

Morton Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report

January 2020 (Updated April 2020)

- 1- Introduction
- 2- Overview of the Morton Neighbourhood Plan
- 3- SEA Screening Assessment
- 4- SEA Screening Conclusion
- 5- HRA Screening Assessment
- 6- HRA Screening Conclusion
- 7- Overall Screening Conclusions
- 8- Consultation Responses (Environment Agency, Historic England & Natural England)
- 9- Determination Statement (West Lindsey District Council)

Appendix 1 Text of email sent on 13th January 2020

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. An 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 Morton Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA and/or HRA. The report's sections are:

1. Introduction
 2. Overview of the Morton Neighbourhood Plan
 3. SEA screening assessment
 4. SEA screening conclusion
 5. HRA screening assessment
 6. HRA screening conclusion
 7. Overall screening conclusions (*to be confirmed*)
- Appendix 1. Responses from consultation bodies (*to be confirmed*)

1.5 This screening report has been will be submitted to West Lindsey District Council by Morton Parish Council who is the qualifying body for the Morton Neighbourhood Plan. The Report has the support of the Parish Council. The assessment was undertaken on the Regulation 14 Draft Version of the Morton Neighbourhood Plan.

1.6 The screening report was prepared in the context of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan adopted in April 2017 which covers the Morton Neighbourhood Plan 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 Morton Neighbourhood Plan only.

2. Overview of the Morton Neighbourhood Plan

2.1 Whether the Morton Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA and/or a 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/all-neighbourhood-plans-in-west-lindsey/morton-neighbourhood-plan/>

2.2 Morton is considered a small village in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and lies in the district of West Lindsey just north of and adjoining Gainsborough. The Neighbour Plan has 14 formal planning policies, which are:

- MNP 1: Sustainable Development Principles
- MNP 2: Flood Risk
- MNP 3: Criteria to consider new housing proposals.
- MNP 4: Residential Extensions
- MNP 5: Local Character and the design of new development
- MNP 6: Key Views
- MNP 7: Designated heritage assets
- MNP 8: Local heritage assets
- MNP 9: Existing open spaces and sports facilities
- MNP 10: Proposed Local Green Spaces
- MNP 11: Community facilities, shops and commercial premises
- MNP 12: Local employment and businesses
- MNP 13: Transport issues
- MNP 14: Active Travel

In addition, there are 3 informal Community Aspirations (on local history & heritage, countryside management and traffic management), but these do not form part of the SEA screening.

2.3 The Neighbourhood Plan has criteria based policies on: sustainable development, flood risk and limited new housing. Focusing on design and character, it contains five policies on; residential extensions, local character, key views, designated heritage assets and local heritage assets. Open spaces (existing and proposed Local Green Spaces) are covered by two policies. Two further policies cover community facilities, shops, commercial premises and local employment. Transport issues and the concurrent of active travel are covered by two final policies. Existing constraints and designations in the Plan area include:

- Flood Risk zone 3 covering almost all of the Parish.
- Nine Listed Buildings. Adjoining the Plan area, in Gainsborough, the Parish Church of St Paul on Front Street is Listed as are Ash Villa (and gate piers) on Blyton Road.
- Between 8 and 12 kms to the north, Owlet Plantation (West of Blyton) is a Local Nature Reserve and to the north, Laughton and Scotton Commons are SSSI's.

2.4 Slightly further afield, Misterton Drain to the North of the Plan Area at West Stockwith is an SSSI. However, there are no SAC's (Special Areas of conservation) within a 15km radius of the Plan 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 Morton Neighbourhood Plan are given in Table 1 and in Tables 2, 3 and 4 which specifically examine the likely significant effect of the Plan on the environment.

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

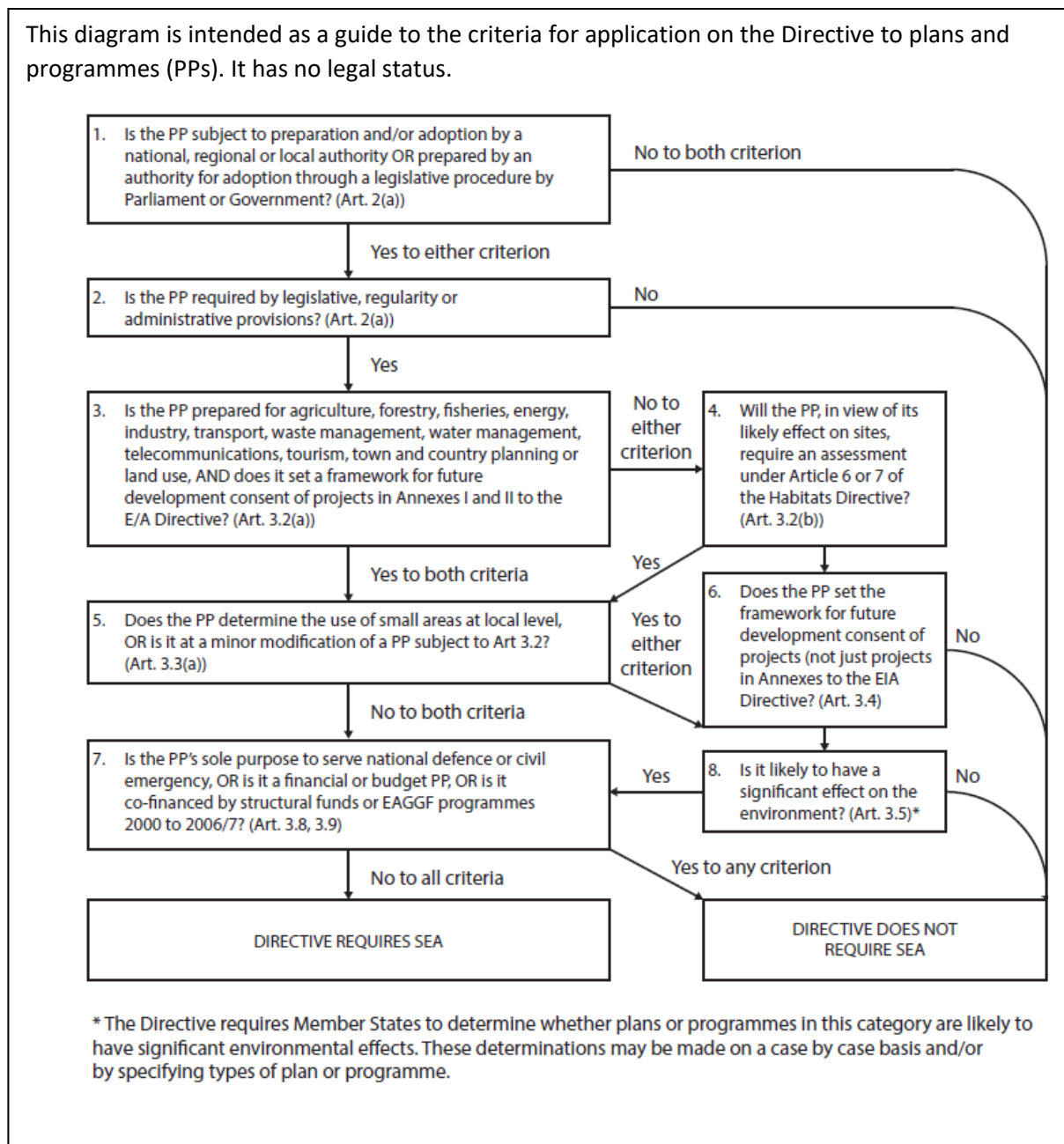


Table 1: Assessment of Morton Neighbourhood Plan against Fig 1

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. 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 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	<p>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 4 small housing allocations and designates 7 local green spaces. It seeks to protect and enhance community facilities, listed buildings and positive buildings. It recognises 4 character areas highlighting their key features and attributes to guide the design of new development in the area.</p> <p>The plan is not a minor modification of a previous Neighbourhood Development Plan. GO TO STAGE 6</p>
6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)?	Yes	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a framework for the consent of any future development projects in the Neighbourhood Plan area. GO TO STAGE 8</p>
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	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with these issues.</p>
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	No	<p>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.</p>
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 & 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 the 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/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 policies for the built and natural environment and, in particular, the provision of local green spaces. Coupled with only very limited new housing, this means that it would be unlikely that there would be any significant environmental effect.	No
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	It is not considered that there are any particular environmental problems relevant to the NP. Flood Zone 3 covers the Parish in its entirety, with the exception of three small "islands" with existing houses and farms. Effectively, this	No

	designation prevents large scale new residential development. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	
(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;	No new housing sites are allocated and a criteria-based policy, reflecting the significant flood risk constraint, enables very limited infill development. As such, only a limited element of environmental change will take place. The Plan policies, however, are designed to expect any new development to contribute to the sustainability and minimise environmental impacts within the Neighbourhood Plan Area where possible. The designation of 3 local green spaces should create a positive environmental outcome. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	No
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	The effects of the NP need to be considered alongside the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, it is required to be in general conformity with that plan, which was subject to full SEA and HRA assessments. These concluded that its implementation 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. The NP policies provide for protection of the character of Morton, including heritage assets, green spaces and community facilities. The NP is focussed on future sustainability, and as such has a core principle of sustainable development. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	No

(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The proposals within the NP are unlikely to have a significant impact beyond the Neighbourhood Area boundary. 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. In particular the NP policies reflect those in the (Draft) Gainsborough Town NP on local character.	No
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	There are no significant risks anticipated, and it is considered that the NP will enhance human health and the environment. Health and safety measures will be dealt with on a procedural basis by prospective applicants. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	No
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of effects (area and population likely to be affected);	The potential for any environmental impacts are likely to be local, limited and minimal. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	No
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected by: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	The NP promotes the protection of the built and natural environment. One policy is intended to ensure that development responds to the existing surrounding character. Any effects of the plan are expected to be positive on these characteristics. The NP is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area related to its special natural characteristics or cultural heritage. The policies provide greater protection to the specific rural character of the area, as well as encouraging new developments to be in keeping with historically and culturally important design characteristics. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	No
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	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. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	No

Table 3: Detailed assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment by Neighbourhood Plan policy

NP policy with summary	Assessment- Likely significant effect?
Policy MNP 1: Sustainable Development Principles: (location, scale, design, character, sustainability of development).	This policy provides a positive framework for decision making, as required in the National Planning Policy Framework. Locally, the concept of sustainability relates particularly to the need for sensitive design such that development reflects the character of the surroundings; meeting environmental, social and economic objectives and better facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, all of which contribute to the quality of life for residents in Morton Parish.
Policy MNP 2: Flood Risk: (a local policy recognizing the genuine need to avoid development that increases flood risk).	The extent to which this is a real constraint on all new development is emphasised by the Environment Agency and translated into a clear policy (LP14) in the adopted CLLP. This complementary, local policy is intended to support the Local Plan. The flexibility in design approaches is to acknowledge that factors such as: finished floor levels, materials, means of enclosure and surfacing may require specific treatment.
Policy MNP 3: Criteria for new housing: (criteria to enable limited small scale/infill development, subject to flood risk).	This policy helps to deliver policies LP2 and LP4 of the CLLP which the NP needs to be in general conformity with. However, it is realistic, reflecting the comments in the CLLP that little development is anticipated in Morton taking into account the Flood Risk Zone 3 Constraint
<p>Policy MNP 4: Residential Extensions: (criteria on materials, scale, layout, parking, character & sustainability).</p> <p>Policy MNP 5: Local Character and Design: (development to recognise & complement local character of local areas).</p> <p>Policy MNP 6: Key Views: (criteria to protect seven locally important key views).</p>	In accordance with the NPPF, these policies are intended to achieve positive environmental outcomes to ensure that development is of a high quality to respect the character and setting of Morton including its important buildings, character areas, green spaces, and attractive views. MNP 4 will encourage detailed design that is appropriate to the setting and character of Morton whilst also enabling energy efficiency and water management features to be incorporated into detailed design.

	<p>MNP 5, which is based on a detailed local survey, reflects the NPPF and complements the approach taken in the (Draft) Gainsborough NP.</p> <p>MNP 6, derived from the Character Study, again reflects the NPPF and complements the approach taken in the (Draft) Gainsborough NP.</p>
<p>Policy MNP 7: Designated heritage assets: (the need for high quality design and to take account of character & setting).</p> <p>Policy MNP 8: Local heritage assets: (taking account of the character & setting of local heritage assets).</p>	<p>These policies seek positive built environmental outcomes.</p> <p>MNP 7 seeks to preserve and enhance Listed Buildings.</p> <p>MNP 8, derived from the Character Study, identifies a locally important buildings and structures which are worthy of recognition.</p>
<p>Policy MNP 9: Existing open spaces & sports facilities: (criteria to protect open spaces, playing fields & sports grounds).</p> <p>Policy MNP 10: Local Green Spaces: (Three areas are proposed at Mill Wood, Field Lane and The Gymes/Trent riverbank).</p>	<p>These policies seek positive environmental outcomes.</p> <p>MNP 9 protects valued existing open spaces, in accordance with the NPPF.</p> <p>MNP 10 proposes 3 Local Green Spaces which make a valued environmental contribution to the setting and character of Morton village. This policy seeks to protect them and prevent their use for unintended purposes.</p>
<p>Policy MNP 11: Community facilities, shops & commercial premises: (criteria to protect valued local facilities).</p> <p>Policy MNP 12: Local employment & businesses: (criteria for businesses on location, scale, use and farm diversification).</p>	<p>MNP11 seeks to protect existing community facilities, including shops and pubs and affords for the provision of improvements and new facilities which could have the potential to have environmental consequences.</p> <p>MNP 12 recognises that local employment is an important element of overall sustainability. It reflects the NPPF emphasis on business. However, the limited scale of development that is likely to occurs means that there would not be an adverse impact on environmental assets.</p>
<p>Policy MNP 13: Transport issues: (to ensure that issues in Morton are considered in development proposals)</p> <p>Policy MNP 14: Active Travel: (improving pedestrian and cycle accessibly across the Parish).</p>	<p>MNP 13 recognises the potential traffic impacts of developments in and around Gainsborough and from agricultural diversification</p> <p>MNP 14 intends to protect/enhance rights of way, to support increased usage to promote the social health and well-being of the community. The policies are aimed at managing the impact of development on environmental assets.</p>

Table 4: Detailed assessment of likely significant effects on the environment by environmental receptors. Ref. Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive (2004)

Environmental receptor	Assessment: likely significant effect?
Air quality: Plans should prevent development from contributing to, or being put at risk by, air pollution.	Policies include criteria to ensure such that busy roads or industrial uses, leading to poor quality air is taken into account. Limited development is unlikely to increase congestion or create air quality problems for residents or biodiversity.
Biodiversity: Plans should identify important biological features and work to protect and enhance these.	There are no designated wildlife sites. The small scale development proposed, is unlikely to have a significant impact on existing environmental assets. The three Local Green Spaces and the verges along rural lanes (Policy MNP5B) is recognised, which will enhance biodiversity.
Landscape: Development should seek to promote or reinforce local distinctive landscape features.	Policy MNP4, based on the local character study, encourages design in keeping with the local character areas as defined by the study. There are no nationally important landscape designations.
Material Assets: These refer to physical infrastructure (including social, transport, water and energy infrastructure).	The existing infrastructure in the area and nearby has the capacity to meet the likely demands that would arise from only limited small scale infill development.
Population: Plans should encourage development adding to the overall quality of the area: a strong sense of place, visually attractive, and contributes to safe and accessible environments.	Policies on sustainable development, design and local character mean that any development will be in keeping with local character features and be in easy reach of existing facilities and also suitably linked to existing road and footpath networks.
Health: Plans should promote healthy communities emphasising the value of social and recreational facilities, including open space.	The NP protects existing community facilities. It proposes three Local Green Spaces and protect/enhances footpaths and cycleways in the plan area.
Natural resources: Plans should protect soils and the 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.	The NP does not impact on surrounding farmland in use and would not impact on the supply of minerals.
Climate change: Plans should try to reduce our contribution to, and better prepare for the effects of, climate change.	Limited infill development is unlikely to increase car use significantly. Flood Risk Zone 3 is noted. Limited development should not increase flood risk.
Water: New/existing development should not contribute to or be put at risk from water pollution.	Proposals are unlikely to contaminate water bodies, affect water supply or impact on groundwater protection zones.

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 from the Morton Neighbourhood Plan. 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 NP. The Neighbourhood Plan policies are in general conformity with those within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017). The Neighbourhood Plan 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 Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

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. An HRA considers if proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan have the potential to harm the habitats or species for which European wildlife sites are designated. These are: • Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and • 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 implementation of the plan and if an appropriate assessment is needed. This stage provides a description of the 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 'rule of thumb' it is identified that sites with pathways of 10-15km of the plan boundary should be included within an HRA. There are no European sites within 15km of the Plan boundary or in Central Lincolnshire. Hatfield Moor (SAC) and Humber Estuary (Ramsar and SAC) are closer but not in the zone. Part of the Plan area is in the impact zone for Misterton Drain SSSI, but that is not a European site.

5.5 The Neighbourhood Plan also needs to be screened for the likelihood of combined effects with other plans/projects (national plans; core strategies/local and neighbourhood plans; water resource management plans; catchment flood plans, 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 screen it for likelihood of combined effects with such plans/projects.

6. HRA Screening Conclusion

6.1 None of the policies in the Morton Neighbourhood Plan 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 Morton Neighbourhood Plan. 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 Consultation Draft (Regulation 14) version of the Morton Neighbourhood Plan. 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.

Consultation and Responses

8.1 It is a requirement of the screening process to consult certain consultation bodies when forming a view on whether a SEA and/or HRA are required and they are: Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. A copy of the Morton Neighbourhood Plan SEA/HRA screening report was sent to these bodies and their responses are collated below.

8.2 Following discussion with and acceptance of the report, WLDC, invitations to comment on the Draft SEA Screening Assessment were sent to Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency on 13th Jan. 2020 (copied to WLDC). The email text comprises Appendix 1. Where requested, an extended time for comments was allowed and the three responses received are set out below

Natural England (email received 30/1/20)

*Planning consultation: Draft SEA/HRA screening for the Morton Neighbourhood Plan
Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 13 January 2020 which was received by Natural England on 14 January 2020. 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.*

Natural England welcomes the draft screening report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Morton Neighbourhood Plan. We can confirm that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Natural England also agrees with the report's conclusions that the Morton Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work under the Habitats Regulations would be required.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Sandra Close on [REDACTED]. For new consultations, or for further information on this consultation please contact: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk. Yours sincerely, Sandra Close, Planning Adviser, East Midlands Team.

Environment Agency (email received 28/02/20)

*Thank you for consulting us on the Strategic Environmental Assessment screening report for the Morton neighbourhood plan. Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, we find that there are areas of fluvial flood risk and watercourses within the neighbourhood plan area. In particular, we note that the boundary does extend into areas of Flood Zone 3 of the River Trent. **On the basis that future development is steered away from the sensitive aspects of the environment highlighted, we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints. Nevertheless, we recommend the inclusion of relevant policies to cover the management of flood risk.***

Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Keri Monger Sustainable Places - Planning Adviser. Direct dial [020 847 48545](tel:02084748545) Direct e-mail keri.monger@environment-agency.gov.uk

Historic England (email received 04/03/2020)

MORTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - SEA SCREENING REQUEST - *Thank you for your consultation of 17 February 2020 and the request for a Screening Opinion in respect of the Morton 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, note that Historic England has guidance on Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment for local and neighbourhood planning: <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. Clive Fletcher, Principal Adviser, Historic Places.

9 Determination Statement (West Lindsey District Council - Morton Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Determination April 2020).

9.1 To determine whether the Morton Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) required a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 - a screening report was completed.

9.2 The screening report also considered whether the MNP complied with the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/ 43/ECC) and Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) and if it needed a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). These are basic conditions requirements under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

9.3 WLDC, as the responsible authority, gave consideration to the screening report and agreed with its findings and that it should go out to consultation, as required by regulations and directives, with Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency in the case of SEA and also Natural England in the case of HRA.

9.4 Responses to the consultation from Natural England, Historic England, and the Environment Agency confirmed that the MNP is unlikely to give rise to any significant environmental effects and/or have significant effects on a European site.

9.5 On the basis of the screening report and responses from statutory agencies, WLDC determined that a SEA and/or HRA assessment was not required for the MNP.

Appendix 1 – Text of email sent on 13th January 2020

I am a planning consultant, retained by Morton Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to support their work in producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

As one of the “Consultation Bodies”, please find attached the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups Screening Report assessing the Draft Morton Neighbourhood Plan against relevant European Directives, to determine if the plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and or/a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

A copy of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is attached for ease of reference, but it and associated background documents can also be accessed using the following link: www.mortonparishcouncil-lincs.co.uk (see the Neighbourhood Plan tab).

This consultation is open for five weeks from the date of writing and so I would be grateful if you send any observations by to me by 5pm on Monday 17th February 2020. In the meantime, please contact me if you have any questions.

Please note. This SEA consultation is being undertaken in parallel with the wider (Regulation 14) Consultation on the Draft Plan itself, which will run for just over 6 weeks from Friday 17th January 2020 to Monday 2nd March 2020. You and or others in your organisation maybe contacted separately as part of that consultation.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Clive Keble (MRTPI)