

**A Neighbourhood Plan For  
Sturton by Stow and  
Stow**

**“Strategic Environmental Assessment  
and  
Habitats Regulations Assessment  
Screening Report”**

## Contents

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | Introduction .....  | 3  |
| 2 | Overview of the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan ..... | 4  |
| 3 | SEA Screening Assessment.....                                     | 5  |
| 4 | SEA Screening Conclusion .....                                    | 16 |
| 5 | HRA Screening Assessment.....                                     | 17 |
| 6 | HRA Screening Conclusion .....                                    | 17 |
| 7 | Overall Screening Conclusions .....                               | 18 |
| 8 | Determination Statement .....                                     | 20 |
|   | APPENDIX: Copies of Responses from Consultation Bodies.....       | 21 |
|   | Summary .....   | 21 |
|   | Copy of Response from Environment Agency.....                     | 22 |
|   | Copy of Response from Historic England .....                      | 23 |
|   | Copy of Response from Natural England .....                       | 24 |

# 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, 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 Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA and/or HRA. The report's sections are:
  1. Introduction
  2. Overview of the Sturton By Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan
  3. SEA screening assessment
  4. SEA screening conclusion
  5. HRA screening assessment
  6. HRA screening conclusion
  7. Overall screening conclusionsAppendix 1. Responses from Consultation Bodies
- 1.5 This screening report will be submitted to West Lindsey District Council by Sturton By Stow and Stow Parish Councils who are the qualifying body for the Sturton By Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan. The Report has the support of both Parish Councils. The assessment was undertaken on the Regulation 14 Draft Version of the Sturton by Stow and Stow 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 Sturton By Stow and Stow 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 Sturton By Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan only.

## 2 Overview of the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1 Whether the Sturton by Stow and Stow 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/sturton-by-stow-and-stow-neighbourhood-plan/>

- 2.2 Sturton By Stow and Stow are considered to be medium and small villages respectively in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and lie in the district of West Lindsey just north of the growing rapidly village of Saxilby. The Neighbourhood Plan has 16 formal planning policies, which are:

Policy 1: Sustainable Development  
Policy 2: Residential Development Management  
Policy 3: Area of Separation between Sturton By Stow and Stow  
Policy 4: Housing Mix and Affordability  
Policy 5: Local Connection Criteria  
Policy 6: Delivering Good Design  
Policy 7: Historic Environment  
Policy 8: Employment and Business Development  
Policy 9: Community Facilities  
Policy 10: Protected Views  
Policy 11: Local Green Space  
Policy 12: Green Infrastructure  
Policy 13: Environmental Protection  
Policy 14: Flood Risk  
Policy 15: Broadband and Services  
Policy 16: Footpaths and Cycleways

In addition, there are 4 Community Aspirations (promoting health and well-being, providing a safe environment, protecting and enhancing our environment, economic development and infrastructure), but these do not form part of the SEA screening.

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

- Flood Risk zones 2 & 3 covering much of the area.
- Eighteen Listed Buildings.
- Three Scheduled Monuments.

- 2.4 There are no 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 of the screening are given in Tables 1 to 4 which examine specifically the likely significant effect on the Plan on the environment.

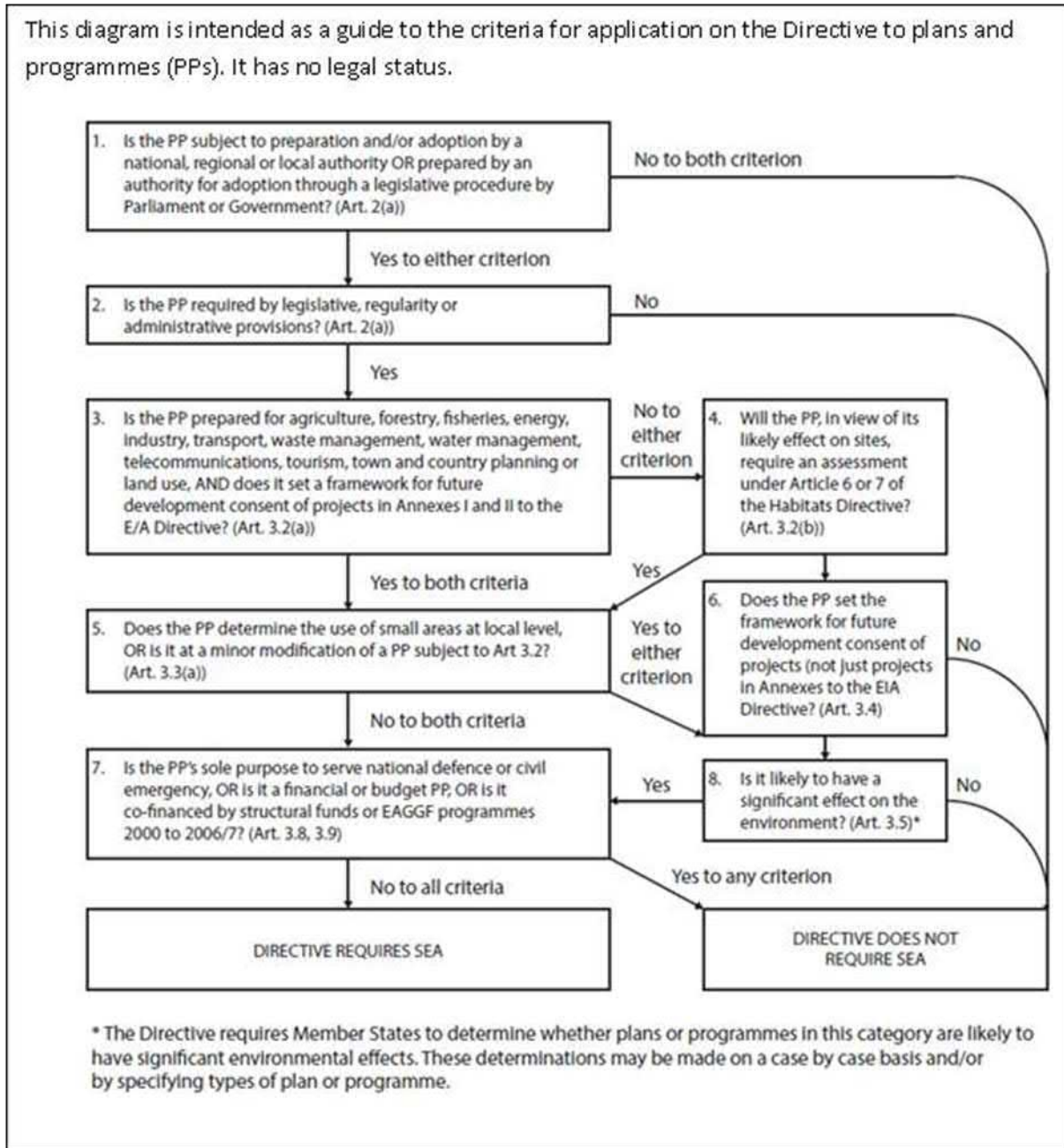


Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to Plans

| <u>Criteria/Stage</u>   | <u>Response:</u><br><u>Yes/ No/</u><br><u>Not</u><br><u>applicable</u> | <u>Details</u>   |
|---|--|--|
| 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' (eg 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.<br>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.<br>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.<br>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?   | No   | 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 Plan designates 8 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.   |

|   |                  |   |
|---|------------------|---|
|   |                  | The plan is not a minor modification of a previous Neighbourhood Development Plan.<br>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.<br>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 1: Assessment of Sturton By Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan against Fig 1

| 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 Plan will form part of the operative Development Plan.   | No                                       |
| (b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;   | The Plan must be in general conformity with the operative 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 Plan 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 Plan 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.   | 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 Plan.</p> <p>Flood zones 2 and 3 exist throughout the Sturton by Stow and Stow areas where most developments take place.</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 Plan 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 Plan Area where possible. The designation of 7 local green spaces should create 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 Plan need to be considered alongside the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The Plan 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 Plan is in general conformity with the CLLP.</p> <p>The Plan policies provide for protection of the character and setting of Sturton by Stow and Stow villages and parishes, including heritage assets, green spaces and community facilities. The Plan 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> | No |
| (c) the transboundary nature of the effects;  | <p>The proposals within the Plan are unlikely to have a significant impact beyond the Neighbourhood Area boundary.</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 Plan 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. Any proposed housing site allocations will fall within Sturton by Stow and Stow Parish Council boundaries.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>  | No |

|  |   |           |
|--|---|-----------|
| <p>(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to—</p> <p>(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</p> <p>(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;</p> <p>or</p> <p>(iii) intensive land-use; and</p> | <p>The Plan promotes the protection of the built and natural environment.</p> <p>One draft policy actively seeks to ensure that development responds to the existing surrounding character.</p> <p>Any effects of the plan are expected to be positive on these characteristics.</p> <p>The Plan 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, as well as encouraging new developments to be in keeping with historically and culturally important design characteristics. The Plan identifies four sites for development, which are small scale and are required, in conformity with the policies set out by the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan to be sustainable. As such there are unlikely to be any intensive land-use concerns.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p> | <p>No</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 policies in the Plan 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 2: Stage 8 of Table 1 Assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment

| Plan policy with summary  | Assessment- Likely significant effect?   |
|---|--|
| <p>Policy 1: Sustainable Development. (location, scale, design, flood risk, environmental impact)</p>   | <p>This policy provides a positive framework for decision-making, as required by the NPPF. Locally, the concept of sustainability relates to the need for sensitive design such that developments reflect the character of surroundings; meeting environmental, social, and economic objectives and enhanced facilities for walkers and cyclists, all of which contribute to increasing the quality of life for residents.</p> |
| <p>Policy 2: Residential Development Management.</p>  | <p>Policy 2 aims to add more detail criteria on in-fill sites. Simultaneously, the policy ensures that rural and environmentally valued sites in the countryside are protected from development pressure. This policy supports delivery of CLLP LPs 2 and 4.</p>   |
| <p>Policy 3: Area of Separation: consists of a small zone of rural landscape, including one of our non-designated heritage assets (NDHA), between the villages of Sturton By Stow and Stow.</p> | <p>This policy conforms to CLLP LP55 to protect inappropriate developments in rural countryside. The policy is not a blanket restriction, allowing for small and proportionate development in rural areas, in line with paragraphs 28 and 55 of the NPPF, provided that development does not erode the separation nor impact on the NDHA.</p>  |
| <p>Policy 4: Housing Mix and Affordability: criteria for new housing that meets local needs from the limited supply of available sites.</p>   | <p>Policy 4, in line with CLLP LP 11 supports the development of affordable housing that meets the needs of residents in order to balance the demographics to provide for the sustainability future generations.</p>   |
| <p>Policy 5: Local Connection Criteria: a tactical policy that meets the needs of the local population.</p>   | <p>This policy aims to give priority but not an absolute right, to affordable housing from those with a local connection thus ensuring sustained social cohesion.</p>  |
| <p>Policy 6: Delivering Good Design: criteria to ensure that buildings are sustainable and aesthetically sympathetic to the character of the local area.</p>                                    | <p>This policy, conforming to NPPF Section 12 and CLLP LP26, seeks to ensure that developments are of a high quality to respect the character and setting of Sturton by Stow and Stow including its important buildings, conservation area, character areas, green spaces, and attractive views.</p>   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Policy 7: Historic Environment: taking account of the character and setting of local heritage assets.</p>  | <p>This policy seeks positive built environmental outcomes. As well as seeking to preserve and enhance both designated and non-designated heritage assets, the policy also identifies a separate category of positive buildings worthy of recognition, in line with NPPF Chapter 16 and CLLP LP25.</p>  |
| <p>Policy 8: Employment and Business Development: provides positive support for increasing this aspect of development.</p>  | <p>Policy 8 seeks to encourage business development that provides sustained job opportunities. It conforms to the aspirations of CLLP LP5 and paragraphs 72, 83, 84, 104, and 121 of the NPPF.</p>  |
| <p>Policy 9: Community Facilities<br/>Improvements to community facilities and provision of new ones will be supported by this policy. Loss of a community facility will be resisted unless there is lack of local support.</p> | <p>This policy seeks to protect existing community facilities and affords for the provision of improvements and new facilities which could have the potential to have environmental consequences. The policy is not, however, allocating a site for new community facilities or proposing improvements and encourages, in combination with other policies, the mitigation of such development which would reduce the environmental effects of such development.</p> |
| <p>Policy 10: Protected Views</p>   | <p>NPPF promotes the protection of valued landscapes and the visual amenity of heritage assets. Views of the local countryside towards globally recognised heritage assets and landscapes are a key component of the social and environmental cohesion of this area.</p>  |
| <p>Policy 11: Local Green Space<br/>Eight 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>NPPF paragraphs 99-101 allow local communities to identify green areas that deserve special protection by means of neighbourhood plan thus protecting both the natural environment and their amenity value.</p>  |
| <p>Policy 12: Green Infrastructure: aims to protect local ecosystems and biodiversity sites.</p>  | <p>This policy seeks positive environmental outcomes. The local green spaces should make a major environmental contribution to the setting and character of Sturton by Stow and Stow villages. This policy seeks to protect them and prevent their use for unintended purposes.</p>   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Policy 13: Environmental Protection: (a local policy that puts environmental protection at the heart of every development0. | At the heart of all future developments this policy supports strongly the sustainability requirements of NPPF Chapter 15 as articulated in CLLP LP21.   |
| Policy 14: 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 developments is emphasised by the Environment Agency and delivered through CLLP LP14. Design characteristics (floor levels, surface finishes and modern drainage systems) may require special treatment. |
| Policy 15: Broadband and Services:  | The changing nature of work (identified as key business and education continuity enablers during the Coronavirus pandemic) has required a specific policy which in turn will support reducing travel-to- work requirements.                                       |
| Policy 16: Footpaths and Cycleways  | The NPPF identifies as a key priority the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure such as footpaths and cycleways. This policy set the local context of CLLP LP20.   |

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

| Environmental receptor   | Assessment- Likely significant effect?  |
|--|---|
| <p>Air quality<br/>Plans should prevent development from contributing to, or being put at risk by, air pollution.</p>  | <p>Given the development limitations in the CLLP (&lt;10 properties per development) proposals are unlikely to increase traffic congestion or create air quality problems for nearby residents or biodiversity hotspots.</p>  |
| <p>Biodiversity<br/>Plans should identify important biological features and work to protect and enhance these.</p>   | <p>There appear to be no designated wildlife sites in the Plan area. Only small scale development is proposed in the Plan which is unlikely to have a significant impact on existing environmental assets. To enhance biodiversity in the area the plan is proposing to designate 8 local green spaces.</p> |
| <p>Landscape<br/>Development should seek to promote or reinforce local distinctive landscape features.</p>   | <p>Policy 6 of the Plan encourages design in keeping with local development style and the features of local character areas as defined by the character assessment. The Plan area has no nationally important landscape designations.</p>   |
| <p>Material Assets<br/>These refer to physical infrastructure including social infrastructure, transport infrastructure, water, and energy infrastructure.</p>   | <p>The existing infrastructure in the Plan area and nearby appears to have the capacity to meet the likely demands to come from its 4 small housing allocations.</p>  |
| <p>Population<br/>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 policies will ensure that development of these sites 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.</p>   |
| <p>Health<br/>Plans should promote healthy communities by emphasising the value of social and recreational facilities including open space and recreational facilities.</p>  | <p>The Plan protects existing community facilities in the village and would support new ones where suitable. It designates 8 local green spaces and identifies footpaths and cycleways in the plan area.</p>  |
| <p>Natural resources<br/>Plans should protect and enhance soils particularly best and most versatile agricultural land. The plan should, where relevant, recognise the need</p>  | <p>The Plan does not impact on surrounding farmland in use and would not impact on the supply of minerals.</p>  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| for a sufficient supply of minerals and making best use of these finite resources.                                       |   |
| Climate change<br>Plans should try to reduce our contribution to, and better prepare for the effects of, climate change. | Policy 1 recognises that every effort in new constructions should not add to the existing flood risk and should conform to the national government's policy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.           |
| Water<br>New and existing development should not contribute to or be put at risk from water pollution.                   | It is understood that the Plan'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 Plan area. |

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

## 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 Sturton by Stow and Stow 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 Plan. The Plan's policies are in general conformity with those within the CLLP. The 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 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 Sturton By Stow and Stow neighbourhood plan 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 Sturton by Stow and Stow 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 Sturton by Stow and Stow 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 draft regulation version of the Sturton by Stow and Stow 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.
- 7.3 It is a requirement of the screening process to consult the 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 Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan SEA/HRA screening report was sent to these bodies and their responses are summarised below and reproduced in full in Appendix 1.

### Reference:

<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx?startTopic=Designations&activelayer=sssiIndex&query=HYPERLINK%3D%272000014%27> accessed 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

| Organisation       | Summary of Response  | Respondent and Date  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Environment Agency | <p>We are a statutory consultee in the SEA process and aim to reduce flood risk and protect and enhance the water environment.</p> <p>We have identified environmental constraints within your plan area however as no growth is proposed, we have no detailed comments to make at this stage.</p> <p>Should the Plan propose any site allocations within areas of flood zone 2 then an SEA may be required.</p> | <p>Keri Monger<br/>Sustainable Places –<br/>Planning Adviser<br/>Lincolnshire &amp;<br/>Northamptonshire</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> August 2021</p> |
| Historic England   | <p>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</p>  | <p>Clive Fletcher<br/>Principal Adviser, Historic<br/>Places</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> December 2021</p>   |

|                 |   |  |
|-----------------|---|--|
|                 | be required.  |  |
| Natural England | <p>Natural England welcomes the Screening Report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan. We can confirm that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan. Natural England also agrees with the report's conclusions that Sturton by Stow and Stow 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.</p> | <p>Sandra Close<br/>Planning Adviser<br/>East Midlands Team</p> <p>13th September 2021</p> |

## 8 Determination Statement

As set out formally below, the Local Planning Authority, West Lindsey District Council, has considered the information contained in this Screening Report and has determined that no SEA and/or HRA assessment was required for the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Determination Statement November 2021**

#### **West Lindsey District Council (WLDC)**

#### **Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan**

#### **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

To determine whether the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan (SSNP) 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.

The screening report also considered whether the SSNP 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.

WLDC, as the responsible authority, gave consideration to the screening report and agreed 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.

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

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 SSNP.

## APPENDIX: Copies of Responses from Consultation Bodies

### Summary

It is a requirement of the screening process to consult the 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 Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan SEA/HRA Screening Report was sent to these bodies and their responses are summarised below and reproduced in full in this Appendix 1 to the Neighbourhood Plan SEA/HRA Screening Report.

| Organisation       | Summary of Response   | Respondent and Date  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Environment Agency | <p>We are a statutory consultee in the SEA process and aim to reduce flood risk and protect and enhance the water environment.</p> <p>We have identified environmental constraints within your plan area however as no growth is proposed, we have no detailed comments to make at this stage.</p> <p>Should the Plan propose any site allocations within areas of flood zone 2 then an SEA may be required.</p>  | <p>Keri Monger<br/>Sustainable Places –<br/>Planning Adviser<br/>Lincolnshire &amp;<br/>Northamptonshire</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> August 2021</p> |
| Historic England   | <p>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.</p>  | <p>Clive Fletcher<br/>Principal Adviser,<br/>Historic Places</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> December 2021</p>   |
| Natural England    | <p>Natural England welcomes the Screening Report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>We can confirm that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Natural England also agrees with the report's conclusions that Sturton by Stow and Stow 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.</p> | <p>Sandra Close<br/>Planning Adviser<br/>East Midlands Team</p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> September 2021</p>  |

## Copy of Response from Environment Agency

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**From:** Monger, Keri [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Consultation- SEA & HRA Screening Report Sturton by Stow and Sturton Neighbourhood Plan  
**Date:** 9 August 2021 at 12:30  
**To:** Steve Kern [REDACTED]

KM

Hi Steve

Thank you for consulting us on the Strategic Environmental Assessment screening report for the Sturton by Stow and Sturton neighbourhood plan.

We are a statutory consultee in the SEA process and aim to reduce flood risk and protect and enhance the water environment.

We have identified environmental constraints within your plan area however as no growth is proposed, we have no detailed comments to make at this stage.

Should the Plan propose any site allocations within areas of flood zone 2 then an SEA may be required.

Kind regards

**Keri Monger**

Sustainable Places – Planning Adviser | Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire

**Environment Agency** | Nene House, Pytchley Road Industrial Estate, Pytchley Lodge Road, Kettering, NN15 6JQ



Working days: Monday to Friday

# Copy of Response from Historic England



Historic England

Mr Steve Kemp  
Open Plan Consultants Limited  
The Terrace  
Grantham Street  
Lincoln  
Lincolnshire  
LN2 1BD

[REDACTED]  
Our ref: PL00759689

9 December 2021

Dear Mr Kemp

## Sturton-by-Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan - Screening Request

Thank you for your consultation of 19 November 2021 and the request for a Screening Opinion in respect of the Sturton by Stow and Stow 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.



THE FOUNDRY 82 GRANVILLE STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 2LH  
Telephone 0121 828 8888  
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any information held by the organization can be requested for release under this legislation.



Historic England

Yours sincerely,  
Clive Fletcher  
Principal Adviser, Historic Places  
[REDACTED]

## Copy of Response from Natural England

Date: 13 September 2021  
Our ref: 363396  
Your ref: none



Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 8GJ

T 0300 080 3900

[REDACTED]

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Steve

**Planning consultation: Sturton by Stow and Stow Draft Neighbourhood Plan SEA/HRA Screening Report.**

Thank you for your consultation on the above document dated 06 August 2021 which was received by Natural England on 10 August 2021

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 Screening Report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan.

We can confirm that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan.

Natural England also agrees with the report's conclusions that Sturton by Stow and Stow 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 any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

Page 1 of 2



Natural England is accredited to the Cabinet Office Service Excellence Standard.

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**SANDRA CLOSE**  
Planning Adviser

East Midlands Team