

North Norfolk District Council

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for Consultation

Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan – Draft examination version (December 2020)

March 2021 (Final for consultation)

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the **Blakeney 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 and the information provided on the emerging content of the plan as of December 2020.** To avoid any doubt, this does not affect the Council's obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan/SEA process which may subsequently arise if there are changes to the plan's content that could have an adverse effect upon the environment.
- 1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment is the process by which environmental considerations are required to be fully integrated into the preparation of plans and programmes prior to their final adoption. SEA is a tool used internationally to improve the environmental performance of plans so that they can better contribute to sustainable development.
- 1.3 Establishing whether a Neighbourhood Plan takes into account SEA is an important legal requirement. The Independent Examiner subsequently appointed to consider the Neighbourhood Plan will check that it meets the 'Basic Conditions' set out in the national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)¹. One of the Basic Conditions is whether the Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with European obligations. This includes the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. This directive is transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)². A Neighbourhood Plan must be compatible with European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant.
- 1.4 In meeting these obligations, the national PPG sets out that an initial screening stage is required to establish whether a Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. As the "responsible body" this report sets out North Norfolk District Council's conclusions in respect the emerging policy areas of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.5 The screening report will seek the views of the statutory consultees³ and their comments will inform the final screening report.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made>

³ Historic England, Natural England & Environment Agency

2 Legislative Background

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment legislation is European Union Directive 2001/42/EC⁴ which requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans or programmes that could have a significant environmental effect. This was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, commonly referred to as the SEA Regulations⁵. The Government published ‘A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’ (ODPM 2005)⁶, which provides more detailed guidance on how an SEA should be carried out.
- 2.2 In accordance with the provisions of the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) (Regulation 9(1)), the Council must determine if a plan requires an environmental assessment. This process is commonly referred to as a “screening” assessment. Where the Council determines that SEA is not required, then the Council must, under Regulation 9(3), prepare a statement setting out the reasons for this determination. Where it is determined that proposals in a Neighbourhood Plan are likely to have significant environmental effects, the Neighbourhood Plan may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft Neighbourhood Plan proposals should then be assessed to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant Environmental effects as prescribed in regulation 12 (2)& (3) of the above legislation.
- 2.3 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, Blakeney Parish Council (the qualifying body) has requested North Norfolk District Council (NNDC), as the responsible authority, to consider whether an environmental assessment of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan is required due to significant environmental effects.
- 2.4 Whether a Neighbourhood Plan requires an SEA, and if so, the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan. The national PPG⁷ suggests that an SEA may be required, where:
- A Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for development;
 - The neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan; and
 - The Neighbourhood Plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

⁴ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042>

⁵ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/contents/made>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal> para 013 Ref ID: 11-013-20140306

- 2.5 It remains the responsibility of the Local planning authority to ensure that all the regulations appropriate to the nature and scope of a [Neighbourhood Plan](#) proposal submitted to it have been met in order for the proposal to progress. However it remains the qualifying body's responsibility to make every effort to ensure the resultant draft neighborhood plan that it submits to the local planning authority:
- Meets each of the basic conditions;
 - Has been prepared in accordance with the correct process and all those required to be consulted have been;
 - Is accompanied by all the required documents⁸
- 2.6 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations, which implements the requirements of the SEA Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Sustainability Appraisals ensure that the potential environmental effects are given full consideration together with social and economic issues. The Government has stated that a Sustainability Appraisal is not legally required for Neighbourhood Plans, but has said that it must be demonstrated how the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development in the area. It is down to the qualifying body to demonstrate how its Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to achieving sustainable development. It is considered best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into a SA.
- 2.7 The Council has an adopted Local Plan which includes a Core Strategy, 2008, Site Allocations, 2011. Adopted supplementary planning documents covering landscape character, sensitivity to renewable energy and design are also published and provide further guidance. 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 the sustainability objectives (and accompanying questions) as published in the final SA.
- 2.8 As part of the emerging new single Local Plan the council published an interim Sustainability Appraisal and an Interim Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report in May 2019. The Council considers it appropriate to adopt the established SA framework used in the existing and emerging development plans for the area to undertake this screening exercise and SA of the emerging plan. Furthermore, in May 2019 the Council published an Interim Habitats Regulations Assessment to accompany the Regulation 19 consultation on the First Draft Local Plan, Further work has since been undertaken on this and it remains iterative at this stage.

Habitat Regulations

- 2.9 Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012⁹ refers to the Habitats Directive. The Regulations require Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening to be undertaken (by the qualifying Body) to identify if a Neighbourhood Plan

⁸ PPG Paragraph: 031 Reference ID: 11-031-20150209

⁹ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/pdfs/uksi_20120637_en.pdf

would have a significant impact on nature conservation sites that are of European importance, also referred to as Natura 2000 sites. Article 6 (3) of the EU habitats Directive¹⁰ and Regulation 61 of the Habitats and Species Regulations 2010¹¹ (as amended) requires that an Appropriate Assessment is carried out on any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

- 2.10 European Sites are defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2010, and consist of candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, as defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species. These are also reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework, NPPF, which also refers to Ramsar sites, which are listed in accordance with the international Ramsar Convention. The NPPF requires decision makers to apply the same protection and process to Ramsar sites as that set out in legislation for European sites¹².
- 2.11 To fulfil the legal requirements to identify if likely significant effects will occur on European Sites through the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan group should request a separate HRA Screening Assessment from the competent authority followed by a screening determination. North Norfolk District Council is the competent authority, (LPA) for the purpose of determining if further assessment of the implications for European sites is required. Details of the internationally designated sites need to be assessed to see if there is the potential for the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan to have an impact on the sites. The Regulations state¹³ that any assessment should be in view of the sites conservation. Any such affect needs to be ascertained and this can be done at the time the screening opinion is being sought.

¹⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm

¹¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>

¹² NPPF para 118

¹³ Regulation 102A (3) Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

3 Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan

3.1 The Neighbourhood Plan for Blakeney was subject to a Regulation 14 consultation during October /November 2019 and is in the final stages of preparation. Tis assessment is undertaken on the emerging December 2020 version of the neighbourhood Plan provided on 29th December 2020.

3.2 The Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan Area (BNPA) contains the following designated nature conservation sites:

- The North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation;
- The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation;
- The North Norfolk Coast Special Protection Area;
- The North Norfolk Coast Marine, Special Protection Area;
- The Greater Wash Marine Special protection Area;
- Component Sites of Scientific Special Interest: North Norfolk Coast SSSI ;
- Wiverton Down SSSI;
- Bilsey Hill SSSI;

The BNPA contains the following non-statutory conservation sites:

- Morston Marshes (1112), County Wildlife Site.

The BNPA contains the following heritage assets:

- Heritage Coast;
- Blakeney Conservation Area;
- Glaven valley Conservation Area;
- 102 listed buildings - within the Blakeney conservation area. Generally, these are concentrated along the High Street, Westgate Street and the Quay, the historic core of the village. The majority of buildings are domestic dwellings though there are a number of listed shops and inns;
- One scheduled monument in the conservation area, the Guildhall on the Quay
- 8 local listings in the adopted 2019 Blakeney Conservation Area Appraisal.

3.3 The BNPA includes land within Flood Risk Zone 1, 2, 3a &3b.

3.4 The BNP December 2020 version comprises of 17 policies grouped into three themes covering the built environment, the natural environment and the local economy and tourism

3.5 The designated Neighbourhood Plan Area covers the whole parish.

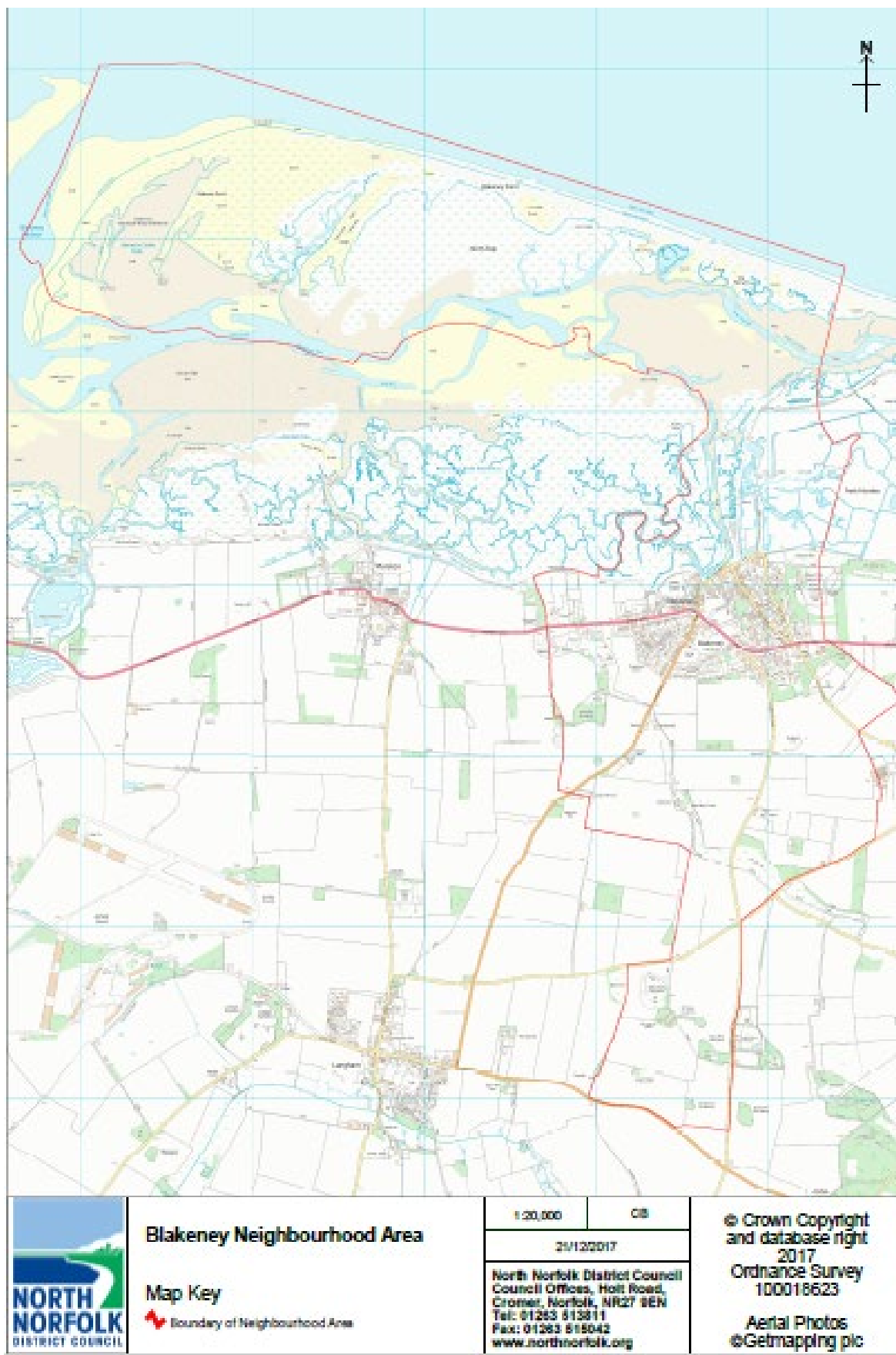
3.6 The Plans objectives as set out in the emerging plan (December 2020) are:

- To accommodate appropriate change and development so that the intrinsic character and appearance of the village is retained and enhanced.

- To support the provision of affordable housing and to balance the number of second homes with the housing needs of the local community so that Blakeney continues to be a place where people of all ages can live and work;
- To give people with a connection to Blakeney priority for affordable homes
- To support and promote the development of new and existing local business and employment opportunities ;
- To protect green open spaces and footpaths within the village to promote wellbeing, preserve the local environment and protect wildlife;
- To make sure any development is of the highest standards of design and meets local needs;
- To maintain a navigable port in Blakeney for leisure and commercial craft.

3.7 The Neighbourhood Plan proposes no site allocations, seeks to set no housing target nor does it seek any other forms of land designations.

Figure 1 – Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan Area



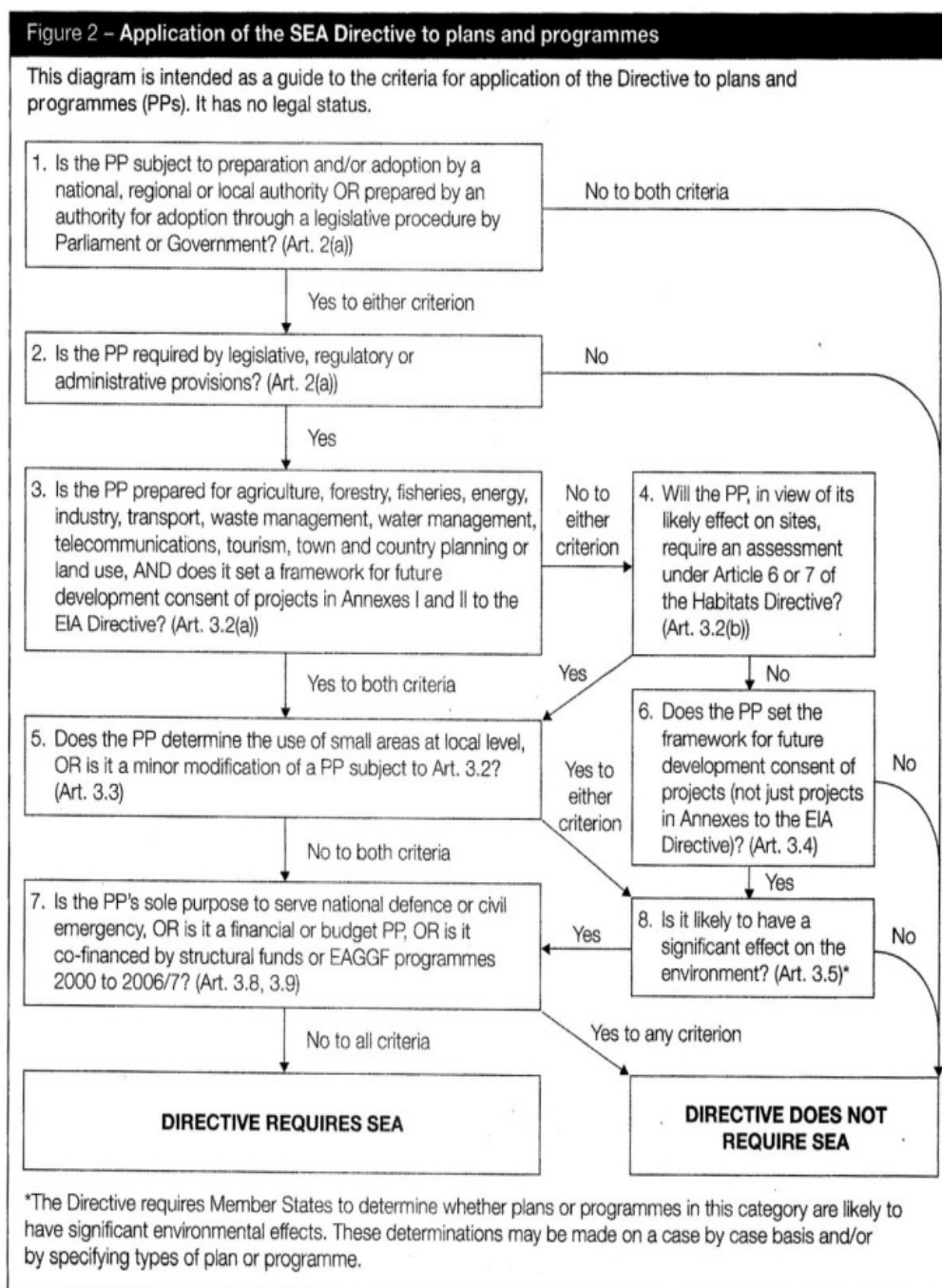
4 SEA Screening

- 4.1 The process for determining whether or not an SEA is required is called screening. The SEA screening is a two stage interrelated process. The first part considers the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA assessment flow chart set out in the national guidance “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive”¹⁴, (Paragraph 2.18, Figure 2, ODPM, 2005). The second part of the assessment is required in order to answer specific questions contained in the above, specifically question 8 and considers whether the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, using criteria drawn from the EU SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004¹⁵.
- 4.2 The regulations state that before making a determination the three statutory consultation bodies, The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, must be consulted.
- 4.3 The process taken follows the application of the SEA Directive as set out in Figure 2 of ‘A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’ followed by application of the criteria determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC (Annex 11) and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004:

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

¹⁵ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/contents/made>

Figure 2: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes



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

Table 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects

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

1. The characteristics of plans 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 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).

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 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:
 - 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.

Source: Annex 11 of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004:

5 Assessment of the Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan

5.1 Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes.

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 Neighbourhood Plan is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The NP is being prepared by the parish council (as the “relevant body”) and will be “made” by North Norfolk District Council as the local authority subject 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 Neighbourhood Plan 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/N	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan can include these policy areas and could provide, at a Neighbourhood Area level, the framework for development that would fall within Annex II of the EIA Directive. Developments that fall within Annex I are ‘excluded’ development for Neighbourhood Plans (as set out in the Localism Act 2011 and Section 61(k) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as subsequently amended).</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared to set out a framework for town and country planning and “land use” within the parish of Blakeney. Its role is to complement the higher order strategic Framework that already exists for land use planning across the District.</p> <p>The strategic framework for development is set by the adopted Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan of the North Norfolk District Council. The Neighbourhood Plan process requires alignment to be in general conformity with these, the assessment of which is part of the iterative process</p>

STAGE	Y/N	REASON
		<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not anticipate being the tool to manage development of the scale and nature envisaged by Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive.</p>
<p>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))</p>	<p>N/y</p>	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have impacts on sites covered by the Habitats Directive. A number of European sites span the Neighbourhood Plan Area, including the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC, The North Norfolk Coast SAC, and the North Norfolk Coast SPA, North Norfolk Coast Ramsar site and North Norfolk Coast SSSI.</p> <p>The North Norfolk plan level HRA work undertaken for the adopted Site Allocations document, 2011 concluded that the site allocations set out within the plan would not cause an adverse effect on any of the European sites, with the commitment of North Norfolk District Council to progress key measures at a strategic level in relation to recreation. The site have since been built out.</p> <p>An Interim Habitats Regulation Assessment was carried out as part of North Norfolk District Council emerging Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation in May 2019 and acknowledges that policies in the emerging Local Plan have been developed with the need to protect European sites understood, and as such the policies contain strong wording and supporting text that enables a conclusion of no likely significant effects for most of the emerging policies, concluding that there are measures in progress capable of necessary strategic measures to conclude NLSE. The emerging final HRA / appropriate assessment for the preferred sites for allocation in the emerging Local plan concluded that there was no LSE from urban effects but that a project level HRA would be sufficient to address any localized issues from development in relation to the preferred sites. A HRA screening report for the BNP ahead of consultation with the statutory bodies concludes on that there are likely to be no adverse effects upon the integrity of any European sites from the policies contained in it subject to the addition of some clarification wording. This will be reviewed on receipt of comment from the statutory bodies.</p> <p>The BNPA Includes a number of sensitive European sites but mainly includes qualitative policies that do not stipulate any quantum or location of growth and the expectation is that the final Draft Neighbourhood Plan will be in general conformity with the existing and emerging Local Plan. The NP has however not undergone examination and the HRA screening</p>

STAGE	Y/N	REASON
		opinion is out to consultation with the statutory bodies. It is therefore, appropriate and precautionary at this stage to conclude that there remains a possibility that an assessment may be required at this stage. Given this ambiguity both question 5 and 6 of the flowchart are enacted.
5 Does 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)	Y	A Neighbourhood Plan can determine the use of small areas at a local level. The Neighbourhood Plan for Blakeney focuses on qualitative and supportive policies. The Plan proposes no site allocations, sets no growth target
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	Once “made” a Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory Development Plan and will be used by North Norfolk District Council in the determination of planning applications. The intention is that the Neighbourhood Plan will provide a land use policy framework for future development at a local level and be used together with the adopted higher order Plan form part of the Development Plan for the neighbourhood plan area.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment	N	From the application of criteria for determining the likely significant effects below it is considered it is unlikely that there will be any significant effect.

5.2 SEA Screening Stage 2: SEA Directive Article 3(5) Annex II – Application of Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects of a Neighbourhood Plan

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 Development Plan and the emerging Local Plan of North Norfolk District Council. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to deliver any growth or locational requirements	No

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 Neighbourhood Plan will expand upon, providing supplementary information on a local scale.	No
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 subject to sustainability appraisal and HRA, and are in place to ensure that sustainable development is achieved.	No
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;	There 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 Neighbourhood Plan includes policies which provide seek positive consideration to 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 affected by the Neighbourhood Plan.	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 Neighbourhood Plan does not bring forward growth and as such is unlikely to bring forward development of an extent that would result in a significant intensification of Local land Use. .	No
The cumulative nature of the effects;	It is considered unlikely that the degree of development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan when combined with the Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan will introduce significant cumulative environmental effects. Whilst both documents are being written, the Local Plan has been subject to full SEA and Habitats Regulations and a Sustainability Appraisal. The Neighbourhood Plan impacts on the integrity of the European sites are considered to be limited as the neighbourhood plan does not seek to increase in population and overall visitor numbers, and remains	No

	largely qualitative. It also introduces some consideration of the environmental impacts at a local level.	
The trans-boundary nature of the effects;	The Neighbourhood Plan policy areas outlined provide supplementary policy areas on a local scale. European sites are broader than the NPA and as such there is the potential for impacts beyond the NPA. However, given the qualitative nature of the NP and the lack of scale and level of growth proposed it is considered that the trans-boundary effects would not be significant.	No
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);	The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to produce any significant effects in relation to this criteria	No
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The Neighbourhood Plan covers the parish of Blakeney. The 2011 census recorded the usual resident population of as 775. This is in comparison to the usual resident population of 101,499 of North Norfolk and an area of 96,333 hectares. The small 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; ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values iii) Intensive land use	<p>i) The Plan Area contains a number of listed buildings and contains the Blakeney Conservation Area and is part of the wider Glaven Valley Conservation Area. The Neighbourhood Plan by virtue of the “basic conditions” will however be in general conformity to the existing Development Plan, and emerging Local Plan which contains detailed policies on the Historic Environment across the District to ensure that they are not vulnerable to significant impacts from development.</p> <p>ii) The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in exceedance of environmental quality standards, such as those relating to air, water, and soil quality.</p> <p>iii) The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to bring forward development of an extent that would result in a significant intensification of Local land Use.</p>	<p>i) No</p> <p>ii) No</p> <p>iii) No</p>
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	The Plan Area includes listings which reflect the cultural and heritage value of the area such as listed buildings and conservation area. Both the LP and the NP have policies that require the consideration of such assets.	No

Habitat Regulations

5.3 The Neighbourhood Area (NPA) contains a number of European sites :

- The North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation
- The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation
- The North Norfolk Coast Special Protection Area
- The North Norfolk Coast Marine, Special Protection Area
- The Greater Wash Marine Special protection Area
- Component Sites of Scientific Special Interest: North Norfolk Coast SSSI
- Ramsar Site: North Norfolk Coast Ramsar Site

5.4 A HRA screening has been carried out on the emerging BNP and has been used to inform this SEA screening. The screening is subject to consultation with the statutory bodies and the interim conclusion is that it is considered that the BNP would have no likely adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites

6 Screening Outcome

- 6.1 As a result of the assessment in section 5, it is considered that it is unlikely to be any significant environmental effects from the implementation of the proposals in the emerging Draft Neighbourhood Plan for Blakeney. As such it is considered under the Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and programmes Regulations 2004, that the emerging draft Blakeney neighbourhood plan as of December 2020 does not require an SEA to be undertaken.
- 6.2 The outcome of this screening report will be subject to review by the statutory bodies, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency as well as North Norfolk District Council. The screening report and subsequent screening opinion may also need to be reviewed if significant changes are made to the neighbourhood plan following this review, or any other evidence that informs a significant change to the Plan prior to Submission Stage, (Regulation 16)

Next Stages

- 6.3 A Habitats Regulations Assessment may be required and a HRA screening report is being produced to inform that process. The HRA screening report will also provide input into the final SEA determination report.
- 6.4 A Screening Determination report on whether the Blakeney neighbourhood plan does or does not require an SEA will be issued following receipt of advice from the statutory consultation bodies on this report and the HRA screening.

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