

Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan

Regulation 16 version

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report Feb 2022

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Only a neighbourhood plan that meets the basic conditions can be put to a referendum and be made. One of the basic conditions is that the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations as set out in its relevant Directives including 2001/42/EC, 79/409/EEC, 92/43/EEC, and 2009/147/EC. These Directives necessitate that a neighbourhood plan be screened to determine whether it requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- 1.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental effects of a plan before it is made. The SEA screening determines whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an environmental report must be produced.
- 1.3 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. A HRA is required when it is deemed that likely negative significant effects may occur on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the implementation of a plan/project. The HRA screening will determine whether significant effects on a European site are likely.
- 1.4 This screening report determines whether the Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA and/or HRA. The report's sections are:
 1. Introduction
 2. Overview of the Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan
 3. SEA screening assessment
 4. SEA screening conclusion
 5. HRA screening assessment
 6. HRA screening conclusion
 7. Overall screening conclusionsAppendix 1. Responses from consultation bodies
- 1.5 This screening report has been prepared by Hemswell & Harpswell NP Steering Group for Hemswell Parish Council & Harpswell Parish Meeting who are the qualifying bodies for the Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan. The Report has the support of the Parish Council & Parish Meeting. The assessment was undertaken on the Regulation 16 version of the Hemswell & Harpswell 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 & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan area and whose policies were the subject of separate SEA and HRAs. The purpose of this screening report is to assess the policies of the Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan only.

2. Overview of the Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan

2.1 Whether the Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA and/or a HRA is dependent on what is being proposed by the plan itself. The Plan has a vision with objectives and contains a set of locally specific planning policies and guidance for the area. The plan can be viewed with its supporting documents at:
<https://hemswell.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/homepage/13/hemswell-and-harpswell-neighbourhood-plan>

2.2 Hemswell is considered a small village in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and Harpswell is currently defined as a Hamlet (although this is under review). Both settlements lie in the district of West Lindsey and are approx. 7 miles due East from Gainsborough. The plan has 10 policies which are:

- Policy 1: Development of the Garden West of No 7 Church Street, Hemswell
- Policy 2: Development of the Former Stud Buildings, Dawnhill Lane, Hemswell
- Policy 3: Windfall Development (in Hemswell Only)
- Policy 4: Classification of Harpswell Parish as Open Countryside
- Policy 5: Protecting the Wider Landscape and Setting of the Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Policy 6: Design Principles
- Policy 7: Protecting Non-Designated Heritage Assets
- Policy 8: Designated Local Green Spaces
- Policy 9: Community Facilities
- Policy 10: Public Rights of Way

2.3 The NP proposes 2 small housing allocations and designates 2 additional local green spaces in Hemswell and 4 additional local green spaces in Harpswell Parish. It seeks to protect and enhance community facilities, listed buildings, non-designated heritage assets, buildings of interest and positive buildings. In support of the NP the Hemswell & Harpswell Character Assessment 2018, recognises the distinctive character of both Parishes, highlighting their key features and attributes. The Hemswell Village Design Principles 2019 document was commissioned by the NP Steering Group to guide the design of new development in the area.

Constraints/designations identified within the H&HNP area include:

Hemswell

- 7 Listed buildings
- 1 Conservation area (encompassing most of the village)
- 40 Non-Designated Heritage Assets
- A very small section of the parish is within flood zone 3

Harpswell

- 1 Scheduled Ancient Monument
- 1 Listed Building
- 31 Non-designated Heritage Assets.

3. SEA Screening Assessment

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

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

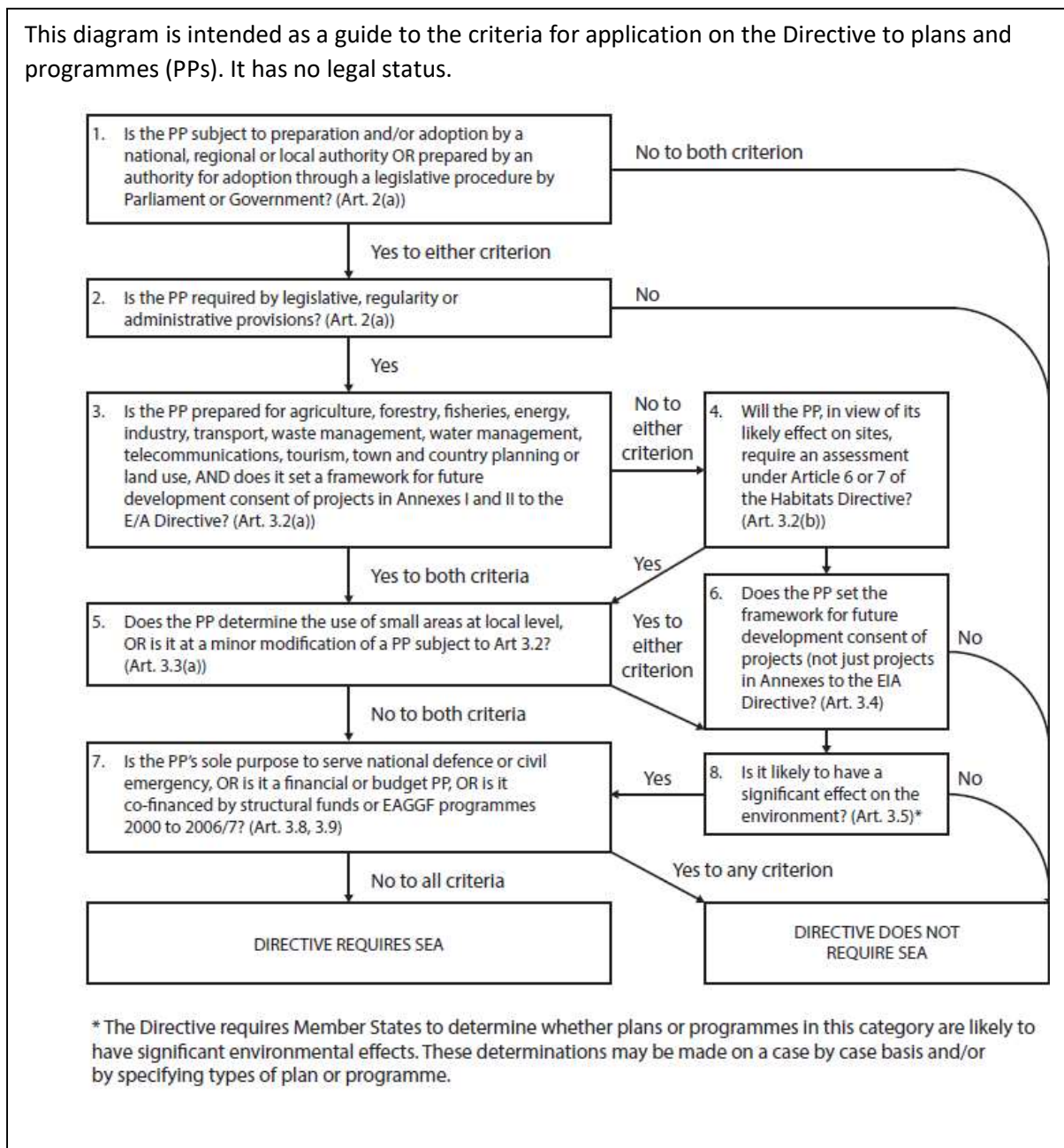


Table1: Assessment of Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan against Figure 1

Criteria/Stage	Response: Yes/ No/ Not applicable	Details
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	Yes	Neighbourhood Plans are made by a 'qualifying body' (e.g. parish/town council) under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. A neighbourhood plan is subject to an examination and referendum. If it receives 50% or more 'yes' votes at referendum, it will be 'made' by West Lindsey District Council as the local planning authority. GO TO STAGE 2
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Yes	Communities have a right to be able to produce a neighbourhood plan but they are not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative purposes to produce one. However, if a neighbourhood plan is brought in to force it will form part of the development plan for the district. A SEA screening report is therefore necessary to see if the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether a full SEA is required. GO TO STAGE 3
3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive?	Yes	The plan is being prepared for 'town and country planning and land use...' (Article 3(2) and, once adopted, will be part of the planning policy framework determining future development within the Neighbourhood Area. Developments that fall within Annex I are 'excluded' developments for Neighbourhood Plans (as set out in Section 61(k) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)). It is not anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan would be the tool to manage development of the scale and nature envisaged by Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive. GO TO STAGE 5

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

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

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment	Likely significant environmental effect?
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1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to-

(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	The neighbourhood plan will set a policy framework for the determination of planning applications for future development projects within the designated Neighbourhood Areas. Once made the NP will form part of the West Lindsey Development Plan.	No
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The NP must be in general conformity with the West Lindsey Development Plan, i.e. the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (adopted April 2017) and national planning policy, i.e. National Planning Policy Framework. It does not have any influence over other plans. Once made, the NP will form part of the planning policy framework for the designated Neighbourhood Area and will be used in conjunction with the CLLP and other relevant policy and material considerations to determine planning applications.	No
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The achievement of sustainable development is one of the basic conditions that the NP must meet. The draft plan includes policy themes regarding the built and natural environment and, in particular, the provision of local green spaces within the Neighbourhood Area. It also seeks to promote two small sites within Hemswell for housing development. These sites are small, as is the nature of the NP Area, and it would be unlikely that, if developed, there would be any significant environmental effect.	No

<p>(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and</p>	<p>It is not considered that there are any particular environmental problems relevant to the NP.</p> <p>Only a small area, on the boundary between the two parishes is classified as Flood Zone 3 and this is some distance from either settlement and the areas proposed for development. Housing allocations also do not appear to be at risk of surface water flooding.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).</p>	<p>The NP is not directly relevant to the implementation of any European legislation.</p>	<p>No</p>

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to-

<p>(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</p>	<p>There are 2 small sites within Hemswell promoted for housing development contained within the policies of the NP. As such, an element of environmental change will take place. The Plan policies, however, are designed to expect any new development to contribute to the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Area and minimise environmental impacts within the NP Area where possible. The designation of 6 local green spaces should create positive environmental outcomes.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;</p>	<p>The effects of the NP need to be considered alongside the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The NP is required to be in general conformity with this plan which was subject to full SEA and HRA assessments. These concluded that either the implementation of the Local Plan would not result in any likely significant environmental effects or</p>	<p>No</p>

	<p>sufficient mitigation measures were in place to address any effects. The NP is in general conformity with the Local Plan. The H&HNP policies provide for protection of the character and setting of Hemswell & Harpswell villages and parishes, including heritage assets, green spaces and community facilities.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	<p>The proposals within the NP are unlikely to have a significant impact beyond the Neighbourhood Area boundary over and above that of the potential for small increased traffic flow resulting from the two small sites within Hemswell that the NP seeks to promote for development.</p>	No
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	<p>There are no significant risks anticipated, and it is considered that the NP will enhance and improve human health, well-being and the environment. Health and safety mitigation measures will be dealt with on a procedural basis by prospective applicants.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	No
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	<p>The potential for any environmental impacts are likely to be local, limited and minimal. The proposed housing site allocations all fall within Hemswell Village.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	No
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to— (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	<p>The H&HNP promotes the protection of the built and natural environment. One draft policy actively seeks to ensure that any new development responds to the existing landscape setting and the surrounding built character. The heritage policy within the plan also seeks to protect heritage assets within the NP area.</p> <p>Any effects of the plan are expected to be positive on these characteristics.</p> <p>The NP is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area in</p>	No

	<p>relation to its special natural characteristics or cultural heritage. The policies within the plan seek to provide greater protection to the specific rural character of the area, as well as encouraging new developments to be in keeping with historically and culturally important design characteristics. The NP identifies two sites within Hemswell for development, which are small scale and are required, in conformity with the policies set out by the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan to be sustainable. As such there are unlikely to be any intensive land-use concerns.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	
<p>(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>It is not considered that the draft policies in the NP will adversely affect any areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	<p>No</p>

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

H&HNP policy with summary	Assessment-Likely significant effect?
<p>Policies 1 & 2: Allocated Sites These policies allocate land for up to 10 dwellings. Development on each site will be supported where: it is compatible with the setting of heritage assets, does not cause any harm to the amenity of nearby properties, an appropriate new access point is created, boundary treatments are in-keeping with the area, and provides adequate space for on-site parking.</p>	<p>These policies are helping to deliver policies LP2 and LP4 of the CLLP which the NP needs to be in general conformity with. The allocations help meet an amount of growth in Hemswell in accordance with the growth target set for the village by the CLLP and which was environmentally assessed as part of the CLLP’s examination prior to adoption in April 2017. The small-scale residential development proposed on each site is unlikely to have a significant environment impact on the H&HNP area and surrounding area.</p> <p>There are no likely significant effects on the environment due to this policy.</p>
<p>Policy 3: Windfall Development (in Hemswell only) This policy seeks to ensure that any Windfall Development (any schemes proposing additional residential development outside of the allocated sites or propose a net increase in dwellings that exceed the specified capacity for the allocated sites) are in “appropriate locations” within the developed footprint of the settlement of Hemswell and demonstrate the same or greater levels of community support.</p>	<p>Due to the potentially limited number of “appropriate locations” within the developed footprint of Hemswell settlement, there are not likely to be any significant effects on the environment due to this policy.</p>
<p>Policy 4: Classification of Harpswell Parish as Open Countryside. This policy seeks to ensure that any future development proposals within Harpswell Parish area will be considered as development within the open countryside as defined and set out within the <i>Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy LP2: The Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy</i>.</p>	<p>Due to its size, the settlement of Harpswell is not specifically named within the CLLP Policy LP2: <i>The Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy</i>. As the existing built form of Harpswell contains less than 15 units, it does not meet the criteria within Policy LP2 to be defined as a Hamlet. Therefore this policy seeks to clarify the classification of Harpswell as Open Countryside.</p> <p>There are no likely significant effects on the environment due to this policy.</p>

<p>Policy 5: Protecting the Wider Landscape Character and Setting of the Neighbourhood Plan Area. In conjunction with the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, development proposals are required to demonstrate how they have taken into account the guidance and recommendation contained within the <i>Hemswell & Harpswell Character Assessment 2018</i> and the <i>Hemswell Village Design Principles 2019</i>.</p>	<p>In order to protect the wider landscape character of the neighbourhood plan area, any new development is required to demonstrate that they have met the following:</p> <p>It does not represent a significant visual intrusion into the landscape setting and the landscape designations and; It will not have a significantly adverse impact on the publicly accessible views and; The use of soft landscaping to provide generously planted green edges to site boundaries must be used and; It would not introduce or expose any prominent built forms along the Lincoln Cliff; and It has explored opportunities to utilise existing tree planting, or alternatively, introduce new tree planting as a means to mitigate against any potential harmful impacts on the landscape character.</p> <p>There are no likely significant effects on the environment due to this policy.</p>
<p>Policy 6: Design Principles This policy focuses on the importance of requiring good design in any new development proposals across the Neighbourhood Plan Area, and also specifically relates to the new housing developments expected on the site allocations in Hemswell.</p>	<p>Any new development proposals within the Parishes of Hemswell & Harpswell should demonstrate within the planning proposals how the development has taken into consideration the <i>Hemswell & Harpswell Character Assessment 2018</i> and the <i>Hemswell Village Design Principles 2019</i>.</p> <p>There are no likely significant effects on the environment due to this policy.</p>
<p>Policy 7: Protecting Non-Designated Heritage Assets The historic settlements of Hemswell and Harpswell contain many Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets. This policy seeks to protect those which have been nominated as Non-Designated Heritage Assets.</p>	<p>This policy ensures that the effect of a proposal on the significance of non-designated heritage assets, including their setting, will be taken into consideration when determining planning applications. Applications that are considered to be harmful to the significance of a non-designated heritage asset, especially full demolition, will require clear and convincing justification.</p> <p>There are no likely significant effects on the environment due to this policy.</p>

<p>Policy 8: Local Green Space Six local green spaces are identified by this policy (2 in Hemswell and 4 in Harpswell). Proposals on them will only be supported where they do not undermine the reason for their designation.</p>	<p>This policy seeks positive environmental outcomes. The local green spaces should make a major environmental contribution to the setting and character of Hemswell & Harpswell. This policy seeks to protect them and prevent their use for unintended purposes. There are no likely significant effects on the environment due to this policy.</p>
<p>Policy 9: Community Facilities Improvements to community facilities and provision of new ones will be supported by this policy. Loss of a community facility will be resisted unless there is lack of local support.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to protect existing community facilities and affords for the provision of improvements and new facilities which could have the potential to have environmental consequences. The policy is not, however, allocating a site for new community facilities or proposing improvements and encourages, in combination with other policies, the mitigation of such development which would reduce the environmental effects of such development. There are no likely significant effects on the environment due to this policy.</p>
<p>Policy 10: Public Rights of Way One of the key assets of the two parishes and an attraction to visitors, is the access to the open countryside and a range of formal and informal public footpaths which allows for direct engagement with the parishes' rural landscape settings and the recreational opportunities they offer.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to protect existing Public Rights of Way within the two adjoining parishes and support the efforts of Glentworth Parish Council to re-instate the ancient Public Right of Way between the settlements of Harpswell and Glentworth. There are no likely significant effects on the environment due to this policy.</p>

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

Environmental receptor	Assessment- Likely significant effect?
<p>Air quality Plans should prevent development from contributing to, or being put at risk by, air pollution.</p>	<p>The small housing allocations in the H&HNP are not near any busy roads or industrial uses so new residents are unlikely to be influenced by poor quality air emissions. These proposals are unlikely to increase traffic congestion or create air quality problems for nearby residents or biodiversity hotspots.</p>
<p>Biodiversity Plans should identify important biological features and work to protect and enhance these.</p>	<p>There appear to be no designated wildlife sites in the H&HNP area. Only small-scale development is proposed in the H&HNP which is unlikely to have a significant impact on existing environmental assets. There are two areas within Hemswell Parish, designated as 'Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace' but these are outside of Hemswell development boundary. To enhance biodiversity in the area the plan is proposing 6 local green spaces.</p>
<p>Landscape Development should seek to promote or reinforce local distinctive landscape features.</p>	<p>Policies 5 & 6 of the H&HNP encourages design in keeping with local development style and the features of local character areas as defined by the Character Assessment and Design Principles documents. The H&HNP area has an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) designation running north/south through the plan area. The development proposed within the H&HNP are small scale and are entirely contained within the development boundary of Hemswell village. They are not anticipated to have a negative effect on the AGLV.</p>
<p>Material Assets These refer to physical infrastructure including social infrastructure, transport infrastructure, water, and energy infrastructure.</p>	<p>The existing infrastructure in the H&HNP area and nearby appears to have the capacity to meet the likely demands to come from its 2 small housing allocations within Hemswell.</p>

<p>Population Plans should encourage development that adds to the overall quality of the area, establishes a strong sense of place, is visually attractive, and contributes to safe and accessible environments.</p>	<p>Virtually the whole of Hemswell village is designated as a conservation area, there are 7 Listed Buildings and 40 Non-designated Heritage Assets. The H&HNP is proposing 2 small housing allocations which will lie within the development footprint of the village. Its policies will ensure that development of these sites will be in keeping with local character features and be in easy reach of existing facilities and also suitably linked to existing road and footpath networks.</p>
<p>Health Plans should promote healthy communities by emphasising the value of social and recreational facilities including open space and recreational facilities.</p>	<p>The H&HNP protects existing community facilities in the village and would support new ones where suitable. It designates 6 local green spaces and identifies and supports an increase in the number of footpaths in the plan area.</p>
<p>Natural resources Plans should protect and enhance soils particularly best and most versatile agricultural land. The plan should, where relevant, recognise the need for a sufficient supply of minerals and making best use of these finite resources.</p>	<p>The allocations within the H&HNP do not impact on surrounding farmland. A large part of the plan area is covered by a Limestone Minerals Safeguarding Area. However the proposed allocations are within the Hemswell settlement boundary and would not impact on the supply of minerals.</p>
<p>Climate change Plans should try and reduce our contribution to, and better prepare for the effects of, climate change.</p>	<p>The H&HNP's small housing allocations are unlikely to increase car use in the plan area significantly. Areas in flood risk zones 3 lie to the west of the plan area and this does not impact on the H&HNP's allocations within Hemswell.</p>
<p>Water New and existing development should not contribute to or be put at risk from water pollution.</p>	<p>It is understood that the H&HNP's proposals are unlikely to contaminate any nearby water bodies or affect water supply or impact on any groundwater source protection zones that may exist in the H&HNP area. The two allocated sites are all within a Source Protection Zone. As part of any development of the sites, the Environment Agency will require additional information demonstrating how risks to groundwater/ the SPZ will be mitigated for any development where non mains disposal of foul water is proposed. Any such proposals may require an environmental permit. The EA has further said that allocation of a site within a neighbourhood plan or planning permission does not infer that an environmental permit will be granted.</p>

4. SEA screening conclusion

- 4.1 As a result of the evaluations carried out in Tables 2, 3 and 4 it is considered that it is unlikely that any significant environmental effects will arise as a result of the Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan. Consequently, the assessment within Table 1 concludes that an SEA is not required when judged against the application of the SEA Directive criteria.
- 4.2 No sensitive natural or heritage assets will be significantly affected by policies contained in the H&HNP. The H&HNP's policies are in general conformity with those within the CLLP. The H&HNP does not allocate specific large development sites or promote a large amount of development. It is within an Area of Great Landscape Value but the proposals do not have an adverse impact upon it they only seeks to protect and enhance the area.

5. HRA Screening Assessment

- 5.1 The HRA involves an assessment of any plan or project to establish if it has potential implications for European wildlife sites. The HRA will consider if the proposals in the neighbourhood plan have the potential to harm the habitats or species for which European wildlife sites are designated. European wildlife sites are:
- Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
 - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).
- 5.2 In addition to SPA and SAC sites, Ramsar sites are designated under the Ramsar Convention (Iran 1971 as amended by the Paris Protocol 1992). Although they are not covered by the Habitats Regulations, as a matter of Government Policy, Ramsar sites should be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites. European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as Natura 2000 sites.
- 5.3 The initial screening stage of the HRA process determines if there are any likely significant effects possible as a result of the implementation of the plan and if an appropriate assessment is needed. This stage should provide a description of the plan's policies (see Table 3) and an identification of the Natura 2000 sites which may be affected by the plan and assess the significance of any possible effects on the identified sites.
- 5.4 As a general 'rule of thumb' it is identified that sites with pathways of 10-15km of the plan boundary should be included within a HRA. However, there are no European sites within 15km of the Hemswell & Harpswell neighbourhood plan boundary nor are there any sites within the Central Lincolnshire Area.
- 5.5 The neighbourhood plan also needs to be screened for the likelihood of combined effects with other plans and projects. For the purpose of this HRA, other plans and projects would include: national plans; core strategies / local plans; neighbourhood plans; water resource management plans; catchment flood management plans; catchment abstraction management strategies; and river basin management plans. However as there are no European Sites affected by the neighbourhood plan it is not necessary to then screen the plan for likelihood of its combined effects with these identified other plans and projects.

6. HRA Screening Conclusion

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

7. Overall Screening Conclusions

- 7.1 A SEA and HRA screening report exercise has been undertaken for the Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan. The assessments have concluded that the neighbourhood plan is unlikely to give rise to any significant environmental effects or have significant effects on a European site. Accordingly it is considered that a SEA or HRA assessment is not required for the neighbourhood plan.
- 7.2 It is important to note that this screening opinion is based on a draft regulation version of the Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan. Consequently if the content of the neighbourhood plan should materially change then the SEA/HRA screening process will need to be re-assessed and updated.

Next Steps

- 7.3 It is a requirement of the screening process to consult statutory consultation bodies when forming a view on whether a SEA and/or HRA are required and they are: Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. A copy of the Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan and this SEA/HRA screening report will be sent to these bodies, and they will have a five-week period to comment on the document. Once all the comments have been received this report will be updated to include their responses.