

Sudbrooke Neighbourhood Plan

Regulation 16 Submission version

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report Final

12th January 2019

1. Introduction

1.1 Only a neighbourhood plan that meets the basic conditions can be put to a referendum and be made. One of the basic conditions is that the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations as set out in its relevant Directives including 2001/42/EC, 79/409/EEC, 92/43/EEC, and 2009/147/EC. These Directives necessitate that a neighbourhood plan be screened to determine whether it requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

1.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental effects of a plan before it is made. The SEA screening determines whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an environmental report must be produced.

1.3 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. A HRA is required when it is deemed that likely negative significant effects may occur on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the implementation of a plan/project. The HRA screening will determine whether significant effects on a European site are likely.

1.4 This screening report determines whether the Sudbrooke NP requires a SEA and/or HRA. The report's sections are:

1. Introduction
2. Overview of the Sudbrooke NP
3. SEA screening assessment
4. SEA screening conclusion
5. HRA screening assessment
6. HRA screening conclusion
7. Overall screening conclusions

1.5 This screening report has been prepared by Sudbrooke Parish Council who is the qualifying body for the Sudbrooke NP. The Report has the support of the Parish Council. The assessment was undertaken on the Regulation 14 draft version of the Sudbrooke NP.

1.6 The screening report was prepared in the context of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan adopted in April 2017 which covers the Sudbrooke NP area and whose policies were the subject of separate SEA and HRAs. The purpose of this screening report is to assess the policies of the Sudbrooke NP only.

2. Overview of the Sudbrooke Neighbourhood Plan

2.1 Whether the Sudbrooke NP requires a SEA and/or an HRA is dependent on what is being proposed by the plan itself. The Plan has a vision with objectives and contains a set of locally specific planning policies and guidance for the area. The plan can be viewed with its supporting documents at:

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/>

2.2 Sudbrooke is considered a small village in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and lies in the district of West Lindsey, 5 miles from Lincoln. The plan has 9 policies which are:

Policy 1: Additional Residential Development

Policy 2: Extensions and Alterations to dwellings

Policy 3: Local Green Space

Policy 4: Natural Environment

Policy 5: Protected and Significant Trees

Policy 6: Nettleham Beck and balancing ponds

Policy 7: Green Infrastructure

Policy 8: Settlement Break – Land between Sudbrooke, Scothern and Langworth

Policy 9: Local Design Principles

Policy 10: The Historic Environment

2.3 The NP does not propose any additional housing than the CLLP as it has already received a number of large planning permissions. The plan proposes to designate 10 local green spaces. It seeks to protect and enhance community facilities, significant trees, the Nettleham Beck, listed buildings and positive buildings. It recognises 6-character areas highlighting their key features and attributes to guide the design of new development in the area.

3. SEA Screening Assessment

3.1 Figure 1 below illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required. The findings for SEA screening of the Sudbrooke NP are given in Table 1 and in Tables 2, 3 and 4 which specifically examine the SNP's likely significant effects on the environment.

Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes

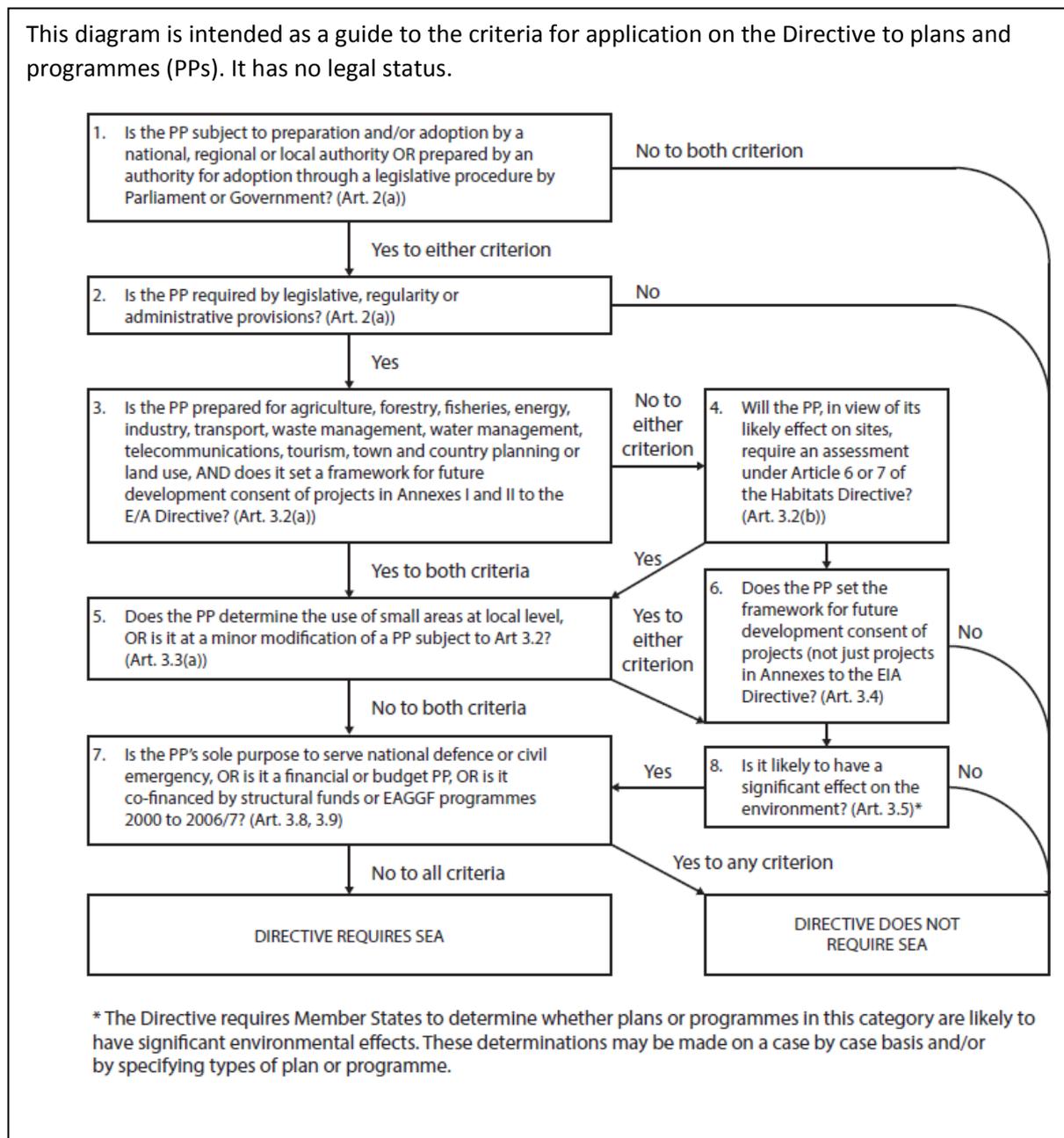


Table1: Assessment of Sudbrooke NP against Figure 1

Criteria/Stage	Response: Yes/ No/ Not applicable	Details
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?	Yes	Neighbourhood Plans are made by a 'qualifying body' (e.g. parish/town council) under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. A neighbourhood plan is subject to an examination and referendum. If it receives 50% or more 'yes' votes at referendum, it will be 'made' by West Lindsey District Council as the local planning authority. GO TO STAGE 2
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Yes	Communities have a right to be able to produce a neighbourhood plan but they are not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative purposes to produce one. However, if a neighbourhood plan is brought in to force it will form part of the development plan for the district. A SEA screening report is therefore necessary to see if the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether a full SEA is required. GO TO STAGE 3
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?	Yes	The plan is being prepared for 'town and country planning and land use...' (Article 3(2) and, once adopted, will be part of the planning policy framework determining future development within the Neighbourhood Area. Developments that fall within Annex I are 'excluded' developments for Neighbourhood Plans (as set out in Section 61(k) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)). It is not anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan would be the tool to manage development of the scale and nature envisaged by Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive.

		GO TO STAGE 5
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?	Yes	See screening assessment for HRA in report.
5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a Plan subject to Article 3.2?	Yes	Once made the Neighbourhood Plan will be part of the land use framework for the area and will help to determine the use of small areas of land at a local level. The NP proposes to designate 10 local green spaces. It seeks to protect and enhance community facilities, trees, the environment, listed buildings and positive buildings. It recognises 6 character areas highlighting their key features and attributes to guide the design of new development in the area. The plan is not a minor modification of a previous Neighbourhood Development Plan. GO TO STAGE 6
6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)?	Yes	The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a framework for the consent of any future development projects in the Neighbourhood Plan area. GO TO STAGE 8
7. Is the Neighbourhood Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7?	N/A	The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with these issues.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	No	See Table 2: Assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment. Also see Tables 3 and 4

		for detailed assessments by neighbourhood plan policy and environmental receptors respectively.
Outcome	-	SEA not required

Table 2: Stage 8 of Table 1 - Assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment	Likely significant environmental effect?
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to-		
(a) 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 neighbourhood plan will set a policy framework for the determination of planning applications for future development projects within the designated Neighbourhood Area. Once made the NP will form part of the West Lindsey Development Plan.	No
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The NP must be in general conformity with the West Lindsey Development Plan, i.e. the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (adopted April 2017) and national planning policy, i.e. National Planning Policy Framework. It does not have any influence over other plans. Once made, the NP will form part of the planning policy framework for the designated Neighbourhood Area and will be used in conjunction with the CLLP and other relevant policy and material considerations to determine planning applications.	No
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The achievement of sustainable development is one of the basic conditions that the NP must meet. The draft plan includes policy themes regarding the built and natural environment and, in particular, the provision of local green spaces within the Neighbourhood Area. It is not proposing any additional housing development above that identified in the CLLP and it would be unlikely that there would be any significant environmental effect.	No

(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	<p>It is not considered that there are any particular environmental problems relevant to the NP.</p> <p>Flood zones 2 and 3 exist in part of the area of Sudbrooke Village – along Nettleham Beck.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	No
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The NP is not directly relevant to the implementation of any European legislation.	No
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to-		
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	<p>The Plan policies are designed to expect any new development to contribute to the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Area and minimise environmental impacts within the NP Area where possible. The designation of 10 local green spaces should create a positive environmental outcomes.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	No
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	<p>The effects of the NP need to be considered alongside the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The NP is required to be in general conformity with this plan which was subject to full SEA and HRA assessments. These concluded that either the implementation of the Local Plan would not result in any likely significant environmental effects or sufficient mitigation measures were in place to address any effects. The NP is in general conformity with the Local Plan.</p> <p>The SNP policies provide for protection of the character and setting of Sudbrooke village and parish, including heritage assets, green spaces and community</p>	No

	<p>facilities. The SNP is focussed on providing for the future sustainability of the village, and as such has the principles of sustainability at its core.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	<p>The proposals within the NP are unlikely to have a significant impact beyond the Neighbourhood Area boundary over and above that of the potential for small increased traffic flow resulting from the existing planning permissions. Through consultation with neighbouring Parishes, the NP has sought to align its policies so that they conform to the overall strategy for the surrounding area.</p>	No
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	<p>There are no significant risks anticipated, and it is considered that the NP will enhance human health and the environment. Health and safety mitigation measures will be dealt with on a procedural basis by prospective applicants.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	No
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	<p>The potential for any environmental impacts are likely to be local, limited and minimal. The proposed housing site developments all fall within Sudbrooke Village.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	No
(f) 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; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	<p>The SNP promotes the protection of the built and natural environment. Policy 9 actively seeks to ensure that development responds to the existing surrounding character. Any effects of the plan are expected to be positive on these characteristics.</p> <p>The NP is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to its special natural characteristics or cultural heritage. The policies within the plan seek to provide greater protection to the specific rural character of the area,</p>	No

	<p>as well as encouraging new developments to be in keeping with historically and culturally important design characteristics. As such there are unlikely to be any intensive land-use concerns.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	
<p>(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>It is not considered that the draft policies in the NP will adversely affect any areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	<p>No</p>

Table 3: Stage 8 of Table 1 - Detailed assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment by neighbourhood plan policy

SNP policy with summary	Assessment-Likely significant effect?
<p>Policy 1: Additional Residential Development This policy supports new housing development if it can be demonstrated that there is support from the wider community.</p>	<p>Due to Sudbrooke already meeting its housing requirement as identified by the CLLP, any additional development will only be supported if it can be demonstrated that there is community support for the proposal. Policy 1 is therefore unlikely to have any significant environment impact either on its own or in combination with other SNP policies.</p>
<p>Policy 2: Extensions and Alterations to dwellings This policy seeks to manage any future extensions or alterations to existing properties to ensure that they are in-keeping with the scale and character of the area, but also to ensure that there are no adverse impacts to neighbouring properties and residents.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to manage any future extensions or alterations to existing properties to ensure that they are in-keeping with the scale and character of the area, but also to ensure that there are no adverse impacts to neighbouring properties and residents. Therefore, it is unlikely to have any adverse impacts to the environment either on its own or in combination with other SNP policies.</p>
<p>Policy 3: Local Green Space Ten local green spaces are identified by this policy and proposals on them will only be supported where they do not undermine the reason for their designation.</p>	<p>This policy seeks positive environmental outcomes. The local green spaces should make a major environmental contribution to the setting and character of Sudbrooke village. This policy seeks to protect them and prevent their use for unintended purposes. Therefore, it is unlikely to have any adverse impacts to the environment either on its own or in combination with other SNP policies</p>
<p>Policy 4: Natural Environment Sudbrooke has many natural assets that have great amenity value, contribute towards local character and supports local wildlife.</p>	<p>This policy seeks positive environmental outcomes. The environmental assets in the village contribute towards to the setting, character and the local wildlife of Sudbrooke village. This policy seeks to protect these assets and prevent any negative harm or impact to their quality and setting. Therefore, it is unlikely to have any adverse impacts to the environment either on its own</p>

SNP policy with summary	Assessment-Likely significant effect?
	or in combination with other SNP policies.
<p>Policy 5: Protected Trees and Significant Trees Sudbrooke has many significant mature trees that have great amenity value, contribute towards local character and supports local wildlife.</p>	<p>This policy seeks positive environmental outcomes. The village has many areas of significant and mature trees that contribute towards the setting, character and the local wildlife of Sudbrooke village. This policy seeks to protect these significant trees and prevent any negative harm or impact to their amenity value and quality. Therefore, it is unlikely to have any adverse impacts to the environment either on its own or in combination with other SNP policies.</p>
<p>Policy 6: Nettleham Beck and Balancing Ponds Nettleham Beck stretches through the village and provides a watercourse that has amenity value, contributes towards local character and supports local wildlife.</p>	<p>This policy seeks positive environmental outcomes. Nettleham Beck is a major environmental asset to the setting and character of Sudbrooke village. This policy seeks to protect this watercourse and prevent any negative harm or impact to its quality and setting. Therefore, it is unlikely to have any adverse impacts to the environment either on its own or in combination with other SNP policies.</p>
<p>Policy 7: Green Infrastructure The village has a number of public rights of way and these should be preserved and, where possible, enhanced over the plan period.</p>	<p>This policy seeks positive environmental and social outcomes. The village has a number of existing public rights of way that contribute towards connecting various parts of the community and improves the health and wellbeing of the local population. This policy seeks to protect these public rights of way and prevent any negative harm or impact to their access. The policy also seeks to support the creation of new routes over the plan period. Therefore, it is unlikely to have any adverse impacts to the environment either on its own or in combination with other SNP policies.</p>
<p>Policy 8: Settlement Break – Land between Sudbrooke, Scothern and Langworth</p>	<p>This policy seeks positive environmental outcomes. The green gaps between these villages are considered important for maintaining</p>

SNP policy with summary	Assessment-Likely significant effect?
<p>The areas of farmland/ woodland between these villages is considered important as it maintains a separation between the villages.</p>	<p>an area of separation and to avoid the encroachment of development into the open countryside. This policy seeks to prevent any negative harm or impact to these areas of separation. Therefore, it is unlikely to have any adverse impacts to the environment either on its own or in combination with other SNP policies.</p>
<p>Policy 9: Development Principles This policy expects developments to: respect the character area concerned, preserve views around Sudbrooke, respect plot boundaries and grain of character area, respect the predominant materials used in the area, be of high standard and reflect local distinctiveness, be of a height in-keeping with neighbouring properties, protect green spaces including private gardens where possible, respect existing boundary treatments, not cause harm to the appearance and amenity value of the open countryside, or to the key features and attributes of relevant character area.</p>	<p>This policy seeks positive environmental outcomes to ensure that development is of a high quality to respect the character and setting of Sudbrooke including its important buildings, waterways, trees, character areas, green spaces, and attractive views.</p>
<p>Policy 10: Historic Environment Under this policy proposals affecting heritage assets must show how they have respected the assets. Those that will cause harm will not be supported. Changes of use of heritage assets and non-designated heritage assets will only be permitted where the proposed use is viable and compatible with the asset.</p>	<p>This policy seeks positive built environmental outcomes. As well as seeking to preserve and enhance heritage assets the policy also identifies a separate category of non-designated heritage assets worthy of recognition.</p>

Table 4: Stage 8 of Table 1 - Detailed assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment by environmental receptors as recognised in Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive (2004)

Environmental receptor	Assessment- Likely significant effect?
<p>Air quality Plans should prevent development from contributing to, or being put at risk by, air pollution.</p>	<p>The proposed policies in the SNP are unlikely to increase traffic congestion or create air quality problems for nearby residents or biodiversity hotspots.</p>
<p>Biodiversity Plans should identify important biological features and work to protect and enhance these.</p>	<p>The proposed policies will likely have a positive effect on the biodiversity of the area due to them recognising the importance of these spaces and features.</p>
<p>Landscape Development should seek to promote or reinforce local distinctive landscape features.</p>	<p>Policy 9 of the SNP encourages design in keeping with local development style and the features of local character areas as defined by the character assessment. The SNP area has no nationally important landscape designations.</p>
<p>Material Assets These refer to physical infrastructure including social infrastructure, transport infrastructure, water, and energy infrastructure.</p>	<p>The existing infrastructure in the SNP area and nearby appears to have the capacity to meet any additional development within reason.</p>
<p>Population Plans should encourage development that adds to the overall quality of the area, establishes a strong sense of place, is visually attractive, and contributes to safe and accessible environments.</p>	<p>The SNP is not proposing any additional development other than those existing planning permissions. Policies 6,7 and 9 seek to preserve the attractiveness of the area and contribute towards protecting and enhancing the key environmental assets in the area.</p>
<p>Health Plans should promote healthy communities by emphasising the value of social and recreational facilities including open space and recreational facilities.</p>	<p>The SNP protects existing community facilities in the village and would support new ones where suitable. It designates 10 local green spaces and identifies footpaths and cycle ways in the plan area.</p>
<p>Natural resources Plans should protect and enhance soils particularly best and most versatile agricultural land. The plan should, where relevant, recognise the need for a sufficient supply of minerals and making best use of these finite resources.</p>	<p>The SNP does not impact on surrounding farmland in use and would not impact on the supply of minerals which are covered by a minerals safeguarding area.</p>

<p>Climate change Plans should try and reduce our contribution to, and better prepare for the effects of, climate change.</p>	<p>The policies in the plan are unlikely to have a negative impact on climate change.</p>
<p>Water New and existing development should not contribute to or be put at risk from water pollution.</p>	<p>It is understood that the SNP's proposals are unlikely to contaminate any nearby water bodies or affect water supply or impact on any groundwater source protection zones that may exist in the SNP area.</p>

4. SEA screening conclusion

4.1 As a result of the evaluations carried out in Tables 2, 3 and 4 it is considered that it is unlikely that any significant environmental effects will arise as a result of the Sudbrooke NP. Consequently, the assessment within Table 1 concludes that an SEA is not required when judged against the application of the SEA Directive criteria.

4.2 No sensitive natural or heritage assets will be significantly affected by policies contained in the Sudbrooke NP. The Sudebrooke NP's policies are in general conformity with those within the CLLP. The Sudbrooke NP does not allocate specific large development sites or promote a large amount of development. It is not near or in a national or international designated area or contravenes significant elements of the CLLP.

5. HRA Screening Assessment

5.1 The HRA involves an assessment of any plan or project to establish if it has potential implications for European wildlife sites. The HRA will consider if the proposals in the neighbourhood plan have the potential to harm the habitats or species for which European wildlife sites are designated. European wildlife sites are:

- Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

5.2 In addition to SPA and SAC sites, Ramsar sites are designated under the Ramsar Convention (Iran 1971 as amended by the Paris Protocol 1992). Although they are not covered by the Habitats Regulations, as a matter of Government Policy, Ramsar sites should be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites. European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as Natura 2000 sites.

5.3 The initial screening stage of the HRA process determines if there are any likely significant effects possible as a result of the implementation of the plan and if an appropriate assessment is needed. This stage should provide a description of the plan's policies (see Table 3) and an identification of the Natura 2000 sites which may be affected by the plan and assess the significance of any possible effects on the identified sites.

5.4 As a general 'rule of thumb' it is identified that sites with pathways of 10-15km of the plan boundary should be included within a HRA. However, there are no European sites within 15km of the Sudbrooke NP boundary nor are there any sites within the Central Lincolnshire Area.

5.5 The neighbourhood plan also needs to be screened for the likelihood of combined effects with other plans and projects. For the purpose of this HRA, other plans and projects would include: national plans; core strategies / local plans; neighbourhood plans; water resource management plans; catchment flood management plans; catchment abstraction management strategies; and river basin management plans. However as there are no European Sites affected by the neighbourhood plan it is not necessary to then screen the plan for likelihood of its combined effects with these identified other plans and projects,

6. HRA Screening Conclusion

6.1 None of the policies in the Sudbrooke NP are likely to have a significant effect on a European Site whether alone or in combination with other plans and projects. Consequently the plan is not considered to require further assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (Art. 3.2(b)).

7. Overall Screening Conclusions

7.1 A SEA and HRA screening report exercise has been undertaken for the Sudbrooke NP. The assessments have concluded that the neighbourhood plan is unlikely to give rise to any significant environmental effects or have significant effects on a European site. Accordingly it is considered that a SEA or HRA assessment is not required for the neighbourhood plan.

7.2 It is important to note that this screening opinion is based on a draft regulation version of the Sudbrooke NP. Consequently if the content of the neighbourhood plan should materially change then the SEA/HRA screening process will need to be re-assessed and updated.

Appendix 1: Responses from Statutory Consultees



EAST MIDLANDS OFFICE

[REDACTED]
Sudbrooke Parish Council
11a Langworthgate
Lincoln
Lincolnshire
LN2 4AD

[REDACTED]
Our ref: PL00490177

13 November 2018

Dear Mr Brown

SUDBROOKE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SEA SCREENING REQUEST

Thank you for your consultation of 18 October 2018 and the request for a Screening Opinion in respect of the Sudbrooke Neighbourhood Plan.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its 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 with the screening request.

On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England is of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not likely to be required.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

Should it be concluded that, overall, a SEA will be required for the Plan, Historic England would be pleased to discuss the scope of the assessment in relation to the historic environment in due course.

I hope that this information is of use to you at this time. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Date: 30 October 2018
Our ref: 261974
Your ref: Sudbrooke SEA/HRA Screening Opinion



Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 080 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Bown,

Sudbrooke SEA/HRA Screening Opinion

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 18 October 2018.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#). The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance 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
- 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.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.