a planning application and whether it should be given permission having regard to the policies and proposals in the Development Plan. |
| Development Plan | This is defined in section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and includes adopted Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans. |
| Duty to Co-operate | Local Councils now have a duty to co-operate with their |

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| | neighbouring Councils and a set of prescribed bodies as defined by the Localism Act 2011 on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those which relate to the strategic priorities. |
| Dwelling | A building or any part of a building that forms a separate and self-contained unit designed to be occupied by a single family or household. |
| Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) | EIA is a procedure that must be followed for certain types of development before they are granted permission. The procedure requires the developer to compile an Environmental Statement (ES) describing the likely significant effects of the development on the environment and proposed mitigation measures. |
| Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) | An equality impact assessment involves assessing the likely or actual effects of policies or services on people in respect of disability, gender and racial equality. |
| Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) | <p>Planning applications for development proposals of 1 hectare or greater in Flood Zone 1 and all proposals for new development located in Flood Zones 2(Medium Probability) 3a (High Probability) and 3b (The Functional Floodplain*)should be accompanied by a FRA. This should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the development and demonstrate how these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account. For major developments in Flood Zone 1, the FRA should identify opportunities to reduce the probability and consequences of flooding.</p> <p>* The Functional Floodplain comprises land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood.</p> |
| Flood Zones | Flood Zones are the starting point for the sequential approach. Flood Zones refer to the probability of sea and river flooding only, ignoring the presence of existing defences. |
| General Conformity | All planning policy documents must align with the expectations of the National Planning Policy Framework. This is known as general conformity. |
| General Employment Areas | Existing employment sites which have been identified to be protected for employment uses including business, general industrial and storage/distribution uses. |
| Green Corridors | Relatively continuous areas of open space threading through the built environment which whilst linked are not always |

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| | publicly accessible. They may allow animals and plants to be found further into the built-up area than would otherwise be the case and provide an extension to the habitats of the sites they join. |
| Green Infrastructure | The multifunctional, interdependent network of open and green spaces and green features. This network includes urban areas, the urban fringe and the countryside. It provides multiple benefits for people and wildlife. |
| Green Infrastructure Management Plan (GIMP) | A plan to manage green infrastructure. |
| Greenfield Site | Land that has not previously been used for urban development. It is usually land last used for agriculture located next to or outside existing built-up areas of a settlement. |
| Habitat | The natural home of an animal or plant, often designated as an area of nature conservation interest. |
| Habitable Room | Habitable rooms provide the living accommodation of the dwelling. They include living room, dining room, study, home office, conservatory and bedroom. They exclude the bathroom, WC, utility room, store room and circulation space. A kitchen is not considered to be a habitable room unless it provides space for dining. |
| Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) | An assessment of land availability identifies a future supply of land which is suitable, available and achievable for housing and economic development uses over the plan period. The assessment of land availability includes the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment requirement as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. |
| Historic Parks and Gardens | Parks and Gardens which are of historic value and have been included on the National Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England based on an assessment by Historic England. |
| Infrastructure | Basic services necessary for development to take place, for example, roads, electricity, sewerage, water, education and health facilities. |
| Landscape Character Assessment | A tool to identify and understand the factors that give character to the landscape and to help inform policy and decisions about how the landscape may change in the future. |

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| Lifetime Homes | Designed to provide accessible and convenient homes for a large proportion of the population including families with young children, frail older people and those with Lifetime Homes temporary or permanent physical or sensory impairments. Designed to be flexible enough to meet existing and changing needs of most households and easily adapted to meet the needs of future occupants. |
| Listed Building | A building or other structure recorded on a statutory list of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The grades of listing are Grade I, II* or II with Grade I being the highest. Listing includes the interior as well as the exterior of the building, and any buildings or permanent structures within the curtilage. A listed building is a heritage asset. |
| Local Development Framework (LDF) | The old-style portfolio of Development Plan Documents including a Core Strategy, Development Management Policies, Proposals and Area Action Plans which collectively set out the Spatial Planning Strategy for a Local Planning Authority area. Single Local Plan documents are now generally replacing these Local Development Framework documents. |
| Local Development Scheme (LDS) | A public statement setting out a project plan for how all parts of the Local Plan will come together. It lists the documents to be produced and the timetable for producing them. |
| Local Nature Reserve (LNR) | Area designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) as being of particular importance to nature conservation and where public understanding of nature conservation issues is encouraged. |
| Local Plan | The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Current core strategies or other planning policies, which under the regulations would be considered to be development plan documents, form part of the Local Plan. |
| Local Planning Authority (LPA) | The Local Government body responsible for formulating Planning Policies in an area, controlling development through determining planning applications and taking enforcement action when necessary. This is either a District Council, Unitary Authority, Metropolitan Council or National Park Authority. |
| Local Transport Plan (LTP) | A five-year integrated transport strategy, prepared by Local Authorities in partnership with the community, seeking funding to help provide local transport projects. The plan sets |

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| | out the resources predicted for delivery of the targets identified in the strategy. |
| Main Town Centre Uses | Retail development (including warehouse clubs and factory outlet centres); leisure, entertainment facilities the more intensive sport and recreation uses (including cinemas, restaurants, drive-through restaurants, bars and pubs, night-clubs, casinos, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres, and bingo halls); offices; and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities). |
| Major Development (MM160) | <p>Major development' is defined in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 and is defined as:</p> <p>"major development" means development involving any one or more of the following—</p> <p>a)the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral- working deposits;</p> <p>(b)waste development;</p> <p>(c)the provision of dwellinghouses where —</p> <p>(i)the number of dwellinghouses to be provided is 10 or more; or</p> <p>(ii)the development is to be carried out on a site having an area of 0.5 hectares or more and it is not known whether the development falls within sub-paragraph (c)(i);</p> <p>(d)the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1,000 square metres or more; or (e)development carried out on a site having an area of 1 hectare or more;</p> |
| Material Consideration | A matter that should be taken into account in deciding on a planning application or on an appeal against a planning decision. |
| Mixed Use (or Mixed Use Development) | Provision of a variety of activities and uses, such as residential, community and leisure uses, on a site or within a particular area. |
| Nature Conservation | The protection, management and promotion of wildlife habitat (including the creation and re-creation) for the benefit of wild species. |
| National Nature Reserve (NNR) | An area designated by Natural England to protect and conserve nationally important areas of wildlife habitat and geological formations and to promote scientific research. |
| National Planning | The NPPF forms the national planning policies that Local |

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| Policy Framework (NPPF) | Planning Authorities need to take into account when drawing up their Local Plan and other documents and making decisions on planning applications. The NPPF is published by the Department of Communities and Local Government. |
| National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) | The national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) is online guidance that should be read in conjunction with the NPPF. |
| Neighbourhood Plans | A Plan prepared by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004). |
| Northern Distributor Road (NDR) | A 20 km dual carriage way planned to run from A47 Postwick, east of Norwich to the A1067 north of Taverham. |
| Older People | People including the active, newly-retired through to the very frail elderly, whose housing needs can encompass accessible, adaptable general needs housing for those looking to downsize from family housing and the full range of retirement and specialised housing for those with support or care needs. |
| Open Space | Open space is defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as 'land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground'. Allotments are also included under the definition of open space. Open space should be taken to mean all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity. |
| Permitted Development Rights | Rights to carry out certain limited forms of development without the need to make an application for planning permission, as granted under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. |
| Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) | The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act amended parts of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990). In particular, the 2004 Act made major changes to the system of development plans and introduced sustainable development, as defined by Government policy, as an objective of the planning system. |
| Planning Condition | A condition imposed on a grant of planning permission (in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) or a condition included in a Local Development Order or Neighbourhood Development Order. |
| Planning | The Planning Inspectorate is an independent executive |

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| Inspectorate (PINS) | agency, sponsored by DCLG and the Welsh Government. The Planning Inspectorate deals with planning appeals, national infrastructure planning applications, examinations of local plans and other planning-related and specialist casework in England and Wales. |
| Planning Obligation | A legally enforceable obligation entered into under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal. |
| Planning Permission | Formal approval sought from a Council, often granted with conditions, allowing a proposed development to proceed. Permission may be sought in principle through outline plans, or be sought in detail through full plans. |
| Policies Map | An obligatory part of the adopted development plan comprising the area base map depicting allocated sites for particular land use and development proposals and sets out the area to which specific policies apply. |
| Previously Developed Land | Previously developed land is another definition for brownfield land. |
| Primary Shopping Area | Defined area where retail development is concentrated, generally comprising the primary frontage and those secondary frontages which are adjoining and closely related to the primary shopping frontage. |
| Primary and Secondary Frontages | Primary frontages are likely to include a high proportion of retail uses which may include food, drinks, clothing and household goods. Secondary frontages provide greater opportunities for a diversity of uses such as restaurants, cinemas and businesses. |
| Protected Species | Plants and animal species afforded protection under certain Acts of Law and Regulations. |
| Ramsar Site | Area identified under the internationally agreed Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (signed at Ramsar in Iran), focusing on the ecological importance of wetlands generally. |
| Regeneration | The economic, social and environmental renewal and improvement of rural and urban areas. |
| Renewable Energy | Energy derived from a source that is continually replenished, such as wind, wave, solar, hydroelectric and energy from plant material, but not fossil fuels or nuclear energy. Although not strictly renewable, geothermal energy is generally included. |

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| Section 106 Agreement | A legal agreement under Section 106 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act conferring planning obligations on persons with an interest in land. See also: Planning Obligations and Agreements. |
| Sequential Approach / Sequential Test | A planning principle that seeks to identify, allocate or develop certain types or locations of land before the consideration of others. For example, ensuring land with no flood risk is developed before land with flood risk. |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | A SSSI is an area identified by Natural England as of special interest by reason of its fauna, flora, geological or physiographic (landform) features. Classification notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). |
| Sites of Archaeological & Historic Interest | This designation applies to a site at Mundford Road Thetford, which is widely regarded as being linked to Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni. The site is currently being considered for Scheduled Ancient Monument status by Historic England. |
| Spatial Planning | Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function. That will include policies which can impact on land use, for example by influencing the demands on, or needs for, development, but which are not capable of being delivered solely or mainly through the granting or refusal of planning permission and which may be implemented by other means. |
| Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) | Protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. |
| Special Protection Area (SPA) | Areas given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive, which is transposed into UK law by the Habitats and Conservation of Species Regulations 2010. |
| Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) | Every Local Planning Authority has to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement. It sets out the Council's vision and strategy for the standards to be achieved in involving the community and stakeholders in the preparation of planning policy documents and planning applications. |
| Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) | A procedure (set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) which requires the formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. |
| Supplementary | Document providing supplementary information in respect of |

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| Planning Document (SPD) | the policies in development plan documents and not forming part of the development plan nor subject to independent examination. SPDs can be taken into account as a material planning consideration but must be subject to public consultation if to be accorded weight in decisions taken on development proposals. |
| Sustainable Development | This covers development that meets the needs of the present, socially, environmentally and economically, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. |
| Sustainability Appraisal (SA) | To identify and evaluate what the effects of the strategy or plan are likely to be on social, environmental and economic conditions of the strategy or plan area. |
| Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) | SUDS can reduce the total amount, flow and rate of surface water that runs directly to rivers through storm water systems. |
| Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) | An assessment of land availability identifying a future supply of land for housing. Paragraph 159 of the NPPF states that Local Planning Authorities should prepare a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment to establish realistic assumptions about the availability, suitability and the likely economic viability of land to meet the identified need for housing over the plan period. |
| Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) | An evidence based document providing an analysis of the housing market area to inform policy formation. The purpose of which is to have a clear understanding of housing needs in their area. Paragraph 159 of the NPPF states that local planning authorities should prepare a SHMA to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. |
| Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) | An assessment of the effects upon the surrounding area by traffic as a result of a development, such as increased traffic flows that may require highway improvements. |
| Town Centre | Area defined on the Local Authority's policies map, including the primary shopping area and areas predominantly occupied by main town centre uses within or adjacent to the primary shopping area. References to town centres or centres apply to local centres but exclude small parades of shops of purely neighbourhood significance. Unless identified as centres in Local Plans, existing out-of-centre developments, comprising or including main town centre uses, do not constitute town centres. |

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| Travel Plan | A long-term management strategy for an organisation or site that seeks to deliver sustainable transport objectives through action and is articulated in a document that is regularly reviewed. |
| Tree Preservation Order (TPO) | A mechanism for securing the preservation of single or groups of trees of acknowledged amenity value. A tree subject to an order may not normally be topped, lopped or felled without the consent of the Local Planning Authority. |
| Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) | Wastewater treatment works. |
| Windfall Sites | Sites which have not been specifically identified as available through the Local Plan process. They normally comprise previously-developed sites that have unexpectedly become available. |