

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment

Screening Determination.

Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan March 2016

CAPITA

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Neighbourhood Planning Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It is based on the screening Opinion request of November 2015
- 1.2 The purpose of the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan is to look at a wide range of issues currently affecting the town and also to consider what will be required in the future to accommodate growth and provide for the sustainable development of Attleborough. It seeks to do this by guiding new employment and investment opportunities, identifying and directing how the transport network of the town can be improved and adapt to changes, where community facilities should go and through the provision of open space and green infrastructure how walking, cycling should be improved. The screening report refers to a draft policy to seek an additional allocation for employment. The neighbourhood plan covers a 20-year period from 2016 to 2036.
- 1.3 The legislative background set out below outlines the regulations that require the need for this screening exercise. The Screening Opinion itself has been sent to the three statutory consultees of the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England to seek their views on its contents. This draft report will be finalised indicating the outcome of the screening stage and a screening determination issued once the statutory consultees have responded.

2 Legislative Background

- 2.1 European Union Directive 200142/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans or programmes that would have a significant environmental effect. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) require that this is determined by a screening process, which should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations). The results of this process must be set out in an SEA Screening Statement, which must be publicly available.
- 2.2 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, Attleborough Town Council (the qualifying body) has requested Breckland District Council (BDC), as the responsible authority, to consider whether an environmental assessment of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan is required due to significant environmental effects. In making this determination, the District Council has had regard to Schedule 1 of the Regulations. The draft Neighbourhood Plan has not yet reached a stage where it is available for review; however the emerging themes have been through previous consultations by the Town Council and included in the screening opinion as submitted to the Council. As per paragraph 029 of the Planning Practice Guidance, the plan's potential scope should be assessed at an early stage against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. BDC are therefore consulting the statutory consultees (Heritage England/Natural England/Environment Agency) on whether an environmental assessment is required.

- 2.3 A SEA alone can be required in some limited situations where a Sustainability Appraisal is not technically needed, and Neighbourhood Planning is one of these situations. Sustainability Appraisals incorporate the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, which implement the requirements of the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. A sustainability appraisal ensures that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues and it is good practice to undertake one in order to understand how a plan is to deliver sustainable development. However the national Planning Practice Guidance states that there is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is down to the qualifying body to demonstrate how its plan or order will contribute to achieving sustainable development. It remains BDC's view that the Town Council produce a Sustainability Appraisal in order to demonstrate how the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to sustainable development and that this should incorporate the Strategic Environmental Assessment in accordance with the Act and Regulations. This means that in addition to environmental issues, on which a Strategic Environmental Assessment focuses, social and economic matters will also be addressed as part of the overall assessment of sustainability, within a single joint appraisal. Further guidance is contained in the appendix of this report. It is considered that the production of a sustainability appraisal will help the plan to demonstrate that it is sustainable and therefore meet one of the basic conditions.
- 2.4 This report details the assessment of the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan (as presented in the Screening Opinion request, November 2015) against the need for an SEA to be produced to accompany the Plan. The intention given in Paragraph 1.7 of the screening is that the draft neighbourhood plan intends on allocating land for employment use on London Road and or in the Strategic Urban Extension and for that reason If this remains the case it likely that plan will require an SEA scoping report and that this should be incorporated with the SA and accompany the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.5 Specifically the request for a screening opinion asked in section 11, three questions:
- *Confirmation there is not the need to carry out a SEA/SA for the Strategic Urban Extension and associated link road, given there is to be such an assessment as part of the higher-level Breckland Local Plan.*
 - *An opinion on the need or otherwise for the Qualifying Body to provide an SEA for the proposed replacement of employment land as the land next to Taylor Wimpey on London Road is instead to become a primary school site. The school, to be promoted by Norfolk County Council, could occupy 2-3 hectares, with a land use compatible to its neighbouring housing on the remainder.*
 - *An opinion on the need to carry out an SEA/SA on the proposed policy to designate further employment land so jobs and homes can be in balance for the plan period to 2036, and for an area of search for this additional employment land designation to be on the London Road, close to the A11 corridor. The exact size would be subject to study and discussions with all parties. The principle to be adopted is that if for 2,000 jobs and 4000 homes to meet the Core Strategy, the Wimpey site on London Road was considered*

adequate, for jobs to balance 4,000 homes, an area roughly double this size could be required.

- 2.6 In relation to the first request the intention is that the allocation of the Strategic Urban Extension of residential development and associated Link Road is being brought forward through the emerging Local Plan. In supporting this, the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the Core Strategy and emerging Local Plan and there are no significant changes to the Development Plan.
- 2.7 Any development of the existing employment land on London Road adjacent to the Taylor Wimpy site would be brought forward by the promoter, in this case Norfolk County Council.
- 2.8 If the Neighbourhood Plan is seeking a proposed policy to designate further employment land then it is considered that an SEA scoping report would be required to ascertain if the emerging plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. In this regard the Neighbourhood Plan is setting the Framework for future development consent of projects.

An SEA is mandatory for plans/programs which are¹:

- Prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste/ water management, telecommunications, tourism, town & country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive.

OR

- have been determined to require an assessment under the [Habitats Directive](#).
- 2.9 This report has been informed by the opinions of the Statutory consultees which were consulted between 11/02/2016 and 17/03/2016. Their comments appended to this report.

¹ A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive , Department of the Environment 2005, Para 2.7
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf
& DIRECTIVE Article 3 (2)

3 Criteria for Assessing the Effects of Supplementary Planning Documents

- 3.1 Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out in Table 1 below:

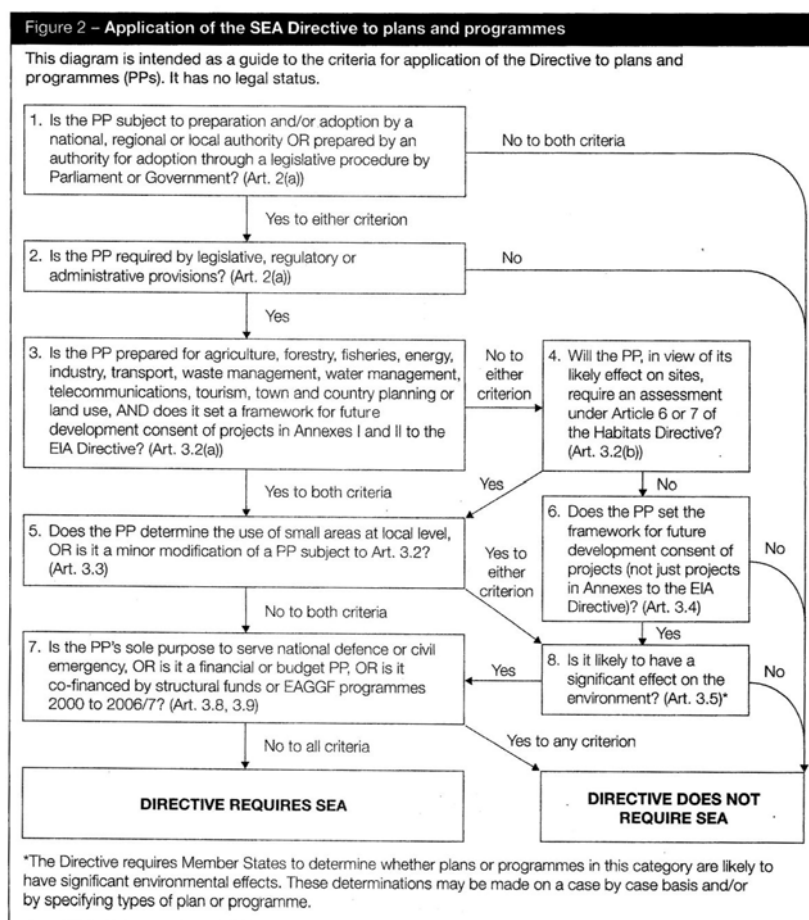
Figure 1: Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Effects.

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| <p>1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,- the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,- the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,- environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,- the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection). <p>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,- the cumulative nature of the effects,- the trans-boundary nature of the effects,- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,- exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,- intensive land-use,- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status. |
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Source Annex 11 of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

4 - Assessment

- 4.1 Responsible Authorities must carry out screening to determine whether plans or programmes of the types covered by Article 3(3) and 3(4) as detailed in the Directive (see paragraph 2.12 above) are likely to have significant environmental effects, and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive.
- 4.2 This screening report also follows the ODPM guidance on SEA's on ascertaining whether a full SEA is required.
- 4.3 Annex II of the Directive lists criteria for determining the likely significance of the environmental effects of plans or programmes. The Responsible Authority must make its conclusions on a determination available to the public, including reasons for not requiring SEA. The SEA Regulations also detail publicity requirements for determinations, and make provision for a direction by the Secretary of State or devolved Ministers.
- 4.4 When forming a view on whether SEA is needed in these cases, Responsible Authorities must consult the Consultation Bodies.
- 4.5 The diagram below illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required – Annex 11 of the SEA as referred to in Article 3 (5).



Source Annex 11 of SEA Directive

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf paragraph 2.18

- 4.6 Table 1 below shows the assessment of whether the Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA. The questions are based on the previous flow diagram which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied. The non highlighted background indicates the path followed.

Table 1: Application of the SEA Directive to the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan (December 2015)

Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The preparation and adoption of the NP is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The NP is being prepared by Attleborough Town Council (as the "relevant body") and will be "made" by Breckland District Council as the Local authority subject to passing an independent examination and community referendum. The preparation of NP's is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012, and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art.2(a))	Y	Whilst the NP is not a requirement of the Town and Country Planning Act as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it will be "made" and eventually form part of the Development Plan for the District. These are directed by legislative processes and it is important that the screening process considers whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive.
3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Y	The Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan is prepared to set out a framework for town and country planning and land use within the parish of Attleborough. The strategic framework for development is set by the adopted Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan of the Breckland District Council. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to align and be in general conformity with this and build upon it by seeking to provide additional employment allocations.
4. Will the Neighbourhood Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the habitats Directive?(Art.3.2(b))	N	<i>The NP is unlikely to have any substantial effect on the network of protected sites. A Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report (2013) and the Assessment of the Breckland Local Plan at Preferred Directions stage (2015) were carried out as part of Breckland District Council emerging Local Plan. The Preferred Directions HRA rules out recreational impacts on Swangey Fen , as a component of the Norfolk Valley Fens SAC as it lies at over a kilometre to the west of the town, has no public access, no roads and separated from the proposed urban extension by the A11</i>
5. Does the	Y	The Neighbourhood Plan intends to determine the

Neighbourhood Plans determine the use of small areas at local level, Or is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art 3.2? (Art3.3)		use of small areas of land at the local level.
6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of Projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	<i>The NP is to be used by Breckland District Council as part of the Development Plan in the determination of future planning applications.</i>
7. Is the Neighbourhood Plans sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency, OR is it financial or budget PP,OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art.3.8,3.9)	N	The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with these categories.
8.Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment	?	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan seeks general conformity to the adopted Core Strategy and regard to the emerging Local Plan. A full SEA has been undertaken as part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) while the emerging Local Plan itself provides the overarching framework for the actual level of growth and a full SEA is incorporated into the emerging SA.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan focuses on shaping how development comes forward and at this stage in the Screening Opinion intends on allocating land for employment use on London Road and or in the Strategic Urban Extension. The impact on the environment will depend on the proposals included within it.</p> <p>The justification for this decision is given below.</p>

- 4.7 The final question in the SEA screening process in Table 1 above was Question 8: Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?
- 4.9 The criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out in section 3 above and have been taken into consideration when determining whether the Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA as below.

Criteria in Annex 11 of the SEA Directive	Response	Is there a significant effect?
(1) Characteristics of the plan and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:		
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size, and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	The strategic framework for development is set by the adopted Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan of Breckland District Council. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to align and be in general conformity with this and build upon it by seeking to provide additional employment allocations.	?
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy	The Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted alongside the higher order Local Plan and form part of the District's Development Plan. The NP will expand upon some of the emerging Local Plan policies, providing supplementary information on a local scale. The NP as advised in the Scoping Opinion has the ability to influence the emerging Local Plan and as advised (December 2015) intends to allocate employment land.	?
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	Any Development that comes forward through the NP will be subject to environmental considerations of the Core Strategy and the Local Plan when adopted. These policies have been (will be) subject to sustainability appraisal, and are in place to ensure that sustainable development is achieved.	No
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	Three are not considered to be any significant environmental problems which are specific to the area, above and beyond those considered and addressed in the Local Plan. The NP may include policies which provide additional environmental protection.	No
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (e.g plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The implementation of community legislation is unlikely to be significantly compromised by the NP	No
(2) Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:		
The probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of the effects.	The NP is a long term plan up to 2036. It does not seek to direct residential growth however it seeks to allocate employment land. The exact size and locations are yet to be decided.	?
The cumulative nature of the effects	It is considered unlikely that the degree of development proposed through the NP when combined with the Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan will introduce significant environmental effects. Whilst both documents are currently being written the Local Plan will be subject to full SEA and	No

	Habitats Regulations and an Sustainability Appraisal is recommended as part of the NP process.	
The transboundary nature of the effects.	The impacts beyond the parish are thought unlikely to be significant, however judgement is reserved until the scale and nature of proposals is clear.	?
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g due to accidents).	The NP is unlikely to produce any significant effects.	No
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	The NP covers the parished area of Attleborough and approximately a population of 10,482 (Census 2011). The spatial extent and the magnitude of the population affected are not considered significant for the purpose of the SEA.	No
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	The NP Area and adjacent areas contain a number of environmental designations. The NP will however conform to the Local Plan, which provides protection to these environmental characteristics to ensure that they are not vulnerable to significant impacts from development.	No
ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values	The NP is unlikely to result in exceedance of environmental quality standards, such as those relating to air, water, and soil quality, however as the full extent and nature of the employment allocations remains unclear no firm opinions can be given at this stage	?
iii) Intensive land use	The NP is unlikely to bring forward development of an extent that would result in a significant intensification of Local land Use.	No
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	The Plan Area includes designations which reflect the cultural and Heritage value of the area such as listed buildings and conservation area. The environmental effects on areas of biodiversity designations have been considered through the emerging Local Plan. The Preferred Directions HRA (of the Local Plan) rules out recreational impacts on Swangey Fen , as a component of the Norfolk Valley Fens SAC as it lies at over a kilometre to the west of the town, has no public access, no roads and separated from the proposed urban extension by the A11.	No

Conclusion

- 4.10 An SEA is mandatory for plans/programs which are:
Prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste/ water management, telecommunications, tourism, town & country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive.
- 4.11 The intention given in Paragraph 1.7 of the Screening Opinion Request is that the Neighbourhood Plan intends on allocating land for employment use on London Road and or in the Strategic Urban Extension and for that reason an SEA scoping report should be incorporated with the SA and accompany the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan.

- 4.12 The criteria used in determining whether the NP would have any significant effect on the environment is inconclusive, largely due to the level of uncertainty at this stage in the direction of land use planning policies yet to be developed in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.13 This report is based on the Screening Opinion request of November 2015. The Neighbourhood Plan at this stage is emerging and should the contents differ from that described in the Screening Opinion Request there may be a requirement to revisit this Opinion

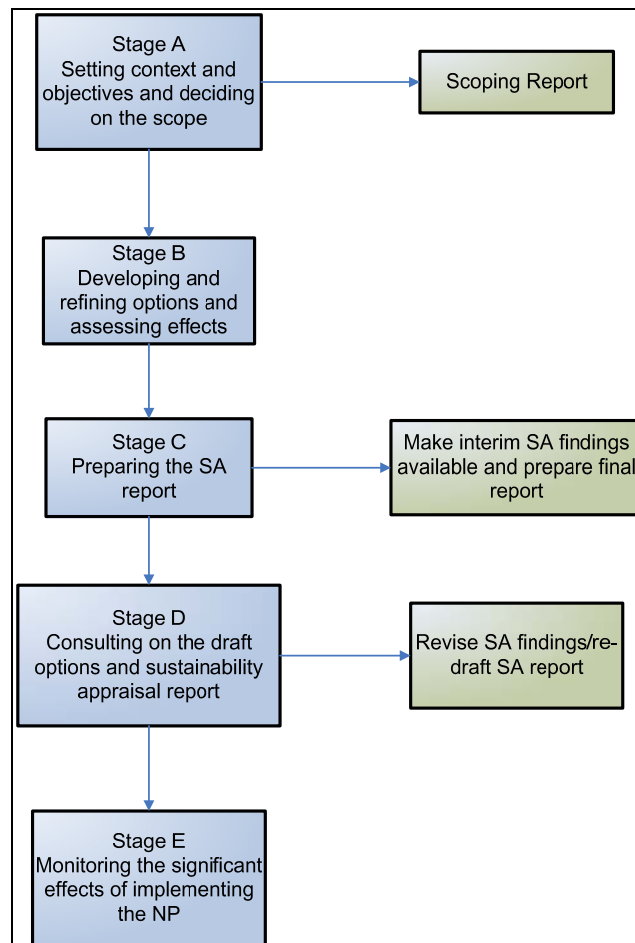
Appendix 1

Breckland District Council – Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal/Scoping Report Guidance

One of the documents that the council recommends Neighbourhood Planning groups produce in support of Neighbourhood Plans is a Sustainability Appraisal. A Sustainability Appraisal is a systematic process undertaken during the preparation of a plan or strategy, as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (S19[5]). There is also a requirement for Development Plan Documents to undergo an environmental assessment, (known as a Strategic Environmental Assessment) under European Directive 2001/42/EC (transposed into UK legislation by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004). It is intended that the Sustainability Appraisal incorporates the Strategic Environmental Assessment in accordance with the Act and Regulations. This means that in addition to environmental issues, on which a Strategic Environmental Assessment focuses, social and economic matters will also be addressed as part of the overall assessment of sustainability, within a single joint appraisal.

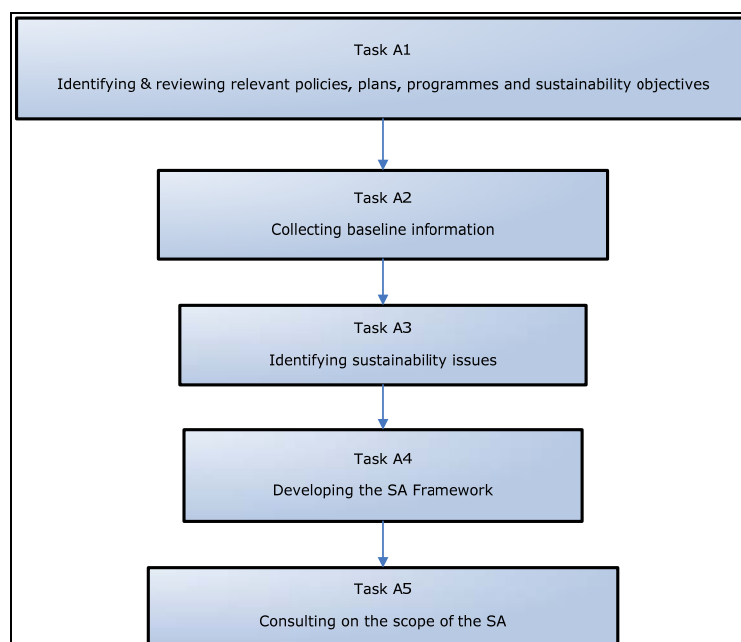
This can be approached in five stages as set out in Figure 1 below. The results of which will be two documents, a Scoping Report (produced at Stage A) and a Sustainability Appraisal Report (produced from Stage C onwards).

Figure 1 – Stages in producing a Sustainability Appraisal



Stage A in the SA process involves developing the framework for undertaking the appraisal – in this case the identification of a series of spatial areas and topics on which the appraisal will focus – together with an evidence base to inform the appraisal. The framework and evidence base are presented in a Scoping Report. The evidence base presented in the Scoping Report includes an analysis of the relevant policy context: a description of the current baseline situation; an analysis of how the current situation might evolve in the absence of the plan; and the identification of any problems which the plan may need to address. Stage A can be broken down into five further sections (see Figure 2) which once completed will produce the scoping report.

Figure 2: Stage A Scoping Tasks



Stage B in the SA process involves undertaking the appraisal itself. This involves identifying and evaluating the impacts of the different options to the plan makers as well as the preferred option/policies which together comprise the plan. The appraisal is organised around the framework developed in the Scoping Report. Mitigation measures for alleviating adverse impacts are also proposed at this stage together with potential indicators for monitoring the plan's implementation. Mitigation measures are generally in the form of recommendations for changes to the plan in order to improve its sustainability performance. Crucially, the appraisal should be undertaken in parallel with development of the plan and the appraisal findings should be fed into the emerging plan. In practice, this means undertaking several rounds – or iterations – of appraisal at different stages in the plan-making process.

Stage C in the SA process involves documenting the appraisal findings and preparing an SA Report (this incorporates the material required for inclusion in the 'Environmental Report' under the 'SEA Directive'). The full SA Report should be published for consultation alongside the 'pre-submission' version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Stage D in the SA process involves consulting on the 'pre-submission' version of the plan and the accompanying SA Report; however, as stated above, SA reports can be prepared to accompany consultation on earlier versions of the plan.

Stage E in the SA process involves monitoring the adopted plan including its sustainability impacts; this is done through the Local Plan and the Council's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

Please note it is advised that all Neighbourhood Plans created within Breckland District Council's administrative area are accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal.

There is a requirement for certain information to be contained in the report that is the same across all SA's that are produced. There are also sections that need to be specific to the Neighbourhood Plan Area and Plan.

Some specific information will be included in the Council's Sustainability Appraisals, however for some of the information required to create the spatial portrait and update the information you will be required to search different sources to gain the information that you require. We have compiled a list that contains websites and resources that you will find useful. Please see below;

Potential Information Sources for Sustainability Appraisal

Anglian Water – www.anglianwater.co.uk
Audit Commission – www.audit-commission.gov.uk
Census 2001/ 2011 – www.ons.gov.uk
Defra - <http://www.airquality.co.uk>
Historic England – www.english-heritage.org.uk
Environment Agency – www.environment-agency.gov.uk
Local Authority Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) – contact your local authority
Local Authority evidence base – <http://www.breckland.gov.uk/content/document-library-publication>
Natural England – www.naturalengland.org.uk
Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership – www.norfolkbiodiversity.org
Norfolk Insight – www.norfolkinsight.org.uk
NOMIS (official labour market statistics) - <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

For every policy or emerging policy that is to be included within a neighbourhood plan, there is a requirement to assess the impacts that this is likely to have from an economic, environmental and social aspect. The framework should assist you to decide which policies should be taken forward and which, if any, should not be.

This information is intended as a guide, however each Neighbourhood Planning Group are free to develop their own approach. However, the advice is intended to help you structure the workload and help guide you through this process.

Appendix 2: Sustainability Framework

The Council has an adopted Local Plan (2009) and is advanced in the production of a new Single Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in general conformity with the Local Plan. As such the accompanying SA is in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The strategies and policies were tested against 17 sustainability objectives (and accompanying questions) as published in the 2009 SA

As part of the emerging Local Plan a Scoping Report (2013) was required as part of the SA process which involved setting the context for the appraisal by considering environmental, social and economic baseline information, and relevant plans and programmes. These were refined in the interim SA Report (2014) and this included the identified key sustainability issues and characteristics and outlined the SA framework, which will be used in appraising the Local Plan. The emerging SA framework consists of 19 objectives that aim to meet the key social, environmental and economic issues for the District. These key issues, characteristics and SA objectives are grouped under sustainability topics and listed below:

Sustainability Appraisal Framework - Core Strategy (adopted).

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision making (Appraisal) questions	Detailed Site Specific Appraisal Questions?
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings.	Will it use land that has been previously developed?	Is the land mostly brownfield/previously developed? (yes=+, no=-)
	Will it use land efficiently?	n/a dependent on type and design of development not location
	Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land?	Is the site on high grade land (1,2,3)? (yes=-, no =+)
2. Limit water consumption to the capacity of natural processes and storage systems.	Will it reduce water consumption?	n/a dependent on type and design of development not location
	Will it conserve groundwater resources?	Would the development of the site have the possibility to harm a protected aquifer? (y=-, n=+)
3. Reduce contributions to climate change.	Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?	n/a dependent on type and design of development not location
	Will it reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption?	n/a dependent on type and design of development not location. Reduction of greenhouse gases and energy consumption by limiting travel is highlighted below
	Will it improve air quality?	Is it in a AQMA (y=-, n=0) (does not apply to open space allocation proposals)
	Will it reduce traffic volumes?	Is the site within 800m of a school? (y=+, n=-) (Residential allocations only)
Is the site within 300m of convenience shopping? (y=+, n=-) (Residential allocations only) (figure from PPS6)		
Is the site within 800m of employment opportunities? (y=+, n=-) (Residential allocations only)		

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision making (Appraisal) questions	Detailed Site Specific Appraisal Questions?
		Is the site within 800m of primary health care facilities? (y=+, n=-) (Residential allocations only)
		Is the site within 800m of residential areas? (y=+, n=-) (not applicable to residential allocation proposals)
		Is the site connected by cycle links? (y=+, n =-)
	Will it support travel by means other than the car?	Is the site accessible by regular (daily) public transport? (y=+, n =-)
4. Minimise waste production and support the recycling of waste.	Will it reduce household waste?	n/a dependent on type and design of development not location
	Will it increase waste recovery and recycling?	Is the site 2km from a household waste recycling plant? (y=+, n=0)
5. To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk.	Will it be at risk of flooding?	Is the site within EA flood zone 2 or 3 or a SFRA defined flood zone (1 in 100yr risk)? (y=-, n=+)
	Will it contribute to a higher risk elsewhere?	Is the site within EA flood zone 2 or 3 or a SFRA defined flood zone (1 in 100yr risk)? (y=-, n=+)
		Is the site within or adjacent to EA flood zone 2 or 3 or a SFRA defined flood zone (1 in a 100yr risk)? (y=-, n=+)
6. Protect, conserve, enhance and expand biodiversity.	Will it protect, maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest?	Would it result in a direct loss of all or part of the designated site? (y=-, n=0)(for SPA,SAC and Ramsar designations, HRA applies)
		Is the site adjacent to a designated site? (y=-, n=0) (for SPA,SAC and Ramsar, HRA applies)
	Will it conserve and enhance species, diversity and avoid harm to protected species?	Will it involve the loss of trees and hedgerows? (y=-, n=0)
		Will it involve the loss of a Norfolk Biodiveristy Action Plan habit? (y=-,n=0)
7. Maintain, enhance and preserve the distinctiveness and diversity of landscape and townscape character.	Will it maintain and enhance the distinctiveness of landscape and townscape and character?	Is the site within a landscape thats has moderate-high or high sensitivity to change as defined in the Breckland Settlement Fringe Landscape Assessment ? (y=-, n=+)
		Will it damage the character of the landscape/ townscape ? (y=-,n=+)
	Will it maintain and enhance the character of settlements?	Does it involve the re-use or re-development of derelict buildings? (y=+, n=-)
	Will it protect and enhance open	Would it involve the loss of designated

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision making (Appraisal) questions	Detailed Site Specific Appraisal Questions?	
	spaces of amenity and recreational value?	open space?(y=-, n=+)	
8. Conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment.*	Will it protect or enhance sites, features of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest (Including Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens and Scheduled Ancient Monuments)?	Will it result in a loss of or damage to a listed building or damage to a setting of a listed building? (y=-, n=+)	
		Would it lead to a loss or damage to a historic park and garden or damage to the setting of a historic park and garden? (y=-, n=+)	
		Would it fail to preserve or enhance a conservation area or the setting of a conservation area? (y=-/? , n=0)	
		Would it result in a loss of, or damage to a Scheduled Ancient Monument or the setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument? (y=-, n=0)	
		Would it lead to a loss of or damage to a designated geological site? (RIGS) (y=-, n=0)	
		Would it lead to loss of or damage to a potential archaeological site? (y=-, n=0)	
9. Improve the health and well being of the population.	Will it increase life expectancy?	Is the site within a AQMA? (y=-, n=0)	
		Is it within or adjacent to a Hazardous Installation Consultation Area? (y=-, n=0)	
		Is the site within 1200m of outdoor playing space or sports facilities? (y=+, n=-) (NPFA standards)	
	Will it improve access to essential services such as health facilities?	Is the site within 30 minutes public transport time or walking time of a primary health care facility? (y=+, n=0) (Norfolk LTP)	
		Will it encourage healthy lifestyles, including travel choices?	Would it result in a loss of outdoor playing space or sport facility? (y=-, n=0)
			Would it lead to an increase in outdoor playing space or sport facility? (y=+, n=0)
10. Reduce and prevent crime, and reduce the fear of crime.	Will it reduce actual levels of crime?	n/a dependent on type and design of development not location	
	Will it reduce fear of crime?	n/a dependent on type and design of development not location	
11. Improve the quality and quantity of accessible open space.	Will it improve accessibility to open space?	Is it within 1200m of a residential area? (for outdoor playing space allocation proposals only) (y=+, n=-)	
		Is it within 1200m of outdoor playing space? (for residential allocation proposals only) (y=+, n=-)	
	Will it improve the quality and quantity of accessible open space?	Would it involve an increase in open space provision? (y=+, n=0) Would it involve a decrease in open space	

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision making (Appraisal) questions	Detailed Site Specific Appraisal Questions?
		provision? (y=-, n=+)
12. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of essential services and facilities.	Will it improve accessibility to key local services and facilities, including health, education, leisure, (village shops, post offices pubs)?	Is it within walking distance (1000m) or 75 minute public transport of a high school ? (y=+,n=-)
		Is it within walking distance (1000m) or 30 minute public transport of a doctors surgery? (y=+,n=-)
		Is it within 1000m of a primary school? (y=+, n=-)
		Will it increase provision of local services? (y=+,n=-)
	Will it improve accessibility to shopping facilities?	Is it within walking distance (300m) or 30 minutes public transport of a convenience store? (y=+, n=-) (residential allocation proposals only)
		Is it within walking distance (300m) or 30 minutes public transport of a town centre? (y=+, n=-) (residential allocation proposals only)
Is it in the town centre? (y=+, n=-) (retail allocations only)		
13. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income.	Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected?	Is it connected to public transport and within 30 minutes public transport time of retail provision, and employment? (y=+, n=-)
		Will it increase services in a ward within the 20% most deprived wards in England? (y=+, n=0)
	Will it improve affordability to essential services and facilities at home?	n/a
	Will it improve relations between people from different backgrounds and social group?	n/a
14. Ensure all groups have access to affordable, decent and appropriate housing.*	Will it support the range of housing types and sizes, including affordable to meet the needs of all sectors in the community?	Is it an allocation for housing? (y=+,n=0)
	Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?	Will it involve the redevelopment of unfit homes? (y=+,n=0)
	Will it reduce housing need?	Is the allocation proposal for housing? (y=+,n=0)
	Will it meet the needs of the travelling community?	Is the allocation for a gypsy and traveller site? (y=+,n=0)
15. Increase the vitality and viability of existing town centres.	Will it increase vitality of existing town centres?	Is it in the town centre? (y=+,n=0)
	Will it increase viability of existing town centres?	Is it in the town centre? (retail and leisure allocations only) (y=+,n=-)

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision making (Appraisal) questions	Detailed Site Specific Appraisal Questions?
		Is it within 300m or 30 minute public transport time of the town centre? (residential allocation proposals only) (y=+,n=0)
16. Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence.	Will it support and improve education?	Is the allocation for an educational establishment? (y=+, n=0)
	Will it encourage employment and reduce unemployment overall?	Is the allocation proposal for employment land? (y=+, n=0)
	Will it improve access to employment/ access to employment by means other than car?	Is the site within 800m or 30 minute public transport time of residential areas? (for employment use allocation proposals only) (y=+,n=-)
		Is the site within 800m or 30 minute public transport time of residential areas? (for residential) allocation proposals only) (y=+,n=-)
17. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy.	Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness?	Is it in an area with a deficiency of employment land ? (for employment use allocation proposals only) (y=+,n=0)
	Will it make land and property available for business development?	Is the allocation proposal for employment land? (y=+, n=0)
		Would it result in a loss of employment land? (y=-,n=+)
	Will it support sustainable tourism?	Is the allocation proposal within a town or local service centre or accessible by public transport? (y=+,n=-)
Will it encourage rural economy and diversification?	Is the allocation in the rural area? (employment and tourism proposals only) (y=+,n=0)	

Sustainability Appraisal Framework Emerging Local Plan (Winter 2015).

SEA/SA Topic	Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision making (Appraisal) questions	Decision making criteria
Land, water and Soil Resources	1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings and encourage the recycling/reuse of on site resources to minimise the impacts on the environment and safeguard resources for the future generations.	Will it use land that has been previously developed?	Site includes a house or garden/previous use (y=+, n=0)
		Will it use land efficiently?	Close to the settlement boundary/ brownfield/ not
		Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land?	Grade 1,2,3 (y=-, n=+)
		Will it use brownfield land?	NPPF definition (exclude garden) (y=+, n=0)
		Will it recycle on site resources?	Dependent on type and design of development, not
	2. Limit water consumption to the capacity of natural processes and storage systems and maintain and enhance water quality.	Will it reduce water consumption?	Dependent on type and design of development, not location.
		Will it conserve groundwater resources?	Would the development of the site have the possibility to harm a protected aquifer (y=-, n=+)
		Will it maintain or enhance water quality?	Dependent on type and design of development, not location.
	3. Ensure the sustainable reuse of water to accommodate additional growth and development with minimal impacts on water quality.	Will it reduce water consumption?	Dependent on type and design of development, not location.
		Will it conserve groundwater resources?	Would the development of the site have the possibility to harm a protected aquifer (y=-, n=+)
		Will it maintain or enhance water quality?	Dependent on type and design of development, not location.
	Climate change and air pollution	4: Minimise the production of waste and support the recycling of waste.	Will it reduce waste?
Will it re-use waste?			Dependent on type and design of development, not location.

SEA/SA Topic	Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision making (Appraisal) questions	Decision making criteria
		Will it enable composting of waste?	Dependent on type and design of development, not location.
		Will it enable recycling of waste?	Is the site 2km from a household waste recycling plant? (y=+, n=0)
		Will waste be recovered in other ways for other uses?	Dependent on type and design of development, not location.
		Will it increase waste going to landfill?	Dependent on type and design of development, not location.
		Will it encourage the re-use and recycling of aggregates?	Dependent on type and design of development, not location.
	5. Reduce contributions to climate change and localised air pollution.	Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?	Dependent on type and design of development, not location.
		Will it reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption?	Dependent on type and design of development, not location.
		Will it improve air quality?	Is it in a AQMA (y=-, n=0)
		Will it reduce traffic volumes?	Is it within 300m of convenience shopping ? Is it within 800m of a school? (y=+, n=0)
		Will it support travel by means other than single occupancy car?	Is the site within 800m of a bus stop (y=+, n=0)
6. To adapt to climate change and avoid, reduce and manage flood risk.	Will it increase risk of flooding?	Is the site within an EA flood zone 2 or 3 or a SFRA defined flood zone (1 in 100yr risk)? (y=-, n=+)	

SEA/SA Topic	Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision making (Appraisal) questions	Decision making criteria
		Will it contribute to a higher risk elsewhere?	Is the site adjacent to an EA flood zone 2 or 3 or a SFRA defined flood zone (1 in 100yr risk)? (y=-, n=+)
		Will it attenuate the flow and run off of water?	Dependent on type and design of development, not location.
Biodiversity	7. Protect, conserve, enhance and expand biodiversity and promote and conserve geodiversity.	Will it protect, maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest?	Would it result in the direct loss of all or part of the designated site ? Is the site adjacent to a designated site ? (SPA, SAC, Ramsar, HRA) (y=-, n=+)
		Will it conserve and enhance species, diversity and green infrastructure and avoid harm to protected species?	Will it involve the loss of a Norfolk Action Plan Habitat (County Wildlife n=+)
		Will it promote and conserve geodiversity?	Will it involve the loss of trees and hedgerows ? (y=-, n=+)
	8. Protect, enhance and increase Green Infrastructure in the District.	Will it protect the district's infrastructure?	Will it interfere with connectivity of habitats (consistent with Norfolk Econets project) (y=-, n=0)
		Will it enhance the district's infrastructure?	Will it enhance connectivity of habitats (consistent with Norfolk Econets project) (y=+, n=-)
		Will it facilitate the creation of new Green Infrastructure which will improve links and corridors between open space?	Dependent on type and design of development, not location.
Cultural heritage and landscape	9. Maintain, enhance and preserve the distinctiveness, diversity and quality of landscape and townscape character.	Will it maintain and enhance the distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character?	Is the site within a landscape that has moderate-high or high sensitivity to change as defined in the Breckland Settlement Fringe Landscape Assessment (y=-, n=+)

SEA/SA Topic	Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision making (Appraisal) questions	Decision making criteria
		Will it maintain and enhance the character of settlements?	Does it involve the re-use or re-development of derelict buildings? (y=+, n=-)
		Will it protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and recreational value?	Would it involve the loss of designated open space (y=-, n=+)
	10. Conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment.	Will it protect or enhance (designated) heritage assets?	Will it result in the direct loss or damage to a listed building/ conservation area or damage to the setting of a listed building/ conservation area?
		Will it protect or enhance the significance and setting of (designated) heritage assets?	Will it result in impact upon the setting of a listed building/conservation area? (y=-, n=+)
Population and human health	11. Improve the health and well being of the population.	Will it reduce early death rates?	Is the site within a AQMA/ within or adjacent to a Hazardous installation Consultation Area? (y=-, n=0)
		Will it increase life expectancy?	Is the site within 1200m of outdoor playing space or sports facilities (y=+, n=-) (NFRA standards) / Would it result in a loss of outdoor playing space or sports facilities? (y=-, n=0)
		Will it improve access to essential services such as health facilities?	Is the site within 30 minutes public transport time or walking time of a primary health care facility? (Norfolk LTP) (y=+, n=0)
		Will it encourage healthy lifestyles, including travel and food choices? Will it help the population to move more, eat well and live longer?	Summary of 5d, 5e, 11c

SEA/SA Topic	Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision making (Appraisal) questions	Decision making criteria
	16. Ensure all groups have access to affordable, decent and appropriate housing that meets their needs.	Will it support the range of housing types and sizes, including affordable to meet the needs of all sectors in the community?	Is it an allocation for housing ? (y=+, n=0)
		Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?	Will it involve the redevelopment of unfit homes?
		Will it reduce housing need?	Is the allocation proposal for housing? (y=+, n=0)
		Will it meet the needs of the travelling community?	Is the allocation for a gypsy and traveller site?
Economic Activity	17. Increase the vitality and viability of existing town centres.	Will it increase vitality of existing town centres?	Is it in the town centre? (y=+, n=-)
		Will it increase viability of existing town centres?	Is it in the town centre? (retail and leisure allocations only) (y=+, n=-)
		Will it provide for the needs of the local community?	What
	18. Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence.	Will it support and improve education?	Is the allocation for an educational establishment? (y=+, n=-)
		Will it encourage employment and reduce employment overall?	Is the allocation proposal for employment land ? (y=+, n=0)
		Will it improve access to employment?	Is the site within 800m or 30 minute public transport time of residential areas? (for residential and employment
		Will it improve access to employment by	Is the site within 800m or 30 minute public transport time of residential areas? (for residential and employment use allocations only) (y=+, n=-)

SEA/SA Topic	Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision making (Appraisal) questions	Decision making criteria
		means other than single occupancy car?	
	19. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy.	Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness?	Is it in an area with a deficiency of employment land? (for employment use allocation proposals only) (y=+, n=0)
		Will it make land and property available for business development?	Is the allocation proposal for employment land? (y=+, n=0)
		Will it support sustainable tourism?	Is the allocation proposal within a town or local service centre or accessible by public transport? (y=+, n=0)



Mr Iain Withington
Breckland Council
Elizabeth House Walpole Loke
Dereham
Norfolk
NR19 1EE

Our ref: AC/2016/124105/01-L01
Your ref: email dated 11/02/16
Date: 26 February 2016

Dear Mr Withington

**ATTLEBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REQUEST FOR SCREENING
OPINION ELIZABETH HOUSE WALPOLE LOKE, DEREHAM, NORFOLK, NR19
1EE.**

Thank you for consulting us on the request for screening opinion for Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan.

It is our view that a Strategic Environmental Assessment would be required for the Neighbourhood Plan.

According to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Practice Guidance, paragraph 46; a strategic environmental assessment may be required for a neighbourhood plan which allocates sites for development. In this case, the Plan is proposing to allocate an additional employment site (which is neither allocated in the adopted local plan nor the emerging plan). Therefore, there is need for the Plan to ascertain the likely significant environmental effects (including cumulative effects) that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the local plan.

The site is located above a Principal Aquifer, Water Framework Directive (WFD) groundwater body, and is close to the river Thet. It is also close to a proposed Strategic Urban Extension. The site is considered to be of high sensitivity and could present potential pollutant/contaminant linkages to controlled waters.

According to the NPPF, the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising the adverse effects on the local area.

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Cont/d..

We hope that this information is of assistance to you. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Elizabeth Mugova
Sustainable Places Planning Advisor
Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire Area

Direct dial 020 3025 5999

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Awarded to Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire Area

End

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Historic England

Iain Withington Esq.
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Our ref: 2016 02 29
Attleborough
NP Screening.
Telephone 01223 582775
3rd March 2016

By email only to: iain.Withington@capita.co.uk

Dear Mr Withington

Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan – Screening Opinion.

Thank you for email dated 11th February 2016 and submission of papers dated November 2015 received from Attleborough Town Council Neighbourhood Plan 'request for a screening opinion'.

For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine our advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied in the email attachments, including the Attleborough Town Council Neighbourhood Plan 'request for a screening opinion'. It is for the Council to make the final decision in terms of whether SEA is required.

From our reading of the SEA Screening Opinion it would appear that the Neighbourhood Plan focuses on both conformity with the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken for the emerging Breckland Local Plan (see paragraph 1.6) and the creation of environmental policy objectives (see the summary section at paragraph 10).

Historic England notes that this Neighbourhood Plan seeks to allocate employment land (at paragraph 1.7 and 8.2). At page 13 the screening opinion seeks (iii) *An opinion on the need to carry out an SEA/SA on the proposed policy to designate further employment land so jobs and homes can be in balance for the plan period to 2036, and for an area of search for this additional employment land designation to be on the London Road, close to the A11 corridor. The exact size would be subject to study and discussions with all parties. The principle to be adopted is that if for 2,000 jobs and 4000 homes to meet the Core Strategy, the Wimpey site on London Road was considered adequate, for jobs to balance 4,000 homes, an area roughly double this size could be required. This is illustrated in the map above.*



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Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.



On this basis it appears the case that the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan proposes an additional employment allocation beyond the emerging Breckland Local Plan and therefore proposes to allocate land.

If the Neighbourhood Plan does propose an allocation itself or policies likely to have an impact on the historic environment then a SEA will be required to evaluate the impact upon the historic environment. Historic England have formed this view as we are unable to assess if such an allocation will result in a significant environmental effect because a specific site is not identified.

On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, 'CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT' [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], and the assessment duties in the Regulations Part 2 (5)(6), Historic England would take the view that an SEA is only required in respect of land allocation for additional employment land and not for the environmental policy objectives.

The views of other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for an SEA is made. I would be pleased if you can send a copy of the determination as required by Regulation 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the SA/SEA process and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise in the Neighbourhood Plan where we consider that, despite the absence of SA/SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the historic environment.

We hope that the above comments are of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Michael Stubbs
Historic Environment Planning Adviser
e-mail: Michael.Stubbs@HistoricEngland.org.uk



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