

2021



RYBURGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (2019-36) MADE VERSION

JUNE 2021

**Prepared by Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
on behalf of Ryburgh Parish Council**

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1 Introduction

1.1 About the Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.1.1** This Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) was prepared by a sub-committee of Ryburgh Parish Council following its inception in December 2016. This Steering Group had the objective of producing a document to be taken into account in deciding planning applications for development in the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area (RNA) for a period of 20 years. The extent of the RNA is shown in 'Annex 1 - Neighbourhood Area Map'.
- 1.1.2** The process to prepare the NDP included consultation with North Norfolk District Council (NNDC), statutory bodies, residents and persons working in the Neighbourhood Area, and the preparation and submission of a number of supporting documents ahead of independent examination and public referendum.
- 1.1.3** Following examination, and a public referendum, this Neighbourhood Plan came into effect as a material consideration in the planning process on 7 June, 2021.
- 1.1.4** The following section provides a summary of the process undertaken to prepare the Plan.

1.2 Summary of the Neighbourhood Plan Process

Early Engagement

- 1.2.1** The process of plan making and engagement is almost as important as the Plan itself. Consultation was carried out throughout the Plan process and was required to demonstrate that the policies in the NDP were informed by participation of the people who live, work and have business interests in the Neighbourhood Area. Consequently, a range of early engagement was undertaken and this is outlined in Annex 2 'Consultation Process' and in the submitted **Consultation Statement**.

Pre-Submission Stage Consultation

- 1.2.2** The first draft of the NDP was published for a six-week period of consultation between 12 August and 23 September 2019, in line with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 (as amended)⁽¹⁾. This provided those who live, work and have business interests in the Neighbourhood Area with the opportunity to see the emerging Plan in its first full form. A number of responses to the consultation were received and details of these along with the changes made to the Plan as a result are set out in the **Consultation Statement**.

Submission Stage & Consultation

- 1.2.3** The Submission Version of the NDP represented Ryburgh Parish Council's final proposed Neighbourhood Plan document. It was submitted to North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) on 16 March 2020 in line with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 (as amended) along with a number of other prescribed documents:
- **Basic Conditions Statement**
The purpose of this document was to set out how the RNP met the [Basic Conditions](#) ⁽²⁾ test which must be applied by appointed examiners when inspecting submission version plans. This considered whether the Ryburgh NDP, as submitted, was in general conformity

1 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/all?title=Neighbourhood%20Planning%20Regulations>

2 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#basic-conditions-for-neighbourhood-plan-to-referendum>

1 Introduction

with local and national planning policy, and did not breach EU law or [other basic conditions](#) ⁽³⁾ applying at the time.

- **Consultation Statement**

The purpose of this document was to set out how Ryburgh Parish Council & Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group engaged with the community in preparing the Plan. The focus of the 'Consultation Statement' is on the 6-week Regulation 14 Pre-submission stage consultation. However, it also includes a summary of previous community engagement and consultation that was undertaken and how it was used to inform amendments to the Plan.

- **Other evidence base documents** ⁽⁴⁾

1.2.4 NNDC published the Submission Version NDP for a 6-week period of public consultation in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 (as amended). The consultation took place between Monday 6 April and Monday 18 May, 2020. In light of the global Coronavirus pandemic, and in response to social distancing measures imposed, and the shielding of members of the public, the consultation period was extended by a further three weeks until Monday 8 June 2020.

Independent Examination

1.2.5 An independent examiner was appointed by NNDC to carry out an examination of the Submission Version NDP. The examination commenced on Monday 29 June and concluded with the submission of the examiners final report, submitted 4 August, 2020. The examination was conducted by a process of written representations and did not involve a public hearing.

1.2.6 The Submission Version NDP and accompanying statements, evidence base and representations received during the Regulation 16 consultation were forwarded to the examiner and published at www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/ryburghnp. The full list of information and evidence considered by the examiner is detailed in the examiner's report.

Examiners Report

1.2.7 The examiner issued his independent report to NNDC on Tuesday 4 August, 2020. The report recommended that the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Development Plan for the period up to 2036 should, subject to the specified modifications (those contained in the report), be submitted for referendum. Consequently, a 'Referendum Version' of the Plan was prepared which incorporated the examiner's modifications, and any necessary consequential changes.

Decision

1.2.8 It is the responsibility of NNDC as the Local Planning Authority to determine if a Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions tests, with or without modifications, and whether it should proceed to referendum.

1.2.9 Under the regulations (Town & Country Planning Act section 4b and Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, 2012 (as amended)), officers considered the recommendations made in the Examiners Report, and the reasons for them, and were satisfied that the Plan, incorporating the proposed modifications in full, could proceed to referendum. A Decision Statement to this effect was issued on 2 September 2020, as required by the regulations.

1.2.10 Regulations linked to the Coronavirus Act 2020 meant that no elections or referendums could take place until 6 May 2021. This included neighbourhood planning referendums. In the intervening period the National Planning Practice Guidance stated that:

³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#Other-basic-conditions-neighbourhood-plan>

⁴ www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/ryburghnp

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- *Decision-making: Where the local planning authority has issued a decision statement (as set out under Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012) detailing its intention to send a neighbourhood plan to referendum, that plan can be given significant weight in decision-making, so far as the plan is material to the application.*

Paragraph: 107 Reference ID: 41-107-20200513 Revision Date 13.5.2020

1.2.11 Consequently, significant weight was given to the Referendum Version NDP in decision-making, pending the outcome of a future referendum.

The Referendum

1.2.12 A referendum on whether to approve the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan took place at Great Ryburgh Memorial Hall on Thursday 6 May, 2021.

1.2.13 People residing in the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area who were registered to vote on the electoral register at the time were entitled to vote at the referendum.

1.2.14 At the referendum a specific question was asked of the local community:

Do you want North Norfolk District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?

1.2.15 The Neighbourhood Plan successfully passed the Referendum stage with a clear majority of more than 50% of those voting answering 'yes' to the Referendum question.

Made Plan

1.2.16 In accordance with Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended), North Norfolk District Council issued a Decision Statement on 7 June 2021. The Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan took full effect from this date as part of the Development Plan for North Norfolk, alongside the North Norfolk Local Plan and National Planning Policy. This NDP is a material consideration in the determination of current and future planning applications in the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area.

1.3 Constraints

1.3.1 This NDP is a formal planning document. It puts in place planning policy for the RNA inspired by the priorities identified by the community in the consultation process. It does not address non-planning issues. It complements and adds local distinctiveness in addition to having regard to the planning policy contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁽⁵⁾ and the Local Plan⁽⁶⁾. This NDP contains policies that reflect local circumstances and requirements and are justified and evidenced. The policies are intended to be positive and aspirational but realistic.

1.4 The Emerging North Norfolk Local Plan

1.4.1 The current NNDC Local Plan (Local Development Framework) will be replaced by the emerging North Norfolk Local Plan⁽⁷⁾. Consultation upon the emerging Local Plan commenced in May

5 NPPF, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Published 27 March 2012. Last updated 19 June 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework-2>

6 Core Strategy (2008) & Site Allocations Plan (2011), www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/ldf

7 Emerging North Norfolk Local Plan, www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/localplan

1 Introduction

2019 and adoption is currently anticipated in 2022. The emerging Local Plan is intended to take effect until 2036. This NDP was prepared so as to reflect and correspond with the provisions of the first draft of the emerging Local Plan.

1.5 Planning Policies vs Community Aspirations

1.5.1 The consultation process with the community, up to the time of submission of the Plan for independent examination, is detailed in Annex 2 'Consultation Process'⁽⁸⁾. Much of the suggestions and comments received from the community during the consultation process for this NDP concerned matters that cannot be dealt with through the planning procedure. Nevertheless they are of concern and value to the Parish Council. They are the subject of a Memorandum (separate to this NDP) to the Parish Council, for action by the Parish Council, and are not addressed in this document. They are referred to in this document as "Aspirations". A copy of the memorandum is shown in Annex 3 'Memorandum of Aspirations'.

1.6 Timeframe of the Neighbourhood Plan

1.6.1 The policies contained in this Neighbourhood Plan will be applicable for the period ending 2036 and on a date aligned with the emerging North Norfolk Local Plan.

8 A separate, detailed Consultation Statement was prepared and submitted for examination, see www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/ryburghnp

The Neighbourhood Area 2

2 The Neighbourhood Area

2.1 Profile of Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area

- 2.1.1** The extent of the Neighbourhood Area is identical to the area of the Ryburgh Parish Boundary. The Parish consists of two adjoining settlements: Great Ryburgh and Little Ryburgh. From the 2011 census Ryburgh is shown as having a population of 694 persons in 264 households. Of these 246 are situated in Great Ryburgh and 18 in Little Ryburgh. Little Ryburgh is a hamlet collected around a single-track lane, approximately a mile to the north of Great Ryburgh.
- 2.1.2** Both Great and Little Ryburgh are historic settlements, originally arising from a crossing of the River Wensum. Today, the bridge into the village at the original Saxon river crossing point is the entrance to Great Ryburgh and carries the C355 that links the A1067 at one end of the village to the B1146, at the other end. The C355 is the high street of Great Ryburgh and the village has extended by mainly ribbon development on either side of the road to its present extent of some 1,500 meters of housing amongst which, adjoining the site of the now dismantled railway station and in the centre of the village, is the Crisp Maltings. This is one of the largest single industrial sites in North Norfolk and has a major impact on the village, especially in terms of the heavy goods vehicles moving to and from the works, as well as in visual terms (herein referred to as “the Industrial Site”). The extent and position of the Industrial Site is shown in 'Annex 4 - Land Safeguarded for Public Access'.
- 2.1.3** Crisp Maltings has declared its intention to expand its business at its Great Ryburgh site. A public consultation upon proposals for a new access road to the Industrial Site, new malting facilities, including the expansion of warehousing/silo storage and a residential development of 50-75 houses, took place in July 2017. A trio of planning applications were submitted in March 2020 relating to the construction of new grain silos and a warehouse, a new 7.3 metre 2-way HGV private access road, and associated new buildings and structures required to increase the maximum output tonnage of malt in any one calendar year from 115,000 to 175,000 tonnes. In addition up to 50 new homes were proposed as enabling development along with associated amenities and infrastructure including garages and vehicular parking, provision of vehicular access onto Fakenham Road, creation of public open space and erection of a new community centre. Public consultation on the proposals took place between 17 April and 30 June 2020. At the time of submission of this Plan the applications had not been determined.
- 2.1.4** “Planning” is concerned with the use of land, balancing economic development with environmental quality. Environmental quality, for the residents of Great Ryburgh has been and is being damaged by heavy goods traffic, factory noise and emissions, light pollution and visual impact upon the landscape. Crisp Maltings seeks that the village be reclassified from its existing designation as open countryside (which is also its intended designation in the emerging Local Plan) to a new designation of between a small and large growth village. This was not supported by the residents during consultation for this Plan, as such a reclassification would be contrary to the environmental quality of the settlement and to the sensitive landscape in which it sits.
- 2.1.5** The policies of this Plan are intended to enable sustainable growth and development of the village, including the Maltings, whilst preventing any deterioration of the environment or amenity value of the village caused by development of any sort. Accordingly, Policy 1 is intended to address the problem of Traffic Safety for the future. The top priority of the residents of the village is to see less HGV traffic passing through the village high street and there is general support for the building of the new road to the Industrial Site in order to achieve this.
- 2.1.6** There is also support for the continued growth of housing in the village through the process

2 The Neighbourhood Area

of Infill Housing (see Policy 3) but the proposal to build 50-75 new houses on one site is regarded as out of scale to the existing community and likely to be out of character with the existing village construction, which has happened piecemeal, could not be accommodated within existing infrastructure, and is not supported.

2.1.7 Ryburgh as a whole is an active community with a community shop, an Inn/restaurant, butcher, fish and chip shop, a medieval church with Saxon origins and a round tower, a Village Hall and a number of home-based small businesses. Both Great and Little Ryburgh are set within the Wensum River valley surrounded by agricultural land and woodlands the great majority of which is owned by the Sennowe Estate. The importance to Ryburgh of its setting within the river valley cannot be overstated. The meadows, marsh land, lakes, reed beds, hedges and ditches provide an open landscape where the river crosses the Neighbourhood Area that is, arguably, of great natural beauty and which provides the pre-eminent wildlife corridor (in contrast to the intensive agriculture that surrounds it) of North Norfolk.



Picture 1 Village Field with Crisp Maltings in Background (July 2019)



Picture 2 The Village Shop, a Community Interest Company est 2009



Picture 3 Great Ryburgh Memorial Hall, Built 1952 (July 2019)

Informing the Neighbourhood Plan 3

3 Informing the Neighbourhood Plan

3.0.1 The Vision Statement referred to in Section 3.2 was informed by and developed with the local community through the consultation process. It forms the foundation of the Ryburgh NDP.

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The Aims addressed by this NDP which were identified in the consultation process are:

- **Traffic Safety** (this was the most frequently mentioned issue in responses from the community, in 63.41% of responses). It arises no doubt because of the narrow character of the high street of Great Ryburgh (namely Station Road/Fakenham Road), the consequent inadequacy of the pavements and the dangerous proximity to the traffic, particularly HGV's, of the pedestrian, of school children catching school buses, of cyclists and disability scooters. The problem is largely one for the County Highways department but is the subject of a policy in this NDP designed to ensure that the current position does not get worse. The issue is also addressed in Annex 3 'Memorandum of Aspirations'.
- **Footpaths, cycle ways and access to the countryside** (53% of responses). It is a concern of the local community that there is no footpath to the A1067 bus stop serving the village and that walking the road to and from the bus stop is dangerous. It is also a concern that there is inadequate access to the local countryside. The creation of footpaths is not possible through an NDP but a policy has been included to ensure that development does not take place on the undeveloped portion of the disused railway line. This issue is also addressed in Annex 3 'Memorandum of Aspirations'.
- **New Housing** (a topic in 36% of all submissions) is the subject of a report for this NDP (**Evidence Document 1 - Housing Report**) by Mr Michael Rayner, Planning and Heritage Consultant, March 2019. Policies are included in this NDP reflecting the recommendation of the report namely, the encouragement and management of sustainable housing growth through the use of infill sites in Great Ryburgh.
- **Protection of the landscape** (24% of all submissions) is the subject of a report for this NDP (**Evidence Document 2 - Landscape Character Assessment**) by C J Yardley Landscape Survey Design & Management, November 2019. Policies are included in this NDP which follow the recommendation of the report, which is at a higher level of resolution than the District Council Landscape Character Assessment, and for the use of the report to inform and be sympathetic to the distinctive character of the landscape in considering development proposals.
- **The Protection of the Environment** (12% of all submissions) is the subject of a report for this NDP (**Evidence Document 3 - Ecological Report**) by Robert Yaxley, Wild Frontier Ecology, August 2018. Policies are included in this NDP which are intended to conserve and protect valued habitat.

3.1.2 In anticipation of policies intended to protect Open Land Areas contained in the emerging Local Plan, policies are included in this NDP to safeguard the Wensum Valley and its tributaries from inappropriate development.

3.2 Vision Statement

3.2.1 **AIM:** the aim of the Ryburgh NDP is to provide additional planning guidance to promote sustainable development that will benefit the community whilst conserving and promoting the particular landscape and ecology that characterises the Neighbourhood Area, in order to deliver the Vision.

3 Informing the Neighbourhood Plan

3.2.2 VISION: Ryburgh will be a place where people want to live that has a stimulating environment with access to all the facilities and amenities to enable someone to live a happy and fulfilling life from cradle to grave within a thriving village community.

4 Planning Policies

4.0.1 Section 3 sets out the process informing this NDP and the aims of the plan and the vision that is the object of the aims. This section 4 sets out the policies to support and deliver the aims and vision. Each policy has its own section and each section is structured in the same way with first, an explanation of how the policy supports the aim/vision, secondly a summary of the evidence in support of the particular policy and thirdly, the policy itself.

4.1 Traffic Safety

4.1.1 The public highway that is the high street of Great Ryburgh is a non-trunk 'C' class road and inadequate in width in many places to permit the passage of a Heavy Goods vehicle (the typical HGV visiting the Industrial Site is 44 tonnes of which 28/29 tonnes is the weight of the load and some 15 tonnes the weight of the vehicle) without obstructing the adjoining carriageway. The pavements in the village are of inadequate width to permit safe passage of pedestrians and wholly inadequate for pedestrians with pushchairs/prams and for disability vehicles. These circumstances are a danger to the young children who catch the school busses and visit the community shop. The high street is a section of National Cycle Route 1 created by the charity Sustrans and the cycling experience would be diminished by additional HGV traffic. Insufficient land is available for the widening of the pavements. The presence of industry in the centre of the village and the heavy volume of HGV's passing to and from the Industrial Site is incompatible with the safety of person and property. Photographs of instances of traffic congestion in the village are shown in **Evidence Document 4**. The Policy is intended to ensure the existing position is not made worse by future development and thereby to positively enhance the potential for the infill residential development that is the subject of Policy 3 'Infill Housing in Great Ryburgh'.

4.1.2 The evidence in support of the policy is the overwhelming concern of those taking part in the consultation process, the physical measurements of the highway referred to below and the planning condition currently imposed upon the Industrial Site, limiting the tonnage annually produced at the site to 115,000 tonnes.

4.1.3 Kerb to Kerb measurements taken are:

- 77 Fakenham Road - 5.7 metres
- 74 Fakenham Road - 4.7 metres
- 40 Fakenham Road - 4.7 metres
- 28 Fakenham Road - 4.4 metres

4.1.4 The standard width of a 40 tonne HGV is 3.15 metres and the width of a typical family car is 2 metres. Accordingly, when it is necessary for a vehicle to pass an HGV in much of Fakenham Road one or other of the vehicles will be required to mount the pavement.

4.1.5 In response to an enquiry with Crisp Maltings as to the number of daily HGV movements that take place through Great Ryburgh, Crisp replied- "Traffic surveys, undertaken in October 2019, counted 114 HGV arrivals/departures from all three gates of the Ryburgh facility between 05:30 and 18:30 on a typical day.

4 Planning Policies

Policy 1

Traffic Safety

To be supported, development proposals that will generate significant amounts of movement must be accompanied by a transport statement or assessment that demonstrates:

- There will be no likely sustained⁽⁹⁾ significant negative HGV related highway safety impacts of the development on Station Road, and on those parts of Bridge Road and Fakenham Road that are within or immediately adjacent to the settlement boundary in Annex 5; or,
- The proposals and mitigation measures necessary to reduce any likely sustained significant negative HGV related highway safety impacts of the development adjacent to the settlement boundary identified in Annex 5.

4.2 Footpaths / Cycleways; Access to the Countryside

4.2.1 The policy supports the concerns of the consultees made known through the consultation process by protecting the land which was the route of the railway, now dismantled, between Ryburgh and Fakenham (in so far as it passes through the Neighbourhood Area) from development. Greater access to the countryside will benefit the community and thereby promote its future sustainable development.

4.2.2 The evidence in support of the policy is the concern of the consultees and the current status of the land as “land safeguarded for sustainable transport uses” by NNDC Core Strategy (Policy CT7) and Proposals Map. The extent of the route of the dismantled railway is shown hatched brown on 'Annex 4 - Land Safeguarded for Public Access'. Policy 2 does not apply to that part of the dismantled railway passing through the Industrial Site where it is impracticable due to existing buildings.

Policy 2

Land Safeguarded for Public Access

Any development proposals on the dismantled railway both north and south of the Crisp Maltings site, but not including that site (identified in Annex 4), that would diminish the potential use of the land for a footpath, bridleway or cycleway will not be supported.

Any development proposals affecting the dismantled railway must provide a detailed scheme for the provision of new green infrastructure, mitigation and enhancement of existing green infrastructure, and contribute to enhancements and opportunities for enhanced public access to and along the dismantled railway.

⁹ For the purposes of this policy 'sustained' HGV traffic means traffic that is ongoing and does not incorporate construction project related traffic.

Planning Policies 4

4.3 New Housing

4.3.1 This policy supports the aims of the NDP by:

- promoting a small level of sustainable growth in the RNA by 2036;
- supporting residents who wish to live in the RNA 'from cradle to grave';
- helping to maintain the rural feel and protect the Conservation Area and valued landscapes and views within the RNA.

4.3.2 This policy supports a small level of growth within the settlement of Great Ryburgh (for the purpose of this policy the extent of the settlement of Great Ryburgh is to be the houses, other buildings and land lying within the boundary marked in red on Annex 5 'Settlement Boundary Map') to help promote sustainable development, in part by enabling residents to remain in Great Ryburgh 'from cradle to grave'.

4.3.3 To help achieve this aim of whole-life residence, a wide range of properties, both in terms of their size and types of tenure, needs to be available.

4.3.4 This policy is consistent with paragraph 78 of the NPPF, as it promotes sustainable development in a rural area, by being placed where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. This will be achieved through the increased provision of a range of housing in terms of size and tenure within the settlement of Great Ryburgh. This policy is consistent with the intention of the District Council declared in its emerging local plan to the effect that the Council will support community-led developments that make a meaningful and lasting contribution to the vitality of the community and have widespread community support.

4.3.5 This policy in part aims to support independent living particularly for the elderly, infirm or disabled, which is further supported by the North Norfolk Design Guide, the Local Plan and through the NPPF.

4.3.6 The settlement boundary for infill housing has been drawn to provide a limit within which it shall be possible for new housing to be built if it accords with the policy below. The settlement boundary for infill housing has been drawn to confine any new housing development to the limits of the existing settlement of Great Ryburgh. It has therefore been drawn to go around all existing domestic housing and to meet the following criteria:

- a. to be on one of the following roads: Station Road, Fakenham Road, Highfield Lane, Highfield Close, Westwood Lane; and,
- b. generally, be no more than 25 metres from an existing house

4.3.7 The policy restricts new housing to within the settlement of Great Ryburgh as this NDP seeks to maintain important views to and from the village, whereby clear views exist without being interrupted by built housing development, due to the location of the housing of Great Ryburgh being largely hidden by the landscape. This means that one can leave the built-up area of Great Ryburgh and almost immediately find views are unspoiled by housing. This policy aims to maintain these clear, unspoiled views.

4.3.8 Responses to the supplementary housing questionnaire carried out as part of the NDP process resulted in a call for some limited new housing in the settlement of Great Ryburgh, to help maintain local services, to give vitality to the village and to improve its sustainability. Over half of the 41 respondents supported the following:

- Family homes with 2-4 bedrooms as new housing: 56.1%
- Infilling by using sites in existing built-up areas: 53.7%
- Re-using brownfield sites in Great Ryburgh for house-building: 63.4%

4 Planning Policies

- Small developments of fewer than 10 homes: 53.7%
- Individual new houses: 58.5%

4.3.9 Further evidence in support of the policy can be found in **Evidence Document 1 - Housing Report**.

Policy 3

Infill Housing in Great Ryburgh

Proposals for new dwellings representing small-scale growth within the defined **Settlement Boundary** of Great Ryburgh (Annex 5) will be supported provided that:

1. The development consists of infilling (the filling of a small gap between existing dwellings) of a small undeveloped plot or on a brownfield site; and,
2. the proposed development is similar in scale and height to existing neighbouring dwellings; and,
3. is not considered to adversely affect amenity by, for instance, requiring unsuitable access, reducing the privacy of adjoining properties or inconsistency with the character of the locality; and,
4. where a proposal includes affordable housing the sizes and quantities of these dwellings should improve the balance of sizes of affordable housing available in the village. Only building more 2-3 bedroomed houses would not provide for the problem of families outgrowing such dwellings and would not be supported; and,
5. consideration has been given to all sources of flooding and surface water drainage in line with national policy.

Proposals should provide adequate information⁽¹⁰⁾ to support a project level Habitats Regulations Assessment.

¹⁰ For example, providing adequate drainage information in order for the Council to assess whether the project will have any likely significant effect on a European Site.

Planning Policies 4

4.4 Protection of the Landscape



Picture 4 Wensum River Valley - Looking North From the Bridge (July 2019)

4.4.1 Evidence Document 2 - Landscape Character Assessment was commissioned to reflect the concern of consultees for the special nature of the landscape within the RNA. The report provides a detailed landscape character assessment of the RNA so as to inform development proposals and the consideration of planning applications. The policies are informed by the report and look to protect the landscape described therein. The provision of a detailed landscape character assessment will aid the process of delivering sustainable development.

4.4.2 The evidence in support of the policy approach is the concern of the consultees, the very special nature of the Wensum Valley (a Site of Special Scientific Interest throughout its entire length of 71 Kilometres) which forms the major topographical feature of the RNA and the presence of the eight County Wildlife sites within the RNA (details of which are to be found in **Evidence Document 3 - Ecological Report**. Policy 5, along with section 12 of the NPPF and the North Norfolk Design Guide SPD (2008), seeks to shape and direct sustainable development to ensure that local people get the right type of development for their community.

4.4.3 The justification for Policy 6 'Dark Night Skies' is that the existing tranquillity of the night sky is a valuable asset that is important for wildlife and benefits the health and well-being of residents.

Policy 4

Landscape Character

To be supported, proposals for development must demonstrate how they are informed by, and sympathetic to, the key characteristics and landscape guidelines of the Landscape Character Areas defined in the Ryburgh Landscape Character Assessment⁽¹¹⁾.

To be supported, all development proposals must include landscape planting that integrates with local existing natural features.

Policy 5

Development Design

To be supported, proposals for development must demonstrate that their location, scale, design and materials will protect, conserve and where possible enhance the local distinctiveness of the area and settlement character.

4 Planning Policies

Policy 6

Dark Night Skies

Development proposals containing external lighting must demonstrate that the lighting is essential and that its design and operation will minimise impact on dark skies. In particular it must be demonstrated that the luminance level and period of illumination are the least necessary for the lighting to perform its function and that there will be no or minimum spillage beyond the property boundary.

4.5 Protection of the Environment

4.5.1 An Ecological Report⁽¹²⁾ was prepared in 2018 to inform those preparing this NDP as to the ecological features and assets of the Neighbourhood Area. The report demonstrates the ecological importance of the river valley of the River Wensum and its tributaries situated in the RNA. The policies are informed by the report and are intended to benefit the sustainable development of the RNA by conservation and protection of the ecology.

4.5.2 The River Wensum is a chalk river of European significance supporting a range of rare and valued species reliant upon the habitat. Whilst the designation of SSSI/SAC is largely restricted to the river itself the adjacent river valley, tributaries and associated pasture are critically important supporting habitats which help to maintain the features for which the Wensum was designated. Overall the valley functions as a major corridor of movement for biodiversity linking Pensthorpe nature reserve to the north and Sennowe lakes to the south of the RNA. The tributaries of the Wensum situated in the RNA Area are important green corridors which extend the influence of the river right across the RNA. The policies are intended to support the function and connectivity of all these corridors and to enhance them where possible. The area to which the policies relate are shown in Annex 6 'European Sites Map' and are referred to in the policies as "the habitat areas". The report and the policies are intended to add local distinction to the broader NNDC environmental policies.



Picture 5 Wensum River Valley - Looking South From the Bridge (July 2019)

4.5.3 Any development within the RNA that may have an impact on the aquatic or terrestrial ecology of the River Wensum and its tributaries or upon any habitat covered by section 41 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 being a priority habitat shall be accompanied by an ecological assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment. Any mitigation and/or compensation measures outlined in such assessments will be secured via planning conditions and/or planning obligations.

Planning Policies 4

Policy 7

Protection & Enhancement of Local Habitats (1)

Development proposals within, or which will have a likely impact on, the River Wensum (SAC and SSSI) habitat areas identified in Annex 6 'European Sites Map' will only be supported if the primary objective of the proposal is to conserve or enhance the habitat, or is otherwise provided for in national policy. Any development that may have an impact on the aquatic or terrestrial ecology of the River Wensum habitat areas must be accompanied by an ecological assessment, and any necessary Habitats Regulations Assessment, and demonstrate how any mitigation and/or compensation measures identified in an assessment will be achieved.

Policy 8

Protection & Enhancement of Local Habitats (2)

To be supported, development proposals outside, and that will not have an impact on, the River Wensum (SAC and SSSI) habitat areas identified in Annex 6 'European Sites Map', and outside the settlement boundary identified on the map in 'Annex 5 - Settlement Boundary Map', must demonstrate how they enhance; and how they avoid, or adequately mitigate, or as a last resort compensate for; significant harm to wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks with reference to the Ecological Report (August 2018), or more recent ecological appraisals or evidence.

Policy 9

Ecological Network

Development proposals that would lead to the enhancement of the ecological network, including where they would improve habitat connectivity, will be supported.

4 Planning Policies

4.6 Protection of the Historic Environment

4.6.1 The mid Anglo-Saxon burial site discovered beside the River Wensum in December 2016 is referred to by a number of the consultees as an important element in the character of the village.

4.6.2 Having regard to the remarkable Anglo-Saxon cemetery and to the bridge over the river used today being at the same location as the crossing of Saxon times and St. Andrews Church, Great Ryburgh, likely to have late Anglo-Saxon elements, the village is likely to have a wealth of archaeological sites as yet undiscovered and a policy in relation to those sites is desirable.



Picture 6 St Andrews Church & Cottages, Station Road (July 2019)

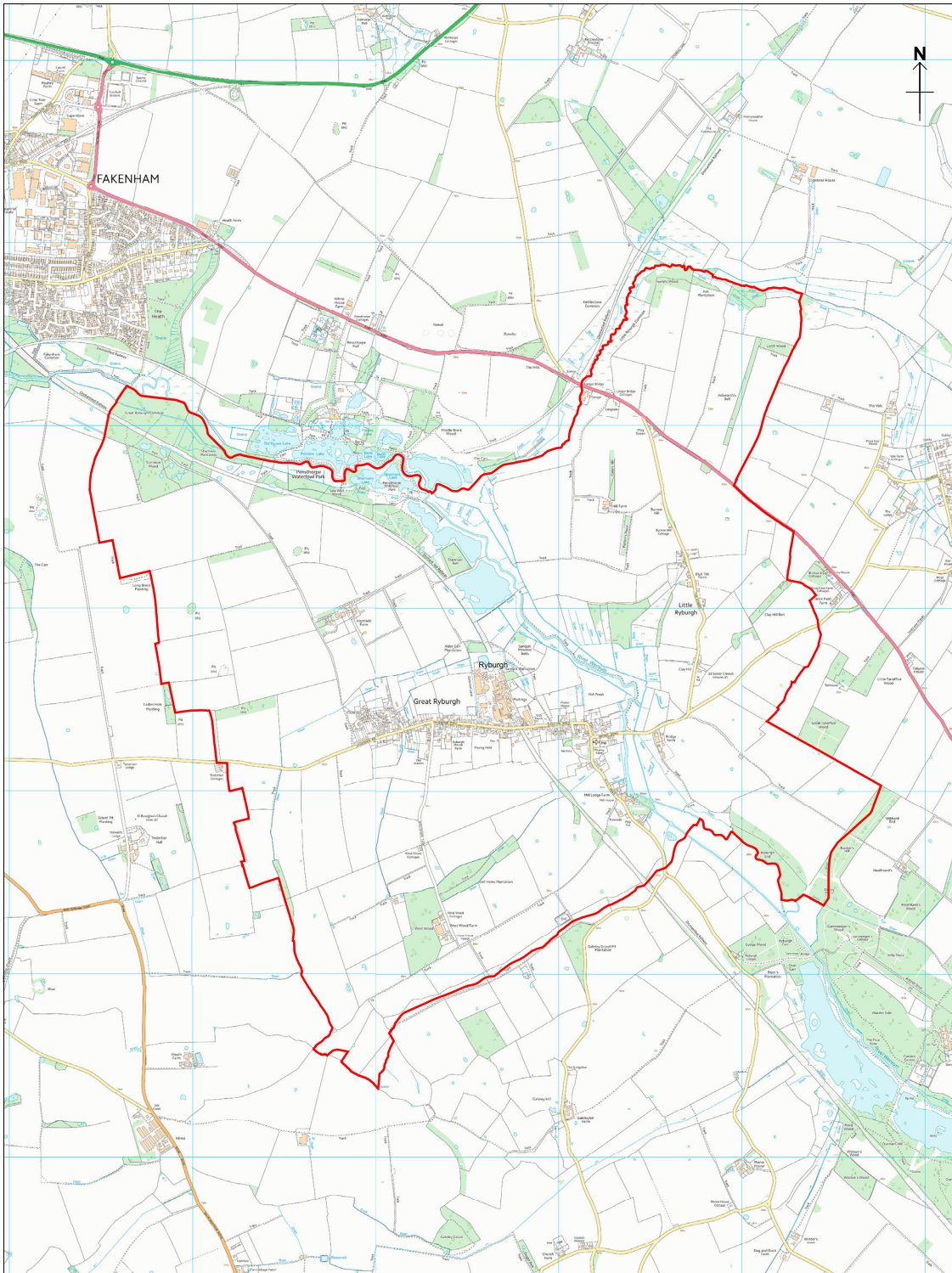
Policy 10

Archaeology

All development proposals must demonstrate consultation with the Norfolk Historic Environment Record and where proposals are within 250 metres of, or otherwise have potential to affect, any heritage asset with archaeological interest, an appropriate desk-based assessment, and where necessary a field evaluation, must be submitted.

Neighbourhood Area Map 1

Annex 1 Neighbourhood Area Map



 <p>NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL</p>	<p>Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area</p> <p> Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area</p>	1:20,000	CB	<p>© Crown Copyright and database right 2019 Ordnance Survey 100018623</p>
		16/05/2019		

Annex 1 - Neighbourhood Area Map

1 Neighbourhood Area Map

Consultation Process 2

Annex 2 Consultation Process

The Consultation Process

The process of developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan was initiated by and has been under the control of the Ryburgh Parish Council since its decision to proceed with an NDP on 13th December 2016. The work of the preparation of the Plan was delegated to a working group and the minutes of the working group's meetings have been published at www.ryburghpc.info.

Invitations were issued to locally significant businesses/organisations/farms to appoint a representative to take part in the working group. These included Crisp Maltings, Sennowe Estate, All Saints Primary School, Pensthorpe, Mill Lane Nursing Home. Persons willing to carry out the work were welcomed and invitations to join the working group or take part were issued at the public meetings to all present.

Notices of the filing of the application to North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) to seek to designate the Parish as a Neighbourhood Area were posted on the village notice boards on 1st March 2017 and advertised in the press by NNDC between 27th February and 27th March 2017.

A first public meeting, to be held at the village hall, was notified to the community by delivery to every house in the Neighbourhood Area of an invitation to attend, and by the posting of notices on the village notice boards and by asking village groups to e-mail their members advising of the public meeting. It was held on 12th July 2017 and some 90 persons attended.

At the public meeting an explanation of the process and scope of an NDP was provided by Andrew Purdy as the chairman of the working group. Relevant elements - environment /existing businesses in the village/infrastructure and housing were addressed by other members of the working group and planning consultant Mark Thompson gave a short address upon what the process would entail. Emphasis was placed upon the Plan being the construct of the consensus of the villagers wishes and not the proposals of the working group. The meeting was opened to questions. A clip board was passed around upon which attendees were asked to put their name, address and if available their e-mail address. Attendees were handed a leaflet upon leaving upon which details of their contribution towards the plan could be submitted. It was stressed and appeared to be well understood that attendees should submit their ideas and aspirations for the future of the village over the next 20 years as soon as they have been able to give due consideration. It was made clear submissions would be treated as confidential and that support was available for anyone wishing to discuss any aspect.

On the 16th July, at the village dog show, held on the village field and open to all, a booth with banner reading Ryburgh Neighbourhood Development Plan was manned and was visited by some 20 persons who discussed aspects of the NDP.

Contributions were received by delivery to the village shop where a box was maintained in to which they could be posted. 44 submissions were received. The register of persons attending the public meeting was consulted to establish who may have attended and not made a submission and those persons contacted by members of the working group, to obtain their contribution.

An analysis of all submissions, to establish the subjects of greatest concern, was produced on 7th October 2017. Major stakeholders in the village from whom contributions had not been received were written to on 27th October 2017. An invitation to a second public meeting to be held at the village hall on 22nd November 2017 was the subject of a 'flyer' delivered to every house in the Neighbourhood Area.

At the public meeting Andrew Purdy opened by explaining the process to date and inviting attendees to view the list of submissions received to date displayed (without details of the submitter) and invited further submissions. He explained the difference between issues that might be dealt with by planning

2 Consultation Process

policies and “aspirations” that could not. Mike Rundle took the meeting through the main themes arising from the submissions to date and suggested examples of policies that might be possible. Andrew dealt with progressing the aspirations. The meeting was opened to questions. Some 35 persons signed the attendance pad of the meeting. No new submissions were subsequently received.

Having established the themes of concern to the community the working group has sought and obtained expert reports on Landscape, Ecology and Housing, each of which are annexes to this NDP. In the case of Housing, in November 2018 Mr Michael Rayner produced a questionnaire to assist in discovering the community’s preference for future housing. The questionnaire was delivered to every household, accompanied by a short note advising of progress with the NDP and of the emerging policies. There were 32 responses to the Housing questionnaire and an analysis of these was produced for the working group by Andrew Purdy on 11th December 2018 .

Memorandum of Aspirations 3

Annex 3 Memorandum of Aspirations

Memorandum of Aspirations - for action by Ryburgh Parish Council

In October 2017 the Working Group acting on behalf of the Parish Council in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (“NDP”) asked the community for submissions upon the initiatives that they would like to see within the village during the course of the next 20 years. Some of these initiatives are capable of being dealt with by planning policies in the NDP but many are not and are the subject of this memorandum as an aide memoir to the Parish Council that they are items requiring attention:

Traffic Safety

This was the most frequently mentioned of all issues affecting the village. Whilst the NDP is to contain a policy to the effect that future development generating additional HGV traffic will not be permitted, much remains to be done to improve the traffic safety in the village having regard to the existing traffic. The issue of traffic is the concern of the Highways Authority at Norfolk County Council and a sub-committee of the Working Group has met with a representative of the Authority together with the County Councillor representing the Melton Constable Division (8th August 2018), of which the Neighbourhood Area forms a part, to discuss possible measures. The discussion is ongoing and in the hands of Parish Councillor Neil Dandy assisted by Gill Waldron.

Footpaths/Cycle ways and access to the Countryside

53% of all consultees raised concern about these Issues including the dangers of walking from the village to the Norwich/Fakenham bus stop (especially in the dark) and the need for a pathway alongside the road away from the speeding traffic on a narrow carriageway. Opening a footpath across the fields from Little Ryburgh to Great Ryburgh was a popular submission as was the creation of a footpath/cycleway via Highfield Lane to Fakenham, to provide a route to school without the use of the main roads. A walk alongside the river and additional access to the Countryside for dog walking and recreation were popular suggestions. A circular walk around the Fuel Allotment was put forward in several submissions. All these suggestions require an approach to the relevant land owner to discuss what may be possible and the putting into effect of what maybe agreed.

Community Centre

29.26% of submissions to the Working Group raised the desirability of better community facilities. Many favoured the building of a new Community Centre or the renovation of the existing pavilion on the village field.

Support of the village shop, pub, butcher and the Little Chippy

29.26% of submissions to the Working Group expressed support for and the importance of these facilities to the village. There was recognition of the many other small businesses in the village and of a need to encourage these. The creation of a business forum was mentioned.

A better bus service was sought by 21.95% of submissions to the Working Group.

The opening/need for a school in the village in the event of extensive new development was mentioned by 9.75% of submissions to the Working Group.

New tennis Courts, bowling green, sports facilities would be appreciated by 7.31% of consultees.

A doctors surgery in the village was a suggestion made by 7.31% of consultees.

3 Memorandum of Aspirations

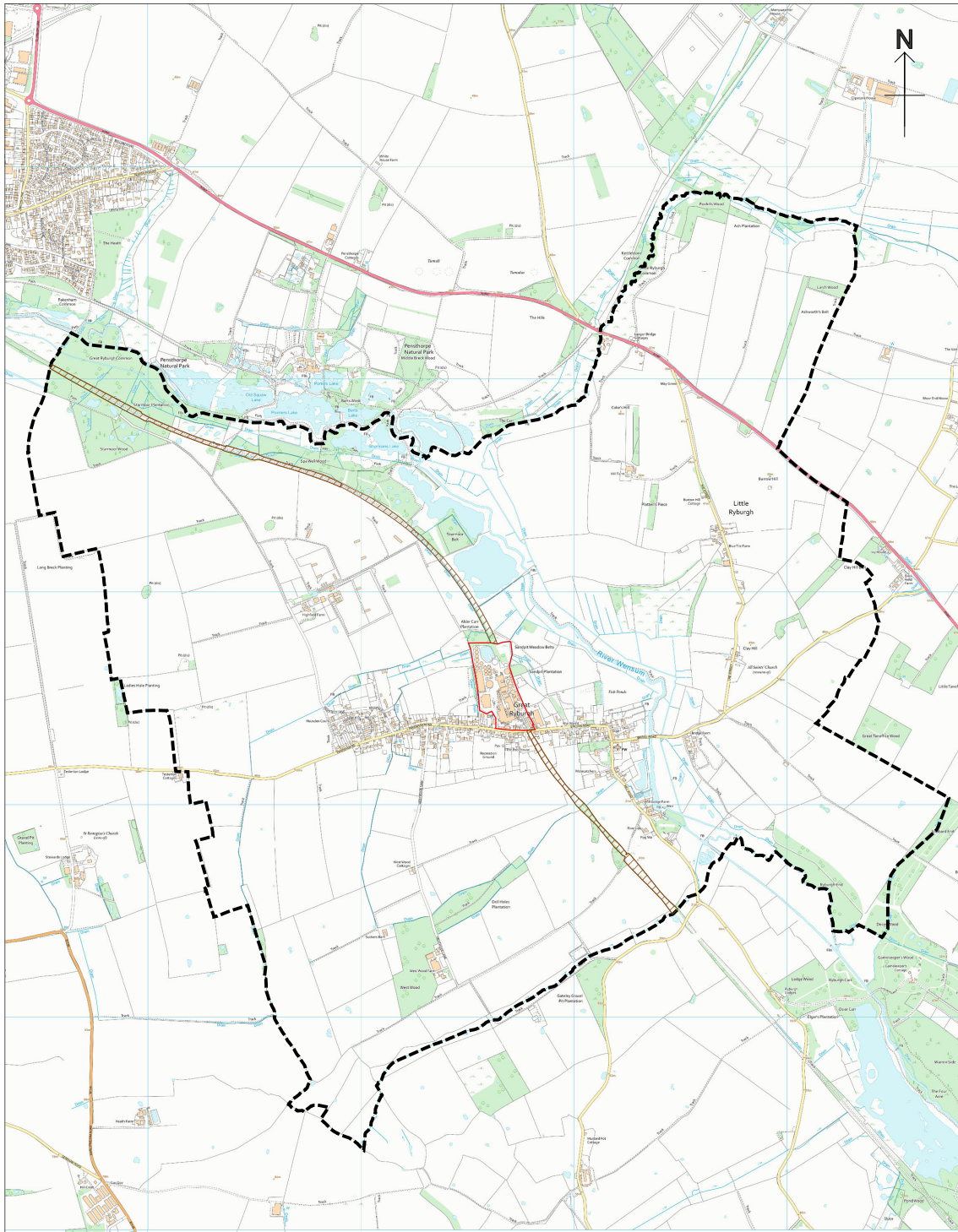
Better broadband and mobile telephone reception was a suggestion also made by 7.31% of consultees.





A dog walking area similar to the enclosed woodland facility at North Elmham was requested by 4.87% of consultees.

Mention was also made by one consultee only, in each case, of the importance of allotments, of keeping the village litter and weed free, of developing a village programme for the sorting and better disposal of refuse, of developing a social liaison plan with neighbouring villages and for using the Church as a heritage centre.

Land Safeguarded for Public Access Map 4

Annex 4 Land Safeguarded for Public Access Map



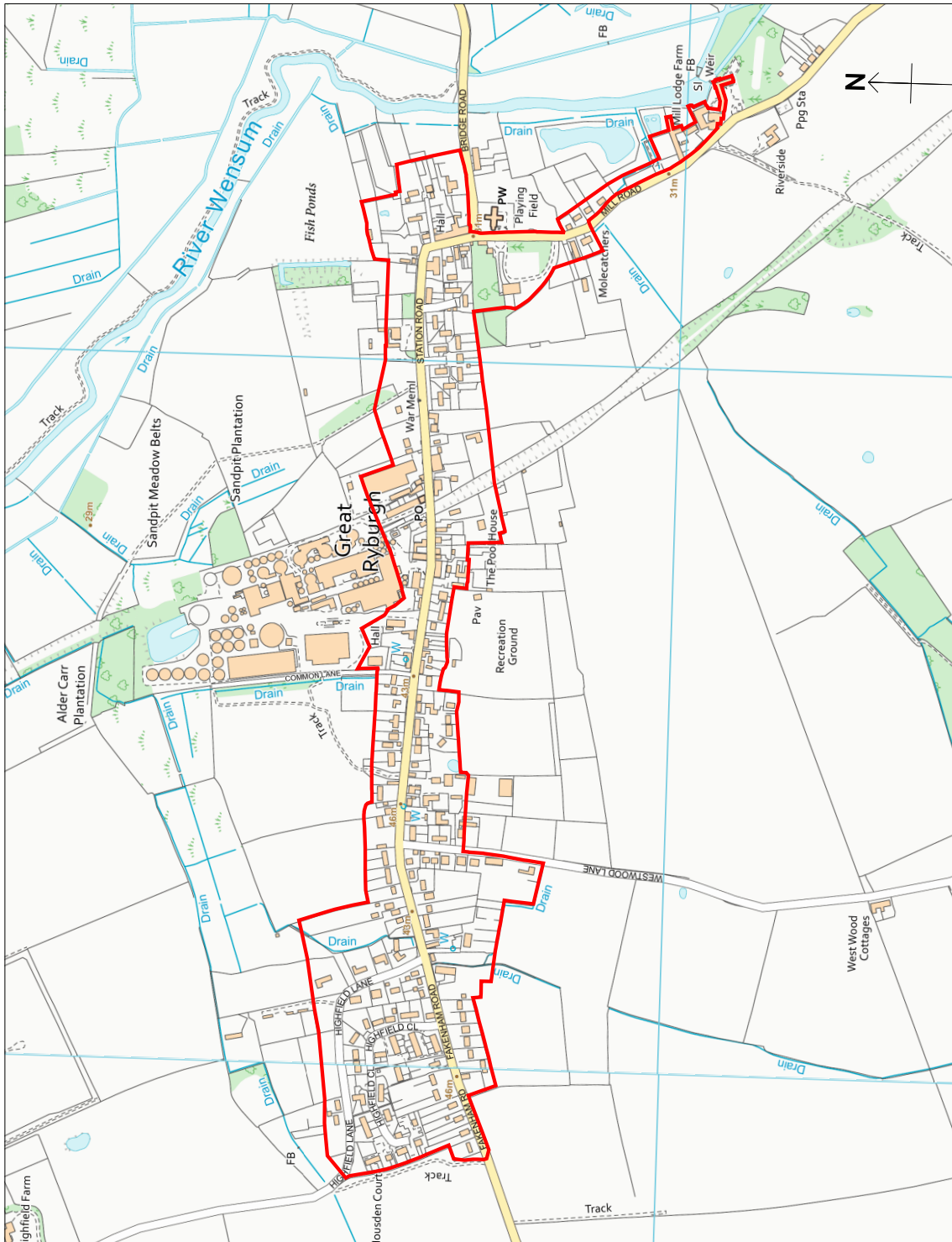
 <p>NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL</p>	<p>Land Safeguarded for Public Access within Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area</p> <p> Land Safeguarded for Public Access</p> <p> Crisp Maltings Industrial Area</p> <p> Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area</p>	<p>NOT TO SCALE CB</p>
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Annex 4 - Land Safeguarded for Public Access

4 Land Safeguarded for Public Access Map

Settlement Boundary Map 5

Annex 5 Settlement Boundary Map



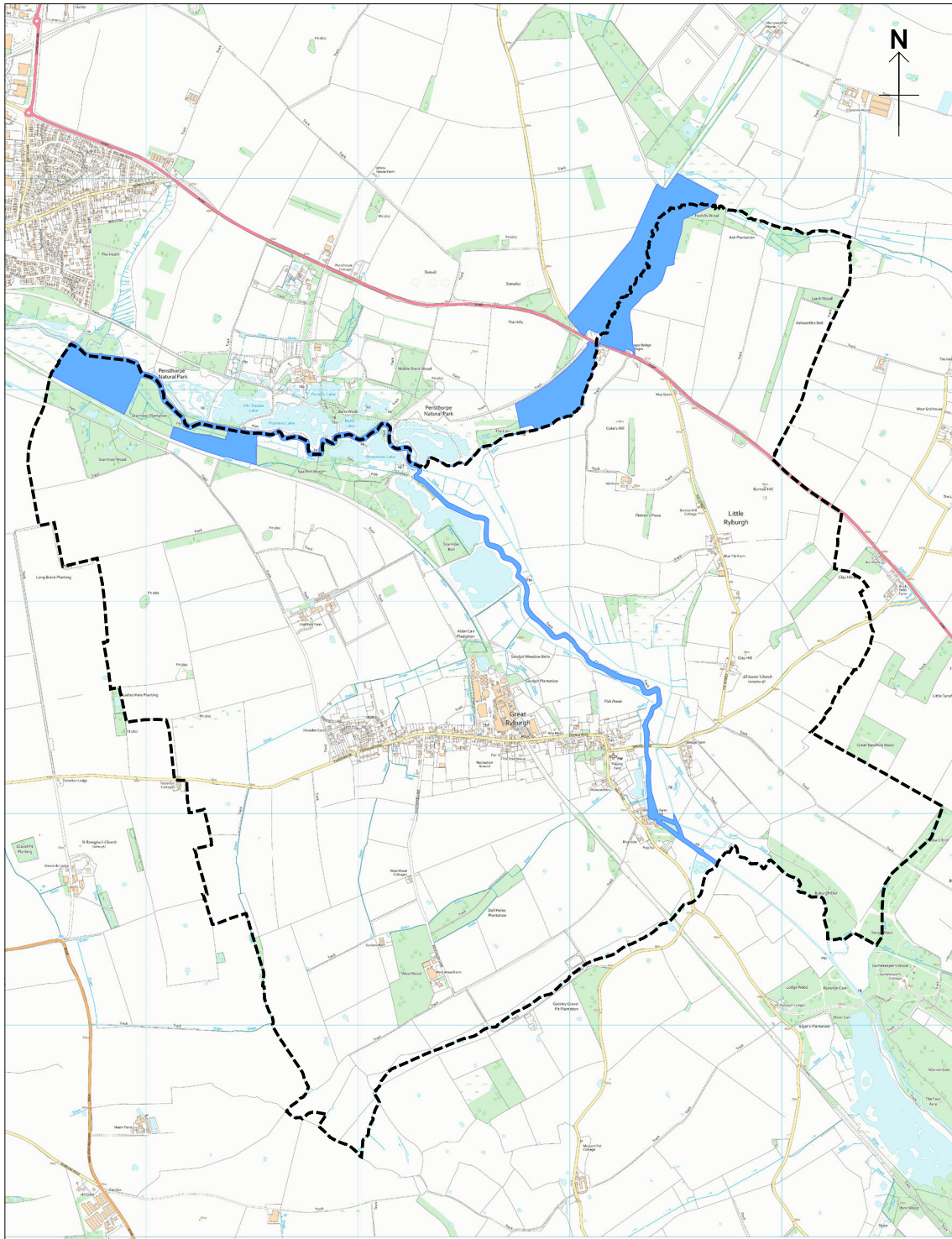
 <p>NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL</p>	<p>Settlement Boundary within Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area</p> <p>— Settlement Boundary</p>	<p>1:10,000 CB</p>
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Annex 5 - Settlement Boundary Map

5 Settlement Boundary Map

European Sites Map 6

Annex 6 European Sites Map



 <p>NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL</p>	<p>European Sites in relation to Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area</p> <p>  Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area  River Wensum Special Area of Conservation (SAC) & River Wensum Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) </p>	<p>NOT TO SCALE CB</p>
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6 European Sites Map