

Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan 2021 – 2036

Submission Draft (Regulation 16)

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Report



June

2022

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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 relevant Directives originating from EU membership requirements. These Directives require 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 designated site, protected under European regulations, 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 report explains the processes undertaken to determine whether the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA and/or HRA, and summarises the conclusions. As SEA has been found to be necessary and has been carried out, the full SEA report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.5 The assessment was undertaken on the Regulation 14 Consultation Draft Version of the Hemswell Cliff 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 Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan area and whose policies were the subject of separate SEA and HRAs. The purpose of this report is to explain only how the the policies of the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan have been assessed.

2 Overview of the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan

2.1 Whether the Hemswell Cliff 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.

2.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has 8 formal planning policies, which are:

Policy 1: Sustainable Development
Policy 2: Delivering Good Design
Policy 3: Housing Development
Policy 4: Village Centre
Policy 5: Historic Environment
Policy 6: Employment and Business Development
Policy 7: Community Facilities
Policy 8: Green Space and Biodiversity

In addition, there are several Community Aspirations (promoting health and well-being, providing a safe environment, protecting and enhancing our environment, and supporting infrastructure provision), but these have not formed part of the SEA screening.

2.3 Regarding flood risk, fluvial flood risk is limited to the stretch of the Atterby Beck stream in the north-eastern corner of the Plan area. However, localised surface water flood risk is more prevalent.

2.4 The Plan area contains four designated heritage assets:

- Hemswell Court, former RAF Officers' Mess building
- Spital Almshouse;
- The Barn at Spital Almshouse; and
- The Church of St Edmund.

None of the heritage assets are adversely affected by the Neighbourhood Plan's proposals, and Policy 5 seeks to protect them.

2.5 There are no internationally or nationally designated biodiversity sites or other significant biodiversity designations within or in close proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area.

2.6 Although there are relatively few designated historic or natural/biodiversity assets within or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area, Policy 3 allocates a relatively large area of land on the edge of the village for the development of a substantial number of houses, in addition to those allocated in the Central Lincolnshire Local 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. Screening of the draft Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan concluded that the scale of housing development being proposed would be likely to have significant effects on the environment and that SEA was, therefore, required.

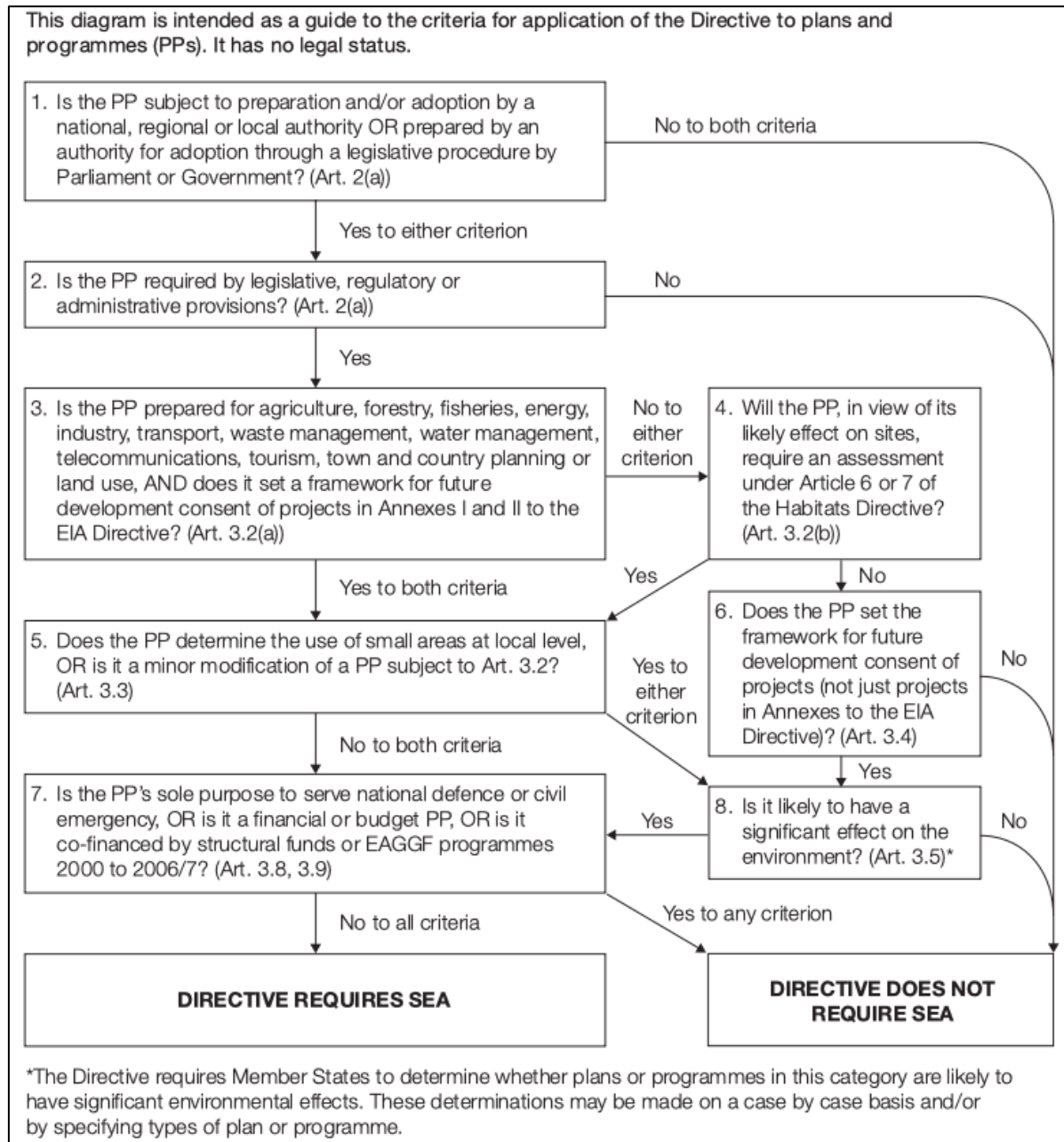


Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to Plans, extracted from A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, published by UK Government, 2005

4 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan

4.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Regulation 14 Draft Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken by AECOM, whose report was published in April 2021 and then made available for consideration during the consultation period. The conclusions and recommendations of the SEA are reproduced below and the full report is appended – Appendix 1.

Conclusions

4.2 The SEA considers the contributions of the HCNP in both mitigating potential negative effects, and enhancing positive opportunities associated with the significant growth that is occurring in Hemswell Cliff. The HCNP seeks to complement the Local Plan growth strategy with additional housing, and the creation of a new village centre; and is predicted to deliver both positive and negative effects overall in relation to the SEA objectives.

4.3 Significant and minor long-term positive effects are anticipated in relation to population and communities and health and wellbeing, respectively, through supporting sustainable growth of the community and healthy lifestyles. The HCNP seeks to deliver housing and a new village centre to meet local needs; and provides significant support for increasing levels of accessibility and self-containment. Further to this the HCNP supports the vitality and viability of the parish through the protection of valued green spaces, a net gain in community infrastructure (including health infrastructure) that meets resident needs, and support for sustainable local economic growth.

4.4 Minor long-term positive effects are also anticipated in relation to the historic environment SEA theme in light of proposed policy protections, identification of local assets, and design principles set out through the Hemswell Cliff Design Code.

4.5 Minor negative effects are predicted in relation to climate change and transportation as a result of the cumulative level of growth in the village which is likely to impact upon the strategic road network. It is however recognised that the HCNP policies, supplemented by the Hemswell Cliff Design Code and Masterplanning work, seek to minimise these impacts; particularly in relation to emissions, and improve local accessibility to combat these effects.

4.6 Negative effects are also predicted in relation to the landscape SEA theme, given that growth at allocations proposed in the HCNP are likely to change the landscape, and to a relatively significant degree in the east of the existing settlement. Considering the Local Plan context, and likely changes to baseline in the absence of the HCNP, overall effects are considered to be minor. Furthermore, it is recognised that HCNP policy provisions are supplemented by the Hemswell Design Code and Masterplanning work, which seeks to ensure new development in the village does not affect the most sensitive areas of the landscape, nor rural setting of the village.

4.7 Significant and permanent negative effects are anticipated in relation to the land, soil, and water resources SEA theme as a result of the loss of high-quality ‘best and most versatile’ agricultural land. However, it is considered that this is reflective of a lack of brownfield land opportunities and the extent of high-quality agricultural land that surrounds the Plan area.

Cumulative effects

4.8 Cumulatively the HCNP seeks to complement the growth strategy of the CLLP with additional housing, and the creation of a new village centre. Identifying and planning for new business and residential development in conjunction with the CLLP will ensure that growth is delivered sustainably, and that opportunities for wider social, economic, and environmental improvements can be realised. Furthermore, as HCNP allocations are additional to the CLLP, the CLLP will be provided with greater levels of flexibility in meeting district needs, leading to positive cumulative effects in this respect.

4.9 Positive cumulative effects could also be anticipated through the support for green infrastructure and sustainable drainage development that holds multiple benefits in relation to the SEA themes of

biodiversity, climate change, landscape, land, soil and water resources, population and communities and health and wellbeing.

Recommendations

4.10 The following five recommendations have been made in relation to the current version of the HCNP:

1. To avoid any loss of habitat at Site H2, it is recommended that Policy 3 is updated to identify a requirement to deliver new woodland planting in this area of the site (or alternatively compensate losses with new habitat creation off-site).
2. No mention is made through the HCNP of archaeology, and whilst the NPPF and Local Plan policies are likely to ensure no significant negative effects arise, HCNP policies could identify a requirement for appropriate archaeological investigation prior to development. This would support the avoidance of negative effects and the delivery of mitigation proposals where necessary.
3. Consultation with Lincolnshire County Council is recommended in relation to the allocation sites given the proposed growth within a Limestone Minerals Safeguarding Area and PEDL Block.
4. As the HCNP proposes growth over and above the provisions outlined through the Local Plan it is recommended that Anglian Water is consulted on the draft Plan, to ensure the timely provision of the necessary infrastructure, and any potential phasing requirements in this respect.
5. Whilst the HCNP provides additional protections for existing areas of open space, it is recommended that the opportunities for large-scale growth at Site H2 to deliver new open space provisions is explored further to support increased accessibility in the east of the settlement.

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 considers whether 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 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 an HRA. There are no European sites within 15km of the Hemswell Cliff neighbourhood plan boundary.
- 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 Hemswell Cliff 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)).

Appendix 1: Full SEA Report

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan

Environmental Report

Hemswell Cliff Parish Council

April 2021

Quality information

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Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Name	Position
V1	14/07/20	Working draft for Steering Group review – received by Helen Reek	Cheryl Beattie	Senior Environmental Planner
V2	21/08/20	Full draft – work in progress – for Steering Group review, received by Helen Reek	Cheryl Beattie	Senior Environmental Planner
V3	07/04/21	Revised draft	Rosie Cox	Environmental Planner

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Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

AECOM is commissioned to lead on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan (HCNP).

SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives, with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative effects and maximising positive effects. SEA of the HCNP is a legal requirement.¹

The HCNP is being prepared by the Parish Council in the context of the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) and its emerging review.

Once 'made' the HCNP will have material weight when deciding on planning applications in the Plan area, alongside the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) Development Framework.

The SEA Environmental Report, including this NTS, is published alongside the 'pre-submission' version of the plan, under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012, as amended).

Structure of the Environmental Report/ this NTS

SEA reporting essentially involves answering the following questions in turn:

1) What has plan-making / SEA involved **up to this point?**

- including in relation to 'reasonable alternatives'.

2) What are the SEA findings **at this stage?**

- i.e. in relation to the draft plan.

3) What happens **next?**

Each of these questions is answered in turn within a discrete 'part' of the Environmental Report and summarised within this NTS. However, firstly there is a need to set the scene further by answering the questions 'What is the Plan seeking to achieve?' and 'What's the scope of the SEA?'

What is the Plan seeking to achieve?

The HCNP has a clear vision that: *"Hemswell Cliff will include all members of the Parish as a united community, without the divisions that currently exist. Community engagement will be encouraged, utilising existing and future facilities. Sensible development on appropriate sites will support the expanding economy, encourage enterprise, create new jobs and enable provision of community services such as a facility for a GP/health centre. Better connectivity will enable those residents without cars to access regular and reliable public transport, to increase peoples' opportunities and decrease isolation. The village will be a safe and resilient place to live in, presenting adaptive solutions in the face of climate change and related events."*

To achieve this vision, the following 11 plan objectives have been established:

1. To create cohesion within the village to bring people together.
2. To develop regular social events that include everyone who wants to take part.
3. To maintain current facilities and create new areas in the village for community use.

¹ Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012, as amended) requires that each Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to the Local Authority alongside either: A) an environmental report; or, B) a statement of reasons why SEA is not required, prepared following a 'screening' process completed in accordance with Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations ('the SEA Regulations'). The RNP was subject to formal screening in 2020.

4. To set up and establish community interest groups for improving the village, e.g. gardening group, crafts, dance, art, etc.
5. To provide for housing development that delivers additional facilities (i.e. shops, community spaces), and incentivise the creation of services and facilities through a managed increase in the local population.
6. To prevent the closure of the village school by increasing enrolment.
7. To promote and provide for development - residential, retail and industrial – to encourage the creation of new employment opportunities and services for residents.
8. To improve public transport to facilitate access to and egress from the village at intervals throughout the day.
9. To prevent visitors to the car boot sale lot from parking in the village's residential streets.
10. To provide adequate parking spaces for residents and visitors at the houses and near the school.
11. Improve resiliency to flooding and climate change, ensuring the safety for people and properties.

What is the scope of the SEA?

The scope of the SEA is reflected in a list of themes, objectives, and assessment questions, which, taken together indicate the parameters of the SEA and provide a methodological 'framework' for assessment. A summary framework is presented below, and a full framework which includes assessment questions is provided within the main Environmental Report (see **Table 3.1**).

Table NTS.1 Summary SEA Framework

SEA theme	SEA objective
Biodiversity	Positively enhance local biodiversity and contribute to improved ecological connectivity.
Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)	Continue to decrease GHG emissions and increase the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the effects of climate change.
Landscape	Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes.
Historic environment	Protect, conserve, and enhance the historic environment within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan area
Land, soil and water resources	Ensure the efficient and effective use of land, protect soil quality and avoid the loss of high-quality agricultural land.
	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.
Population and communities	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.
	Reduce deprivation and promote an inclusive and self-contained community, maximising access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.
Health and wellbeing	Improve the health and wellbeing residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Transportation	Maximise opportunities to promote more sustainable modes of travel, including active travel opportunities, and minimise the impacts of development on both the local and strategic road network.

Plan-making/ SEA up to this point

An important element of the required SEA process involves assessing 'reasonable alternatives' in time to inform development of the draft proposals, and then publishing information on reasonable alternatives for consultation alongside the draft proposals. As such, Part 1 of the Environmental Report describes how the SEA process to date has informed the preferred development strategy for the HCNP and potential locations for development.

Specifically, Part 1 of the report –

- 1) explains the process of establishing the reasonable alternatives;
- 2) presents the outcomes of assessing the reasonable alternatives; and
- 3) explains reasons for establishing the preferred option, in light of the assessment.

Establishing the reasonable alternatives

The Environmental Report (**Chapter 5**) explains how reasonable alternatives were established subsequent to process of considering the strategic policy context ('top down' factors) and the site options in contention for allocation ('bottom-up' factors). This work identifies four site options in contention for allocation in the HCNP. These options are:

- Site 1 – 52-53 Canberra Crescent; with a capacity for 4 homes
- Site 3 – Land north of A631; with a capacity for 150 homes
- Site 4 – 8 Lancaster Green; with a capacity for 16 homes
- Site 6 – Land north of A631 and east of Minden Place; with a capacity for 150 homes

Assessing the reasonable alternatives

The summary findings for the assessment of the four options is presented below, with detailed findings presented in **Chapter 6** of the Environmental Report.

Table NTS.2: Summary findings for the assessment of alternative site options

SA theme	Site 1	Site 3	Site 4	Site 6
Biodiversity				
Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)				
Landscape				
Historic environment				
Land, soil and water resources				
Population and community				
Health and wellbeing				
Transportation				

Summary findings:

Overall, the small-scale brownfield development proposed at Site 1 is likely to be accommodated with minimal environmental impact. Whilst development at Site 4 is considered small-scale, it will result in the loss of greenfield and likely high-quality (best and most versatile) agricultural land.

Site 3 poses the greatest constraints in relation to environmental effects, particularly as a result of its disconnected nature with the main settlement area; though it is recognised that some of these constraints could be overcome if the site is delivered (and masterplanned) alongside development at Site 6. However, significant negative effects as a result of the permanent loss of high-quality (best and most versatile) agricultural land are anticipated if Sites 3 and 6 are progressed as allocations in the HCNP. At this stage, detailed land quality surveys at the sites can provide better insight into the extent and significance of these effects.

Site 6 is considered for its better connection with the main settlement area maximising accessibility in this respect and significant positive effects are anticipated for communities. However, if Sites 3 and 6 progress to allocation, it is strongly recommended that masterplanning of the sites is delivered to address the impacts of the main settlement area merging with the hamlet of Canberra Crescent, and at all sites particular consideration should be given the context of the sites as a edge of settlement locations with long-distance views.

Developing the preferred approach

The Parish Council have provided detailed reasons for the progression or rejection of options which are presented in **Chapter 7** of the main Environmental Report.

Assessment findings at this stage

Conclusions

Part 2 of the Environmental Report presents an assessment of the pre-submission version of the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan. Assessment findings are presented as a series of narratives under the 'SEA framework' topic headings. The following conclusions are reached:

The SEA considers the contributions of the HCNP in both mitigating potential negative effects, and enhancing positive opportunities associated with the significant growth that is occurring in Hemswell Cliff. The HCNP seeks to complement the Local Plan growth strategy with additional housing, and the creation of a new village centre; and is predicted to deliver both positive and negative effects overall in relation to the SEA objectives.

Significant and minor long-term positive effects are anticipated in relation to population and communities and health and wellbeing, respectively, through supporting sustainable growth of the community and healthy lifestyles. The HCNP seeks to deliver housing and a new village centre to meet local needs; and provides significant support for increasing levels of accessibility and self-containment. Further to this the HCNP supports the vitality and viability of the parish through the protection of valued green spaces, a net gain in community infrastructure (including health infrastructure) that meets resident needs, and support for sustainable local economic growth.

Minor long-term positive effects are also anticipated in relation to the historic environment SEA theme in light of proposed policy protections, identification of local assets, and design principles set out through the Hemswell Cliff Design Code.

Minor negative effects are predicted in relation to climate change and transportation as a result of the cumulative level of growth in the village which is likely to impact upon the strategic road network. It is however recognised that the HCNP policies, supplemented by the Hemswell Cliff Design Code and Masterplanning work, seek to minimise these impacts; particularly in relation to emissions, and improve local accessibility to combat these effects.

Negative effects are also predicted in relation to the landscape SEA theme, given that growth at allocations proposed in the HCNP are likely to change the landscape, and to a relatively significant degree in the east of the existing settlement. Considering the Local Plan context, and likely changes to baseline in the absence of the HCNP, overall effects are considered to be **minor**. Furthermore, it is recognised that HCNP policy provisions are supplemented by the Hemswell Design Code and Masterplanning work, which seeks to ensure new development in the village does not affect the most sensitive areas of the landscape, nor rural setting of the village.

Significant and permanent negative effects are anticipated in relation to the land, soil and water resources SEA theme as a result of the loss of high-quality 'best and most versatile' agricultural land. However; it is considered that this is reflective of a lack of brownfield land opportunities and the extent of high-quality agricultural land that surrounds the Plan area.

Cumulative effects

Cumulatively the HCNP seeks to complement the growth strategy of the CLLP with additional housing, and the creation of a new village centre. Identifying and planning for new business and residential development in conjunction with the CLLP will ensure that growth is delivered sustainably, and that opportunities for wider social, economic and environmental improvements can be realised. Furthermore, as HCNP allocations are additional to the CLLP, the CLLP will be provided with greater levels of flexibility in meeting district needs; leading to positive cumulative effects in this respect.

Positive cumulative effects could also be anticipated through the support for green infrastructure and sustainable drainage development that holds multiple benefits in relation to the SEA themes of

biodiversity, climate change, landscape, land, soil and water resources, population and communities and health and wellbeing.

Recommendations

The following **five recommendations** have been made in relation to the current version of the HCNP:

1. To avoid any loss of habitat at Site H2, it is recommended that Policy 3 is updated to identify a requirement to deliver new woodland planting in this area of the site (or alternatively compensate losses with new habitat creation off-site).
2. No mention is made through the HCNP of archaeology, and whilst the NPPF and Local Plan policies are likely to ensure no significant negative effects arise, HCNP policies could identify a requirement for appropriate archaeological investigation prior to development. This would support the avoidance of negative effects and the delivery of mitigation proposals where necessary.
3. Consultation with Lincolnshire County Council is recommended in relation to the allocation sites given the proposed growth within a Limestone Minerals Safeguarding Area and PEDL Block.
4. As the HCNP proposes growth over and above the provisions outlined through the Local Plan it is recommended that Anglian Water is consulted on the draft Plan, to ensure the timely provision of the necessary infrastructure, and any potential phasing requirements in this respect.
5. Whilst the HCNP provides additional protections for existing areas of open space, it is recommended that the opportunities for large-scale growth at Site H2 to deliver new open space provisions is explored further to support increased accessibility in the east of the settlement.

Next steps

Part 3 of the report explains the next steps that will be taken as part of plan-making and SEA.

Plan finalisation

Following consultation on the 'pre-submission' version of the plan and accompanying SEA Environmental Report, the Steering Group will finalise the plan, taking into account consultation responses and assessment findings, and then submit a final draft 'submission' version of the Plan to West Lindsey District Council.

Following submission, the plan and supporting evidence will be published for further consultation, and then subjected to Independent Examination. At Independent Examination, the Neighbourhood Plan will be considered in terms of whether it meets the Basic Conditions for Neighbourhood Plans and is in general conformity with the Local Plan.

If the examination leads to a favourable outcome, the HCNP will then be subject to a referendum, organised by West Lindsey District Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the Neighbourhood Plan, then it will be 'made'. Once 'made', the HCNP will become part of the Development Plan for West Lindsey District/ Central Lincolnshire, covering the defined Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Monitoring

The SEA regulations require 'measures envisaged concerning monitoring' to be outlined in this report. This refers to the monitoring of likely significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan to identify any unforeseen effects early and take remedial action as appropriate.

It is anticipated that monitoring of effects of the Neighbourhood Plan will be undertaken by West Lindsey District Council as part of the process of preparing its Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 AECOM is commissioned to lead on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan (HCNP).
- 1.2 The Plan is being prepared by Hemswell Cliff Parish Council, in the context of the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) and its emerging review. Once 'made' the HCNP will have material weight when deciding on planning applications, alongside the Local Plan.
- 1.3 SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives, with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative effects and maximising positive effects. SEA of the HCNP is a legal requirement.²

SEA explained

- 1.4 It is a requirement that SEA is undertaken in-line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which transposed into national law EU Directive 2001/42/EC on SEA.
- 1.5 In-line with the Regulations, a report (known as the Environmental Report) must be published for consultation alongside the draft plan that "identifies, describes and evaluates" the likely significant effects of implementing "the plan, and reasonable alternatives".³ The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.
- 1.6 More specifically, the Report must answer the following three questions:
 - 1) What has plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?
 - including in relation to 'reasonable alternatives'.
 - 2) What are the SEA findings at this stage?
 - i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
 - 3) What happens next?

This Environmental Report

- 1.7 This report is the Environmental Report for the Draft Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan. It is published alongside the 'pre-submission' version of the plan, under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012, as amended).
- 1.8 This report essentially answers questions 1, 2 and 3 in turn, to provide the required information.⁴ Each question is answered within a discrete 'part' of the report.
- 1.9 However, before answering Q1, two initial questions are answered to further set the scene; what is the plan seeking to achieve? And what is the scope of the SEA?

² Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012, as amended) requires that each Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to the Local Authority alongside either: A) an environmental report; or, B) a statement of reasons why SEA is not required, prepared following a 'screening' process completed in accordance with Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations ('the SEA Regulations'). The Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan was subject to screening in January 2020, at which time it was determined that SEA is required.

³ Regulation 12(2) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

⁴ See **Appendix I** for further explanation of the regulatory basis for answering certain questions within the Environmental Report, and a 'checklist' explaining more precisely the regulatory basis for presenting certain information.

2. What is the plan seeking to achieve?

Introduction

- 2.1 This section considers the context provided by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) before setting out the established Neighbourhood Plan vision and objectives. **Figure 2.1** (at the end of this chapter) identifies the area covered by the HCNP.

Relationship with the CLLP

- 2.2 The HCNP is being prepared in the context of the CLLP, adopted in 2017, and its emerging review.
- 2.3 The adopted CLLP covers the District of West Lindsey (in which the Neighbourhood Plan area lies) as well as the City of Lincoln and North Kesteven District. It sets out a strategic framework for how future development across Central Lincolnshire will be planned and delivered between 2012 and 2036. The Plan facilitates the delivery of 36,960 new homes by 2036.
- 2.4 Neighbourhood Plans will form part of the development plan for Central Lincolnshire, alongside, but not as a replacement for the Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in Central Lincolnshire, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.
- 2.5 The CLLP identifies Hemswell Cliff as a ‘Medium Village’ under Policy LP2 (The Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy) which will “*accommodate a limited amount of development in order to support their function and/ or sustainability*”, this is “*unless otherwise promoted via a neighbourhood plan or through the demonstration of clear local community support*”. The CLLP allocates sites for development in only two of the 37 Medium Villages, one of which is Hemswell Cliff.
- 2.6 Policy LP2 further identifies that within Medium Villages, typically “*development proposals will be on sites of up to 9 dwellings or 0.25 hectares for employment uses*”, although in exceptional circumstances and where justified by local circumstances, larger scale sites of up to 25 dwellings or 0.5 hectares of employment land may come forward.
- 2.7 Policy LP4 establishes the total level of % growth for each Medium Village, and whilst a blanket increase of 10-15% applies to most of these areas, the CLLP identifies that due to the adjacent Hemswell Cliff Business Park area (identified as a national Food Enterprise Zone) a higher level of growth can be achieved in Hemswell Cliff. CLLP therefore allocates under Policy LP53 (Residential Allocations – Medium Villages) ‘Land at Hemswell Cliff’ (CL4673) for 180 dwellings.
- 2.8 The 2020 ‘Monitoring of Growth in Villages’ Note⁵ identifies two planning application approvals in Hemswell Cliff which have yet to be delivered; the ‘Land at Hemswell Cliff’ for 180 dwellings, and ‘Land west of Lancaster Green, Hemswell Court’ for 38 dwellings. Whilst no further growth is required in Hemswell Cliff at this stage, the HCNP can explore options for further growth that is supported by the local community.
- 2.9 The Issues and Options Consultation for the CLLP Review, held in 2019, posed a series of questions to residents and stakeholders. This identified that a greater number of the respondents thought that housing sites in Medium Villages should be included in the Local Plan Review.

⁵ West Lindsey District Council (2020) Policy LP4 Growth Levels – Medium and Small Villages; Monitoring of Growth in Villages 28/02/20 [online] available at: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/planning-policy/housing-growth-in-medium-and-small-villages-policy-lp4/>

Vision and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.10 The vision of the HCNP, which was developed during earlier stages of plan development, is as follows:

“Hemswell Cliff will include all members of the Parish as a united community, without the divisions that currently exist. Community engagement will be encouraged, utilising existing and future facilities. Sensible development on appropriate sites will support the expanding economy, encourage enterprise, create new jobs and enable provision of community services such as a facility for a GP/health centre. Better connectivity will enable those residents without cars to access regular and reliable public transport, to increase peoples' opportunities and decrease isolation. The village will be a safe and resilient place to live in, presenting adaptive solutions in the face of climate change and related events.”

- 2.11 To achieve this vision, the following 11 plan objectives have been established:

6. To create cohesion within the village to bring people together.
7. To develop regular social events that include everyone who wants to take part.
8. To maintain current facilities and create new areas in the village for community use.
9. To set up and establish community interest groups for improving the village, e.g. gardening group, crafts, dance, art, etc.
10. To provide for housing development that delivers additional facilities (i.e. shops, community spaces), and incentivise the creation of services and facilities through a managed increase in the local population.
11. To prevent the closure of the village school by increasing enrolment.
12. To promote and provide for development - residential, retail and industrial – to encourage the creation of new employment opportunities and services for residents.
13. To improve public transport to facilitate access to and egress from the village at intervals throughout the day.
14. To prevent visitors to the car boot sale lot from parking in the village's residential streets.
15. To provide adequate parking spaces for residents and visitors at the houses and near the school.
16. Improve resiliency to flooding and climate change, ensuring the safety for people and properties.

3. What is the scope of the SEA?

Introduction

- 3.1 The aim here is to introduce the reader to the scope of the SEA, i.e. the sustainability issues/objectives that should be a focus of (and provide a methodological framework for) SEA. The purpose of scoping was to outline the ‘scope’ of the SEA through setting out:
- A context review of the key environmental and sustainability objectives of national, regional and local plans and strategies relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan;
 - Baseline data against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed;
 - The key sustainability issues for the Neighbourhood Plan; and
 - An ‘SEA Framework’ of objectives against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed.
- 3.2 Further information on the scope of the SEA is presented in **Appendix II**.

Consultation

- 3.3 The SEA Regulations require that “*when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies*”. In England, the consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.⁶ As such, these authorities were consulted in 2020. Full consultation details and responses can be found in **Appendix II**.

The SEA framework

- 3.4 The SEA scope is summarised in a list of topics, objectives, issues and questions, known as the SEA framework. **Table 3.1** presents a summary.

Table 3.1: SEA framework for the HCNP (as broadly agreed in 2020)

SEA theme	SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Biodiversity	Positively enhance local biodiversity and contribute to improved ecological connectivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance priority habitats and species, which exist as patches of deciduous woodland in the Plan area? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks which include ecological corridors and connections between habitats? • Improve ecological resilience and support the movement of species?
Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)	Continue to decrease GHG emissions and increase the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable development, including sustainable construction and operation of new housing and employment land? • Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy generation including solar panels, energy efficient buildings and recycled water and materials? • Locate development so as to minimise the need to travel, and maximise opportunities to travel by more sustainable modes of transport, in particular active travel opportunities? • Ensure that development avoids areas of highest flood risk? • Increase the resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change, including flood resilience measures such as Sustainable Drainage

⁶ These consultation bodies were selected “*by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, [they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes*” (SEA Directive, Article 6(3)).

		Systems and enhancements to ecological networks, green infrastructure and biological connectivity?
Landscape	Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance locally important landscape features within the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Support the retention and enhancement of existing landscape features at proposed development sites where possible? • Conserve and enhance local diversity and character, including the character and identity of the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Protect locally important viewpoints contributing to the sense of place and visual amenity of the Neighbourhood Plan area?
Historic environment	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting? • Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of locally important features and their settings? • Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest as listed on the Lincolnshire HER? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the environment? • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, including historic landscapes? • Support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies?
Land, soil and water resources	Ensure the efficient and effective use of land, protect soil quality and avoid the loss of high-quality agricultural land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of vacant & derelict brownfield land opportunities? • Minimise loss of areas of 'Best and Most Versatile' agricultural land? • Avoid the unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources in the Plan area? • Reduce/ avoid surface water run-off that may affect soil quality both during construction and operation?
	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support improvements to water quality? • Protect surface water and groundwater resources from pollution? • Ensure appropriate drainage and mitigation is delivered alongside development? • Minimise water consumption? • Maximise water efficiency and opportunities for water harvesting and/ or water recycling?
Population and community	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of a range of house types, tenures and sizes? • Support the delivery of affordable housing to meet locally identified needs. • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible/ adaptable homes that meet people's needs? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to local services, facilities and green infrastructure?
	Reduce deprivation and promote an inclusive and self-contained community,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and/ or improve the provision of community infrastructure, services and facilities?

	maximising access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support accessibility enhancements and opportunities to promote active travel networks within the Plan area? • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing residents?
Health and wellbeing	Improve the health and wellbeing residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, and community facilities, for all age groups? • Enhance community access to green infrastructure? • Protect and enhance access to nature via greenspace and footpaths? • Promote the use of healthier modes of travel, including active travel networks? • Improve access to the countryside for recreational use? • Maintain and improve the quality and extent of existing recreational assets, such as formal or informal footpaths?
Transportation	Maximise opportunities to promote more sustainable modes of travel, including active travel opportunities, and minimise the impacts of development on both the local and strategic road network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure sufficient road capacity to accommodate new development? • Enable sustainable transport/ active travel infrastructure enhancements? • Promote improved local connectivity and pedestrian movement? • Facilitate home and remote working? • Improve road safety? • Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?

Part 1: What has plan-making/ SEA involved up to this point?

4. Introduction (to Part 1)

- 4.1 The ‘narrative’ of plan-making/ SEA up to this point is told within this ‘part’ of the Environmental Report.
- 4.2 A key element of the SEA process is the appraisal of ‘reasonable alternatives’ for the HCNP. The SEA Regulations⁷ are not prescriptive as to what constitutes a reasonable alternative, stating only that the Environmental Report should present an appraisal of the “*plan and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan*”.
- 4.3 In accordance with the SEA Regulations the Environmental Report must include:
- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with; and
 - The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives/ an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of the alternatives appraised.
- 4.4 The following sections therefore describe how the SEA process to date has informed the preferred development strategy for the HCNP and potential locations for development. Specifically, this chapter explains how the Neighbourhood Plan’s development strategy has been shaped through considering alternative approaches for the location of housing in the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Structure of this part of the report

- 4.5 This part of the report is structured as follows:

Chapter 5 – explains the process of establishing reasonable alternatives

Chapter 6 – presents the outcomes of assessing reasonable alternatives

Chapter 7 – explains reasons for establishing the preferred option, in light of the assessment.

⁷ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

5. Establishing the reasonable alternatives

Introduction

- 5.1 Plan-making for the HCNP has been underway since 2017 when the Steering Group and Neighbourhood Plan Area was established. Consultation has involved informal and formal exercises. Consultation has sought to inform local people and to ensure that local businesses, organisations and residents had the opportunity to contribute to the making of the plan from the outset.
- 5.2 This section of the Environmental Report seeks to set out the key steps taken to inform the development of reasonable alternatives. The aim is to present “*an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with*”.⁸
- 5.3 Specifically, there is a need to 1) explain strategic issues/ objectives with a bearing on the establishment of options; 2) discuss work completed to examine site options (i.e. sites potentially in contention for allocation); and then 3) explain how the ‘top down’ and ‘bottom up’ understanding generated was married together to arrive at reasonable alternatives.

Housing numbers to deliver through the HCNP

- 5.4 As previously identified, the 2020 ‘Monitoring of Growth in Villages’ Note⁹ identifies two planning application approvals in Hemswell Cliff which have yet to be delivered; the ‘Land at Hemswell Cliff’ for 180 dwellings, and ‘Land west of Lancaster Green, Hemswell Court’ for 38 dwellings. The two sites are considered sufficient to meet the forecasted housing need for the Plan area, and there is no further requirement for the HCNP to identify and allocate additional sites for development.
- 5.5 CLLP Policy LP2 does however allow for additional growth where “*promoted via a neighbourhood plan or through the demonstration of clear local community support*”. Further to this, the Issues and Options Consultation for the CLLP Review posed a series of questions to residents and stakeholders which identified that a greater number of the respondents thought that housing sites in Medium Villages (which includes Hemswell Cliff) should be included in the Local Plan Review (over and above the two sites with planning permission).

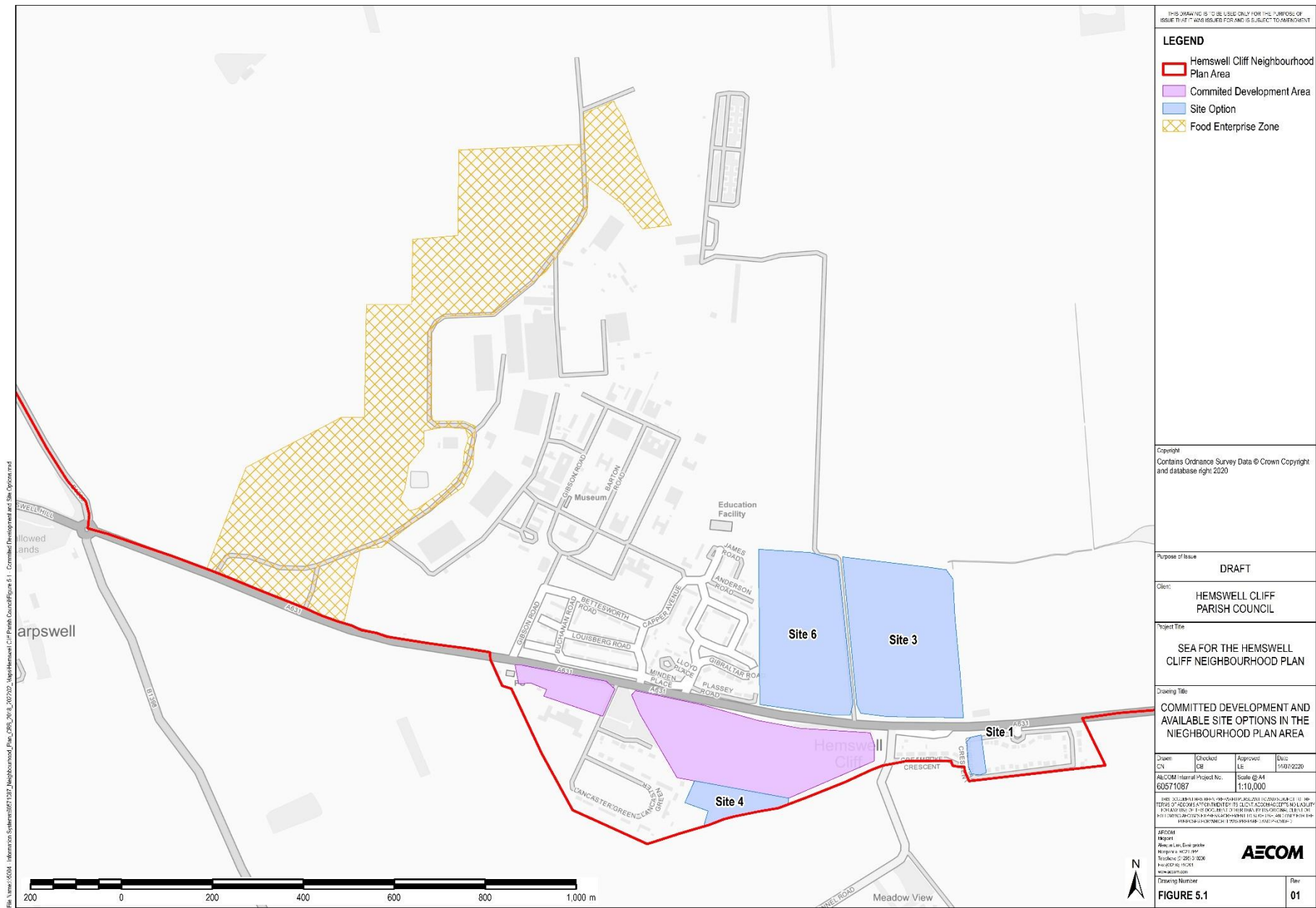
Reasonable alternative locations for additional growth

- 5.6 Growth is being considered in the context of the existing Local Plan strategic residential allocation site in the south of the village (for 180 homes), committed development west of Lancaster Green (38 homes), and a strategic employment allocation (Food Enterprise Zone) on the western edge of the village (see **Figure 5.1**).
- 5.7 A local Call for Sites consultation was undertaken by the Parish Council in May 2019, which alongside the Central Lincolnshire Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) informed the Council with regards to available sites in the HCNP area. This work identified the following seven sites which were each considered in an independent Sites Options Assessment (SOA) undertaken by AECOM:
 - Site 1: Canberra Crescent
 - Site 2: Parkacre

⁸ Schedule 2(8) of the SEA Regulations.

⁹ West Lindsey District Council (2020) Policy LP4 Growth Levels – Medium and Small Villages; Monitoring of Growth in Villages 28/02/20 [online] available at: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/planning-policy/housing-growth-in-medium-and-small-villages-policy-lp4/>

- Site 3: Land north of A631
 - Site 4: 8 Lancaster Green
 - Site 5: Land south of A631
 - Site 6: Land north of A631 and east of Minden Place
 - Site 7: Sergeant's Mess
- 5.8 Site 5 is the Local Plan allocation site 'Land at Hemswell Cliff' which has been granted planning permission for 180 homes and as such it was not deemed necessary to further assess this site in the SOA.
- 5.9 Of the six sites that were progressed through assessment, Site 7 (Sergeant's Mess) was found 'not suitable for allocation' as it is not available for development. On this basis, the site is not considered a realistic option and has not been progressed in any further assessment.
- 5.10 Of the remaining five sites; Site 6 (Land north of A631 and east of Minden Place) was identified as suitable for allocation, and Sites 1 (Canberra Crescent), 2 (Parkacre), 3 (Land north of A631) and 4 (8 Lancaster Green) were found to 'potentially suitable for allocation' subject to mitigation being provided to overcome site-specific constraints. These five sites are considered reasonable options for further growth in the village and are thus carried forward for further consideration.
- 5.11 Since the SOA, Site 2 (Parkacre); one of the sites found 'potentially suitable for allocation', has gained planning permission for extended employment uses on site. As development has been consented, the site is considered a commitment in relation to future growth in the village and thus not subject to further assessment.
- 5.12 On this basis, the following four sites remain in contention for allocation in the HCNP:
- Site 1 – 52-53 Canberra Crescent; with a capacity for 4 homes
 - Site 3 – Land north of A631; with a capacity for 150 homes
 - Site 4 – 8 Lancaster Green; with a capacity for 16 homes
 - Site 6 – Land north of A631 and east of Minden Place; with a capacity for 150 homes
- 5.13 The four sites (as listed above) are considered as reasonable alternative growth locations and are presented in **Figure 5.1** below (alongside the committed development in the NP area). These four sites are carried forward for assessment as part of the SEA process.



6. Assessing the reasonable alternatives

Introduction

- 6.1 This section, in accordance with the SEA Regulations, seeks to identify “*the likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives*”.
- 6.2 As identified in the previous chapter, four sites are identified as ‘reasonable alternatives’ and to support the consideration of the suitability of these sites for potential allocation in the HCNP, the SEA process has undertaken a separate appraisal of the key environmental constraints present at each of the sites and potential effects that may arise as a result of housing development at these locations. In this context, the sites have been considered in relation to the SEA framework of objectives and decision-aiding questions developed during SEA scoping (see **Table 3.1**).

Methodology

- 6.3 For each of the options, the assessment examines the likely significant effects on the baseline, drawing on the sustainability objectives identified through scoping (**Table 3.1**) as a methodological framework. The following key is provided in relation to predicted likely effects:

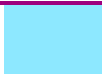
Significant negative effect		Significant positive effect	
Minor negative effect		Minor positive effect	
Neutral/ minimal effect		Uncertain effects	

- 6.4 Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high-level nature of the options under consideration. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline (now and in the future under a ‘no plan’ scenario). In light of this, there is a need to make considerable assumptions regarding how options will be implemented ‘on the ground’ and what the effect on particular receptors would be. Where there is a need to rely on assumptions in order to reach a conclusion on a ‘significant effect’ this is made explicit in the appraisal text.
- 6.5 Where it is not possible to predict likely significant effects on the basis of reasonable assumptions, efforts are made to comment on the relative merits of the alternatives in more general terms. This is helpful, as it enables a distinction to be made between the alternatives even where it is not possible to distinguish between them in terms of ‘significant effects’.
- 6.6 Finally, it is important to note that effects are predicted taking into account the criteria presented within Regulations.¹⁰ So, for example, account is taken of the duration, frequency and reversibility of effects.

SEA site assessment findings

- 6.7 **Tables 6.1 to 6.4** below present the assessment findings and provide an indication of each site’s sustainability performance in relation to the eight SEA themes.

Table 6.1: Site 1 – 52-53 Canberra Crescent (2-4 homes)

SEA theme	Commentary, Site 1	Likely effect
Biodiversity	The site does not contain and is not near any designated biodiversity sites or features. With limited existing constraints,	

¹⁰ Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

SEA theme	Commentary, Site 1	Likely effect
	negative effects as a result of development on-site are considered unlikely. Development which supports a biodiversity net-gain approach can deliver minor positive effects and it is recommended that HCNP policies seek to require net gain in proposals for the site. In the absence of such policy requirements at this stage, neutral effects are anticipated.	
Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)	<p>The site is considered of low risk in relation to both fluvial and surface water flooding and neutral effects are considered likely in relation to climate change adaptation.</p> <p>In terms of climate change mitigation, the small-scale development site is unlikely to lead to any significant effects. HCNP policy can support high-quality design and construction that enhances local resilience and efficiency to maximise the potential for positive effects. A requirement for biodiversity net gain and improved sustainable drainage could also enhance the potential for minor long-term positive effects by supporting ecological resilience and protecting water quality in the long-term.</p> <p>In the absence of policy mitigation at this stage, neutral effects are considered likely overall.</p>	
Landscape	As a brownfield and existing residential site, the redevelopment of the site is not considered likely to lead to any significant landscape impacts. Whilst development would result in slight intensification of the site, this is not to an extent that would conflict with the existing character of the hamlet or wider village. Development has good potential to integrate and achieve residual neutral effects.	
Historic environment	The site does not contain or lie adjacent to any designated or non-designated assets, and the small-scale development proposed at the site is not considered likely to affect any wider heritage settings. On this basis neutral effects are considered likely. Given the previously developed nature of the site, archaeological interests are unlikely, however appropriate investigation is still recommended prior to development.	
Land, soil and water resources	As a brownfield site development is likely to support long-term minor positive effects in relation to efficient land use. The site is not constrained in respect of existing watercourses; however, Hemswell Cliff overlies a Principal Aquifer and as part of a surface water Drinking Water Safeguard Zone development should consider the appropriate use of sustainable drainage systems to ensure negative effects in relation to water quality are avoided.	
Population and community	<p>The site forms part of the current hamlet at Canberra Crescent and additional homes are likely to support a growing village population; minor long-term positive effects are anticipated in this respect. Ensuring the right types of homes are provided at this location through HCNP policy could enhance the significance of these effects; though they are still considered likely to be minor overall in nature given the scale of development at the site. As a brownfield and existing residential site, development is highly likely to be successfully integrated and support cohesive communities.</p> <p>The site is not particularly well connected to the main settlement area, with reduced accessibility in this respect. However, it is well connected to the main route through the village (A631) and the higher-order settlements nearby. Accessibility could also improve with any new services and facilities provided in future development at the committed sites nearby. HCNP policy should seek to ensure development supports good pedestrian and cycle access to bolster</p>	

SEA theme	Commentary, Site 1	Likely effect
	<p>existing positive village trends of higher percentages of residents walking to work.</p> <p>Overall, minor long-term positive effects are considered likely.</p>	
Health and wellbeing	<p>Development has the potential to support reduced deprivation in relation to access to housing and minor long-term positive effects are anticipated for resident health in this respect. With no existing health facilities located in the settlement, it is recommended that future growth and development contributes to enhanced access to health facilities – however given the scale of growth proposed at this site the viability of securing contributions is reduced. It is thus recommended that HCNP policies outline health priorities for new development and expectations in relation to servicing the needs of a growing population.</p> <p>The site is disconnected from the main settlement area and open spaces here. Any new open space provisions in development at the nearby committed development sites is likely to support improved access at this location too.</p> <p>Overall, minor long-term positive effects are considered likely at this stage.</p>	
Transportation	<p>There is existing access to the site which connects well to the A631, and the small-scale development proposed is considered unlikely to lead to any significant effects in relation to road capacity.</p> <p>The site is not particularly well connected to the main settlement area, with reduced accessibility in this respect. However, it is well connected to the main route through the village (A631) and the higher-order settlements nearby. Development is likely to continue existing trends which favour the private vehicle as the choice mode of travel, though given the scale of development these effects are considered negligible.</p> <p>The development is unlikely to provide significant improvements in relation to this SEA theme, and negligible minor negative effects are considered likely overall.</p>	

Site summary:

Overall, the nature of small-scale brownfield development is considered likely to lead to neutral effects against many of the SEA objectives, and minor long-term positive effects against the SEA objectives of land, soil and water resources, population and community and health and wellbeing. However, with limited accessibility, minor negative effects are anticipated in relation to the SEA theme of transportation, but these effects (given the scale of development) are considered likely to be negligible.

Table 6.2: Site 3 – Land north of A631 (150 homes)

SEA theme	Commentary, Site 3	Likely effect
Biodiversity	<p>The site does not contain and is not near any designated biodiversity sites or features. The northern most extent of the site is identified as ground prepared for new woodland planting under the national forest inventory. Development can avoid negative effects associated with habitat fragmentation by retaining this habitat on site, but minor negative effects are still considered likely in the longer-term as a result of increased disturbance, noise, light and air pollution affecting future habitats.</p> <p>However, the potential to enhance this area (supporting new planting) in development and deliver positive effects is also recognised, and it is recommended that HCNP policy requires enhancement in this area to secure such positive effects.</p> <p>In the absence of such policy mitigation at this stage, minor long-term negative effects are anticipated.</p>	
Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)	<p>The site is considered of low fluvial flood risk; however, areas of medium and high surface water flood risk intersect the northern extent of the site. Development will need to provide mitigation in this respect, and sustainable drainage systems can reduce the significance of any potential negative effects. It is noted that the northern extent of the site is also new planted woodland – which if retained can support natural drainage solutions and climate resilience and protect water quality.</p> <p>In terms of climate change mitigation, HCNP policy can support high-quality design and construction that enhances local resilience and efficiency to maximise the potential for positive effects. The scale of development has the potential to support enhanced measures that could include renewable energy generation, and this should be encouraged through HCNP policies.</p> <p>In the absence of policy mitigation at this stage, the potential for minor long-term negative effects associated with surface water flood risk are recognised. Policy mitigation has good potential to ensure development avoids any negative effects arising and maximises the potential for positive effects.</p>	
Landscape	<p>As open agricultural land with a relatively flat topography, views into and from the site are far reaching. Contributing landscape features on-site include hedgerow boundaries and new woodland planting in the north of the site. Development at this scale on-site is likely to affect existing views and the character of the settlement.</p> <p>Considering the site in isolation, it is disconnected from the main village area, lying adjacent to the hamlet, where large-scale development will conflict with the existing character of this area/ hamlet setting. However, if considering development in combination with future development at committed sites and potentially Site 6 adjacent, it is likely that the hamlet will be subsumed as part of a wider village identity and character in the future growth of the village. On this basis, whilst the potential for significant negative effects are recognised, the significance of these effects is likely to be reduced in the future as a result of new development nearby. To further reduce the significance of these effects, master-planning of both development sites (Sites 3 and 6) is recommended which considers the merging of the main village area and hamlet and minimises landscape impacts.</p>	
Historic environment	<p>The site does not contain or lie adjacent to any designated or non-designated heritage assets. Whilst the scale of development proposed at the site has the potential to affect the wider setting of</p>	

SEA theme	Commentary, Site 3	Likely effect
	the designated Hemswell Court, the potential for negative effects is significantly reduced by the likely future development of the committed sites in between. On this basis, minor negative effects are considered most likely. Appropriate archaeological investigation prior to development on-site is also recommended.	
Land, soil and water resources	<p>The site is greenfield with a predicted high likelihood for high-quality best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 2). As such, development is considered likely to lead to significant and permanent negative effects in relation to efficient land use and soil resources.</p> <p>A watercourse and wastewater treatment works lie adjacent to the site in the north. Hemswell Cliff overlies a Principal Aquifer and falls within a surface water Drinking Water Safeguard Zone. On this basis, development should consider the appropriate use of sustainable drainage systems to ensure negative effects in relation to water quality are avoided.</p>	
Population and community	<p>The additional 150 homes are likely to support a growing village population and minor long-term positive effects are anticipated in this respect. Ensuring the right types of homes are provided at this location through HCNP policy could enhance the significance of these effects.</p> <p>However, the site is a large greenfield site located opposite Canberra Crescent hamlet. Considered in isolation development at this scale may conflict with the existing identity and character of the hamlet and a reduced potential for successful integration is recognised in this respect. When considering future growth at the committed sites nearby, it is likely that the hamlet will merge with the larger settlement area in the near future anyway to some degree; reducing the significance of potential negative effects in this respect. Despite this, it is recognised that development at this site could be better integrated with existing and future development if delivered alongside Site 6 to fully bridge the gap between the two areas to create a more contiguous settlement edge.</p> <p>The site is not particularly well connected to the main settlement area, with reduced accessibility in this respect. However, there are opportunities (particularly if considered alongside Site 6) to improve access in the north of the site and connect with Hemswell Cliff primary school in the north-west. Development at this scale also has the potential to deliver additional services/ facilities in this area and enhance accessibility in this respect. HCNP policy should seek to ensure that development delivers such enhanced positive effects.</p> <p>Overall, whilst development has the potential to perform positively in relation to this SEA theme, these effects are largely dependent upon successful integration of the site and ensuring opportunities to maximise accessibility are delivered alongside development, and uncertainty is noted at this stage in this respect. It is noted that positive effects are more likely to be secured if this site is considered (and masterplanned) in combination with the adjacent site option (Site 6) and supported by HCNP policy directions.</p>	
Health and wellbeing	The site lies adjacent to a wastewater treatment works site, and mitigation may be required to avoid negative effects in relation to health and amenity. It is considered likely that this could be addressed at the development management stage, but mitigation such as a buffer area (for example retaining the existing new woodland planting area on site) could be secured through HCNP policy directions.	

SEA theme

Commentary, Site 3

Likely effect

	<p>Development has the potential to support reduced deprivation in relation to access to housing and minor long-term positive effects are anticipated for resident health in this respect. With no existing health facilities located in the settlement, it is recommended that future growth and development contributes to enhanced access to health facilities; and the scale of growth proposed at this site has good potential to provide such support. It is thus recommended that HCNP policies outline health priorities for new development and expectations in relation to servicing the needs of a growing population.</p> <p>The site is slightly removed from the main settlement area and the open spaces here; however, it is recognised that new east-west connections through Site 6 could support improved access to existing open spaces from this site; particularly connecting with the existing children's play space at Minden Place.</p> <p>Overall, the potential for minor long-term positive effects are largely dependent upon ensuring negative effects are avoided in relation to adjacent land uses, and on this basis, uncertain effects are identified at this stage. HCNP policy directions have the potential to secure positive effects in relation to this SEA theme.</p>	
Transportation	<p>The site is not particularly well connected to the main settlement area, with reduced accessibility in this respect. However, there is existing access to the site, and it is well connected to the main route through the village (A631) and the higher-order settlements nearby.</p> <p>The scale of proposed development has the potential for minor long-term negative effects in relation to traffic and road capacity. Whilst development is unlikely to lead to any significant transport infrastructure improvements, it can (particularly if coordinated with Site 6 adjacent) contribute to improved pedestrian and cycle connections between the hamlet/ future housing south of the site and Hemswell Cliff Primary School and the employment areas beyond. It is recommended that HCNP policy includes requirements for such improvements to maximise the potential for benefits in development.</p> <p>Overall, development is likely to continue existing trends which favour the private vehicle as the choice mode of travel, and minor long-term negative effects are anticipated in this respect.</p>	

Site summary:

Larger scale development is proposed at this greenfield site, and potential significant negative effects are identified in relation to landscape and settlement identity should the site be progressed in isolation. This is predominantly due to its disconnection from the main settlement area where impacts are most likely to directly affect the hamlet area of Canberra Crescent. However, it is noted that development at the committed sites is likely to mean that the hamlet merges with the main settlement area to some degree in the future anyway, potentially reducing the significance of these effects. It is also recognised that this site could be more successfully integrated if developed and masterplanned alongside Site 6 to create a more contiguous settlement edge and improved east-west connections.

Significant and permanent negative effects are considered likely in relation to the SEA theme of land, soil and water resources as a result of the loss of high-quality (best and most versatile) agricultural land.

The scale of development is also considered for negative effects in relation to the setting of the designated Hemswell Court; given the committed development occurring in between the site and Hemswell Court these effects are not considered likely to be significant.

Minor long-term negative effects are also anticipated in relation to the SEA themes of biodiversity, climate change, and transportation. Development will need to consider the constraints of new

SEA theme**Commentary, Site 3****Likely
effect**

woodland planting in the north of the site, surface water flood risk in the north of the site, the adjacent wastewater treatment works, and the anticipated additional traffic on road capacity.

The potential for development at this scale to contribute to improved access to services and facilities is also noted, and it is noted that given the lack of existing healthcare facilities in the settlement, new health facilities should be prioritised to support a growing population.

Table 6.3: Site 4 – 8 Lancaster Green (16 homes)

SEA theme	Commentary, Site 4	Likely effect
Biodiversity	<p>The site does not contain and does not lie adjacent to any designated biodiversity sites or features. Traditional orchard habitat exists around 200m to the south-west of the site; however, development is considered unlikely to affect the habitat.</p> <p>Development which supports a biodiversity net-gain approach (particularly if focused in the south-west of the site creating connections with the existing habitat) can deliver minor positive effects and it is recommended that HCNP policies seek to require net gain in proposals for the site.</p> <p>Overall, in the absence of policy mitigation supporting positive biodiversity enhancements, neutral effects are anticipated at this stage.</p>	
Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)	<p>The site is considered of low risk in relation to both fluvial and surface water flooding and neutral effects are considered likely in relation to climate change adaptation.</p> <p>In terms of climate change mitigation, the small-scale development site is unlikely to lead to any significant effects. HCNP policy can support high-quality design and construction that enhances local resilience and efficiency to maximise the potential for positive effects. A requirement for biodiversity net gain and improved sustainable drainage could also enhance the potential for minor long-term positive effects by supporting ecological resilience and protecting water quality in the long-term.</p> <p>In the absence of policy mitigation at this stage, neutral effects are considered likely overall.</p>	
Landscape	<p>The site is open arable land connected to existing development around Lancaster Green. Whilst the loss of greenfield land is recognised for potential long-term negative effects, when considering the existing committed development site adjacent in the north, it is likely that future development can integrate more wholly as part of a new settlement edge. Landscape impacts could be minimised in this respect, and the context of the site as a new settlement edge should be reflected in high-quality design that protects and enhances long-distance views.</p>	
Historic environment	<p>The site does not contain or lie adjacent to any designated or non-designated heritage assets. Whilst the site lies within proximity of the designated Hemswell Court, the existing development at Lancaster Green provides significant screening for additional homes in this area, and the land north is also likely to be developed in the near future as a committed development site. On this basis, minor negative effects are considered most likely. Appropriate archaeological investigation prior to development on-site is recommended.</p>	
Land, soil and water resources	<p>The site is greenfield with a predicted high likelihood for high-quality best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 2). As such, development is considered likely to lead to permanent negative effects in relation to efficient land use and soil resources. Given that this is a small site situated between existing and future housing, these effects are not considered likely to be significant.</p> <p>The site is not constrained in respect of existing watercourses; however, Hemswell Cliff overlies a Principal Aquifer and as part of a surface water Drinking Water Safeguard Zone development should consider the appropriate use of sustainable drainage systems to ensure negative effects in relation to water quality are avoided.</p>	

SEA theme	Commentary, Site 4	Likely effect
Population and community	<p>The site will extend development east at Lancaster Green and additional homes are likely to support a growing village population; minor long-term positive effects are anticipated in this respect. Ensuring the right types of homes are provided at this location through HCNP policy could enhance the significance of these effects; though they are still considered likely to be minor overall in nature given the scale of development at the site. Given likely future development at the adjacent committed development site, it is also considered likely that the site can integrate to form a contiguous settlement edge and support cohesive communities.</p> <p>The site is not particularly well connected to the main settlement area, with reduced accessibility in this respect. Accessibility could improve with any new services and facilities provided in future development at the allocation site adjacent. HCNP policy should seek to ensure development supports good pedestrian and cycle access to bolster existing positive village trends of higher percentages of residents walking to work.</p> <p>Overall, minor long-term positive effects are considered likely in relation to this SEA theme.</p>	
Health and wellbeing	<p>Development has the potential to support reduced deprivation in relation to access to housing and minor long-term positive effects are anticipated for resident health in this respect. With no existing health facilities located in the settlement, it is recommended that future growth and development contributes to enhanced access to health facilities – however given the scale of growth proposed at this site contributions are likely to be minor. It is thus recommended that HCNP policies outline health priorities for new development and expectations in relation to servicing the needs of a growing population.</p> <p>The site is well located to access existing informal open space at Lancaster Green; however, it is recognised that this is privately owned space and continuous access is not assured. Any new open space provisions in development at the adjacent committed development site is likely to support improved access at this location too.</p> <p>Overall, minor long-term positive effects are considered likely at this stage.</p>	
Transportation	<p>It is recognised that satisfactory access to the site may be dependent upon development schemes at the adjacent allocated site and uncertainty is currently noted in this respect.</p> <p>The small-scale development proposed is considered unlikely to lead to any significant effects in relation to road capacity.</p> <p>The site is not particularly well connected to the main settlement area, with reduced accessibility in this respect. However, it is relatively well connected (assuming satisfactory site access can be obtained) to the main route through the village (A631) and the higher-order settlements nearby. Development is likely to continue existing trends which favour the private vehicle as the choice mode of travel, though given the scale of development these effects are considered likely to be minor.</p> <p>The development is unlikely to provide significant improvements in relation to this SEA theme, and minor negative effects are considered likely overall.</p>	

Site summary:

Overall, no significant effects are considered likely as a result of the small-scale development proposed at this site. Minor long-term negative effects are anticipated in relation to the SEA themes

SEA theme	Commentary, Site 4	Likely effect
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of landscape, historic environment, land, soil and water resources and transportation. Whilst this predominantly relates to the inevitable consequences of loss of greenfield and high-quality agricultural land and the site's limited accessibility; the effects in relation to landscape and historic environment impacts can be reduced in significance through effective HCNP policy mitigation. Development at this site will need to consider its immediate context as a settlement edge location and protect and enhance long-distance views.

Minor long-term positive effects are anticipated in relation to the SEA themes of population and community and health and wellbeing as a result of new housing and access to open space, and it is recognised that accessibility in this location could improve with the future development and delivery of new provisions at the adjacent allocation site. It is also recognised that HCNP policy which seeks biodiversity net gain in development could lead to positive effects in relation to the SEA theme of biodiversity.

Table 6.4: Site 6 – Land north of A631 and east of Minden Place (150 homes)

SEA theme	Commentary, Site 6	Likely effect
Biodiversity	<p>The site does not contain and is not near any designated biodiversity sites or features. The site lies adjacent to Site 3 which is noted for ground prepared for woodland under the national forest inventory in the north of the site. Whilst features are not present on the site at this stage, future habitats could be affected through increased disturbance, noise, light and air pollution in this area, and minor long-term negative effects are anticipated in this respect.</p> <p>Development which supports a biodiversity net-gain approach (particularly that designed to support adjacent future habitats) can deliver minor positive effects and it is recommended that HCNP policies seek to require net gain in proposals for the site.</p>	
Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)	<p>The site is considered of low fluvial flood risk; however, areas of medium and high surface water flood risk intersect the northern extent of the site. Development will need to provide mitigation in this respect, and sustainable drainage systems can reduce the significance of any potential negative effects.</p> <p>In terms of climate change mitigation, HCNP policy can support high-quality design and construction that enhances local resilience and efficiency to maximise the potential for positive effects. The scale of development has the potential to support enhanced measures that could include renewable energy generation, and this should be encouraged through HCNP policies.</p> <p>In the absence of policy mitigation at this stage, the potential for minor long-term negative effects associated with surface water flood risk are recognised. Policy mitigation has good potential to ensure development avoids any negative effects arising and maximises the potential for positive effects.</p>	
Landscape	<p>As open agricultural land with a relatively flat topography, views into and from the site are far reaching, though it is recognised that views south of the site are likely to be affected in the future as a result of development at the nearby committed site. Contributing landscape features on-site are limited to tree/ hedgerow boundaries.</p> <p>Development at this scale is likely to affect the landscape character to some degree and will contribute to coalescence with Canberra Crescent Hamlet. As a result, minor long-term negative effects are anticipated in development of the site. Master-planning, adopting a landscape-led approach, particularly that coordinated with surrounding development sites, can support the minimisation of these effects.</p>	
Historic environment	<p>The site does not contain or lie adjacent to any designated or non-designated heritage assets. Whilst the scale of development proposed at the site has the potential to affect the wider setting of the designated Hemswell Court, the potential for negative effects of significance is reduced by the committed development in between. On this basis, minor long-term negative effects are considered most likely. Appropriate archaeological investigation prior to development on-site is recommended.</p>	
Land, soil and water resources	<p>The site is greenfield with a predicted high likelihood for high-quality best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 2). As such, development is considered likely to lead to significant and permanent long-term negative effects in relation to efficient land use and soil resources.</p> <p>The site is not constrained in respect of existing watercourses; however, Hemswell Cliff overlies a Principal Aquifer and as part of a surface water Drinking Water Safeguard Zone development should</p>	

SEA theme	Commentary, Site 6	Likely effect
	consider the appropriate use of sustainable drainage systems to ensure negative effects in relation to water quality are avoided.	
Population and community	<p>The additional 150 homes are likely to support a growing village population and long-term positive effects are anticipated in this respect. Ensuring the right types of homes are provided at this location through HCNP policy could enhance the significance of these effects.</p> <p>The site is a large greenfield site at the settlement edge. Whilst development would contribute to coalescence with Canberra Crescent hamlet, when considering future growth at the committed development site opposite, it is likely that the hamlet will merge with the larger settlement area in the near future anyway; reducing the potential for negative effects in this respect.</p> <p>The site is relatively well connected to the existing services and facilities in the main settlement area, including bus services and open space. There are opportunities to improve north-south connections through the site connecting with Hemswell Cliff primary school in the north-west. Development at this scale also has the potential to deliver additional services/ facilities in this area and enhance accessibility in this respect. HCNP policy should seek to ensure that development delivers such connections and enhancements.</p> <p>Overall, the additional 150 homes in an area of relatively good accessibility with good potential for success integration and the delivery of community benefits; significant long-term positive effects are considered likely in development at the site. It is recommended that HCNP policy/ master-planning capitalises on such opportunities to capture community benefits in development.</p>	
Health and wellbeing	<p>Development has the potential to support reduced deprivation in relation to access to housing and minor long-term positive effects are anticipated for resident health in this respect. With no existing health facilities located in the settlement, it is recommended that future growth and development contributes to enhanced access to health facilities; and the scale of growth proposed at this site has good potential to provide such support. It is thus recommended that HCNP policies outline health priorities for new development and expectations in relation to servicing the needs of a growing population.</p> <p>The site benefits from good access to existing recreational areas/ area of open space, including the Multi-Use Games area at Bettsworth Road and the children's play space at Minden Place; supporting healthy lifestyles in this respect.</p> <p>Overall, minor long-term positive effects are considered likely at this stage, and it is considered that HCNP policy directions have the potential to enhance the significance of these effects.</p>	
Transportation	<p>The site is relatively well connected to the main settlement area, with good accessibility in this respect. There is existing access to the site, and it is well connected to the main route through the village (A631) and the higher-order settlements nearby.</p> <p>The scale of proposed development has the potential for minor long-term negative effects in relation to traffic and road capacity. Whilst development is unlikely to lead to any significant transport infrastructure improvements, it can contribute to improved north-south pedestrian and cycle connections through the site, particularly connecting with Hemswell Cliff Primary School and the employment areas beyond. It is recommended that HCNP policy</p>	

SEA theme	Commentary, Site 6	Likely effect
	<p>includes requirements for such improvements to maximise the potential for benefits in development.</p> <p>Overall, development is likely to continue existing trends which favour the private vehicle as the choice mode of travel, and minor long-term negative effects are anticipated in this respect; however, despite this it is well located to maximise active travel opportunities and enhance existing active travel connections through the settlement.</p>	

Site summary:

Overall, the site is considered for potential significant positive effects in relation to population and community and minor positive effects in relation to health and wellbeing. This is predominantly as a result of new housing in a relatively accessible location on the edge of the main settlement area. The potential for development at this scale to contribute to improved access to services and facilities is also noted, and it is noted that given the lack of existing healthcare facilities in the settlement, new health facilities should be prioritised to support a growing population.

Significant and permanent negative effects are considered likely as a result of the loss of high-quality (best and most versatile) agricultural land. Minor long-term negative effects are also anticipated in relation to the SEA themes of biodiversity, climate change, landscape, historic environment, and transportation. Whilst some of these effects are considered inevitable consequences of the loss of greenfield land affecting the village setting, development will also need to consider the constraints of new woodland planting adjacent to the site in the north, surface water flood risk in the north of the site, and the anticipated additional traffic on road capacity.

Summary findings

6.8 **Table 6.5** below presents the summary findings of the SEA of alternative locations for housing development in the Plan area.

Table 6.5: Summary findings for the assessment of alternative site options

SA theme	Site 1	Site 3	Site 4	Site 6
Biodiversity				
Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)				
Landscape				
Historic environment				
Land, soil and water resources				
Population and community				
Health and wellbeing				
Transportation				

Summary findings:

Overall, the small-scale brownfield development proposed at Site 1 is likely to be accommodated with minimal environmental impact. Whilst development at Site 4 is considered small-scale, it will result in the loss of greenfield and likely high-quality (best and most versatile) agricultural land.

Site 3 poses the greatest constraints in relation to environmental effects, particularly as a result of its disconnected nature with the main settlement area; though it is recognised that some of these constraints could be overcome if the site is delivered (and masterplanned) alongside development at Site 6. However, significant negative effects as a result of the permanent loss of high-quality (best and most versatile) agricultural land are anticipated if Sites 3 and 6 are progressed as allocations in the HCNP. At this stage, detailed land quality surveys at the sites can provide better insight into the extent and significance of these effects.

Site 6 is considered for its better connection with the main settlement area maximising accessibility in this respect and significant positive effects are anticipated for communities. However, if Sites 3 and 6 progress to allocation, it is strongly recommended that masterplanning of the sites is delivered to address the impacts of the main settlement area merging with the hamlet of Canberra Crescent, and at all sites particular consideration should be given the context of the sites as a edge of settlement locations with long-distance views.

7. Developing the preferred approach

7.1 This section presents the Parish Council's reasons for developing the preferred approach in light of the alternatives assessment. The Parish Council have stated –

“In compliance with SEA objectives of biodiversity, climate change, economy and enterprise, health and well-being, historic environment and landscape, population, housing and community and transport Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group progression of all five proposed sites for the following reasons:

Population and community and health and well-being: *The residents of Hemswell Cliff strongly desire a community centre where they can meet communally indoors, take part in activities and classes, share a drink and some food, meet with professionals such as doctors and counsellors to help in times of need. With a population of about 700 residents, and with about 95% of these being families whose focus is work, home and family, to WLDC average of approximately 10% of residents being in this category, we fail to make proper provision for residents when we have no community centre. This will require a larger population in order to bring in enough funds to build such a centre. The local school is deemed as “Good” by OFSTED and yet is in danger of being closed due to low numbers so we see a large increase in dwellings as a means to grow the school enrolment. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation deems Hemswell Cliff to be one of the small areas in WLDC that is within the 41 to 60% level of deprivation and “is the 14th most deprived in West Lindsey (out of the 53 SOAs in the district).” In addition, Hemswell Cliff is “considerably more deprived in Health deprivation”¹¹ This gives all the more reason to provide a place for community support and services such as a once-a-week GP service and charitable counselling. A greater population with a balanced population of residents socio-economically, will afford more revenue for developing and maintaining a community centre and a larger mixed population brings with it the likelihood of a larger percent of stake-holder residents who will support and help maintain community life.*

Housing, biodiversity, historic environment and landscape: *We envision two large-scale developments, one on the north of the A631 (Sites H1& H2) and one south of the A631 (large piece of land already approved for residential development and so not regarded as a site for Neighbourhood Plan purposes but a definite part of the vision for development). These developments are to be designed with different types of housing to meet diverse socio-economic needs, to maintain the historic look of Hemswell Cliff with green spaces for public use and clusters of trees for health, well-being and biodiversity. By developing neighbourhoods on both sides of the A631, the village will have a balanced residential settlement, with neighbourhoods connected by landscaped pathways. As for the two small sites located in H3, these are currently two plots of land, each with a detached house and an extra large side garden, superfluous to the use of the owner residents. To build another detached house in the space where there is now a large garden on each site, fits in well with plans to have more detached houses with gardens in Hemswell Cliff and will not change the look or density of the neighbourhood in which the two plots of land are located. With the same view in mind, of increasing the number of detached houses in Hemswell Cliff, site H-4 will make a very good site for locating a number of detached or semi-detached houses with good-sized gardens and the development will not be able to go ahead until the residential development of the adjacent field (already approved for residential development) has begun or has been completed as access to site H-4 will be through this new residential area. We look to see a strong mix of types of houses and these two sites, though small, will give us more detached houses. (Plans submitted for the vacant field currently show terraced housing rather than the mix of housing we are planning for.)*

Economy and enterprise and climate change: *Business enterprise is slated to grow tremendously in Hemswell Cliff due to growing Food Enterprise Zone. It would be advantageous for the growing number of employees at Hemswell Cliff to be able to live and work within walking or cycling distance of home and work. This also helps to reduce the carbon footprint of employees driving distances to work five days per week. A larger resident base will*

¹¹Source: West Lindsey District Council Community Profile Hemswell Cliff Parish, March 2009

also be able to support the development and thriving of other small shops and businesses such as a hairdresser/barber, or charity shop (pertinent to the needs of many low-income families).

Transport: *The bus services to Hemswell Cliff are few and far between and are inadequate for the needs of people coming to or going out from Hemswell Cliff on a daily basis if going to work in a nearby town or city. We do have an adequate Call-Connect van service which works well for individuals needing to go somewhere when they can be flexible about times. With a much larger population would come a demand for an increased bus service and a rationale for its provision because there would be an increased number of people using and paying for the services, making the additional bus services affordable for the bus companies."*

Part 2: What are the SEA findings at this stage?

8. Introduction (to Part 2)

Introduction

- 8.1 The aim of this section is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the current 'pre-submission' version of the HCNP. This chapter presents:
- An appraisal of the current version of the HCNP under the eight SEA theme headings; and
 - The overall conclusions at this current stage and recommendations for the next stage of plan-making.

Appraisal method

- 8.2 The appraisal is structured under the eight SEA themes taken forward for the purposes of the SEA and that are linked to the SEA objectives, see **Table 3.1**.
- 8.3 For each theme 'significant effects' of the current version of the plan on the baseline are predicted and evaluated. Account is taken of the criteria presented within Schedule 1 of the Regulations. So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. Cumulative effects are also considered, i.e. the potential for the HCNP to impact an aspect of the baseline when implemented alongside other plans, programmes and projects. These effect 'characteristics' are described within the assessment as appropriate.
- 8.4 Every effort is made to identify/ evaluate effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high-level nature of the plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline and the nature of future planning applications. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure all assumptions are explained. In many instances it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.

HCNP policies

- 8.5 To support the implementation of the vision for the HCNP, discussed in Chapter 2, the current version of the plan puts forward eight policies to guide development in the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 8.6 The policies, which were developed following extensive community consultation and evidence gathering, are set out in **Table 8.1** below.

Table 8.1: HCNP ('pre-submission' version) policies

Policy reference	Policy name
Policy 1	Sustainable Development
Policy 2	Delivering Good Design
Policy 3	Housing Development
Policy 4	Village Centre
Policy 5	Historic Environment
Policy 6	Employment and Business Development
Policy 7	Community Facilities
Policy 8	Local Green Space

9. Appraisal of the ‘pre-submission’ version HCNP

Introduction

- 9.1 The assessment is presented below under the eight topic headings, reflecting the established assessment framework (see Section 3). A final section (Chapter 10) then presents overall conclusions.

Biodiversity

- 9.2 The Plan area is not constrained by designated biodiversity sites, although Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats exist in a few areas. Policy 3 allocates four sites for housing development, and the Sergeants Mess building is also identified under Policy 4 for a mix of community uses; however, development at any of these locations will avoid any loss of Priority Habitat. Whilst Site H4 lies near to Traditional orchard habitat (south-west of the site), development is considered unlikely to affect the habitat at over 200m away.
- 9.3 The northern extent of Site H2 is identified as ground prepared for new woodland planting under the national forest inventory. Development can avoid negative effects associated with habitat fragmentation by retaining and enhancing this habitat on site in line with the Hemswell Cliff Design Code. Code LA2.3-b states that *“Tree species should help to reinforce the hierarchy and contribute to placemaking across Hemswell Cliff.”* Furthermore, Code LA2.3-c (Green Networks) states that *“Margins should be 2m deep and provide a strong ecological/ biodiversity corridor through the settlement”*.
- 9.4 While retaining and enhancing habitat on site may mitigate adverse effects to some extent, minor negative effects may still be considered likely in the longer-term as a result of increased disturbance, and potentially increased noise, light and air pollution affecting species. To avoid any loss of the prepared habitat, it is recommended that Policy 3 is updated to identify a requirement to deliver new woodland planting in this area of the site (or alternatively compensate losses with new habitat creation off-site).
- 9.5 With a relatively strong existing employment base in the Plan area, which is subject to significant growth with the proposed new ‘Food Enterprise Zone’, Policy 6 provides further support for biodiversity in economic development. Policy 6 seeks to ensure in economic development proposals that *“any potentially harmful impact(s) on the local environment and biodiversity must be eliminated or adequately mitigated.”* The Hemswell Cliff Design Code sets further requirements where screening is required for larger industrial uses. Where this is the case, screening *“should be between 10-20m and where necessary incorporate a bund to increase screening.”*
- 9.6 Overall, the development proposed through the HCNP is not considered likely to lead to any significant effects in relation to biodiversity. To avoid any minor negative effects arising it is **recommended** that the HCNP identifies and protects (or requires suitable compensation in the loss of) the proposed future habitat at Site H2. Recognition within the HCNP for support for biodiversity net gains in development, and where these could best be achieved, could also enhance the potential for minor long-term positive effects.

Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)

- 9.7 With regards to flood risk, there are limited constraints within the Plan area. The four sites allocated for housing development under Policy 3 are not located within an area of high fluvial flood risk; however, sites H1 and H2 intersect areas of medium and high surface water flood risk. Local Plan policy (LP14) is considered likely to ensure that Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) are delivered in development to avoid any negative effects arising; and clear links to such policy are made in the justification text of Policy 2 in the HCNP. The Hemswell Cliff Design Code further supplements policies in this respect, highlighting that introducing water,

creating ponds and sustainable drainage features can be a way of managing the water within the settlement. Code LA2.3-c states that *“Water attenuation and SUDS should be incorporated in the form of linear features along routes and within larger areas of open space.” “This can take the form of areas of permanent water, as well as wet/dry channels that change depending on the ground conditions. These should be designed to be shallow to allow pedestrian movement when not flooded.”*

- 9.8 The HCNP further seeks to address climate change mitigation goals in new development, with Policy 1 specifically identifying that *“development in Hemswell Cliff should be located, designed, constructed and operated so as to be consistent with the national target of bringing the United Kingdom’s greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.”* Within the policy an emphasis is made on development contributing to *“any necessary physical or social infrastructure or improvements to such infrastructure”*, as reiterated through Policy 3 which identifies *“development will be accompanied by delivery (or by appropriate contribution and commitment to delivery) of such physical and social infrastructure (including appropriate community facilities) as is necessary and appropriate to meet the requirements of the population it is expected to house.”*
- 9.9 Alongside Policy 2 which seeks good design, reflected in *“accessibility and connectivity”* having regard to the Hemswell Cliff Design Code, and Policy 4 which seeks to create a new Village Centre for Hemswell Cliff supported by new community service and facility provisions; improvements to local accessibility can be expected. Notably the Hemswell Cliff Design Code highlights that the new Local Centre needs to *“be an attractive destination that functions well and serves the community”*, and that will *“encourage life and activity.”* Design Code NE4.1a (Layout) states that *“Any proposals should respond to the existing street pattern and in particular the pedestrian network.”* When also considered alongside the significant growth anticipated in employment bases in the village, minor long-term positive effects can be anticipated in relation to improved levels of self-containment supporting long-term mitigation objectives.
- 9.10 In relation to the anticipated employment growth in the village, the HCNP provides additional policy support for growth which reduces its climate impacts. Policy 6 identifies economic *“developments that must not cause significant loss of amenity for residents of the village due to traffic, noise, odour, fumes, smoke, dust, lighting, vibration or other emissions or activities.”* The Hemswell Cliff Design Code provides further detail in this respect, highlighting that *“Proposals need to address not only the building and how this functions but also consider how the uses and role of the building might spill out to the surrounding spaces.”* Specifically, Code AD4 states that *“Lighting should amplify the uses and support activities within the intermediate spaces between the building blocks.”*
- 9.11 Despite this employment growth, it is anticipated that residents will continue to look to higher order settlements to access a wider range of goods and services, and Hemswell Cliff is relatively well connected in this respect. Gainsborough lies to the west, Market Rasen in the east and Lincoln in the south, all easily accessible via the A631 and A15. Increased congestion on the A631 is likely in future growth; however, as outlined above, the HCNP and supporting evidence seek to ensure impacts in this respect are minimised by requiring development to deliver any necessary infrastructure improvements.
- 9.12 Overall, no significant effects are anticipated in relation to climate change adaptation or mitigation. **Minor long-term negative effects** are anticipated as a result of the cumulative level of growth in the village which is likely to impact upon the strategic road network. It is however recognised that the HCNP policies, supplemented by the Hemswell Cliff Design Code and Masterplanning work, seek to minimise these impacts; particularly in relation to emissions, and improve local accessibility to combat these effects.

Landscape

- 9.13 The landscape of Hemswell Cliff and its surrounds is not designated, it is a predominantly rural landscape typified by tree lined and hedgerow borders. The settlement areas are clearly visible from the A631 and further afield, and it is noted that the ex-RAF base (now trading estate) is in a visually prominent position. Trees feature significantly within the existing commercial

- employment area (as defined under Policy 6), and within the residential areas south of the A631. The landscape of Hemswell Cliff is likely to change soon through Local Plan site allocations designating a large tract of land to the west of the settlement as a Food Enterprise Zone as well as land south of the A631 for delivery of 180 new homes. Permission has also recently been granted for the development of 38 homes west of Lancaster Green.
- 9.14 Through Policy 3 the HCNP proposes 4 additional housing growth sites in the south and east of the settlement. Site H4 forms a small greenfield extension to the large Local Plan allocation site for 180 homes, and Site H3 forms the redevelopment of existing plots at Canberra Crescent (again at a small scale). Given the changing landscape of Hemswell Cliff it is likely that these sites can be further absorbed in landscape capacity terms with minimal impact.
- 9.15 Sites H1 and H2 will form a significant residential expansion of around 300 new homes east of the existing homes which lie north of the A631 and will result in significant loss of greenfield land. Cumulatively the sites, alongside the Local Plan allocation site, will merge the currently distinctly separate residential areas in the settlement (as defined through the Hemswell Cliff Masterplan 2017). Whilst this has significant landscape implications it is recognised that this supports the HCNP vision for a united community *“without the divisions that currently exist”* to some extent and will contribute to a more cohesive urban form. This is reflected through the Hemswell Design Code (2021), which states that *“the approach to landscape, the treatment of spaces and routes through the settlement can help in bringing the different elements together as well as connecting it into its surroundings.”*
- 9.16 Under Policy 1 *“development outside the existing or planned built footprint of Hemswell Cliff village will only be supported if required for agricultural purposes, or to support an existing agricultural or non-agricultural use, or to make sustainable use of a previously developed site.”* The HCNP therefore, seeks to retain the overall rural character of the wider landscape, whilst facilitating development that contributes to a more cohesive village character and form.
- 9.17 In relation to the immediate character of the village, significant emphasis is placed on the design of development. Policy 3 seeks integrated development in line with the Design Code and phased to support a general expansion of the settlement. The Hemswell Cliff Design Code and Masterplanning work have been developed in conjunction with the local community, including direct participation in the production of a Neighbourhood Character Assessment. The evidence identifies key design elements and character features such as woodland and tree species, as directly supported through HCNP Policy 2, which contribute to the character of the village and its wider setting. Notably, Design Code LA2.3-b states that *“Tree species should help to reinforce the hierarchy and contribute to placemaking across Hemswell Cliff.”* HCNP Policy 5 provides further protection for the historic landscape, including *“the urban form (layout of buildings, roads, spaces and associated tree planting)”*, which is supported through the Hemswell Cliff Design Code. Code PL2.1-a states that *“Key buildings should be identified and incorporated within any new development proposals.”* Furthermore, *“Buildings should relate to streets and spaces. At the fringes of the settlement development should face outwards to the landscape and not present rear gardens to the landscape edge.”* This will take advantage of views and present an attractive edge to Hemswell Cliff.
- 9.18 Policy 5 also provides protection for *“The ‘Inclosure Acts’ landscape characteristics (wide, grassed verges enclosed by hedgerows) of the A631 road corridor.”* This again is supplemented through the Hemswell Cliff Design Code; Code LA2.3-c specifically states that *“Pedestrian routes should also form landscape/ecology corridors.”* The HCNP thus provides support for the retention of contributing landscape/ townscape features and minor long-term positive effects are anticipated in this respect.
- 9.19 Overall, the growth at allocations proposed in the HCNP are likely to change the landscape, and to a relatively significant degree in the east of the existing settlement. Whilst the potential for a significant negative effect is identified, the effects must be considered in the context of likely changes to baseline in the absence of the HCNP. The Local Plan allocation of the Food Enterprise Zone in the west of the settlement, and 180 additional homes south of the A631 will change the landscape setting.
- 9.20 The additional allocation sites are therefore also considered for their potential to contribute to a more cohesive urban form, minimising landscape impacts in this respect. Furthermore, it is

recognised that HCNP policy provisions are supplemented by the Hemswell Design Code and Masterplanning work, which seeks to ensure new development in the village does not affect the most sensitive areas of the landscape, nor rural setting of the village. This supports the overall Plan vision for a united community “*without the divisions that currently exist*”. On this basis, **minor long-term negative effects** are concluded overall.

Historic environment

- 9.21 Within the Plan area there are four Listed Buildings which form the designated assets. HCNP Policy 3 allocates four sites for housing development; none of which are considered likely to significantly affect the designated assets, although it is recognised that views from Listed Buildings at Spital in the Street may be altered to some degree.
- 9.22 Despite relatively few designated assets, the ex-RAF origins are valued locally, and this is demonstrated through HCNP Policy 5. Alongside the designated assets, the Policy recognises the contributions to the historic environment that non-designated assets make; particularly providing protection for “*buildings remaining from RAF Hemswell, developed between 1935 and 1945*”, “*the RAF Hemswell Memorial*” and the urban form “*that characterised the original RAF base*”. This is supplemented by the Hemswell Cliff Design Code which further recognises the need for new development to respond to local character, retaining and celebrating key buildings and features. Design Code PL2.1-a states that “*Key buildings should be identified and incorporated within any new development proposals.*”
- 9.23 No mention is made of archaeology, and whilst the NPPF and Local Plan policies are likely to ensure no significant negative effects arise, HCNP policies could identify a requirement for appropriate archaeological investigation prior to development to support the avoidance of negative effects and the delivery of mitigation proposals where necessary.
- 9.24 Overall, the identification of locally valued assets alongside the policy protections afforded through Policy 5 and the Hemswell Cliff Design Code is considered likely to lead to **minor long-term positive effects**. However, additional archaeological policy protections could be provided to ensure that development investigates and where appropriate, delivers mitigation strategies.

Land, soil and water resources

- 9.25 In relation to land and soil resources, the HCNP, through Policy 3, allocates four sites for housing development. Development at three of these sites (H1, H2 and H4) will result in the loss of greenfield land, which is considered highly likely to also be high-quality ‘best and most versatile’ agricultural land. On this basis, permanent negative effects are anticipated, which, given the cumulative scale of development, are considered of significance. The remaining site (H3) will redevelop existing homes at Canberra Crescent.
- 9.26 However, Policy 1 does provide support for the retention of countryside and predominant agricultural land uses outside of the existing and planned built footprint, which will minimise any further losses in this respect over the life of the plan.
- 9.27 The Plan area is recognised as lying wholly within a Limestone Minerals Safeguarding Area and Petroleum Exploration Development Licence (PEDL) Block, and consultation with Lincolnshire County Council should be sought in relation to the proposed allocation sites. A potential for minor long-term negative effects is highlighted at this stage, as a result of potential minerals sterilisation.
- 9.28 In relation to water resources, the Plan area is recognised as part of a wider catchment area which is under water stress with shortfalls predicted by 2045. Anglian Water through their Water Resource Management Plan (2019) have outlined measures that are being taken to address these constraints; which are considered likely to ensure that no significant effects are likely. However; as the HCNP proposes growth over and above the provisions outlined through the Local Plan it is **recommended** that Anglian Water is consulted on the draft Plan, to ensure the timely provision of the necessary infrastructure, and any potential phasing requirements in this respect.

- 9.29 Overall, **significant and permanent negative effects** are anticipated as a result of the loss of high-quality 'best and most versatile' agricultural land, however; it is considered that this is reflective of a lack of brownfield land opportunities and the extent of high-quality agricultural land that surrounds the Plan area. Further to this, consultation with Lincolnshire County Council is **recommended** in relation to the allocation sites given the proposed growth within a Limestone Minerals Safeguarding Area and PEDL Block. It is also **recommended** that the draft Plan is shared with Anglian Water to ensure the timely provision of any necessary infrastructure to accommodate the additional growth proposed through the HCNP.

Population and community

- 9.30 With Hemswell Cliff set to significantly grow its economic base through the allocation of the Food Enterprise Zone, housing growth alongside this can support high levels of employment accessibility and reduced deprivation in this respect. The allocation sites proposed through Policy 3 will support growth with around 320 new homes. Both Policy 1 and Policy 3 seek to ensure that development delivers the right mixture of house types and tenures, taking "*due account of the local community's housing needs*" and significant long-term positive effects are anticipated in this respect. However, it is recognised that there are limited existing service and facility provisions within the Plan area to support a growing population.
- 9.31 In response to this key issue, HCNP Policy 4 identifies a focused location for the creation of a Village Centre, where community uses such as shops, services, and food and drink establishments are encouraged to support the existing and growing population. The policy accepts additional uses considered compatible such as offices, a hotel, and homes but limits such uses to no more than 40% of the identified area. The Policy also identifies the former Sergeant's Mess building and associated land for a mix of community uses, including a community meeting space.
- 9.32 Policy 7 supplements Policy 4, supporting developments "*that enhance the range and quality of community facilities*" (including healthcare facilities, a library and recreation facilities) and providing protection for the existing community provisions. This is underpinned by the Hemswell Cliff Design Code which supports mix of uses at the site. Specifically, Code AD2 states that "*Opportunities should be taken to introduce a range of uses within the local centre that can complement one another and offer different activities throughout the day and into the evening*".
- 9.33 Further positive effects are anticipated through Policy 8, which seeks to ensure existing areas of open space are retained in future growth. Protection of local amenity is also considered through the Design Code and is a key feature of the proposed Masterplan; recognising the importance of the area's large expanses of green space and opportunities presented to make spaces more attractive.
- 9.34 It is considered that the policy provisions set out above, in addition to the Hemswell Cliff Design Code, will support the overall drive outlined through Policy 1 to allow residents to meet a large proportion of their daily needs within the Plan area and reduce the need to travel in this respect. This is likely to lead to reduced deprivation in the long-term and minor positive effects are anticipated.
- 9.35 Policy 3 seeks integrated development in line with the Design Code and phased to support a general expansion of the settlement. The proposed growth supports the Plan objective to integrate the existing residential areas and create more cohesive communities. Alongside the provisions of Policy 2 which, supported by the Design Code, guide the parameters for high-quality design (including criteria in relation to density, scale, form, massing, accessibility and materials used) as developed in conjunction with the local community; clear parameters are set for development that will be supported by the local community. Minor long-term positive effects are anticipated in this respect.
- 9.36 Policy 6 identifies different economic character areas and uses within each which will be supported. The policy provides additional support for residential amenity in the expansion of economic development in the village, requiring that development "*must not cause significant loss of amenity for residents of the village due to traffic, noise, odour, fumes, smoke, dust, lighting, vibration or other emissions or activities*".

- 9.37 Overall, the village is set to grow given the allocations of the Local Plan, and the HCNP seeks to complement the growth strategy with additional housing, and the creation of a new village centre. The Plan provides significant support for increasing levels of accessibility and self-containment, and **significant long-term positive effects** are anticipated for communities as a result.

Health and wellbeing

- 9.38 Whilst most residents in Hemswell Cliff consider themselves of good health, there are higher than average levels of those reporting bad and very bad health, and those who consider their day-to-day activities limited a lot when compared to the wider district area. In this context, the evidence highlights a need to support more vulnerable residents with high levels of accessibility, including to health services, community facilities and open spaces which support wellbeing, and reduce deprivation in this respect.
- 9.39 One of the key issues identified during scoping in relation to health and wellbeing is the lack of healthcare facilities within the Plan area, leading to residents relying on healthcare provisions in neighbouring settlements, and a requirement to travel to access services in this respect. The HCNP identifies enabling provision of a new GP/ health centre as part of its vision statement and proposes Policy 7 which provides direct support for the development of new healthcare facilities. Further to this, Policy 1 recognises that as part of sustainable development *“through local provision of commercial, public and community services of suitable types and scale, Hemswell Cliff’s residents should be enabled to meet a large proportion of their daily requirements within the Parish”*. The recognition and support for development of such facilities is considered likely to lead to minor long-term positive effects in respect of the SEA objectives. These effects could be enhanced through a proposed allocation site for such development.
- 9.40 Whilst there are limited Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the Plan area, Policy 2 recognises accessibility and connectivity as key components of delivering good design, which alongside the creation of a new village centre (as proposed through Policy 4) which is *“readily accessible to residents”* it is likely that efficient movement networks and increased accessibility can be achieved in further growth at the village. This is further supplemented through the Hemswell Cliff Design Code (2021) and Masterplanning which support the delivery of *“a new centre that is linked conveniently by safe and attractive streets and paths.”* Specifically, Code NE4.1-a states that *“Any proposals should respond to the existing street pattern and in particular the pedestrian network.”* Minor long-term positive effects for resident health and wellbeing are anticipated in this respect.
- 9.41 Policy 8 designates local green spaces in the Plan area, which should ensure that existing areas are retained in future growth. However, the growth proposed through Policy 3 includes relatively large-scale growth in the east of the settlement connecting with Canberra Crescent, and the opportunities to provide new open space provisions here supporting improved accessibility in the east of the settlement could be better recognised through the development criteria provided in the policy. While the Hemswell Cliff Design Code and Masterplanning demonstrates the importance of maintaining the function of existing green spaces and taking a landscape and design-led approach to growth; it is recommended that such provisions are specifically sought in new development at site H2.
- 9.42 Overall, the provisions of the HCNP to increase access to healthcare facilities and support a more self-contained and accessible settlement are considered likely to lead to **minor long-term positive effects** for resident health and wellbeing. Whilst the HCNP provides additional protections for existing areas of open space, it is **recommended** that the opportunities for large-scale growth at Site H2 to deliver new open space provisions is explored further to support increased accessibility in the east of the settlement.

Transportation

- 9.43 The baseline information identifies that in the absence of strategic transport interventions to improve sustainable transport access, housing and employment growth in the Plan area is likely to continue existing trends which favour the private vehicle as the mode of choice, and

Hemswell Cliff is noted for excellent strategic road network access in this respect. Alongside the allocations of the local plan for 180 new homes and the Food Enterprise Zone, and the additional permitted development of 38 homes at Lancaster Green, the HCNP proposes a further four allocation sites in Policy 3. The HCNP allocation sites will cumulatively deliver around another 320 new homes. The cumulative growth in Hemswell Cliff is considered likely to lead to increases in traffic on the strategic road network, and mitigation may be required to reduce the impact of growth in this respect.

- 9.44 In response to the key issue outlined above, the HCNP, through Policy 1, requires “*any necessary physical or social infrastructure or improvements to such infrastructure that may be required to make a particular development proposal acceptable in planning terms*”. This includes at the proposed allocation sites, with Policy 3 identifying that “*the development will be accompanied by delivery (or by appropriate contribution and commitment to delivery) of such physical and social infrastructure (including appropriate community facilities) as is necessary and appropriate to meet the requirements of the population it is expected to house.*” Further to this, Policy 2 recognises accessibility and connectivity as a key component of good design, reflecting the place-making principles of the Hemswell Cliff Design Code.
- 9.45 A key measure to combat the reliance on higher-order settlements and provisions in nearby settlements are the proposals of the HCNP to improve accessibility and self-sufficiency within the Plan area. In particular, Policy 4 seeks to create a new Village Centre improving service and facility provisions in the area and where development is expected to provide “*an attractive environment within which people may comfortably and safely move around and socialise, without being intimidated or endangered by motor vehicle movements.*” This is reflected through the Design Code and Masterplanning work carried out for the Neighbourhood Plan. Design Code NE4.1-a states that “*Any proposals should respond to the existing street pattern and in particular the pedestrian network*”, while Code NE4.1-c encourages “*a strong setting for the proposed building, creating a positive and open relationship with the surrounding open space.*”
- 9.46 Policy 1 recognises that as part of sustainable development “*through local provision of commercial, public and community services of suitable types and scale, Hemswell Cliff’s residents should be enabled to meet a large proportion of their daily requirements within the Parish*”. The provisions are considered likely to support improved accessibility in the Plan area and minor long-term positive effects are anticipated in this respect.
- 9.47 Alongside the measures outlined above, it is recognised that additional policy support for EV charging infrastructure could enhance the potential to reduce the impact of growth on the strategic road network.
- 9.48 Overall, the significant and cumulative growth proposed in Hemswell Cliff, as a result of both the HCNP and Local Plan allocations, is considered likely to lead to **minor long-term negative effects** on the strategic road network. The HCNP, Design Code, and Masterplanning does seek to reduce this impact through policy requirements for supporting infrastructure improvements, and significant measures to improve self-containment and accessibility; however, it is uncertain at this stage whether this will be enough to reduce the significance of the residual effect. It is also recognised that the HCNP can enhance policy mitigation through additional policy support for the development of EV charging infrastructure within the Plan area.

10. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

- 10.1 The SEA considers the contributions of the HCNP in both mitigating potential negative effects, and enhancing positive opportunities associated with the significant growth that is occurring in Hemswell Cliff. The HCNP seeks to complement the Local Plan growth strategy with additional housing, and the creation of a new village centre; and is predicted to deliver both positive and negative effects overall in relation to the SEA objectives.
- 10.2 **Significant and minor long-term positive effects** are anticipated in relation to population and communities and health and wellbeing, respectively, through supporting sustainable growth of the community and healthy lifestyles. The HCNP seeks to deliver housing and a new village centre to meet local needs; and provides significant support for increasing levels of accessibility and self-containment. Further to this the HCNP supports the vitality and viability of the parish through the protection of valued green spaces, a net gain in community infrastructure (including health infrastructure) that meets resident needs, and support for sustainable local economic growth.
- 10.3 **Minor long-term positive effects** are also anticipated in relation to the historic environment SEA theme in light of proposed policy protections, identification of local assets, and design principles set out through the Hemswell Cliff Design Code.
- 10.4 **Minor negative effects** are predicted in relation to climate change and transportation as a result of the cumulative level of growth in the village which is likely to impact upon the strategic road network. It is however recognised that the HCNP policies, supplemented by the Hemswell Cliff Design Code and Masterplanning work, seek to minimise these impacts; particularly in relation to emissions, and improve local accessibility to combat these effects.
- 10.5 **Negative effects** are also predicted in relation to the landscape SEA theme, given that growth at allocations proposed in the HCNP are likely to change the landscape, and to a relatively significant degree in the east of the existing settlement. Considering the Local Plan context, and likely changes to baseline in the absence of the HCNP, overall effects are considered to be **minor**. Furthermore, it is recognised that HCNP policy provisions are supplemented by the Hemswell Design Code and Masterplanning work, which seeks to ensure new development in the village does not affect the most sensitive areas of the landscape, nor rural setting of the village.
- 10.6 **Significant and permanent negative effects** are anticipated in relation to the land, soil, and water resources SEA theme as a result of the loss of high-quality 'best and most versatile' agricultural land. However, it is considered that this is reflective of a lack of brownfield land opportunities and the extent of high-quality agricultural land that surrounds the Plan area.

Cumulative effects

- 10.7 Cumulatively the HCNP seeks to complement the growth strategy of the CLLP with additional housing, and the creation of a new village centre. Identifying and planning for new business and residential development in conjunction with the CLLP will ensure that growth is delivered sustainably, and that opportunities for wider social, economic, and environmental improvements can be realised. Furthermore, as HCNP allocations are additional to the CLLP, the CLLP will be provided with greater levels of flexibility in meeting district needs, leading to positive cumulative effects in this respect.
- 10.8 Positive cumulative effects could also be anticipated through the support for green infrastructure and sustainable drainage development that holds multiple benefits in relation to the SEA themes of biodiversity, climate change, landscape, land, soil and water resources, population and communities and health and wellbeing.

Recommendations

10.9 The following **five recommendations** have been made in relation to the current version of the HCNP:

1. To avoid any loss of habitat at Site H2, it is recommended that Policy 3 is updated to identify a requirement to deliver new woodland planting in this area of the site (or alternatively compensate losses with new habitat creation off-site).
2. No mention is made through the HCNP of archaeology, and whilst the NPPF and Local Plan policies are likely to ensure no significant negative effects arise, HCNP policies could identify a requirement for appropriate archaeological investigation prior to development. This would support the avoidance of negative effects and the delivery of mitigation proposals where necessary.
3. Consultation with Lincolnshire County Council is recommended in relation to the allocation sites given the proposed growth within a Limestone Minerals Safeguarding Area and PEDL Block.
4. As the HCNP proposes growth over and above the provisions outlined through the Local Plan it is recommended that Anglian Water is consulted on the draft Plan, to ensure the timely provision of the necessary infrastructure, and any potential phasing requirements in this respect.
5. Whilst the HCNP provides additional protections for existing areas of open space, it is recommended that the opportunities for large-scale growth at Site H2 to deliver new open space provisions is explored further to support increased accessibility in the east of the settlement.

Part 3: What are the next steps?

11. Next steps (Part 3)

- 11.1 This part of the report explains the next steps that will be taken as part of plan-making and SEA.

Plan finalisation

- 11.2 Following consultation on the 'pre-submission' version of the plan and accompanying SEA Environmental Report, the Steering Group will finalise the plan, taking into account consultation responses and assessment findings, and then submit a final draft 'submission' version of the Plan to West Lindsey District Council.
- 11.3 Following submission, the plan and supporting evidence will be published for further consultation, and then subjected to Independent Examination. At Independent Examination, the Neighbourhood Plan will be considered in terms of whether it meets the Basic Conditions for Neighbourhood Plans and is in general conformity with the Local Plan.
- 11.4 If the examination leads to a favourable outcome, the HCNP will then be subject to a referendum, organised by West Lindsey District Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the Neighbourhood Plan, then it will be 'made'. Once 'made', the HCNP will become part of the Development Plan for West Lindsey District/ Central Lincolnshire, covering the defined Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Monitoring

- 11.5 The SEA regulations require 'measures envisaged concerning monitoring' to be outlined in this report. This refers to the monitoring of likely significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan to identify any unforeseen effects early and take remedial action as appropriate.
- 11.6 It is anticipated that monitoring of effects of the Neighbourhood Plan will be undertaken by West Lindsey District Council as part of the process of preparing its Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

Appendices

Appendix I: Regulatory requirements

As discussed in Chapter 1 above, Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) explains the information that must be contained in the Environmental Report; however, interpretation of Schedule 2 is not straightforward. **Table AI.1** links the structure of this report to an interpretation of Schedule 2 requirements, whilst **Table AI.2** explains this interpretation. **Table AI.3** identifies how and where within the Environmental Report the regulatory requirements have/ will be met.

Table AI.1: Questions answered by this Environmental Report, in-line with an interpretation of regulatory requirements

QUESTIONS ANSWERED			AS PER REGULATIONS... THE SEA REPORT MUST INCLUDE...
Introduction	What's the plan seeking to achieve?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes
	What's the SEA scope?	What's the sustainability 'context'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance
		What's the sustainability 'baseline'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance
		What are the key issues and objectives that should be a focus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key environmental problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a 'framework' for) assessment
Part 1	What has plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (and thus an explanation of the 'reasonableness' of the approach) The likely significant effects associated with alternatives Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of alternatives assessment / a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan
Part 2	What are the SEA findings at this current stage?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan
Part 3	What happens next?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A description of the monitoring measures envisaged

Table AI.2: Questions answered by this Environmental Report, in-line with regulatory requirements

Schedule 2	Interpretation of Schedule 2		
The report must include...	The report must include...		
(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	i.e. answer - What's the plan seeking to achieve?	
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan	Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance	i.e. answer - What's the 'context'?	i.e. answer - What's the scope of the SA?
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	The relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level		
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan	i.e. answer - What's the 'baseline'?	
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected		
(f) the likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;	Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance	i.e. answer - What are the key issues & objectives?	
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan;	Key environmental problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of appraisal		
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (i.e. an explanation of the 'reasonableness of the approach')	i.e. answer - What has Plan-making / SA involved up to this point? [Part 1 of the Report]	
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring.	The likely significant effects associated with alternatives, including on issues such as... ... and an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of the alternatives considered / a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan.		
	The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan	i.e. answer - What are the assessment findings at this current stage? [Part 2 of the Report]	
	The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan		
	A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring	i.e. answer - What happens next? [Part 3 of the Report]	

Table 0.3: ‘Checklist’ of how (throughout the SEA process) and where (within this report) regulatory requirements have been, are and will be met.

Regulatory requirement	Discussion of how requirement is met
Schedule 2 of the regulations lists the information to be provided within the SA Report	
1. An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Chapter 2 (‘What is the plan seeking to achieve’) presents this information.
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	These matters have been considered in detail through scoping work, which has involved dedicated consultation on a Scoping Report. The ‘SEA framework’ – the outcome of scoping – is presented within Chapter 3 (‘What is the scope of the SEA?’). More detailed messages, established through a context and baseline review are also presented in Appendix II of this Environmental Report.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	
4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	
5. The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	The SA framework is presented within Chapter 3 (‘What is the scope of the SEA’). Also, Appendix II presents key messages from the context review. With regards to explaining “ <i>how...considerations have been taken into account</i> ”, Chapter 7 explains the Steering Group’s ‘reasons for supporting the preferred approach’, i.e. explains how/ why the preferred approach is justified in light of alternatives appraisal.
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);	Chapter 6 presents alternatives appraisal findings (in relation to housing growth, which is a ‘stand-out’ plan policy area). Chapters 9 presents an appraisal of the draft plan. With regards to assessment methodology, Chapter 8 explains the role of the SEA framework/scope, and the need to consider the potential for various effect characteristics/ dimensions, e.g. timescale.
7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	The assessment highlights certain tensions between competing objectives, which might potentially be actioned by the Examiner, when finalising the plan. Also, specific recommendations are made in Chapter 10.
8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Chapters 4 and 5 deal with ‘Reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with’, in that there is an explanation of the reasons for focusing on particular issues and options. Also, Chapter 7 explains the Parish Council’s ‘reasons for selecting the preferred option’ (in-light of alternatives assessment).
9. Description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;	Chapter 11 presents measures envisaged concerning monitoring.
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	The NTS is provided at the beginning of this Environmental Report.
The SA Report must be published alongside the Draft Plan, in accordance with the following regulations	
authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express	At the current time, this Environmental Report is published alongside the ‘pre-submission’ version of

Regulatory requirement**Discussion of how requirement is met**

their opinion on the Draft Plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2)

the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan, with a view to informing Regulation 14 consultation.

The SA Report must be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.

The environmental report prepared pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of any transboundary consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to the legislative procedure.

Assessment findings presented within this Environmental Report, and consultation responses received, have been fed back to the Steering Group and have informed finalisation of the draft Plan.

Appendix II: Scoping information

Introduction

As discussed in Chapter 3 (What is the scope of the SEA?) the SEA scope is primarily reflected in a list of objectives ('the SEA framework'), which was established subsequent to a review of the sustainability 'context' / 'baseline', analysis of key issues, and consultation. The detailed scoping information was presented in a draft Scoping Report sent to statutory consultees in May 2020.

The aim of this appendix is to present a summary of the scoping information and ensure that the information required under Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations is provided. As part of the scoping process, the air quality theme was scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process given a lack of any significant air quality issues within or surrounding the Plan area.

Scoping consultation

The Draft Scoping Report (May 2020) was initially reviewed by West Lindsey District Council before being shared with the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England, as well as West Lindsey District Council again, for formal consultation over the period 13th May to 18th June 2020. The formal consultation responses received are presented in **Table AII.1** below. No response has been received to date from the Environment Agency.

Table AII.1: Scoping consultation responses

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed in the SEA
Historic England	
Clive Fletcher, Principal Advisor and Lead Specialist, Historic Places	
Thank you for your email. Historic England have no comments.	Noted, many thanks for taking the time to review and comment.
Natural England	
Sandra Close, Planning Adviser, East Midlands Area Team	
Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 13 May 2020 which was received by Natural England on 14 May 2020	Many thanks for taking the time to review and comment.
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.	
In our review of the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan: DRAFT Scoping Report' (May 2020) we are satisfied with the scope and content of the proposed SEA.	Many thanks, it is noted that Natural England are content with scope of the SEA.
Annex 1 provides information on the natural environment and issues and opportunities for your neighbourhood planning	Many thanks for highlighting the resources available for neighbourhood planning.
Natural England formed part of a partnership that has produced a planning toolkit aimed at supporting neighbourhood planning groups developing neighbourhood plans which shape development and land use change in their community. The guide includes: opportunities to enhance the environment and how this can be achieved in plan-making; important issues to consider, including legislative requirements; where to find out more; good practice	

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed in the SEA
<p>and real life examples and a checklist to use when developing a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The 'Neighbourhood Planning for the Environment' toolkit is available here: https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/Environment-toolkit-080219-1521.pdf</p>	
<p>West Lindsey District Council Nev Brown, Senior Neighbourhood Planning Policy Officer</p>	
<p>Thank you for consulting us.</p> <p>Regarding paragraph 11.2 I think the order of events was/will be slightly different to reported in the second sentence. I've suggested some rewording for you reconsider/rejig whatever. Hope you don't mind.</p> <p><i>Consultation on the Regulation 14 HCNP is expected to take place later this year. When completed feedback will be considered as part of the next stage in the SEA process involving appraising reasonable alternatives for the emerging HCNP. As part of this consultation HCNP's final SEA/HRA screening report will be available which recommended the need for the SEA report to be undertaken.</i></p>	<p>Many thanks for taking the time to review the Scoping Report again and respond to consultation.</p> <p>The next steps have been updated in this Environmental Report at this later stage of the SEA process.</p>
<p>We have no other comments to make. We are pleased to note that our previous comments made on the draft scoping report were addressed.</p>	<p>Many thanks, we appreciate your review and comments to improve the scope of the SEA.</p>

The scope of the SEA

The below section presents the context and baseline review under the eight SEA themes established in the Scoping Report (May 2020)

Biodiversity

Context review

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework¹² (NPPF) include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF to 'contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment' including by 'helping to improve biodiversity'.
- Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value [...], take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.
- Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with the statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); and minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
- To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
 - Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones

¹² MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

- that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
- Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.
- Take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, considering the long-term implications for biodiversity.
- The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment because of its potential impact on a habitats site is being planned or determined.

The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan¹³ (2018) sets out a strategy for managing and enhancing the natural environment, embedding 'net gain' principles as key to environmental considerations. These aims are supported by a range of policies which are focused on six key areas. In this context, Goal 3 'Thriving plants and wildlife' and the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Chapter 5 'Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans' directly relate to biodiversity and geodiversity.

The Biodiversity 2020 Strategy¹⁴ (2011) presents a strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services which builds on the Natural Environment White Paper¹⁵ and sets out the "strategic direction for biodiversity for the next decade". The strategy aims to halt biodiversity loss and improve ecological networks and ecosystems for all people.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan¹⁶ (BAP) identifies priority species and habitats requiring conservation action. Although the UK BAP has been superseded, BAP priority species and habitats have been used to draw up statutory lists of priority species and habitats in England.

The Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership; accredited in 2012 focuses on eight key areas. The delivery workstreams include the Geodiversity Strategy¹⁷, the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre¹⁸, Local Sites, and the Nature Strategy (Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan)¹⁹. The strategic workstreams involve working with people and organisations across four thematic areas; farming with nature, planning with nature, enjoying nature, and being well with nature.

The Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Study²⁰ forms part of the evidence base for the CLLP and identifies a series of strategic spatial areas across Central Lincolnshire in order to meet primarily environmental but also social and economic needs. Broad and specific priority areas for each habitat type are identified along with strategic or specific projects.

The CLLP presents the following policies relating to biodiversity:

- Policy LP14: Managing Water Resources and Flood Risk
- Policy LP18: Climate Change and Low Carbon Living
- Policy LP20: Green Infrastructure Network
- Policy LP21: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Policy LP22: Green Wedges
- Policy LP29: Protecting Lincoln's Setting and Character

¹³ HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

¹⁴ Defra (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>

¹⁵ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

¹⁶ JNCC (2007) UK BAP priority species [online] <http://archive.jncc.gov.uk/page-5717>

¹⁷ GLNP (2017) Geodiversity Strategy 2017 – 21 [online] available at: <https://glnp.org.uk/admin/resources/lgap-2016-final-6.pdf>

¹⁸ GLNP (2020) LERC [online] available at: <https://glnp.org.uk/partnership/lerc/>

¹⁹ GLNP (2015) Nature Strategy 2015 – 20 [online] available at: <https://glnp.org.uk/admin/resources/lincs-bap-2011-2020-review-2015final.pdf>

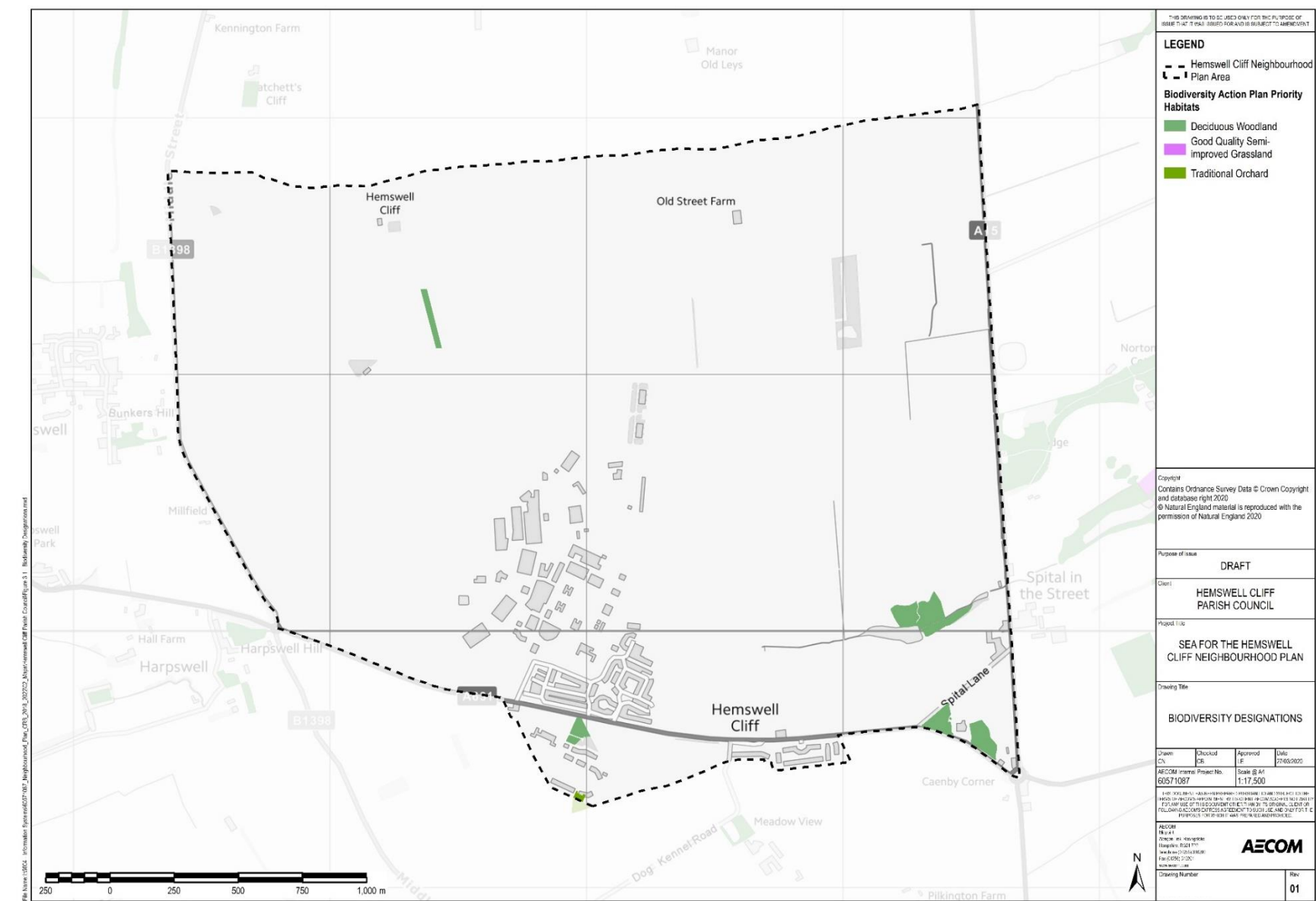
²⁰ GLNP (2013) Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Study for Central Lincolnshire [online] available at: <https://glnp.org.uk/lincolnshire-landscapes/central-lincolnshire-biodiversity-opportunity-mapping.php>

Baseline review

There are no internationally or nationally designated biodiversity sites within or immediately surrounding the HCNP area, though the northern and eastern extent of the Plan area does fall within the impact risk zones of both Cliff House Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the north, and Normanby Meadow SSSI in the east. However, housing development is not identified as a development category that would require further consultation with Natural England in these areas.

There are no known locally designated sites within the HCNP area, and the Plan area does not lie near to the Biodiversity Opportunity Area network. Small and fragmented patches of deciduous woodland Priority Habitat exist, as depicted in **Figure All.1**

Figure All.1: Biodiversity designations



Future baseline

Given the lack of notable habitats and species within the Plan area, future growth is unlikely to lead to any significant fragmentation or disturbance. Considering the national emphasis placed on biodiversity net gain in development, it is likely that any future growth in the Plan area could contribute to improved ecological features and connections.

Key issues and opportunities

The following key issues emerge from the context and baseline review:

- There are no significant biodiversity designations within or in close proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- There are some small and fragmented areas of deciduous woodland Priority Habitat present within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- There are opportunities for development to create new habitats and contribute to improved ecological connectivity in the Plan area. It will be important for the HCNP to maximise potential contributions and ensure appropriate access and management of new habitats on development sites. The HCNP can also maximise opportunities to support multiple benefits from biodiversity, such as climate resilience.

Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)

Context review

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework²¹ (NPPF) include:

- Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure.
- Inappropriate development in areas at high risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas of highest risk (whether existing or future).
- Strategic policies should be informed by a strategic flood risk assessment and should manage flood risk from all sources.
- Plans should take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, considering a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.
- Plans should reduce risk from coastal change by avoiding inappropriate development in vulnerable areas and not exacerbate the impacts of physical changes to the coast.

One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to 'contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment' including by 'mitigating and adapting to climate change' and 'moving to a low carbon economy.' 'The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.

The Flood and Water Management Act (2010)²² sets out measures to ensure that risk from all sources of flooding, not just rivers and seas, are managed more effectively. This includes: incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings; utilising the environment in order to

²¹ MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

²² Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

reduce flooding; identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere; roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

The UK Climate Change Act²³ was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement.

The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- Commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. This includes reducing emissions from the devolved administrations (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), which currently account for about 20% of the UK's emissions. The 100% target was based on advice from the CCC's 2019 report, '*Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming*' and introduced into law through the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019.
- The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2032.
- The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Act requires the Government to assess the risks and opportunities from climate change for the UK, and to prepare for them. The Committee on Climate Change's Adaptation Sub-Committee advises on these climate change risks and assesses progress towards tackling them. The associated National Adaptation Programme requires the Government to assess the risks to the UK from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage key organisations to do the same.

The Committee of Climate Change published a 2012 report entitled 'How Local Authorities Can Reduce Emissions and Manage Climate Change Risk'²⁴ which emphasises the crucial role councils have in helping the UK meet its carbon targets and preparing for the impacts of climate change. It outlines specific opportunities for reducing emissions and highlights good practice examples from local authorities.

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published on a 5-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It required the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then to develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report²⁵ containing six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years:

- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
- Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;
- Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry;
- Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
- Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and

²³ HM Government (2008): 'Climate Change Act 2008' [online] available at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

²⁴ CCC (2012) 'How local authorities can reduce emissions and manage climate risks' [online] available at:

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/how-local-authorities-can-reduce-emissions-and-manage-climate-risks/>

²⁵ DEFRA (2017) 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017' [online] available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017>

- New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals

The Clean Air Strategy²⁶ released in 2019 sets out the Government plans for dealing with all sources of air pollution. The strategy sets out proposals in detail and indicates how devolved administrations intend to make their share of emissions reductions, and complements the Industrial Strategy, Clean Growth Strategy and 25 Year Environment Plan.

The Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy²⁷ (2013) establishes nine objectives to manage flood risk through effective partnership working. The strategy delivers both an Implementation Strategy and Action Plan which seek to improve protection from flood risk, as well as help local people to be better prepared for flooding if it happens.

The Central Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment²⁸ (SFRA) completed a Level 1 Assessment in 2015 and a Level 2 Assessment in 2016 to support the development of the CLLP. This work has informed the allocations and policies of the CLLP.

The West Lindsey Strategic Flood Risk Assessment²⁹ (SFRA), completed in 2009 sought to classify all land within the District into four categories of flood risk, and produce an assessment of the actual flood risk for the key study areas of Bardney, Gainsborough, Market Rasen and Saxilby.

The CLLP presents the following policies relating to climate change:

- Policy LP3: Level and Distribution of Growth
- Policy LP13: Accessibility and Transport
- Policy LP14: Managing Water Resources and Flood Risk
- Policy LP18: Climate Change and Low Carbon Living
- Policy LP19: Renewable Energy Proposals
- Policy LP20: Green Infrastructure Network
- Policy LP21: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Policy LP22: Green Wedges
- Policy LP23: Local Green Space and other Important Open Space
- Policy LP24: Creation of New Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities
- Policy LP26: Design and Amenity

Baseline review

Research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2018 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) team³⁰. UKCP18 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

²⁶ HM Gov (2019) Clean Air Strategy 2019 [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770715/clean-air-strategy-2019.pdf

²⁷ Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Partnership (2013) Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy 2012 – 2025 [online] available at: <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/planning-policy-library/>

²⁸ BWB Consultancy (2015/16) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 and Level 2 [online] available at: <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/planning-policy-library/>

²⁹ West Lindsey District Council (2009) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment [online] available at: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/planning-policy/evidence-base-and-monitoring/strategic-flood-risk-assessment-sfra/>

³⁰ The data was released on 26th November 2018: Available from: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/>

As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change (under medium emissions scenarios 50th percentile) for the East Midlands during the period 2020-2039 compared to the period 1981-2000 are likely to be as follows:³¹

- A central estimate of increase in annual mean temperatures of between 0°C and 2°C; and
- A central estimate of change in mean precipitation of 0 to +10% in winter and 0 to -10% in summer.

During the period 2040-2059 this is estimated further as:

- A central estimate of increase in annual mean temperatures of between 1°C and 2°C; and
- A central estimate of change in annual mean precipitation of 0 to +20% in winter and -10% to -30% in summer.

Due to these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Neighbourhood Plan area, including:

- Increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
- Increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
- Increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
- Increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
- Increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
- Effects on water resources from climate change;
- Reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
- Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100-year floods;
- A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- A need to upgrade flood defences;
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- Flooding of roads.

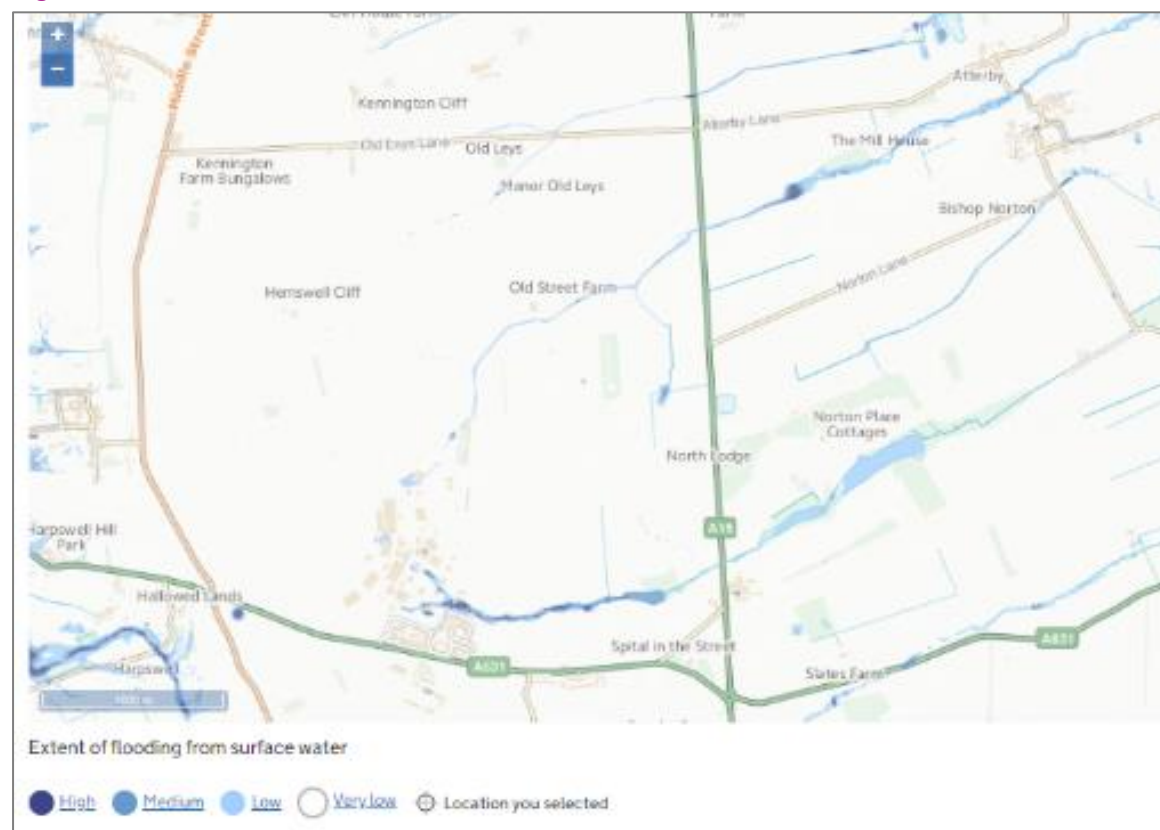
With regards to fluvial flood risk, Environment Agency flood mapping depicted in **Figure AII.2** below identifies that the risk is limited to the stretch of the Atterby Beck stream in the north-eastern extent of the Plan area. However, surface water flood risk is more prevalent, as depicted in **Figure AII.3**, across the reaches of the Atterby Beck in the north east and Mellow's Beck in the east. Areas of high and medium surface water flood risk extend from the east into James Rd and the Trading Estate.

³¹ Met Office (2018): 'Land Projection Maps: Probabilistic Projections', [online map] available at: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp/land-projection-maps>

Figure All.2: Fluvial flood risk in Hemswell Cliff



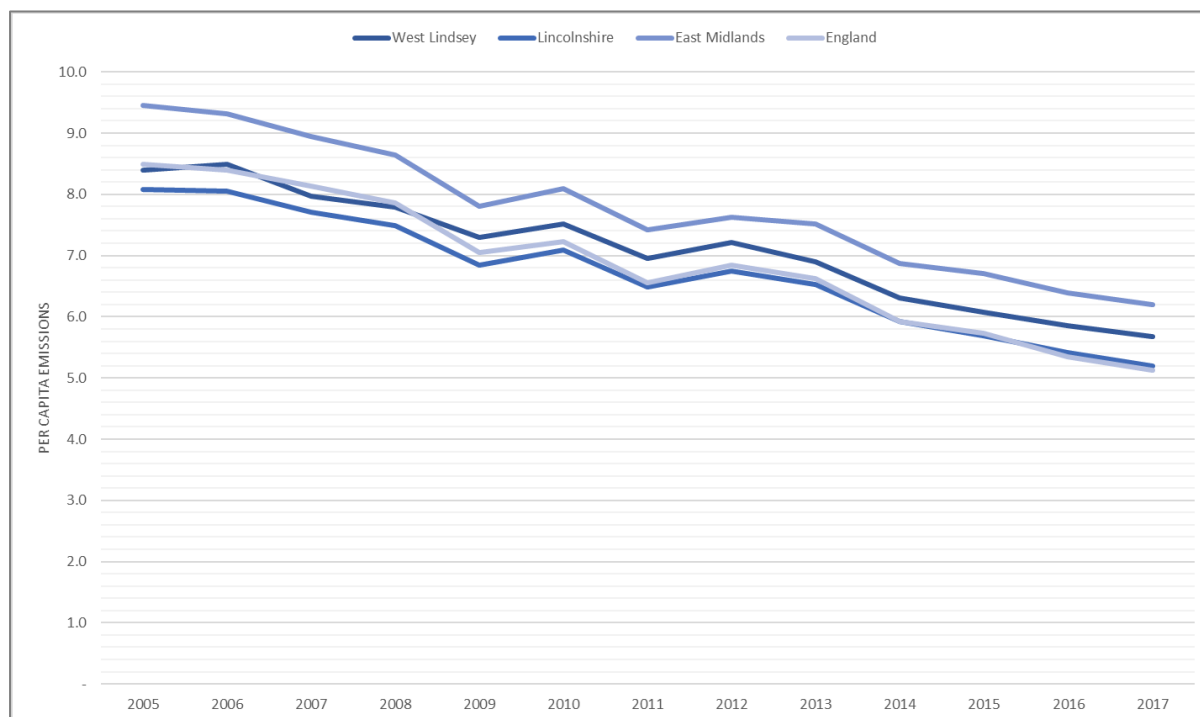
Figure All.3: Surface water flood risk in Hemswell Cliff



In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change³² suggests that West Lindsey District has had, and maintains, higher per capita emissions than the average for Lincolnshire and England, though this remains below the average per capita emissions for the region (East Midlands) – see **Figure All.4**.

The data identifies that within the District, the Transport sector is the main contributing sector to emissions in 2017, with emissions from A-roads the predominant source. However, it is also noted that emissions from minor roads has increased overall since 2005. The Domestic sector is the next greatest contributor, and this is predominantly from the use of domestic gas. Within the Industry and Commercial sector electricity use is the main source of emissions.

Figure All.4: Carbon dioxide emissions (2005-2017)



Future baseline

Given the policy provisions of the NPPF and CLLP, future growth in the Plan area is unlikely to significantly affect flood risk and is likely to be delivered alongside appropriate measures to address surface water flood risk, such as Sustainable Drainage Systems. The HCNP can however seek to maximise the benefits arising from such measures, through the promotion for example of multifunctional green infrastructure to the benefit of climate change, biodiversity, communities and health and wellbeing.

Key issues and opportunities

The following key issues emerge from the context and baseline review:

- Trends indicate that emissions from minor roads have been steadily increasing since 2005, and any incremental and minor growth in the Plan area, in the absence of strategic transport interventions, is likely to exacerbate this trend.
- Opportunities to support small-scale renewable energy development can support reduced reliance on unsustainable energy sources.
- Opportunities exist in development to maximise environmental benefits through the promotion of multifunctional green infrastructure supporting climate change adaptation, climate resilience, biodiversity, communities and health and wellbeing.

³² Department of Energy and Climate Change (2019) '2005 to 2017 UK local and regional CO2 emissions – data tables' [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017>

Landscape

Context review

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework³³ (NPPF) include:

- Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty [...]. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited.
- Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy making provision for 'conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure.
- Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments 'are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation of change (such as increased densities).
- Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
 - a. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils;
 - b. recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; and
 - c. remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.
- The government attaches great importance to Green Belts, whose fundamental aim is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. The general extent of Green Belts is established and can only be altered in exceptional circumstances through preparation or review of a Local Plan.

National Character Area (NCA) Profiles are published by Natural England and divide England in 159 distinct natural areas based on their landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, historic, cultural and economic characteristics.³⁴ NCAs follow natural features in the landscape and are not aligned with administrative boundaries. NCA profiles describe the features which shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to its character.

The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan³⁵ states the intention to work with relevant authorities to deliver environmental enhancements within all 159 NCAs across England. Along with the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes', Goal 6 'Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment' of the Government's "A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment" directly relates to the Landscape.

The West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment³⁶ (1999) makes an assessment of the special character, distinctiveness and quality of the different landscape types within the District.

³³ MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

³⁴ Natural England (2012) 'National Character Area profiles' [online] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

³⁵ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

³⁶ Environmental Resources Management (1999) West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment [online] available at: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/planning-policy/evidence-base-and-monitoring/landscape-character-assessment/>

The CLLP presents the following policies relating to landscape:

- Policy LP17: Landscape, Townscape and Views
- Policy LP20: Green Infrastructure Network
- Policy LP22: Green Wedges
- Policy LP26: Design and Amenity
- Policy LP29: Protecting Lincoln's Setting and Character
- Policy LP38: Protecting Gainsborough's Setting and Character
- Policy LP43: Protecting Sleaford's Setting and Character

Baseline review

The Plan area does not lie within or near to a designated landscape. National Character Areas (NCAs) are landscape areas which share similar characteristics, following natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. Developed by Natural England, NCA profiles describe the natural and cultural features that shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to its character.

Hemswell Cliff falls within the Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands NCA³⁷, which comprises a ridge of Jurassic limestone running north from Lincoln to the Humber Estuary. The scarp slope rises prominently from adjacent low-lying land, forming the Edge or Cliff, and giving panoramic views out, in particular to the west. In the north is a second, lower scarp of ironstone. In the vicinity of Scunthorpe are the Coversands, post-glacial wind-blown sands which have given rise to mosaics of heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodland, supporting rare plant and animal communities akin to the Brecklands. The soils of the limestone plateau are of good agricultural quality and support the cultivation of cereals, oilseeds, root crops and potatoes, along with pig and poultry rearing. There is a principal aquifer within the underlying limestone, so that the protection of water quality and improvement of water availability are key issues.

The NCA profile identifies four Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO) for the area as follows:

- SEO1: On the limestone plateau, manage the high-quality farmland and maintain agricultural productivity, establishing networks of linking habitats to strengthen landscape character and enhance biodiversity, especially farmland birds, while also protecting the underlying aquifer, reducing soil erosion and improving soil and water quality.
- SEO2: On the sandy soils of the Coversands, protect the distinctive dune formations and expand, buffer and connect the key habitats, providing access and interpretation where possible, and addressing climate regulation, soil erosion and water availability.
- SEO3: Maintain the sense of place and the diversity of settlements and landscape features through expanding semi-natural habitats, managing the restoration of extraction sites, retaining the inspirational long views, ensuring that development is sustainable and well integrated into the landscape, and providing more interpretation and access through good green infrastructure links.
- SEO4: Protect and manage sites and features of historic, geological and geomorphological interest, such as sand dune formations and rock exposures, Roman roads, stone walls and vernacular architecture, and Lincoln's historic centre, to strengthen sense of place and history, enhance biodiversity and improve understanding of how the landscape has developed over time.

³⁷ Natural England (2014) NCA Profile: 45 North Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4635967306596352?category=587130>

The West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment³⁸ identifies that Hemswell Cliff falls with the 'Limestone Dip Slope' Landscape Character Area which is defined by the following key characteristics:

- Limestone dip slope falling gently to the east from the 'Cliff'.
- Exposed, open landscape with redundant airfields in the west.
- Straight roads and trackways; many of which are ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges backed by hedgerows.
- Important views to Lincoln Cathedral particularly from Ermine Street (A15) – very straight Roman road.
- Sparse settlement in the west. Line of small nucleated settlements on slightly elevated more undulating land in the east.
- Individual trees and lines of trees are important landscape features.
- Historic halls and parkland landscapes.

It is noted that the ex-RAF base (now Trading Estate) is in a visually prominent position.

Future baseline

New development, including infrastructure development, has the potential to lead to incremental changes in landscape quality in and around the Plan area. This could include the loss of landscape features, visual impact on existing features, loss of tranquillity, and the potential for incremental coalescence between settlements.

New development also has the potential to support landscape character through regeneration and brownfield development that improves village settings, delivering green infrastructure improvements and new recreational opportunities and enhanced framing of key views.

Key issues and opportunities

The following key issues emerge from the context and baseline review:

- Development of the area may alter the character and appearance of the landscape and affect key views. It could also reduce the sense of tranquillity.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area falls within the 'Limestone Dip Slope' Landscape Character Area, with an exposed and open landscape.
- Landscape features that contribute to the overall character and quality of the place may be affected in development, including trees, hedgerows and areas of open space.

Historic environment

Context review

The Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 is a UK Act of Parliament that changed laws relating to the granting of planning permission for building works, with a particular focus on listed buildings and conservation areas.³⁹ It created special controls for the demolition, alteration or extension of buildings, objects or structures of particular architectural or historic interest, as well as conservation areas.

The Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979 is an Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to ancient monuments; to make provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest and (in connection therewith) for the regulation of operations or activities affecting such matters; to provide for the recovery of grants under section 10 of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act 1972 or under section 4 of the Historic Buildings and

³⁸ Environmental Resources Management (1999) West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment [online] available at: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/planning-policy/evidence-base-and-monitoring/landscape-character-assessment/>

³⁹ UK Public General Acts (1990) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 [online] available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents> last accessed [28/08/19]

Ancient Monuments Act 1953 in certain circumstances; and to provide for grants by the Secretary of State to the Architectural Heritage Fund.⁴⁰

The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England⁴¹ sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework⁴² (NPPF) include:

- Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy making provision for 'conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure.
- Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments 'are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation of change (such as increased densities).
- Heritage assets should be recognised as an 'irreplaceable resource' that should be conserved in a 'manner appropriate to their significance', taking account of 'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits' of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Plans should set out a 'positive strategy' for the 'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment', including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss of less than substantial harm to its significance.

These messages are supported by the national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)⁴³ which itself includes the key message that local authorities should set out in their Local Plans a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment which recognises that conservation is not a passive exercise and that identifies specific opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.

Along with the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes', Goal 6 'Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'⁴⁴ directly relates to the Historic Environment.

Historic England is the statutory body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment. Guidance and advice notes provide essential information for local planning authorities, neighbourhood groups, developers, consultants, landowners and other interested parties on historic environment considerations, and are regularly reviewed and updated in light of legislative changes. The following guidance and advice notes are particularly relevant and should be read in conjunction with the others.

⁴⁰ UK Public General Acts (1990) The Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Acts 1979 [online] available at: <<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46>> last accessed [28/08/19]

⁴¹ HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx> last accessed [28/08/18]

⁴² MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online]

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

⁴³ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>

⁴⁴ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online]

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Historic England Advice Note 1 (February 2019)⁴⁵ outlines ways to manage change that conserves and enhances historic areas in order to positively contribute to sustainable development and provides information on the relationship with local and neighbourhood plans and policies. Principally, the advice note emphasises the importance of:

- Understanding the different types of special architectural and historic interest which underpin the designations; and
- Recognising the value of implementing controls through the appraisal and/or management plan which positively contribute to the significance and value of Conservation Areas.
- Clearly identifying those issues that threaten the area's character or appearance and that merit the introduction of management measures.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA): Historic England Advice Note 8 (December 2016)⁴⁶ provides support to all stakeholders involved in assessing the effects of certain plans and programmes on the historic environment. It offers advice on heritage considerations during each stage of the SA/SEA process and helps to establish the basis for robust and comprehensive assessments.

Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2nd Edition) (December 2017)⁴⁷ provides general advice on understanding setting, and how it may contribute to the significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated, as well as advice on how views can contribute to setting. Specifically, Part 2 of the advice note outlines a five stepped approach to conducting a broad assessment of setting:

- Step 1: Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
- Step 2: Assess the degree to which these settings contribute to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
- Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it;
- Step 4: Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm; and
- Step 5: Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic England Advice Note 11 (October 2018)⁴⁸ outlines the importance of considering the historic environment whilst preparing the plan (section 1), which culminates in a checklist of relevant issues to consider, followed by an overview of what this means in terms of evidence gathering (section 2). Sections 3 to 5 of the advice note focus on how to translate evidence into policy, understand the SEA process and Historic England's role in neighbourhood planning.

The CLLP presents the following policies relating to the historic environment:

- Policy LP17: Landscape, Townscape and Views
- Policy LP25: The Historic Environment
- Policy LP26: Design and Amenity
- Policy LP29: Protecting Lincoln's Setting and Character
- Policy LP38: Protecting Gainsborough's Setting and Character
- Policy LP43: Protecting Sleaford's Setting and Character

⁴⁵ Historic England (2019): 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Advice Note 1' [online] available from: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-appraisal-designation-management-advice-note-1/>

⁴⁶ Historic England (2016): 'SA and SEA: Advice Note 8' [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

⁴⁷ Historic England (2017): 'Setting of Heritage Assets: 2nd Edition' [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>

⁴⁸ Historic England (2018): 'Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment' [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment/>

Baseline review

The Plan area contains four designated heritage assets, which are explored further below and depicted at the end of the Chapter in **Figure All.5**.

The Grade II listed Hemswell Court, former RAF Officers' Mess building (including associated entrance walls and gate piers). The Mess was built in 1935 and opened in 1936 and was converted to a hotel in the 1980s. It is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- Architectural interest: it has a fine neo-Georgian composition with carefully judged proportions and good quality building materials;
- Interior: the interior treatment displays the spatial quality and understated refinement typical of the neo-Georgian idiom;
- Degree of survival: the layout, fixtures and fittings of the reception rooms in the central range survive with a high degree of intactness, and overall the external composition and configuration remains close to its original form;
- Historic interest: it is a well-preserved example of its type, that encapsulates the aims of the post-1934 Expansion Period in the lead up to World War II. It was home to two of the squadrons that were involved in the earliest action of the war, and featured prominently in the acclaimed 1954 film *The Dam Busters*; and
- Context: it retains its immediate contemporary setting, character and relationship to other buildings, including the carefully designed layout of the tree-lined approach road and the green around which the Officers' housing is arranged.

The other three designated assets are grouped on Spital in the Street Road:

- Spital Almshouse is a Grade II listed coursed limestone rubble house;
- The Barn at Spital Almshouse was previously a hospice and is formed of coursed limestone rubble, some red brick and some stock brick; and
- The Church of St Edmund is a quarter sessions court-house now Church.

The National Monuments Record (accessed through Heritage Gateway⁴⁹) identifies 4 archaeological records in Hemswell Cliff as follows:

- Land adjacent to White Heather, Caenby Corner;
- Land at Hemswell Cliff;
- Land at Wold Grain Storage Ltd; and
- Former RAF Hemswell.

The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) identifies 11 archaeological records, which includes later prehistoric ditch systems, Middle Iron Age to Roman ditch and enclosure systems, and medieval ridge and furrow and farmsteads.

It is also noted that the Hemswell Conservation Area is located just west of the Plan area in Hemswell, and the Harpswell Hall Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed Church of St Chad are located just south west in Harpswell (see **Figure All.5**).

With regards to local history, Hemswell Cliff was originally designated as an agricultural area before 1936, split between the three parishes of Hemswell, Harpswell and Glentworth. In 1936, RAF Hemswell was opened as one of the first airfields within the newly formed Bomber Command, operational until 1967. The development of the two runways, hangars and ancillary buildings were followed shortly after by houses, a school, Post Office and Officers' Mess, creating the structure of the village as it appears today. The area gained a more residential feel in 1985 when the ex-military buildings and some of the housing were sold and redeveloped into a trading estate and residential area. In 1990, the Parish of Hemswell Cliff was created reflecting the move from military to civilian ownership in the village. Whilst the village still retains its military feel with two metalled runways,

⁴⁹ Heritage Gateway [online] available at: <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx>

hangars and H blocks remaining, it now houses many prestigious and internationally renowned businesses which attract visitors from around the world⁵⁰.

Future baseline

New development within the Neighbourhood Plan area has limited potential to impact heritage assets and their settings through inappropriate design and layout. There is evidence however of undesignated archaeology in the Plan area, which the HCNP could provide enhanced protection/mitigation for in future growth of the settlement.

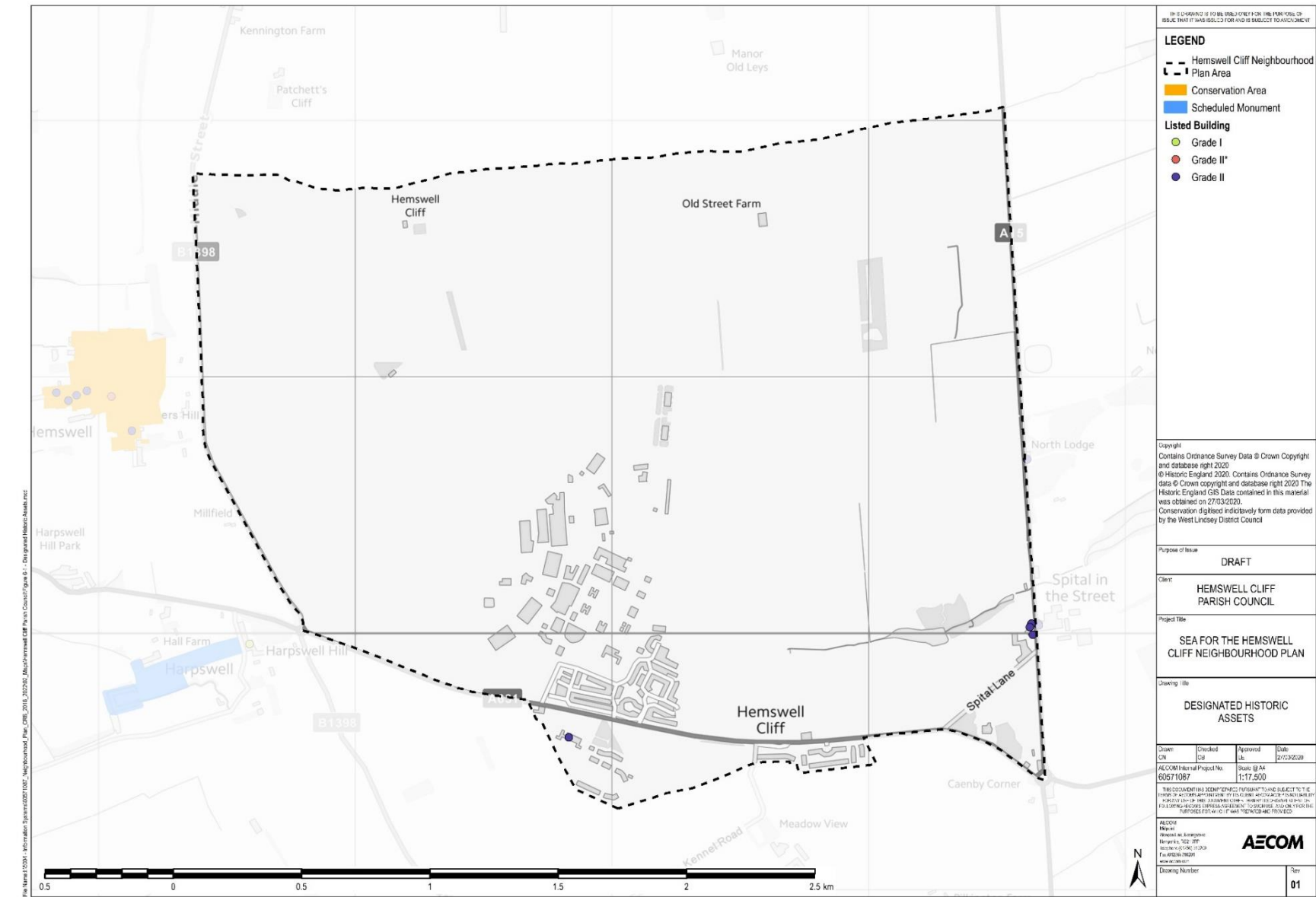
Key issues and opportunities

The following key issues emerge from the context and baseline review:

- There are four listed buildings within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with three of them grouped together off Spital in the Street Road.
- The National Monuments Record identifies 4 archaeological records and the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) identifies 11 archaeological records within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- The Hemswell Conservation Area is located just west of the Neighbourhood Plan area in Hemswell, and the Harpswell Hall Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed Church of St Chad are located just south west in Harpswell

⁵⁰ Hemswell Cliff Parish Council (n.d.): 'History of Hemswell Cliff' [accessed 23/04/20].

Figure All.5: Designated heritage assets



Land, soil and water resources

Context review

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework⁵¹ (NPPF) include planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils.
- Recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.
- Prevent new or existing development from being 'adversely affected' by the presence of 'unacceptable levels' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate 'despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate'.
- Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously developed or 'brownfield' land.
- Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains.
- Planning policies and decisions should 'give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs', and 'promote and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings.'
- Taking a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for water supply.
- Prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution.
- Ensure that, wherever possible, development helps to improve local environmental conditions including water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans.

Since July 2017 the Government's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) requires Local Planning Authorities to publish a Brownfield Land Register, and review it at least once a year, in order to identify all previously developed sites with potential for delivering new development. This is to help achieve maximum planning value and efficiency from available land, whilst avoiding unnecessary land take at greenfield sites.⁵² Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality.⁵³

The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan was published in 2018 and presents the 'goals for improving the environment within a generation and leaving it in a better state than we found it'.⁵⁴ The implementation of this plan aims to achieve clean air, clean and plentiful water, reduced risk from environmental hazards, and managed exposure to chemicals. Specific policies and actions relating to environmental quality include:

- Improving soil health and restoring and protecting our peatlands;

⁵¹ MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

⁵² MHCLG (2017) Guidance: Brownfield Land Registers [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/brownfield-land-registers>

⁵³ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>

⁵⁴ DEFRA (2018) 25 Year Environment Plan [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

- Respecting nature in how we use water;
- Reducing pollution; and
- Maximising resource efficiency and minimising environmental impacts at end of life.

Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England⁵⁵ sets out a vision for soil use in England which includes better protection for agricultural soils, protecting stores of soil carbon, improving the resilience of soils to climate change and preventing soil pollution. The essential message in relation to development is that pressure on soils is likely to increase in line with development pressure and the planning system should seek to mitigate this.

The Water Framework Directive⁵⁶ (2000) requires a management plan to be prepared for water catchment areas to inform planning and help meet objectives and obligations in areas such as water efficiency and sustainable drainage.

The Water White Paper 2011⁵⁷ sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

The Government's Water Strategy for England⁵⁸ (2008) provides strategy for the water sector up until 2030, which aims to sustainably deliver secure water supplies and an improved and protected water environment. It sets out actions within the following areas:

- Water demand;
- Water supply;
- Water quality;
- Surface water drainage;
- River and coastal flooding;
- Greenhouse gas emissions;
- Charging for water; and
- Regulatory framework, competition and innovation.

Water for life⁵⁹ (2011) sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

The Anglian Water Resources Management Plan⁶⁰ WRMP describes the pressures on the supply-demand balance (growth, climate change, sustainability reductions and increasing our resilience to severe drought) and proposes a twin-track strategy to lessen the severity of the anticipated effects.

The West Lindsey District Brownfield Land Register comprises all brownfield sites that are considered by the Council to be suitable, available and achievable for housing-led development, as well as selected sites which the Council grant 'permission in principle' for housing-led development.

⁵⁵ DEFRA (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england>

⁵⁶ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy.

⁵⁷ Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>

⁵⁸ Defra (2011) Future Water: the Government's Water Strategy for England [online] available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-water-the-government-s-water-strategy-for-england>

⁵⁹ Defra (2011) Water for life [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>

⁶⁰ Anglian Water (2019) Water Resources Management Plan 2019 [online] available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/wrmp-report-2019.pdf>

The Central Lincolnshire Water Cycle Study⁶¹ (2010) has explored the sensitivities of the water environment in the Plan area and assessed the capacity impacts in relation to Local Plan work prior to the CLLP.

The Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy⁶² (2013) establishes nine objectives to manage flood risk through effective partnership working. The strategy delivers both an Implementation Strategy and Action Plan which seek to improve protection from flood risk, as well as help local people to be better prepared for flooding if it happens.

The CLLP presents the following policies relating to land, soil and water resources:

- Policy LP14: Managing Water Resources and Flood Risk
- Policy LP16: Development on Land Affected by Contamination
- Policy LP18: Climate Change and Low Carbon Living
- Policy LP26: Design and Amenity

Baseline review

The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into six grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are recognised as being the 'best and most versatile' (BMV) land. In the absence of detailed local information, the national Provisional Agricultural Land Quality dataset⁶³ shows that the Plan area is likely to comprise of best and most versatile agricultural land, with the whole area indicated as 'Grade 2 Very Good'. This is supported by the Predictive Likelihood of Best and Most Versatile Land map⁶⁴ for the East Midlands Region, which identifies the non-urban parts of the Plan area as having a 'high' likelihood of best of most versatile agricultural land.

The high-level review of the British Geological Survey (BGS) maps⁶⁵ show the bedrock geology is largely formed of Lincolnshire Limestone Formation; a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 168 to 170 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. Smaller areas of Rutland Formation and Blisworth Limestone Formation (both formed in the Jurassic Period) exist just west of the A15. The Plan area lies wholly within a Limestone Minerals Safeguarding Area and a 'Petroleum Exploration Development Licence (PEDL) Block'.⁶⁶

There are no main watercourses within the Plan area, however the Atterby Beck and Mellows Beck streams feed into the Plan area from the north-east/ east. Mellows Beck feeds from the Black Dyke (tributary of Ancholme) River in the east, which was classified in 2016 as of 'good' chemical quality, but 'poor' ecological status. Factors affecting the quality of the river are identified as; point source pollution from industry, the water industry and sewage discharges; diffuse pollution from agricultural and rural land management; and physical modification.

Anglian Water manage water supplies in Central Lincolnshire and outline in their Water Resource Management Plan⁶⁷ (WRMP) that the area is under stress with predicted shortfalls of between 5 and 15 megalitres a day by 2045. To support maintained water supplied into the future, the plan proposes a number of measures, which include; reducing leakage, improving resilience including the delivery of a wider resilience strategy, reducing abstraction in environmentally sensitive areas, and third-party options and inter-company transfers.

⁶¹ AECOM (2010) Central Lincolnshire Water Cycle Study – Detailed Strategy [online] available at: <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/planning-policy-library/>

⁶² Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Partnership (2013) Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy 2012 – 2025 [online] available at: <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/planning-policy-library/>

⁶³ Natural England (2018) 'Agricultural Land Classification Map East Midlands Region' (ALC005) [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/143027?category=5954148537204736>

⁶⁴ Natural England (2017) 'Likelihood of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land – Strategic scale maps' [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5208993007403008>

⁶⁵ British Geological Society (2019) Geology of Britain Viewer [online] available at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

⁶⁶ Lincolnshire County Council (2016) Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies [online] available at: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2361/core-strategy-and-development-management-policies>

⁶⁷ Anglian Water (2019) Water Resources Management Plan 2019 [online] available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/wrmp-report-2019.pdf>

Whilst the plan area lies wholly within a groundwater and surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, the land uses being proposed through the HCNP are unlikely to increase the risk of pollution. However, the Plan area also lies wholly within a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (Surface Water), and partially within a Zone II (Outer Protection Zone) and Zone III (Total Catchment) Source Protection Zone. The groundwater and surface water resources are thus sensitive to impacts on water quality.⁶⁸

Future baseline

Future development has the potential to affect water quality through increased consumption, diffuse pollution, waste-water discharges, water run-off, and modification. Water companies are likely to maintain adequate water supply and wastewater management over the plan period, and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality within the Plan area and wider area. However, it will be important for new development to avoid impacts on water quality and to contribute to reducing consumption and improving efficiency.

New development within the Plan area could result in losses of higher quality (best and most versatile) agricultural land. In this respect, the growth strategy of the Neighbourhood Plan should seek to minimise losses and impacts upon soil resources and maximise efficient land use.

Key issues and opportunities

The following key issues emerge from the context and baseline review:

- The Neighbourhood Plan area is predicted to contain best and most versatile agricultural land.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area lies wholly within a Limestone Minerals Safeguarding Area and a 'Petroleum Exploration Development Licence (PEDL) Block'.
- There are no main watercourses within the Neighbourhood Plan area, however the Atterby Beck and Mellows Beck streams feed into the Plan area from the north-east/ east.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area falls entirely within a groundwater and surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone as well as a Drinking Water Safeguarded Zone.

Population and community

Context review

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework⁶⁹ (NPPF) include that planning policies should:

- Provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship, whilst guarding against the unnecessary loss of community facilities and services.
- Retain and develop accessible local services and community facilities in rural areas.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high-quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Enable and support health lifestyles through provision of green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.
- Ensure that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' and taking a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

⁶⁸ DEFRA Magic Map [online] available at: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

⁶⁹ MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online]

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)⁷⁰ identifies that:

- Local Planning Authorities should assess their development needs working with the other local authorities in the relevant housing market area or functional economic market area in line with the duty to cooperate. This is because such needs are rarely constrained precisely by local authority administrative boundaries.
- Local planning authorities should secure design quality through the policies adopted in their local plans. Good design is indivisible from good planning and should be at the heart of the plan making process.
- A healthy community is a good place to grow up and grow old in. It is one which supports healthy behaviours and supports reductions in health inequalities. It should enhance the physical and mental health of the community.
- Green infrastructure is a network of multifunctional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Local Plans should identify the strategic location of existing and proposed green infrastructure networks. Where appropriate, supplementary planning documents can set out how the planning, design and management components of the green infrastructure strategy for the area will be delivered.

The Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change report *Ready for Ageing?* (2013)⁷¹ warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report says that *'longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises'*. The report says that the housing market is delivering much less specialist housing for older people than is needed. Central and local government, housing associations and house builders need urgently to plan how to ensure that the housing needs of the older population are better addressed and to give as much priority to promoting an adequate market and social housing for older people as is given to housing for younger people.

The CLLP presents the following policies relating to population and community:

- Policy LP4: Growth in Villages
- Policy LP5: Delivering Prosperity and Jobs
- Policy LP9: Health and Wellbeing
- Policy LP10: Meeting Accommodation Needs
- Policy LP11: Affordable Housing
- Policy LP12: Infrastructure to Support Growth
- Policy LP13: Accessibility and Transport
- Policy LP15: Community Facilities
- Policy LP20: Green Infrastructure Network
- Policy LP23: Local Green Space and other Important Open Space
- Policy LP24: Creation of New Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities
- Policy LP26: Design and Amenity
- Policy LP56: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation

⁷⁰ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>

⁷¹ Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) *Ready for Ageing?* [online] <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/>

Baseline review

As shown in **Table AII.2**, the population of Hemswell Cliff Parish has experienced significantly higher population growth when compared with the district, region and nation.

Table AII.2: Population growth 2001 - 2011

	Hemswell Cliff	West Lindsey	East Midlands	England
2001	683	79,515	4,172,174	49,138,831
2011	794	89,250	4,533,222	53,012,456
Population change 2001-2011	16.25%	12.24%	8.65%	7.88%

Source: ONS, Tables KS001 (2001) and KS101EW (2011), AECOM calculations.

Table AII.3 examines the age structure of the resident population and identifies a higher proportion of residents aged 25-44 when compared to the District, however this is more broadly aligned with regional and national proportions. The Plan area also has a lower proportion of elderly residents (aged 60 or over) when compared to all other geographical scales.

Table AII.3: Age structure, 2011

Age group	Hemswell Cliff	West Lindsey	East Midlands	England
0-15	22.5%	17.4%	18.5%	18.9%
16-24	12.8%	9.6%	12.1%	11.9%
25-44	27.8%	21.8%	25.9%	27.5%
45-59	20.8%	22.4%	20.0%	19.4%
60-74	13.5%	19.6%	15.6%	14.6%
75+	2.5%	9.2%	7.9%	7.7%
Total population	794	89,250	4,533,222	53,012,456

Source: ONS (2011) Table KS102EW, AECOM calculations

Census statistics measure deprivation across four 'dimensions' of deprivation, summarised below:

- **Employment:** Any person in the household (not a full-time student) that is either unemployed or long-term sick.
- **Education:** No person in the household has at least a level 2 qualification and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student.
- **Health and Disability:** Any person in the household that has generally 'bad' or 'very bad' health or has a long-term health problem.
- **Housing:** The household accommodation is either overcrowded (with an occupancy rating of -1 or less), in a shared dwelling or has no central heating.

Based on the information presented in **Table AII.4**, the Plan area and District both contain a greater percentage of households not deprived in any dimension and lower percentage of households deprived in more than 2 dimensions than the regional and national averages. The majority of households that are deprived in some form are deprived in one dimension.

Table All.4: Relative household deprivation dimensions

	Hemswell Cliff	West Lindsey	East Midlands	England
Household not deprived in any dimension	45.1%	45.4%	42.8%	42.5%
Households deprived in 1 dimension	34.7%	33.0%	32.4%	32.7%
Households deprived in 2 dimensions	16.6%	17.9%	19.6%	19.1%
Households deprived in 3 dimensions	3.6%	3.6%	4.8%	5.1%
Households deprived in 4 dimensions	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%

Source: ONS (2011) Table QS119EW, AECOM calculations

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:

- **Income:** The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work but who have low earnings (satisfying the respective means tests).
- **Employment:** The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those individuals who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.
- **Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the local population.
- **Health Deprivation and Disability:** The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and premature mortality are also considered, excluding the aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.
- **Crime:** The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
- **Barriers to Housing and Services:** The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, with indicators categorised in two sub-domains.
 - a. 'Geographical Barriers': relating to the physical proximity of local services.
 - b. 'Wider Barriers': relating to access to housing, such as affordability.
- **Living Environment:** The quality of the local environment, with indicators falling categorised in two sub-domains.
 - c. 'Indoors Living Environment' measures the quality of housing.
 - d. 'Outdoors Living Environment' measures air quality and road traffic accidents.

Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), are also included:

1. Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index: The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
2. Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index: The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

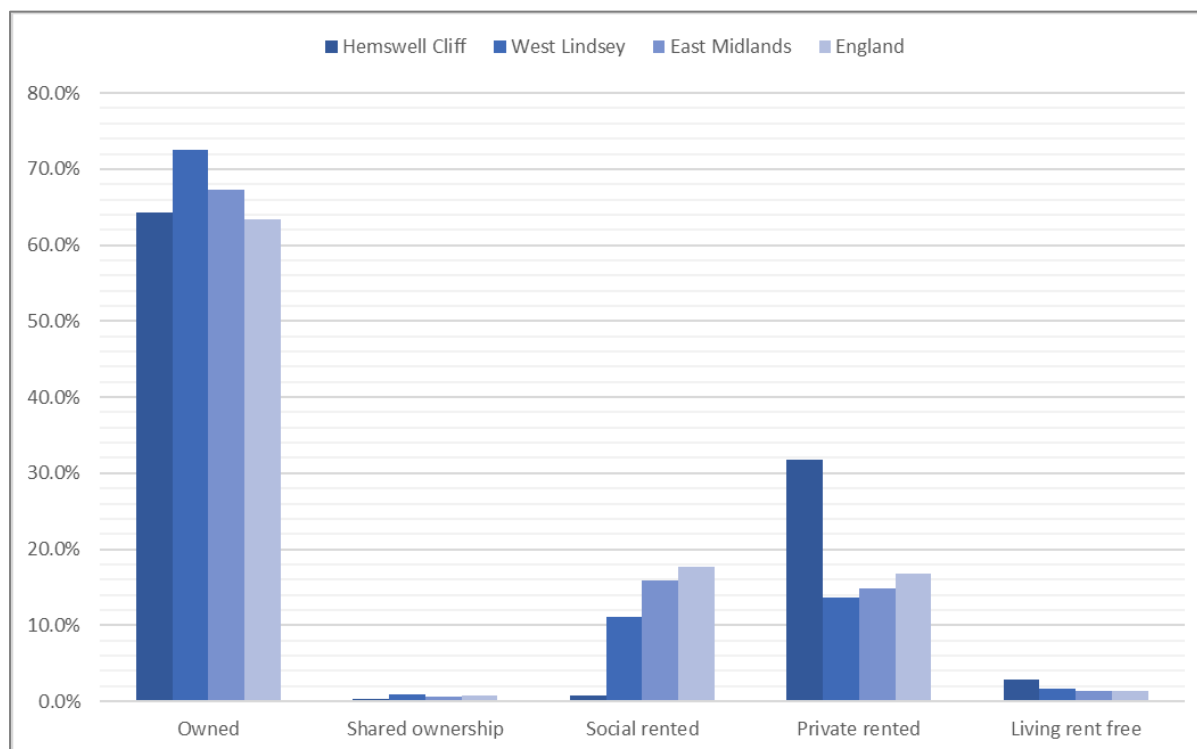
Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)⁷² are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. They are standardized geographies designed to be as consistent in population as possible, with each LSOA containing approximately 1,000 to 1,500 people. In relation to the IMD 2019, LSOAs are ranked out of the 32,844 in England and Wales, with 1 being the most deprived. Ranks are normalized into deciles, with a value of 1 reflecting the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in England and Wales.

⁷² MHCLG (2019): Indices of Deprivation Explorer', [online] available at: http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html

The Plan area lies within the 'West Lindsey 005B' LSOA which is ranked overall amongst the 30% most deprived neighbourhoods. Within the LSOA, higher deprivation levels are experienced within the 'crime' and 'health' domains.

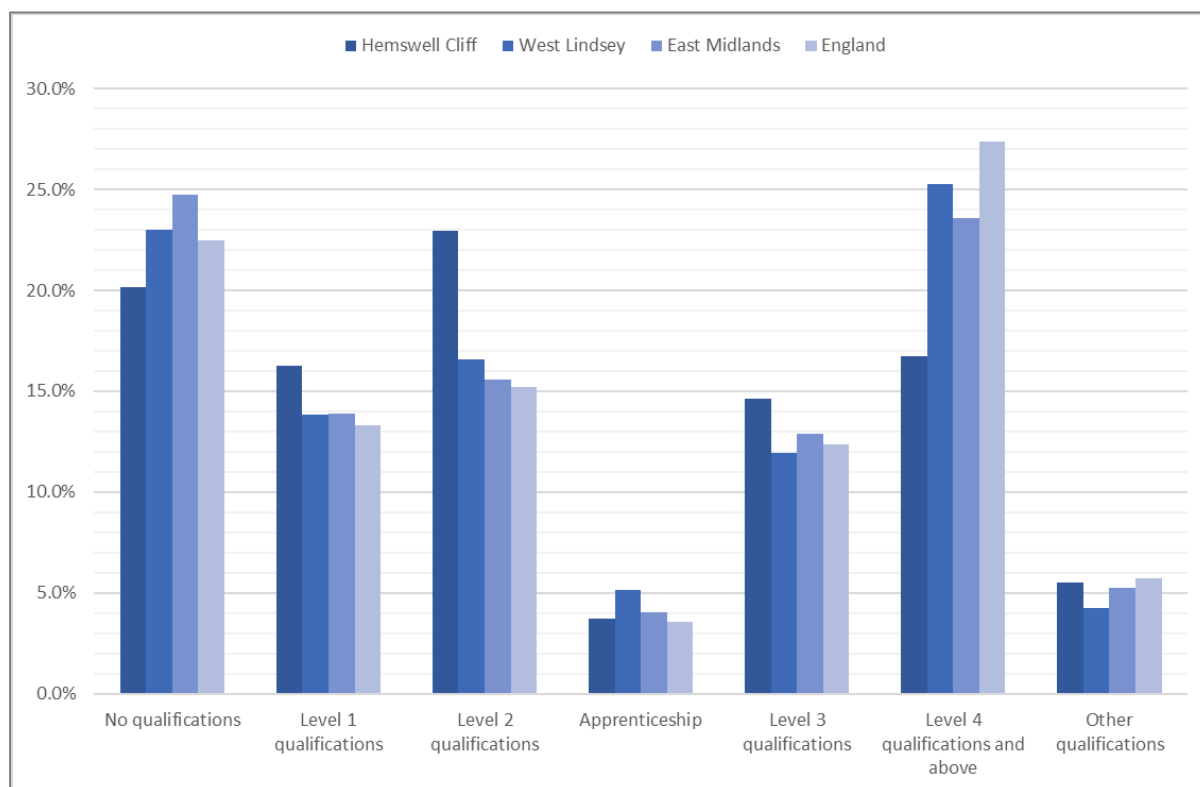
Figure All.6 displays the tenure of households in the Plan area, which is predominantly formed of households either owning their home outright or with a mortgage. However, of note, the Plan area also contains a higher proportion of private rented homes when compared to the District, regional and national comparators, and a marginally higher proportion of households living rent free. The Plan area also contains a lower proportion of social rented housing when compared to the District, regional and national proportion.

Figure All.6: Tenure by household



Source: ONS (2011) Table QS405EW, AECOM calculations

Figure All.7 indicates most residents hold 'Level 2' qualifications or below. The Plan area contains fewer people having obtained 'Level 4' qualifications and above when compared to District, regional and national averages, but conversely contains a higher proportion of residents having obtained 'Level 3' qualifications and a lower proportion of residents with no qualifications than the District, regional and national averages. The proportion of residents in apprenticeships is broadly in line with national averages, however this is a lower proportion of residents than found on average in the District.

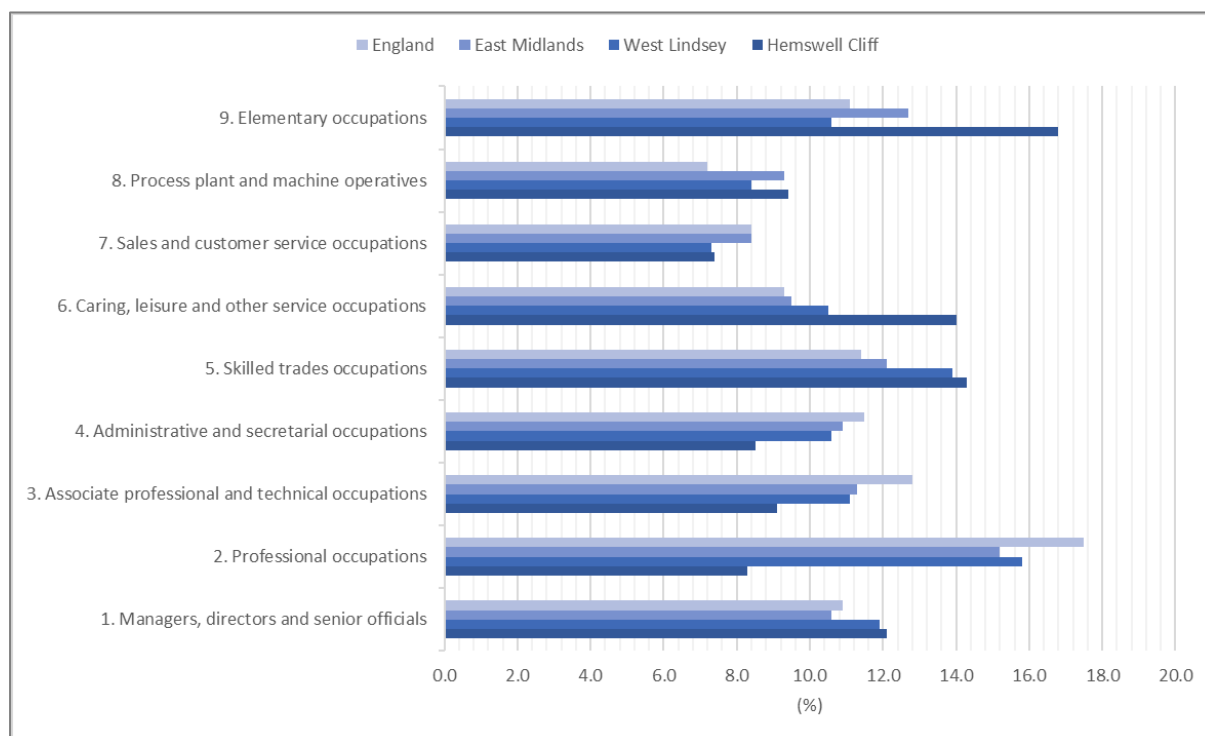
Figure All.7: Highest level of qualification

Source: ONS (2011) Table QS501EW, AECOM calculations

Regarding employment in the Plan area, **Figure All.8** shows the following four occupation categories support the most residents:

- Elementary occupations
- Professional occupations
- Skilled trade occupations; and
- Caring, leisure and other service occupations.

11.8 The proportion of residents in 'elementary' occupations is significantly higher than evidenced in the District, region and nation.

Figure All.8: Occupation of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment

Source: ONS (2011) Tables KS608EW and KS610EW, AECOM calculations

Future baseline

As the population of the Plan area continues to increase and age, this could potentially negatively impact upon the future vitality of the local community and economy of certain parts of the Plan area, whilst also placing additional pressures on existing services and facilities either within the settlement or in the surrounding areas.

The suitability (e.g. size and design) and affordability of housing for local requirements depends on the implementation of appropriate housing policies through the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. Unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of delivering the right mix of housing types, tenures and sizes in suitably connected places.

Key issues and opportunities

The following key issues emerge from the context and baseline review:

- Deprivation in the Plan area is most pronounced in the domains of crime and health and the NDP can ensure that new development contributes to improved safety, vitality and local health goals.
- The HCNP can support the identification and development of the right types, and tenures of new homes in the Plan area, to maximise benefits for local residents by meeting local needs. This may potentially help balance the housing stock which is currently weighted towards home ownership and private renting.

Health and wellbeing

Context review

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework⁷³ (NPPF) include that planning policies should:

- Enable and support healthy lifestyles through provision of green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.
- Take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
- Help deliver access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity to contribute to the health and well-being of communities.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)⁷⁴ identifies that local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making.

The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

The Fair Society, Healthy Lives ('The Marmot Review')⁷⁵ investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: *"overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities"*.

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy⁷⁶ (JHWS) is a document that aims to inform and influence decisions about the commissioning and delivery of health and social care services in Lincolnshire so that they are focussed on the needs of the people who use them and tackle the factors that affect everyone's health and wellbeing.

The CLLP presents the following policies relating to health and wellbeing

- Policy LP9: Health and Wellbeing
- Policy LP13: Accessibility and Transport
- Policy LP20: Green Infrastructure Network
- Policy LP23: Local Green Space and other Important Open Space
- Policy LP24: Creation of New Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities
- Policy LP26: Design and Amenities

Baseline review

The Plan area does not contain GP facilities, and residents rely on facilities in surrounding settlements in this respect. Whilst the settlement is surrounded by countryside, Public Rights of Way⁷⁷ (PROW) are limited in the Plan area, but more prevalent surrounding it. The main local green space is provided at Bettsworth Road, a large field approached from Capper Avenue which contains a Multi-

⁷³ MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

⁷⁴ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>

⁷⁵ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf>

⁷⁶ Lincolnshire County Council (2018) Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lincolnshire [online] available at: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2613/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy-for-lincolnshire-2018-pdf>

⁷⁷ Rights of Way Map [online] available at: <https://www.rowmaps.com/>

Use Games Area (MUGA) and social open space. The Minden Place play area offers a play space for younger children and some private areas have also been opened for public use for dog walking and exercise space, including the large field to the west of the village. Additional open spaces include Lancaster Green (privately owned but valued for its views) and the land north of James Road, which is earmarked for local allotments and currently used locally for walking.

The Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) identifies that life expectancy from birth for Lincolnshire residents is comparable to national estimates and has remained static since 2010. Preventable mortality in Lincolnshire is higher on average for men than women and Lincolnshire rates are comparably lower than the regional and national estimates. Suicide rates were highest in the 20% most deprived areas of Lincolnshire.

Rates of under 18 conceptions have more than halved across the county between 1998 and 2016. Mental health hospital admissions in children aged 0-17 in 2016/ 17 was lower than the rate count for England.

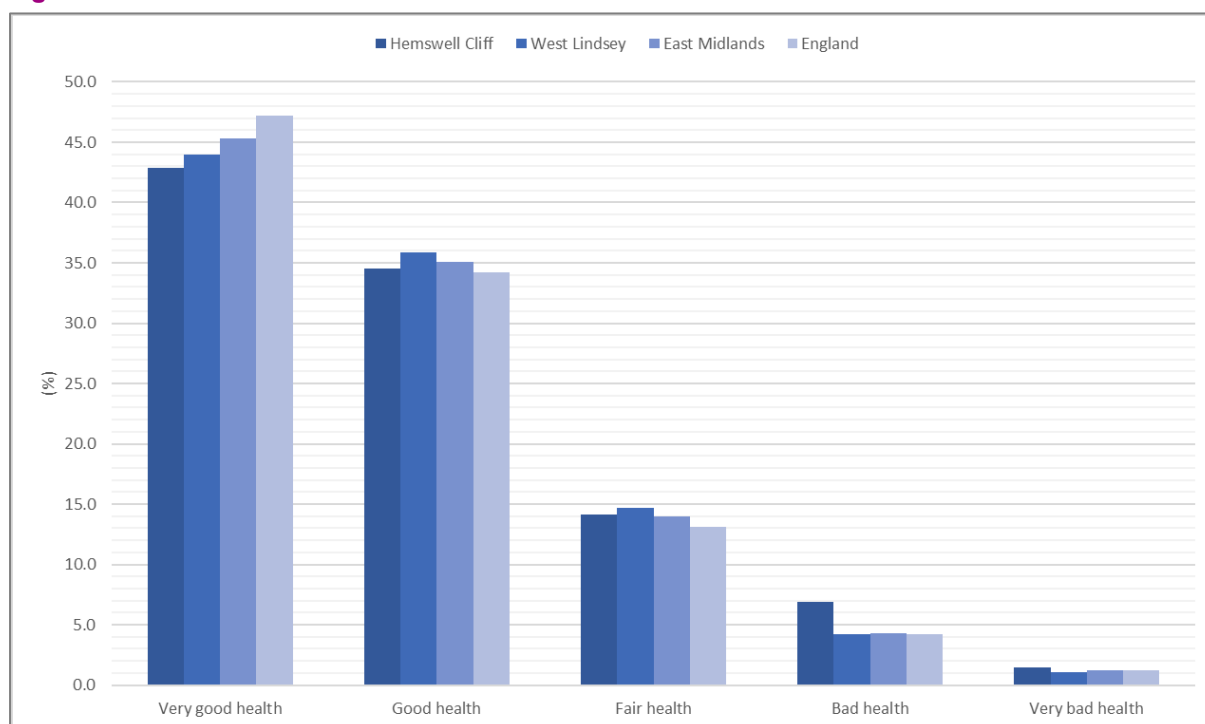
17.7% of adults in Lincolnshire were regular smokers in 2016, and the most common substances being treated in 2016/ 17 were opiates (33%), alcohol (29%) and cannabis (12%).

63.1% of adults (aged 16 and over) in Lincolnshire meet the recommendations for physical activity in 2016/ 17, and in this same timeframe 58.1% of adults reported they had eaten the recommended 5 portions of fruit and vegetables on a usual day. Lincolnshire had fewer physically active adults compared to the regional and national averages.

Deprivation is a significant contributor to poor health and can have adverse effects on wellbeing, with elements related to poor housing quality, living environment, income and employment previously discussed in detail in the population and community baseline information.

Most residents in the Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good' or 'good' health, however this is lower than the total for the District, region and nation – as identified in **Figure All.9** below. Significantly more people in the Plan area report 'bad' health when compared to the District, region and nation, and marginally more people in the Plan area report 'very bad' health.

Figure All.9: General health

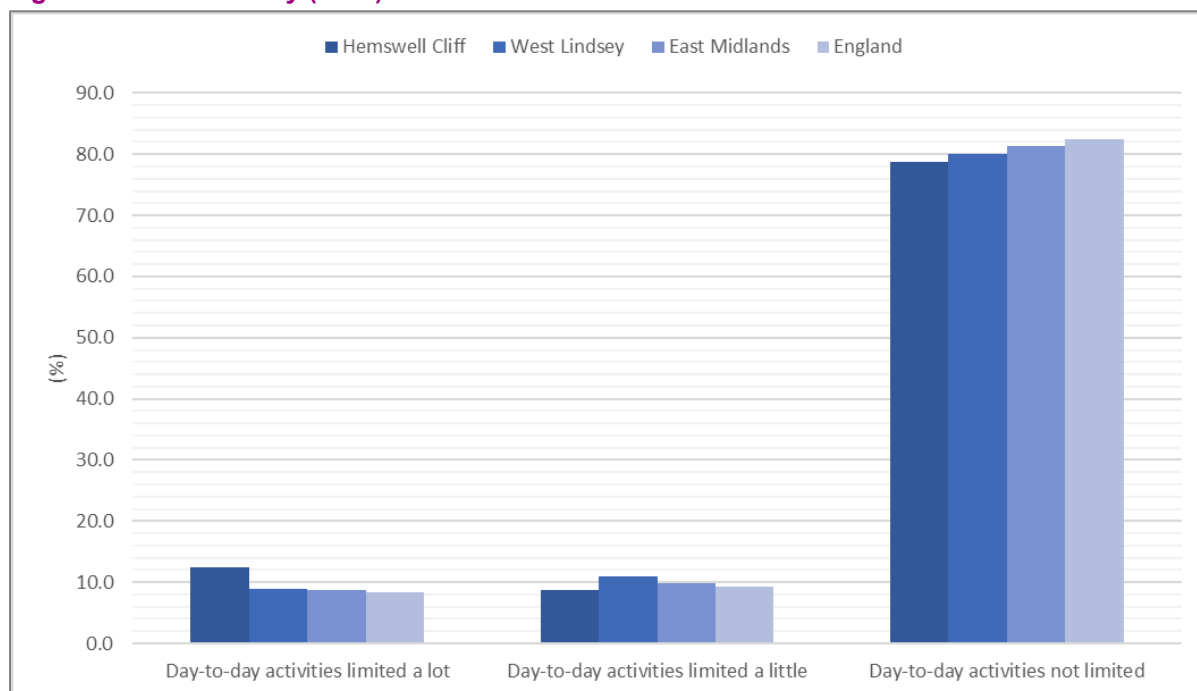


Source: ONS (2011) Table KS301EW, AECOM calculations

Based on the Census data, the total number of residents in the Plan area who report that their activities are limited 'a lot' by their health is higher than the averages for the District, region and

nation, with fewer people in the Plan area are reporting that their day-to-day activities are not limited, as shown in **Figure All.10** below.

Figure All.10: Disability (2011)



Source: ONS (2011) Table KS301EW, AECOM calculations

Future baseline

Health indicators are likely to be affected by initiatives and programmes wider than the scope of planning and given that higher than average proportions of residents report themselves in 'bad' or 'very bad' health, or in which their day-to-day activities are limited a lot; targeted measures may be required. Further growth in the Plan area may exacerbate these trends given the lack of existing healthcare facilities immediately available to residents, and existing levels of deprivation.

Key issues and opportunities

The following key issues emerge from the context and baseline review:

- Higher percentages of Plan area residents report bad health when compared to the District, region and nation, and the Plan area lacks healthcare facilities. It will be important for the HCNP to maximise opportunities in development to support health goals, including my maximising access to open and leisure/ recreation space, and supporting active travel opportunities.

Transportation

Context review

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework⁷⁸ (NPPF) include:

- Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that:
 - a. The potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed;
 - b. Opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised;

⁷⁸ MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

- c. Opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued;
 - d. The environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account; and
 - e. Patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes and contribute to making high quality places.
- Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)⁷⁹ identifies that it is important for local planning authorities to undertake an assessment of the transport implications in developing or reviewing their Local Plan so that a robust transport evidence base may be developed to support the preparation and/or review of that Plan.

The Transport Investment Strategy - Moving Britain Ahead (2017)⁸⁰ sets out the Department for Transport's approach for future investment decisions and priorities. At the local level, the strategy relies on devolved decision-making where local communities have the power and will be backed by funding. Investment aims to achieve a transport network that is reliable, well-managed, safe, and works for everyone. The transport system should also provide smooth, fast and comfortable journeys, and have the right connections in the right places.

Each Local Transport Authority in England and Wales has a statutory duty to produce and adopt a Local Transport Plan through the Local Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008. The Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan⁸¹ (LTP4) covers the 10-year period 2013/14 to 2022/23. It builds on the strategies and policies adopted during the first 3 LTPs. The Plan provides individual strategies and policies which will continue to evolve to reflect ongoing changes at the national level and new local initiatives.

The CLLP presents the following policies relating to transportation:

- Policy LP12: Infrastructure to Support Growth
- Policy LP13: Accessibility and Transport
- Policy LP18: Climate Change and Low Carbon Living
- Policy LP36: Access and Movement within the Lincoln Area

Baseline review

There are no railway stations within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the closest being Kirton in Lindsey north of the Plan area, though only a Saturday service is available here. Gainsborough Central and Gainsborough Lea Road stations are also accessible via the A631. Lincolnshire County Council operates a demand responsive bus service called CallConnect which has coverage for the whole of Lincolnshire except for Lincoln. CallConnect can be used to book trips into Gainsborough.

The A631 and A15 provide strategic north-south and east-west routes connecting the Plan area with Scunthorpe in the north, Market Rasen in the east, Lincoln in the south, and Gainsborough in the west. In this respect, a strong strategic road network supports residents with access to higher-order settlements. The closest National Cycle Route is Route 1⁸² runs east through Market Rasen connecting directly with Lincoln. There limited Public Rights of Way⁸³ (PRoW) identified within the Plan area; however, many exist adjacent in the west around Hemswell and a route just south of

⁷⁹ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>

⁸⁰ Department for Transport (2017) Transport Investment Strategy - Moving Britain Ahead [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-investment-strategy>

⁸¹ Lincolnshire County Council (2013) 4th Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan 2013/14 – 2022/23 [online] available at: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1924/local-transport-plan-2013-14-2022-23>

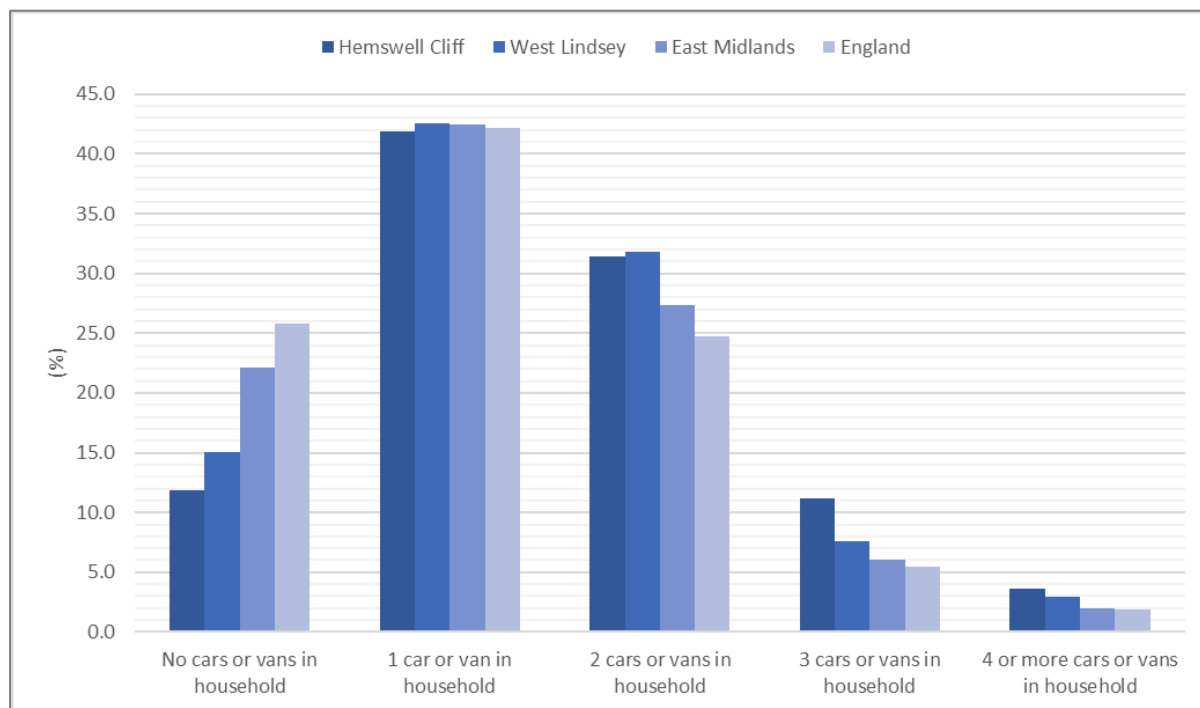
⁸² Sustrans – The National Cycle Network Map [online] available at: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/national-cycle-network/>

⁸³ Rights of Way Map [online] available at: <https://www.rowmaps.com/>

Caenby Corner connects directly with Glentworth in the south. As a result, certain landowners have allowed unofficial public access across open land. Additionally, the Ministry of Defence maintains an ancient PRoW across the old airfield in the Plan area.

Based on 2011 Census Data, **Figure All.11** identifies levels of car and van availability. The data shows that in line with District trends, most households have access to one or two cars/ vans. There appears to be a greater number of households in the Plan area that have access to 3 or more cars/ vans than found at the District, regional and national levels.

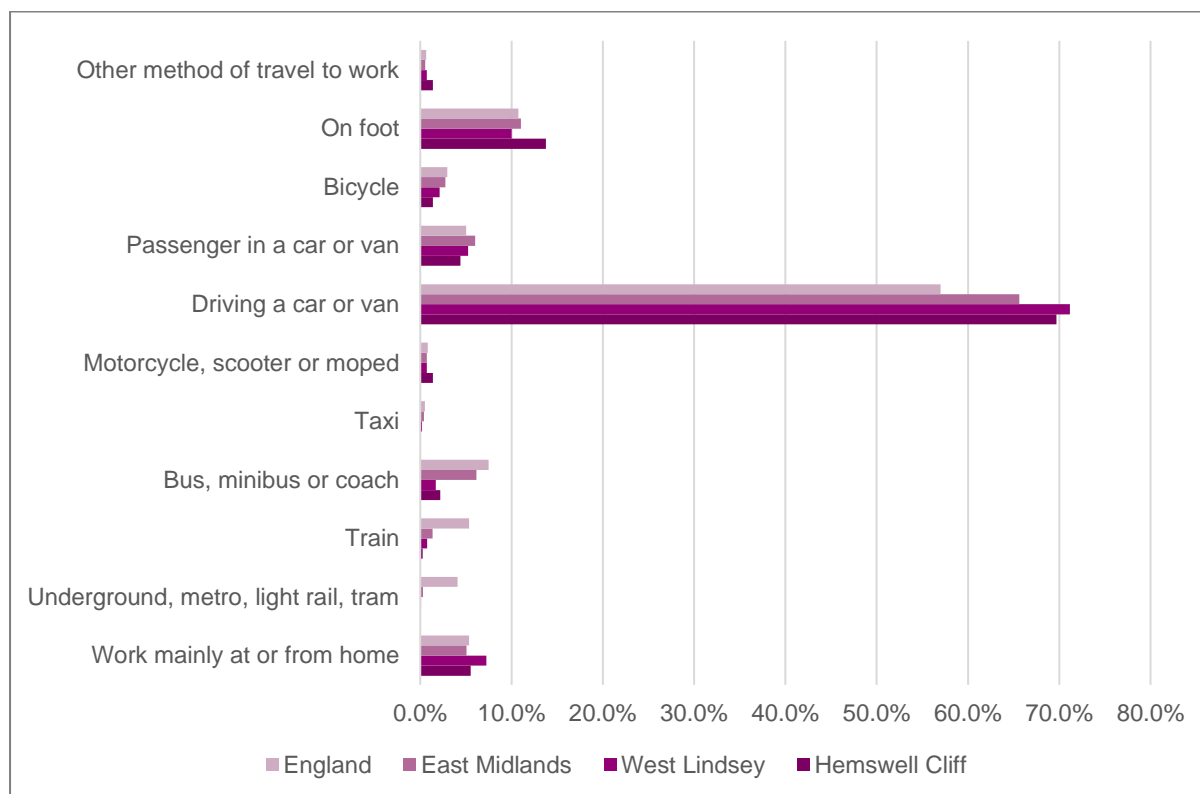
Figure All.11: Car and van availability (2011)



Source: ONS (2011) Table KS404EW, AECOM calculations

Figure All.12 demonstrates that the most popular mode of travel to work is by far the private vehicle. Despite this, a higher percentage of Hemswell Cliff residents walk to work when compared to the District, region and nation. Locally however, it has been recognised that there are a lack of public footpaths within the Parish, that support recreational walking routes.

Cycling appears to be a less favourable mode of travel to work for residents of the Plan area, with lower proportions of residents travelling by this mode than found at the District, regional and national levels.

Figure All.12: Method of travel to work (working population)

Source: ONS (2011) Table QS701EW, AECOM calculations

Future baseline

In the absence of strategic transport interventions, growth in the Plan area is likely to continue trends which favour the private vehicle. However, there is a higher than average proportion of residents that walk to work and the HCNP can support small-scale infrastructure improvements and active travel opportunities that seeks to maximise support for pedestrian movement.

Key issues and opportunities

The following key issues emerge from the context and baseline review:

- In the absence of strategic transport interventions, growth in the Plan area is likely to continue prevalent trends in which residents' favour private vehicles as the transport mode of choice/ necessity.
- Higher than average percentages of residents in the Plan area walk to work when compared to the District, region and nation. Opportunities to capitalise on this positive trend should be maximised.

