

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING OPINION FOR THE DUNHOLME NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW



MAY 2024

Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Overview of the Dunholme 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) *(To be entered when received)*

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 Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review requires a SEA and/or HRA. The report's sections are:
 1. Introduction
 2. Overview of the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review
 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)
- 1.5 This screening report will be submitted to West Lindsey District Council by Dunholme Parish Council who are the qualifying body for the review of the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan. The assessment was undertaken on the post-Regulation 14 Draft Version of the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review.
- 1.6 The Screening Report was prepared in the context of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan adopted in April 2023 which covers the Dunholme 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 Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review only.

2. Overview of the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan

2.1 Whether the review Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review requires a SEA and/or a HRA is dependent on what is being proposed by the plan itself. The review of the existing Plan has a vision with objectives and contains a set of locally specific planning policies and guidance for the area.

2.2 Dunholme is considered to be a 'Large village' respectively in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and lies in the district of West Lindsey just to the North of Lincoln. The Neighbourhood Plan review has 13 formal planning policies, which are:

- Policy 1: General Housing Development in Dunholme
- Policy 2: Allocation of Land at Honeyholes Lane
- Policy 3: Allocation of Land to the South of Lincoln Road
- Policy 4: Allocation of Land to the North of Lincoln Road
- Policy 5: Allocation of Land to the West of Lincoln Road
- Policy 6: Priority Site for Self-build Housing
- Policy 7: Dunholme Design Code
- Policy 8: Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change
- Policy 9: Business and Employment
- Policy 10: Important Open Spaces
- Policy 11: Green and Blue Infrastructure
- Policy 12: Dunholme Beck
- Policy 13: Community Facilities
- Policy 14: Green Wedge
- Policy 15: Heritage Assets

In addition, there are 9 Community Objectives, which reflects the views of local residents but these do not form part of the SEA screening.

2.3 The Neighbourhood Plan Review has a series criteria-based policies which focus on development management. The proposed housing sites within the Plan are a combination of those allocated within the review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and those that have been identified by the community. Focusing on character, it contains a policy on local character and design codes. Open spaces and the Environment are covered by five policies. other policies cover community facilities, shops, commercial premises and local employment.

2.4 The only environmental site of significance is The Humber Estuary European Site which is outside the Plan area and located more than 20km away from the proposed development sites identified within the Neighbourhood plan.

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 of the Plan Review on the environment.

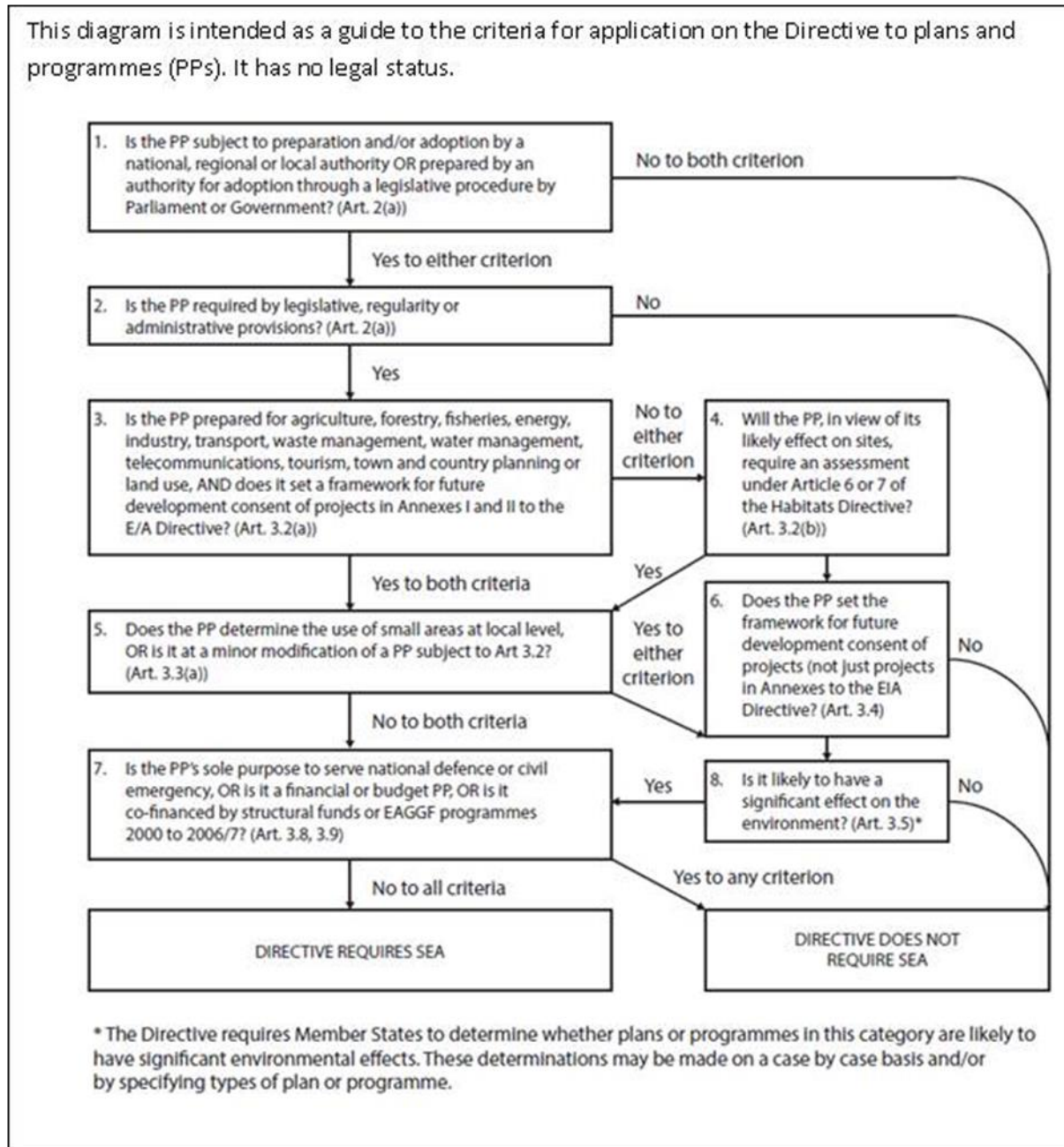


Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to Plans

Table 1: Assessment of the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review against Figure 1		
Criteria/Stage	Response: <u>Yes/ No/ Not applicable</u>	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 cast 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 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 Section 5 and 6 of this report.
5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of	Yes	Once made the Neighbourhood Plan will be part of the land use framework for the area and will help to determine

<p>small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a Plan subject to Article 3.2?</p>		<p>the use of areas of land at a local level. The Plan recognises and supports the designation of Important green spaces. It seeks to protect and enhance community facilities. It recognises its rural character highlighting the 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>
<p>6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<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>
<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?</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with these issues.</p>
<p>8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?</p>	<p>No</p>	<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. Sections 5 and 6 of this report assess any likely significant effects on European sites</p>
<p>Outcome</p>	<p>SEA not required. See Tables 2,3,4 and sections 4 and 7.</p>	

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 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 the emerging Central Lincolnshire Local Plan review 2023 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 review) 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. This review draft plan includes policy themes regarding the built and natural environment and, in particular, the provision of local green spaces, renewable energy and design codes for proposed allocated sites within the Neighbourhood Area.	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 Plan. Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.	No

<p>(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).</p>	<p>The Plan is not directly relevant to the implementation of any European legislation.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to-</p>		
<p>(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</p>	<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 local green spaces should create positive environmental outcomes. The Plan also provides a policy framework for local renewable energy and low carbon development.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;</p>	<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 and the review plan.</p> <p>The Plan policies provide for protection of the character and setting of Dunholme parish, including Dunholme Beck, Biodiversity, 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>	<p>No</p>

(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The proposals within the Plan are unlikely to have a significant impact beyond the Neighbourhood Area boundary.	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 Plan will enhance human health and the environment. Health and safety mitigation measures will be dealt with on a procedural basis by prospective applicants. Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.	No
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The potential for any environmental impacts are likely to be local, limited and minimal. The proposed housing site allocations will fall within Dunholme Parish Council boundaries. Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.	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	The Plan promotes the protection of the built and natural environment. One draft policy 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. 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. As such there are unlikely to be any intensive land-use concerns. Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.	No
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or	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. These	No

international protection status.	sites are towards the Lincolnshire Wolds, Coast and Humber Estuary. Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.	
Table 3: Detailed assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment by neighbourhood plan policy		
Plan policy with summary	Assessment- Likely significant effect?	
Policy 1: General Housing Development in Dunholme	Policy 1 aims to add more detail criteria on in-fill sites through the character assessment. Simultaneously, the policy ensures that rural and environmentally valued sites in the countryside are protected from development pressure. This policy supports delivery of CLLP policies S3 and S4.	
Policy 2: Allocation of Land at Honeyholes Lane	Policy 2 aims to add more detail to the allocation of site off Honeyholes Lane. This site is already allocated through the CLLP review Plan. This Policy provides a detailed development criteria which focuses heavily on the design and layout of the development. This site has already been tested for sustainability and environmental impact through the site selection process of the Local Plan.	
Policy 3: Allocation of Land to the South of Lincoln Road	Policy 3 provides a criteria-based Policy to help manage the delivery of a small-scale development site to the South of Lincoln Road. The development of this site will contribute positively towards the delivery of sustainable development and therefore policies S1, S2 and S4 of the Local Plan.	
Policy 4: Allocation of Land to the North of Lincoln Road	Policy 4 provides a criteria-based Policy to help manage the delivery of a small-scale development site to the North of Lincoln Road. The development of this site will contribute positively towards the delivery of sustainable development and therefore policies S1, S2 and S4 of the Local Plan.	
Policy 5: Allocation of Land to the West of Lincoln Road	Policy 5 provides a criteria-based Policy to help manage the delivery of a small-scale development site to the West of Lincoln Road. The development of this site will contribute positively towards the delivery of sustainable development and	

	therefore policies S1, S2 and S4 of the Local Plan.
Policy 6: Priority Site for Self-build Housing	Policy 6 provides a criteria-based Policy to help manage the delivery of a small-scale development site on Market Rasen Road. The development of this site will contribute positively towards the delivery of sustainable development and therefore policies S1, S2, S4 and NS24 of the Local Plan.
Policy 7: Dunholme Design Code	This policy provides a positive framework for the achievement of good design and placemaking. The Policy sets a locally specific design code for new development that is linked to the updated Dunholme Character Assessment. This contributes towards the delivery of CLLP policy S53.
Policy 8: Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change	This Policy seeks to complement both existing and emerging policies for reducing our impact on Climate Change. In particular the low carbon policies within the CLLP Plan S6, S7, S8, S9.
Policy 9: Business and Employment	Policy 9 seeks to encourage business development which is ideal for remote and small businesses that operate within the area. It conforms to CLLP policies S5, S33 and S34.
Policy 10: Important Open Spaces	At the heart of all future developments this policy supports strongly the sustainability requirements of NPPF as articulated in CLLP by protecting valued green spaces from development through Policies S64 and S65.
Policy 11: Green and Blue Infrastructure	Policy 11 seeks to protect and enhance Green infrastructure within the area. It is important that new development contributes to such provision where appropriate. This supports the delivery of CLLP Policy S59.
Policy 12: Dunholme Beck	Linked to Policy S59 in the CLLP, Policy 12 seeks to protect the local environment around Dunholme Beck where there is a rich variety in local wildlife.
Policy 13: Community Facilities	Policy 13 seeks to promote the development of new or improved community facilities where appropriate. This is in line with national policy and is

	to support the ongoing and future sustainability of the village.
Policy 14: Green Wedge	Linked to Policy S63 in the CLLP, Policy 14 seeks to protect the Green Wedge between Dunholme village and Welton village to maintain a physical separation between the two settlements.
Policy 15: Heritage Assets	Policy 15 seeks to preserve the non-designated heritage assets that have been identified through the Dunholme Character Assessment. This supports CLLP Policy S57.

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)

Environmental receptor	Assessment- Likely significant effect?
Air quality Plans should prevent development from contributing to, or being put at risk by, air pollution.	Policy 8 seeks to reduce the impact of development on air quality by supporting the use of electric vehicles and sustainable construction.
Biodiversity Plans should identify important biological features and work to protect and enhance these.	There appear to be no designated wildlife sites in the Plan area. The 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 some important green spaces through Policy 10. The Plan is also seeking to protect the wider landscape through policies 12, 14 and 15.
Landscape Development should seek to promote or reinforce local distinctive landscape features.	Policy 14 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.
Material Assets These refer to physical infrastructure including social infrastructure, transport infrastructure, water, and energy infrastructure.	The existing infrastructure in the Plan area and nearby appears to have the capacity to meet the likely demands as determined by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

<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>Policies 1-6 and the criteria in policies will ensure that development of these sites will be in keeping with local character features and be in easy reach of existing facilities.</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>Policy 13 seeks to protect existing community facilities in the village and would support new ones where suitable. It supports the designation of local green spaces and identifies footpaths and cycleways 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>Policy 1 seeks to minimise new development outside the existing developed footprint of the village and the proposed allocated sites. All development is therefore concentrated either on previously developed sites or on greenfield sites that will have the least impact to the countryside and to high-grade agricultural land.</p>
<p>Climate change Plans should try to reduce our contribution to, and better prepare for the effects of, climate change.</p>	<p>Policy 8 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.</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 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. Policies 2-6 make provision for surface water and water quality.</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 Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review. 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. 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 Dunholme 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; 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 Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review 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 Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review. 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 the post draft regulation 14 version of the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review. 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 certain consultation bodies when forming a view on whether a SEA and/or HRA are required and they are: the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.



Our ref: AN/2007/101718/SE-14/DS1-L01

Date: 08 March 2024

Dear [Redacted]

DUNHOLME NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING AND FINAL DRAFT PLAN

Thank you for consulting us on the above Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening report and final Draft Plan, dated 04 February 2024, for the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan.

We aim to reduce flood risk, while protecting and enhancing the water environment. Our comments on this matter are therefore made solely from these points of view.

Environment Agency position

We note that your consultation requests our comments on the submitted SEA screening report, that concludes that a SEA assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment are not required for the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan.

Having looked at the documentation and noting the conclusions in it, including that the Plan is in conformity with the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2023, from the point of view of the topics outlined above within the remit of the Environment Agency, we agree that neither a SEA nor an HRA are required.

Notwithstanding this, we have the following comments to make, on the final draft of the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan which accompanied the SEA screening report, for your consideration.

Final Draft Plan

We acknowledge the changes made to the Neighbourhood Plan following our previous consultation and we are pleased to see the amendments made. Following review of the final Draft Plan, we would like to make the following comments:

Flood risk

Ceres House, Searby Road, Lincoln, LN2 4DW
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
Email: LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than national rate calls to 01 or 02 numbers and count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way. This applies to calls from any type of line including mobile.

Cont/d..

Policy 8

We note the addition of point 1. b) in Policy 8, which states that for the development of existing buildings, including extension, alterations and/or retrofitting, development should demonstrate flood risk mitigation and mitigation is not demonstrated, development should not be located in Flood Zones 2 or 3.

It is our view that the wording of this policy could be more specific in order to provide clarity for applicants, by specifying mitigation measures, such as the raising of finished floor levels.

Policy 12

We would like to reiterate our previous advice, as outlined in our letter dated 03 January 2024, that development may require a Flood Risk Activity Permit from the Environment Agency for works to or within proximity to the Dunholme Beck, we recommend that this is referenced within the policy itself or supporting text.

Development/works taking place within 8 metres of Dunholme Beck may require a permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016. Please visit [Flood risk activities: environmental permits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits) for more information.

Related to this, we also advised we would likely discourage raised paths being created which could change how the water flows if it exceeds the river channel capacity. This should also be referred to in the Plan.

In our previous letter (in referring to page 48, now page 54) we also highlighted that the Environment Agency is not the only consultee on flood risk. Other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) are also consulted to respond to planning applications. Therefore, the Plan should also note other RMAs. These include the Lead Local Flood Authority – Lincolnshire County Council who lead on surface water, ground water and ordinary watercourses and the Internal Drainage Board, which is Witham Third in this area. This point does not seem to have been addressed. Please can this be included.

Foul drainage

In our previous letter we also referred to objective 9 of the Plan (Infrastructure Improvements) and noted it does seek to support and encourage improvements to infrastructure and services such as drainage capacity. With this in mind, we assumed Anglian Water are being consulted on this Neighbourhood Plan review and that any views they make will be taken into account before this matter progresses. We also added we would like the reviewed Plan to include the wording that there is no occupation of new development until Anglian Water can confirm capacity in both the sewer network and Water Recycling Centre, to be able to cope with the foul drainage from it. This point does not seem to have been addressed and therefore we wish to make it again.

Water efficiency

We previously provided comments on the topic of water efficiency in the Neighbourhood Plan and recommended that reference is made to more specific measures to maximise the opportunity for water efficiency in the area.

We note that reference to the water efficiency standard has not been included in the final draft, however, as Policy 8 (2) states ‘Development should be in accordance with relevant policies in the Local Plan.’, we are satisfied that development in the area will be encouraged to higher water efficiency standards, in line with the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2023.

Contaminated land

In our previous letter dated 3rd January, we also gave lots of background information about ground conditions and recommended that developers should:

- Follow the risk management framework provided in Land Contamination: Risk Management, when dealing with land affected by contamination
- Refer to our Guiding principles for land contamination for the type of information that we require in order to assess risks to controlled waters from the site - the local authority can advise on risk to other receptors, such as human health
- Consider using the National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination Management which involves the use of competent persons to ensure that land contamination risks are appropriately managed
- Refer to the contaminated land pages on gov.uk for more information.

Again, we would advise that some of this background information and related advice is included in appropriate places in the Plan text.

I hope the above comments are of assistance and should be grateful if they could be taken into account in progressing the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature block]



Historic England

Sir/Madam . .

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6887

Dunholme Parish Council

Our ref: PL00795172

22 February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam .

DUNHOLME NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- SEA/HRA SCREENING

Thank you for your consultation and the invitation to comment on the SEA Screening Document for the above 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 the ‘SEA’ Directive], Historic England concurs with your view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

Regarding HRA Historic England does not disagree with your conclusions but would defer to the opinions of the other statutory consultees.

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

I trust the above comments will be of help in taking forward the Neighbourhood Plan.



THE FOUNDRY 82 GRANVILLE STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 2LH

Telephone 0121 625 6888
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 organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.



Historic England

Yours sincerely,



THE FOUNDRY 82 GRANVILLE STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 2LH

Telephone 0121 625 6888
HistoricEngland.org.uk



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Date: 07 March 2024
Our ref: 466111
Your ref: Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan



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Dear [REDACTED]

Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening Opinion Consultation

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

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 (SEA)

It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely.

The proposed neighbourhood plan is unlikely to significantly affect any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection area (SPA), Ramsar wetland or sites in the process of becoming SACs or SPAs ('candidate SACs', 'possible SACs', 'potential SPAs') or a Ramsar wetland. The plan area is unlikely to have a significant effect on a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coast, and is unlikely to impact upon the purposes for which these areas are designated or defined.

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 is contained within the [Planning Practice Guidance](#). This identifies three triggers that may require the production of an SEA:

- 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.

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require an SEA. Further information is included in Natural England's [standing advice](#) on protected species.

Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant an SEA. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission [standing advice](#).

We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a SEA is necessary.

Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If a SEA is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.

Please send any new consultations, or further information on this consultation to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

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Determination Statement

Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review

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

To determine whether the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review (DNPR) 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 DNPR 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 and requirements under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

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

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

Based on the screening report and responses from statutory agencies, WLDC determined that a SEA and/or HRA assessment was not required for the DNPR.

