

**Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood  
Plan  
2020-2040**

**Basic Conditions Statement**

**October 2020**

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared in support of the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan. It demonstrates how the Plan meets the statutory requirements set out within the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and the Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment
- 1.2. The Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by the Bracebridge Heath Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee, a qualifying body as defined by the Localism Act 2011. The Neighbourhood Plan refers solely to the area within the Parish boundary (Figure 1). The Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan covers a Plan Period of 20 years, between 2020 and 2040.
- 1.3. The Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. It is solely related to the area of Bracebridge Heath as designated by North Kesteven District Council on 23rd October 2015. There are no other neighbourhood plans in place for the Bracebridge Heath neighbourhood area.
- 1.4. The plan was presented for Regulation 14 Consultation, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations 2012, between Monday 20th January 2020 and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020. Some amendments have been made to the document based on the comments received, and these are summarised in the document entitled 'Consultation Statement'.
- 1.5. The Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan refers only to planning matters (use and development of land) appropriate for a neighbourhood plan: it does not deal with 'county matters' (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any other matter set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 1.6. This statement addresses each of the four "basic conditions" required by the Regulations and explains how the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town & Country Planning Act. The Regulations state that a Neighbourhood Plan will be considered to have

met the basic conditions if:

- having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan;
- the making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- the making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
- the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations.

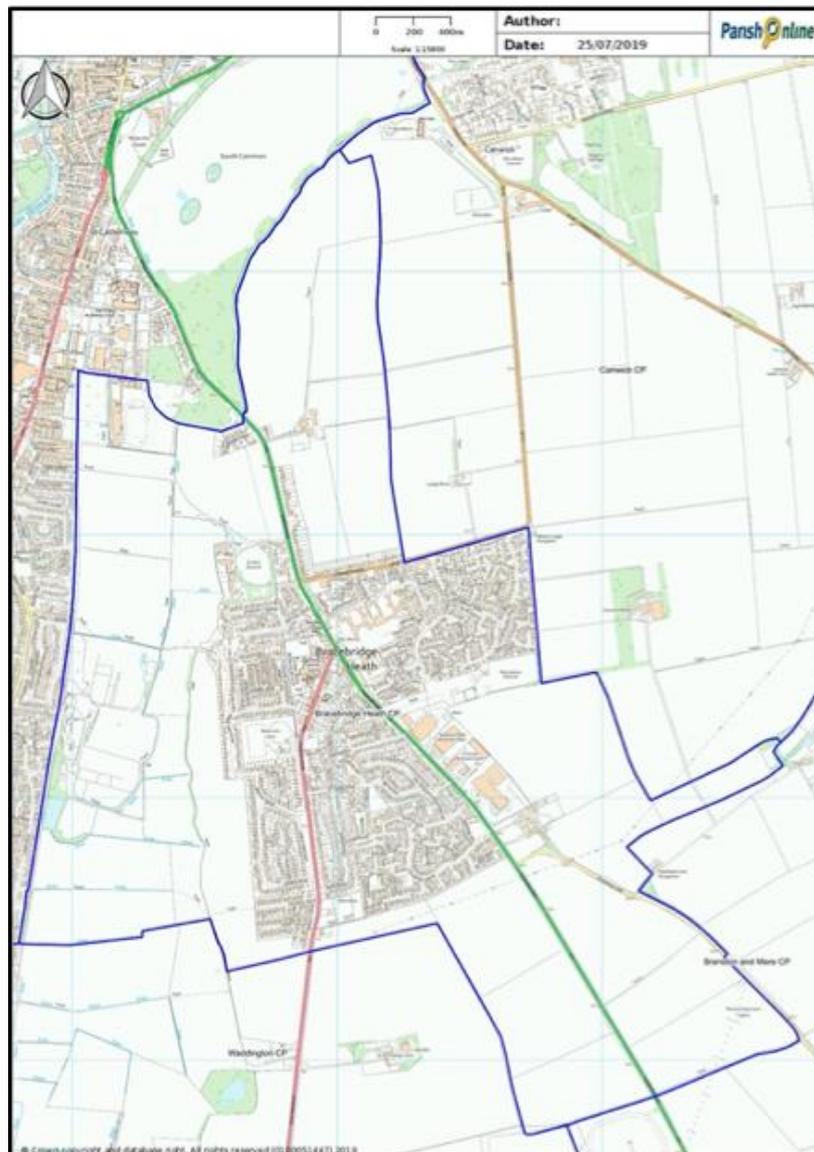


Figure 1. Designated Neighbourhood Area for the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan

## 2. Meeting the Basic Conditions

- 2.1. The policies in the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan have been assessed to ensure that they:
- a. contribute to sustainable development; and
  - b. conform with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019, and the policies of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) 2017.

The results of those assessments have been summarised in the tables below (pages 10 to 30).

### Contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development

- 2.2. The definition of sustainable development employed in the assessment of the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan has been derived from the NPPF's definition (*NPPF February 2019, paragraph 8*):

*"Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):*

- ***an economic objective*** – *to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;*
- ***a social objective*** – *to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and*

- ***an environmental objective*** – *to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.”*

Table 1: *Contributing to Sustainable Development*, provides an assessment of how the Neighbourhood Plan’s policies help to deliver Sustainable Development.

- 2.3. The Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to national policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) of 2019.
- 2.4. As a whole, the Neighbourhood Plan and the process to produce it have been designed to comply with the following specific paragraphs of the NPPF:
- Paragraph 13 of the NPPF - The application of the weighting against developments that conflict with the provisions of a neighbourhood plan has implications for the way communities engage in neighbourhood planning. Neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans or spatial development strategies; should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies.
  - Paragraph 37 of the NPPF - general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan: during the production of the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee has consulted with the local planning authority in order to ensure that the Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2017.
  - Paragraph 125 of the NPPF – Develop a Shared Vision: the community of Bracebridge Heath has been actively engaged in developing a shared vision for the future of the Parish.
- 2.5. The Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan has also taken account of the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) published by the Government in

April 2014 in respect of formulating neighbourhood plans.

2.6. *Table 2a: Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework* demonstrates how the objectives of the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Development Plan have regard to relevant national policies within the NPPF in relation to:

- delivering a sufficient supply of homes;
- building a strong, competitive economy;
- promoting healthy and safe communities;
- promoting sustainable transport;
- supporting high-quality communications;
- making effective use of land;
- achieving well-designed places;
- meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change;
- conserving and enhancing the natural environment;
- conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

2.7. *Table 2b: "Neighbourhood Plan's Policies' conformity with NPPF provisions,* considers, in more detail, how each policy in the Neighbourhood Plan has regard to specific paragraphs of the NPPF, including a narrative explaining how conformity has been achieved.

## Conformity with Strategic Local Policy

2.8. The Basic Conditions require the Neighbourhood Plan to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area. The Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in close collaboration with officers of the Local Planning Authority, North Kesteven District Council. This has ensured that the process of developing the policies in the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan has been informed from the outset by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2017 and its evidence base.

2.9. *Table 3: Conformity with the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan* shows how each of

the Neighbourhood Plan's policies is in general conformity with the Strategic Policies for District.

**Table 1: Contributing to Sustainable Development**

<b>This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan contributes to Sustainable Development</b>				
<b>NP Policy</b>	<b>Economic Factors</b>	<b>Social Factors</b>	<b>Environmental Factors</b>	<b>How Sustainability is achieved</b>
Policy 1: Housing Mix	✓	✓	✓	This policy supports a diverse future housing mix in Bracebridge Heath: additional houses in the area will support the economic and social growth of the community, supporting additional commercial and community services in the village.
Policy 2: Design of New Housing Developments	✓	✓	✓	This policy ensures future development is located and designed sustainably and in a way that respects the existing character of the settlement. In doing so, it supports social and cultural well-being of the community through high-quality design, while ensuring housing and other needs are met. The policy protects and enhances the historic and natural environment in the Parish, protecting designated and non-designated buildings, and hedges, trees wildlife habitats and other flora and fauna. The policy seeks to create liveable, walkable places, thus enabling residents to choose low-carbon transport options. By promoting the

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan contributes to Sustainable Development**

NP Policy	Economic Factors	Social Factors	Environmental Factors	How Sustainability is achieved
				incorporation of environmental technologies such as photovoltaic panels or solar thermal panels, devices for rainwater and surface water harvesting and grey water recycling, the policy seeks to encourage use of renewable energy and to minimise consumption of non-renewable resources.
Policy 3: Car Parking and Electric Charging Points	✓	-	✓	This policy seeks to ensure that local parking standards for residential development take into account accessibility, type, mix and use of development. Promoting EV chargers allows for an increasing uptake of electric vehicles. The primary benefit of EVs is their ability to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants locally and so improve air quality.

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan contributes to Sustainable Development**

<b>NP Policy</b>	<b>Economic Factors</b>	<b>Social Factors</b>	<b>Environmental Factors</b>	<b>How Sustainability is achieved</b>
Policy 4: Cycle Parking and Storage	-	✓	✓	This policy requires integrated provision for parking / storing bicycles. This provides an incentive for people to travel by cycling, which can contribute significantly to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants locally.
Policy 5: Allocation of Affordable Housing	✓	✓	-	This policy will give priority in accessing affordable housing to applicants with a connection with the Parish: in doing so, it will ensure family connections and other forms of social connections are maintained, promoting sense of place and supporting the existing social capital effect of supporting services and economic activities in the village.

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan contributes to Sustainable Development**

<b>NP Policy</b>	<b>Economic Factors</b>	<b>Social Factors</b>	<b>Environmental Factors</b>	<b>How Sustainability is achieved</b>
Policy 6: Protecting the Historic Environment	✓	✓	✓	The Policy aims to ensure that new development proposals protect, conserve and seek opportunities to enhance the historic environment for future generations.
Policy 7: St John's Craft Workshops	✓	✓	✓-	This policy seeks to support continuation of the contribution that the St John's Craft Workshop makes to local employment and the local economy, both of which provide opportunities for people to live and work locally, rather than travelling beyond the village. This is likely to support active travel (by foot or bicycle) rather than more environment-damaging car travel.
Policy 8: Retail and Leisure Provision	✓	✓	-	Policy 8: Retail and Leisure Provision aims to ensure the vitality of the village centre by safeguarding existing shopping and leisure facilities and providing for additional facilities. By promoting local shops and leisure, the Plan aims to

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan contributes to Sustainable Development**

NP Policy	Economic Factors	Social Factors	Environmental Factors	How Sustainability is achieved
				promote Bracebridge Heath as a place to live and work, thus supporting the viability of the village for future generations.
Policy 9: Sleaford Road Industrial Estate	✓	✓	-	The Plan supports proposals that maintain or create business and employment within the Sleaford Industrial Estate. By supporting the existing industrial estate and providing for its planned extension, the policy seeks to sustain the rural economy and local employment in Bracebridge Heath.
Policy 10: Renewable Technologies on Employment sites.	✓	✓	✓	The promotion of renewable energy has a major environmental and economic benefits, generating energy that produces no greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and reduces some types of air pollution. By promoting the incorporation of environmental technologies such as photovoltaic panels or solar thermal panels, devices for rainwater and surface water harvesting and grey

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan contributes to Sustainable Development**

NP Policy	Economic Factors	Social Factors	Environmental Factors	How Sustainability is achieved
				water recycling, the policy seeks to encourage use of renewable energy and to minimise consumption of non-renewable resources.
Policy 11 Small Scale Business Development	✓	✓	-	This policy supports appropriate, small-scale employment and business development opportunities in the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Increasing economic activities supported by the policy will deliver key jobs, services and trade to the community, locally. This can be expected to minimise the need to travel greater distances, and the associated risks of pollution associated with longer-distance travel.
Policy 12: Protecting Community Facilities	✓	✓	-	Protection of existing community facilities and promotion of new ones have positive effects on the social and historic environment strands of sustainability. The social benefit of community facilities derives from their capacity to meet local

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan contributes to Sustainable Development**

NP Policy	Economic Factors	Social Factors	Environmental Factors	How Sustainability is achieved
				residents' needs and thus to promote a cohesive community. Some of the community facilities identified also provide local employment opportunities whilst providing a community service.
Policy 13: Green Infrastructure	-	✓	✓	The protection of existing green infrastructure and public green spaces will be positive in terms of protecting the natural environment and improving biodiversity and will have beneficial social effects in terms of promoting healthy lifestyles and recreational opportunities.
Policy 14: Maintaining Separation	-	✓	✓	This policy protects the rural area in between Bracebridge Heath and Lincoln's Built-Up Area, which is considered pivotal in maintaining the individual characters of the settlements and contributing to protecting the natural environment in this area of separation.

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan contributes to Sustainable Development**

<b>NP Policy</b>	<b>Economic Factors</b>	<b>Social Factors</b>	<b>Environmental Factors</b>	<b>How Sustainability is achieved</b>
Policy 15: Viking Way and the Lincoln Edge Green Wedges	-	✓	✓	The policy seeks to protect the Viking Way public right of way and enhance the walking connectivity around Bracebridge Heath. It also seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity within the Green Wedges.
Policy 16: Open spaces, sports facilities and recreation facilities	-	✓	✓	The protection of open spaces, sports facilities and recreation facilities will be positive in terms of protecting the natural environment, and recreational facilities will have beneficial social effects in terms of promoting healthy lifestyles and recreational opportunities. Similar benefits can be expected from the creation of “new” open spaces, which is also supported by the policy.
Policy 17: Locally Important Views	-	✓	✓	Protection of important views contributes to maintaining and enhancing the character of the village and hence promotes a sense of place and community cohesion. Moreover, the protection of important views over the countryside,

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan contributes to Sustainable Development**

NP Policy	Economic Factors	Social Factors	Environmental Factors	How Sustainability is achieved
				natural features, and historic sites helps to enhance and protect the historic and natural environment of the two Parish. Protecting the character and attractiveness of the area will have the secondary effect of promoting their value as tourism destinations, supporting related economic activities.
Policy 18: Designating Local Green Space	-	✓	✓	The Local Green Space designation aims to protect sites important for their environmental value as ecosystems and biodiversity sites; for their community value as sites used for recreation, tranquil contemplation; and for their value as historical or beautiful sites. The Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee, following consultation with the residents, selected the most important sites whose protection will benefit the social and environmental well-being of the community.

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan contributes to Sustainable Development**

NP Policy	Economic Factors	Social Factors	Environmental Factors	How Sustainability is achieved
Policy 19: Protecting existing and establishing new non-vehicular routes for pedestrians and cyclists	-	✓	✓	Policy 19 seeks to protect and enhance the public rights of ways and walking routes around Bracebridge Heath and to ensure that new development connect with these. This policy is intended to support the enhancement and further connection of existing public rights of way within the plan area. It is hoped that improving the connectivity in the village will encourage more people to walk and cycle, helping to deliver both health and environmental benefits.

**Table 2a: Conformity of Objectives with the National Planning Policy Framework**

This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan’s Objectives conform with NPPF Goals		
Neighbourhood Plan Objective		Relevant NPPF Goal
1	Ensure that the green wedges and green buffer zones around Bracebridge Heath remain intact or are put in place. This will prevent ribbon development and the village merging with other villages or Lincoln	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.</li> <li>▪ Promoting healthy communities</li> <li>▪ Achieving well-designed places</li> </ul>
2	Enhance our local wildlife and environmental assets such as the Viking Way and the Lincoln Edge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.</li> </ul>
3	Protect and enhance our community facilities, open spaces and heritage assets;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.</li> <li>▪ Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</li> </ul>
4	Ensure new development has a suitable mix of housing types which meets the needs of our new and existing residents. It should not have a detrimental effect on the attractive quality of the surrounding countryside, landscape, ecosystems and historic environment;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Delivering a sufficient supply of homes</li> <li>▪ Achieving well-designed places</li> <li>▪ Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.</li> <li>▪ Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</li> </ul>
5	Encourage the inclusion of energy-efficient devices in any new developments with a view to lowering future carbon emissions for our village;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promoting healthy communities</li> <li>▪ Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</li> <li>▪ Achieving well-designed places</li> </ul>
6	Ensure that the infrastructure, such as roads, drainage and the sewerage system are capable of supporting any further development within the Parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Achieving well-designed places</li> <li>▪ Promoting sustainable transport</li> </ul>

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan's Objectives conform with NPPF Goals**

Neighbourhood Plan Objective		Relevant NPPF Goal
7	Provide guidance/policy for: streetscape design, management, landscaping; detailed design of development in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Achieving well-designed places</li> </ul>
8	Preserve and enhance our public footpaths, cycleways and connections within the village. This will encourage the use of alternative modes of transport for journeys within the Parish and to and from other communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Achieving well-designed places</li> <li>▪ Promoting sustainable transport</li> </ul>
9	Support and encourage the improvement of our existing transport infrastructure in the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promoting sustainable transport</li> </ul>
10	Develop diverse leisure and recreation activities in order to promote healthy lifestyles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promoting healthy communities</li> </ul>
11	Encourage opportunities for the younger members of the village to become fully involved with the sustainability of village life for the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promoting healthy communities</li> </ul>
12	Retain existing and support new employment opportunities in the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring the vitality of town centres</li> <li>▪ Building a strong, competitive economy</li> </ul>

This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan's Objectives conform with NPPF Goals		
Neighbourhood Plan Objective		Relevant NPPF Goal

**Table 2b: Conformity of Policies with the National Planning Policy Framework**

<b>This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan’s Policies conform with NPPF</b>		
<b>NP Policy</b>	<b>NPPF Paragraph</b>	<b>How Conformity is Achieved</b>
Policy 1: Housing Mix	47, 50, 55, 56, 57, 76 and 159	Policy 1 addresses the need to provide housing to meet demonstrable need and provides more specific detail about that need in the Neighbourhood Plan area and the policy response. The NPPF supports policies that meet local housing need. This policy seeks to encourage a mix of housing types and sizes and to encourage densities that are reflective of their surroundings.
Policy 2: Design of New Housing Developments	105, 124-129	This policy ensures that new developments in the Parish have high quality and appropriate design that promotes and reinforces local distinctiveness; present appropriate architectural features and landscaping solutions; and conserve heritage assets.
Policy 3: Car Parking and Electric Charging Points	102, 105, 106	This policy specifically addresses paragraphs 105 and 106 of the NPPF which refers to local parking standards for residential development taking into account accessibility, type, mix and use of development. This policy ensures that where development provides additional space for a motor vehicle, there should be the associated provision of charging points for electric vehicles. The NPPF explicitly supports planning for the provision of plug-in vehicle technologies.
Policy 4: Cycle Parking and Storage	102, 105, 106	This policy focuses on the capacity for bicycle parking. The NPPF explicitly supports improved quality of provision for bicycles and cycling.

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan's Policies conform with NPPF**

NP Policy	NPPF Paragraph	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 5: Allocation of Affordable Housing	15, 20	This Policy seeks to address local issues connected with housing affordability and to ensure local residents' housing needs are fulfilled.
Policy 6: Protecting the Historic Environment	189-192, 197	Policy 6 is in line with Chapter 16 of the NPPF, in particular, paragraphs 189 to 192. The identification and protection of non- designated heritage assets and locally important assets, which this policy pursues, is in line with paragraph 197 of the Framework.
Policy 7: St John's Craft Workshops	80-84	Promotes a competitive village centre environment with a mix of retail and other complementary uses. The policy recognises the importance of local facilities and services.
Policy 8 Retail and Leisure Provision	85	This policy seeks to preserve existing facilities within the village centre over the plan period. It also supports the expansion and enhancement of the village's retail and leisure provision and its service facilities.
Policy 9: Sleaford Road Industrial Estate	80-84	Strengthens the future economic health of the village by promoting employment uses within the built-up area boundary.

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan's Policies conform with NPPF**

NP Policy	NPPF Paragraph	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 10: Renewable Technologies on Employment sites.	148-154	The policy promotes the transition to a low carbon future. The NPPF encourages plans to take a proactive approach to mitigate and adapt to climate change. This ensures the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts.
Policy 11 Small Scale Business Development	80, 81	The NPPF addresses the economic role of sustainable development through recognising the need for economic growth and investment in business. Policies should recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment and should support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas. This policy addresses this national aim by encouraging the provision of small-scale employment opportunities in the area.
Policy 12: Community Facilities	28, 70	This policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities, and supports the delivery of social, recreational and cultural facilities and services in the community.
Policy 13: Green Infrastructure	20, 34, 171	Policy 13 aims to protect existing open air and green facilities, spaces and networks that are used by the residents of Bracebridge Heath for recreational and social purposes. The NPPF defines Green Infrastructure as "a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities". The

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan's Policies conform with NPPF**

NP Policy	NPPF Paragraph	How Conformity is Achieved
		protection, as well as the enhancement and improvement of such infrastructure, is a key priority of the NPPF, in line with paragraphs 20, 34 and 171.
Policy 14: Maintaining Separation	17, 28, 55,109	<p>The policy aims to maintain a gap between Bracebridge Heath and Lincoln's South East Quadrant urban extension, thus protecting this valued landscape and taking account of the role of this area in separating the two settlements and thus retaining their individual character.</p> <p>The policy is not a blanket restriction for development in the areas, allowing for small and proportionate development in this rural context, in line with paragraph 28 and 55 of the NPPF, provided that development does not unacceptably erode the area of separation between the settlements.</p>
Policy 15: Viking Way and Lincoln Edge green wedges	76,104	<p>The NPPF supports plans that seek to protect and provide for high-quality walking and cycling networks. Policy 15 defines the overall approach to protecting landscape character in considering the location for future development. It is based on an understanding and evaluation of the defining characteristics of the Parish undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan. The policy seeks to reinforce the Green Wedge policy within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. This green wedge is really important to the community as it is the only remaining site left that separates Bracebridge Heath from Lincoln's Built-Up area.</p>

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan's Policies conform with NPPF**

NP Policy	NPPF Paragraph	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 16: Open spaces, sports facilities and recreation facilities	126,131, 132,139	Policy 16 seeks to ensure that development contributes to and enhances the Open spaces, sports facilities and recreation facilities across the Parish. Improving and extending non-vehicular access to the countryside is encouraged.
Policy 17: Locally Important Views	109, 116, 156	The policy protects important natural and historic landscapes and scenic beauty through the protection of specific views and vistas over the countryside and the built-up form of the village.
Policy 18: Designating Local Green Space	96, 97, 98, 99, 110,101	This policy designates Local Green Space following the provisions set in paragraph 96, 97, and 98 of the NPPF, in order to protect the valued landscape, local ecological corridors and biodiversity sites, recreation facilities, and green infrastructure.

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan's Policies conform with NPPF**

<b>NP Policy</b>	<b>NPPF Paragraph</b>	<b>How Conformity is Achieved</b>
Policy 19: Protecting existing and establishing new non-vehicular routes for pedestrians and cyclists	91, 102, 104, 110	The NPPF seeks to promote sustainable transport, particularly giving priority to pedestrian and cycle movements. Layouts should be safe and secure and minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians. This policy meets national policy requirements by ensuring new developments should provide safe pedestrian and cycle access to link up with existing ones and should mitigate the impact of additional traffic movement on pedestrians.

**Table 3: Conformity with the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan**

<b>This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan’s Policies conform with the Local Plan</b>		
<b>NP Policy</b>	<b>CLLP Policy</b>	<b>How Conformity is Achieved</b>
Policy 1:Housing Mix	LP10, LP11	<p>LP10 of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan expects housing developments to provide housing solutions that contribute to meeting the housing needs of the housing market and ensure that properties are built to cover the circumstances of the occupants throughout their lifetime.</p> <p>LP11 of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan sets out the affordable housing requirements relating to the settlements within Central Lincolnshire.</p> <p>The BBH NP supports a mix of housing types and tenures that reflects the settlement population’s needs now and of future generations.</p>
Policy 2: Design of New Housing Developments	LP25, LP26	<p>The Central Lincolnshire Local plan sets out that all new development, including extensions and alterations to existing buildings, must achieve a high-quality, sustainable design that contributes positively to local character, landscape and townscape that it is accessible to all. The policy also sets out design principals for new developments.</p> <p>The BBH NP sets out the criteria for how it would like to see new development designed to ensure it reflects the setting and rural nature of the village. This policy ensures new development if it is of good design and provides a locally distinctive set of development principles for applicants to follow.</p>

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan's Policies conform with the Local Plan**

NP Policy	CLLP Policy	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 3: Car Parking and Electric Charging Points	LP13 LP18	Policy 3 sets out parking standards. The policy seeks to ensure that appropriate car parking is provided with new housing developments, taking into account local needs. The policy promotes the installation of electric car chargers to help promote a sustainable future, as stated in LP13.
Policy 4: Cycle Parking and Storage	LP13	Policy 4 seeks to ensure that appropriate cycle parking provision is made for residents, visitors, employees, and customers, as stated in LP13.
Policy 5: Allocation of Affordable Housing	LP11	Policy 5 aims to address local issues connected with housing affordability and to ensure local residents' housing needs are fulfilled. To provide for local needs, policy 5 of this Neighbourhood Plan requires all development delivering affordable housing to allocate units according to a local connection criteria, if necessary, as part of S106 Agreements.
Policy 6: Protecting the Historic Environment	LP25	LP25 of the Central Lincolnshire Local plan seeks to ensure that new development proposals protect, conserve and seek opportunities to enhance the historic environment of Central Lincolnshire. The BBH NP also seeks to conserve, enhance and protect the historic character and buildings in the Parish.

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan's Policies conform with the Local Plan**

NP Policy	CLLP Policy	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 7: St John's Craft Workshops	LP 5, LP15	Policy 7 conforms with the CLLP to protect a community and business facility. This ensures that the current and future function of the St John's Craft Workshop in the village will be available for present and future generations.
Policy 8 Retail and Leisure Provision	LP5, LP6, LP15	This policy conforms with LP5, LP6 and LP15 in seeking to preserve existing facilities within the village centre over the plan period. It also supports the expansion and enhancement of the village centre and its facilities.
Policy 9: Sleaford Road Industrial Estate	LP5	This policy supports the need and location for small local enterprise parks previously identified by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.
Policy 10: Renewable Technologies on Employment sites.	LP18, LP19	The policy promotes renewable energy generation technologies to help achieve a low carbon future for the village. Policy 10 to take a proactive approach to mitigate and adapt to climate change. This ensures the future resilience of the business community to climate change impacts.

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan's Policies conform with the Local Plan**

NP Policy	CLLP Policy	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 11 Small Scale Business Development	LP5	This policy conforms with LP5 in seeking to preserve and enhance a Strategic Employment Site allocated in the CLLP. Policy 11 ensures a healthy and sustainable local economic growth where entrepreneurship, innovation and inward investment are actively encouraged.
Policy 12: Community Facilities	LP15	The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan sets out in policy LP15 to protect and enhance community facilities and encourages local communities to register community assets of value. The NP seeks to take the local plan policy further by identifying the valued community facilities within Bracebridge Heath and sets out a criterion in which the change of use or replacement of the facilities in the village will be accepted.
Policy 13: Green Infrastructure	LP9, LP17, LP20, LP24	The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan seeks to protect and enhance landscape features, biodiversity, landscape character and the landscape amenity value of the Central Lincolnshire area. The NP also seeks to ensure the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and the linkages around the settlement and into the countryside.

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan's Policies conform with the Local Plan**

NP Policy	CLLP Policy	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 14: Maintaining Separation	LP17, LP55	This policy seeks to maintain the separate identity of Bracebridge Heath by ensuring that there will continue to be physical separation between the village and neighbouring settlements, including the planned "South East Quadrant" extension of the built-up area of Lincoln. The policy does not act as a blanket restriction on development but considers the need and opportunity for appropriate development in the countryside as set out in Policy LP55.
Policy 15: Viking Way and the Lincoln Edge Green Wedges	LP13, LP20, LP22	The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan identifies land to the east of Bracebridge Heath as the Waddington to Bracebridge Heath Green Wedge. The NP supports this and seeks to reinforce it, as it is the only remaining green area that separates the settlements. Policy 13 identifies the importance of the Viking Way Public Right of Way for the district and allows such a route to be protected and enhanced for future generations.
Policy 16: Open spaces, sports facilities and recreation facilities	LP23, LP24	The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan identifies open spaces and protects these through its policies. The BBH NP seeks to take identify important community open spaces, sports facilities and recreation facilities, and encourages the enhancing and protecting these for future generations.

**This table shows how Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan's Policies conform with the Local Plan**

NP Policy	CLLP Policy	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 17: Locally important views	LP17, LP25, LP26	This Policy aims to protect key local views, and hence maintain and enhance the character of the village, in line with policy LP17. Moreover, as some of the identified views are from and toward heritage assets, by protecting them the policy is in line with policy LP25 and LP26.
Policy 18: Designating local green space	LP23	The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan identifies opens spaces and protects these through its policies. The NP seeks to take the identification of important community opens spaces further and aims to designate these in line with the NPPF guidance. The sites have been assessed against the NPPF criteria, and the NP believes that all of the sites meet these criteria.
Policy 19: Protecting existing and establishing new non-vehicular routes for pedestrians and cyclists	LP13, LP20, LP24	This policy is intended to support the enhancement and further connection of existing public rights of way within the plan area. It is hoped that improving the connectivity in the village will encourage more people to use the green infrastructure network.

## Compatibility with EU Obligations and Legislation

- 2.10. The environmental assessment of plans with a significant environmental impact is a requirement of the EC Directive on the assessment of plans and programmes on the environment (Directive 2001/42/EC), known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.
- 2.11. In the context of neighbourhood planning, a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required where a Neighbourhood Plan is deemed likely to result in significant adverse effects occurring on protected European Sites as a result of the Plan's implementation.
- 2.12. A SEA and HRA Screening was undertaken by North Kesteven District Council (Appendix 1) to determine whether the content of the draft Neighbourhood Plan required a SEA or HRA Appropriate Assessment. Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency were consulted. It has been determined that the Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects and as such a full SEA or HRA are not required.
- 2.13. The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights. Whilst an Equality Impact Assessment Report has not explicitly been prepared, and great care has been taken throughout the preparation and drafting of this Plan to ensure that the views of the whole community were embraced to avoid any unintentional negative impacts on particular groups. The population profile has revealed that there is not a significant number of people who do not speak English as a first language, and it has not been necessary to produce consultation material in other languages.
- 2.14. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with extensive input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. There were consultation and engagement early on in the process, and residents were encouraged to participate throughout. The draft Neighbourhood Plan has been consulted on as required by Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012; responses have been recorded, and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the

Consultation Statement. The Consultation Statement has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee and meets the requirements set out in Paragraph 15 (2) of the Regulations.

### 3. Conclusion

- 3.1. It is the view of the Bracebridge Heath Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee that the foregoing has shown that the Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Act are met by the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein.
- 3.2. The Plan has appropriate regard to the NPPF, will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, is in conformity with strategic policies contained in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, and meets relevant EU obligations.
- 3.3. On that basis, it is respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan complies with Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

# Appendix 1: SEA & HRA Screening Report



# Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report

January 2020

On behalf of Bracebridge Heath Parish Council

<b>Date of assessment:</b>	5th December 2019
<b>Date/ version of neighbourhood development plan to which Screening Report applies:</b>	Pre-Submission Draft Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan, dated 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2019

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## Overview

**Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) to which this Screening Report applies:**

Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan

**Version/ date of NDP to which this Screening Report applies:**

Pre-Submission Draft (received 28/11/2019)

**Neighbourhood area to which the NDP applies:**

Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Area

**Parish Council within the neighbourhood area:**

Bracebridge Heath Parish Council

## Acronyms

BHNP	Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan
CLJSPC	Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
ECJ	European Court of Justice
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
GI	Green Infrastructure
GLNP	Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
Ha	Hectares
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IRZ	Impact Risk Zone
LGS	Local Green Space
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan
NKDC	North Kesteven District Council
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Interest

**SPA**            **Special Protection Area**

**SSSI**           **Site of Special Scientific Interest**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Neighbourhood Plans must meet the 'basic conditions' set out in 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This includes demonstrating that the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations such as:
  - **Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment** (the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive), transposed into UK law by The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and
  - **Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora**, which was initially transposed into UK law by The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 with various amendments consolidated by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
- 1.2. The purpose of this report is to undertake a screening exercise against various criteria to determine whether the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan (BHNP) requires a full SEA and / or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The screening exercise will therefore support the BHNP in satisfying the basic conditions, and will be submitted as part of the evidence base which will accompany the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.3. In general terms, a Neighbourhood Plan may require full SEA following screening, where its policies and proposals are likely to result in significant effects on the environment, particularly where such effects have not already been considered and dealt with, such as through a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (incorporating SEA) of a Local Plan.
- 1.4. In the context of neighbourhood planning, following screening, should a Neighbourhood Plan be deemed likely to result in a significant impact occurring on a protected European Site as a result of the plan's implementation, the HRA proceeds to Appropriate Assessment. The aim of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects arising from a plan against the nature conservation objectives of any European site designated for its nature conservation importance. Such sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites, and are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network, or 'Natura 2000' sites.

## 2. Strategic Planning Context

- 2.1. The basic conditions require a Neighbourhood Plan to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the Development Plan (i.e. the Local Plan) for the area. Through its strategic policies, the Local Plan effectively defines the parameters within which a Neighbourhood Plan may operate.
- 2.2. Throughout their preparation, Local Plans are subject to SEA (generally incorporated through a SA) and HRA. Where a Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan, it is likely that many of the environmental effects of the plan will have already been considered through the Local Plan-making process.
- 2.3. National planning policy states that evidence should be proportionate, and should not repeat policy assessment already undertaken. It is therefore relevant to consider the strategic policy context for the purpose of avoiding duplication and to identify environmental effects not already considered and addressed through the Local Plan-making process.

### *Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012-2036*

- 2.4. The adopted Development Plan for the district of North Kesteven is the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (April 2017), which defines strategic (and more locally specific) policies in the Central Lincolnshire area; the combined area covered by the City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey.
- 2.5. At the time at which the BHNP will likely be examined, the above document is likely to remain the adopted Development Plan for North Kesteven.
- 2.6. The Local Plan directs the majority of new development to the Lincoln Urban Area and the main towns of Gainsborough and Sleaford. Policy LP2 The Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy, sets out a settlement hierarchy for the whole of the Central Lincolnshire area, to assist decisions on investment in services and facilities, and on the location and scale of development. Within this hierarchy, Bracebridge Heath is defined as a 'Large Village'. As a large village, the Local Plan allocates two sites for residential development within Bracebridge Heath. The policy states that, in exceptional circumstances, additional growth on non-allocated sites in appropriate locations outside of, but immediately adjacent to, the developed footprint of these large villages might be considered favourably, though these are unlikely to be of a scale over 25 dwellings / 1 ha per site (whichever is the smaller).
- 2.7. During its preparation, the Local Plan was subject to SA (incorporating SEA) and HRA (see paras 2.10 to 2.15 below).

### *Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Review*

- 2.8. The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (CLJSPC) has commenced a review of the adopted Local Plan, in response to significant changes to national policy

and guidance, and to ensure the Local Plan remains up to date. The plan period for the new Local Plan is proposed to be 2018 to 2040.

- 2.9. The first stage of the review was the Issues and Options consultation, which was held for six weeks between 6<sup>th</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The consultation document set out a revised proposed settlement hierarchy. Bracebridge Heath remains unchanged from its position in the adopted April 2017 Local Plan. The consultation document proposes lowering the threshold for allocating sites for housing from 25 dwellings to 10 dwellings. This may mean that those settlements in the settlement hierarchy receiving allocations may need to be reconsidered to accommodate this change. Any sites allocated for housing in the Local Plan will be subject to both SA and HRA.

### *Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment (April 2016)*

- 2.10. Central Lincolnshire's Habitats Regulations Assessment Report<sup>1</sup> (HRA 2016) was prepared to accompany the adopted Local Plan on submission for independent examination. The purpose of the HRA report was to set out the methodology, assessment and conclusions of the HRA of the submitted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The HRA was carried out by the CLJSPC in consultation with Natural England.
- 2.11. The following Natura 2000 sites, within 30km of the Central Lincolnshire boundary, were scoped into the HRA 2016 for consideration. There are no Natura 2000 sites within the Central Lincolnshire area:
- The Wash SPA, Ramsar
  - The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC
  - The Humber Estuary, Flats, Marshes and Coast SPA, SAC, Ramsar
  - Baston Fen SAC
  - Thorne Moor SAC
  - Hatfield Moor SAC
  - Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA
  - Grimsthorpe Park SAC
  - Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC
  - Rutland Water SPA, Ramsar
  - Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and Gibraltar Point SAC
  - Gibraltar Point SPA, Ramsar
  - Sherwood Forest Region, Prospective SPA
- 2.12. The potential impacts identified as a result of the implementation of the Local Plan were:
- Direct land take of sites: habitat and species fragmentation and loss;
  - Change in water level supplies;
  - Changes in water quality;
  - Recreational disturbance;
  - Changes in air quality
- 2.13. Following initial screening, the HRA identified 7 Local Plan policies with potential for significant adverse effects on the Natura 2000 sites identified for consideration. These

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/local-plan/sustainability-appraisal-and-habitats-regulation-assessment/>

policies included the allocation of the overall housing and employment growth levels for the whole Central Lincolnshire area, and the distribution of this growth between the three main urban areas (Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford) and elsewhere. However, the HRA found that, when taking into account mitigation measures set out within other policies within the Local Plan and in other plans and programmes<sup>2</sup>, that none of these policies would be likely to lead to significant effects (alone or in combination) in relation to any of the identified impacts on any of the identified Natura 2000 sites.

- 2.14. The HRA concluded: *“The completion of Steps 2, 3 and 4 of Stage B, Screening, has identified that the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan policies, in combination with the other Local Plan policies and other relevant plans, policies and projects, are not likely to result in any significant negative effects on the European Sites identified at Stage A, Step 1.*

*As no policies remain likely to have significant negative effects, it is therefore not necessary to identify and apply mitigation measures (Step 5) and subsequently re-screen (Step 6).*

*The screening recommendation is therefore that the further Appropriate Assessment stage (Stage C) of the HRA is not necessary”.*

- 2.15. Natural England confirmed the HRA followed accepted methodology and was in line with appropriate legislation and guidance and agreed with the conclusions of the HRA: *“We can confirm that we agree with the Report’s conclusions that the Local Plan would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and no further assessment work is required at this stage.”*

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<sup>2</sup> Note the HRA for the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan was undertaken prior to the decision by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) (People Over Wind & Sweetman vs. Coillte Teoranta) in April 2018.

### 3. Summary of Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan

#### *Overview of the Neighbourhood Plan*

- 3.1. The subject of this screening report is the Pre-Submission Draft *Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan (dated 19 November 2019)*. The next stage of the BHNP is the Regulation 14 consultation.
- 3.2. The BHNP has been prepared by Bracebridge Heath Parish Council, the 'qualifying body' for the purposes of neighbourhood planning. The Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Area was formally designated by North Kesteven District Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 and follows the parish boundary. A map of the designated area is shown in **Map 3.1** below.

- 3.3. The BHNP sets out a vision for Bracebridge Heath as follows:

*“By maintaining a surrounding green buffer zone, Bracebridge Heath will endeavour to retain and enhance its unique identity as a ‘Cliff Village’ on the Lincoln Edge. It will continue to be a vibrant, attractive and sustainable place to live for current and future generations. The village will:*

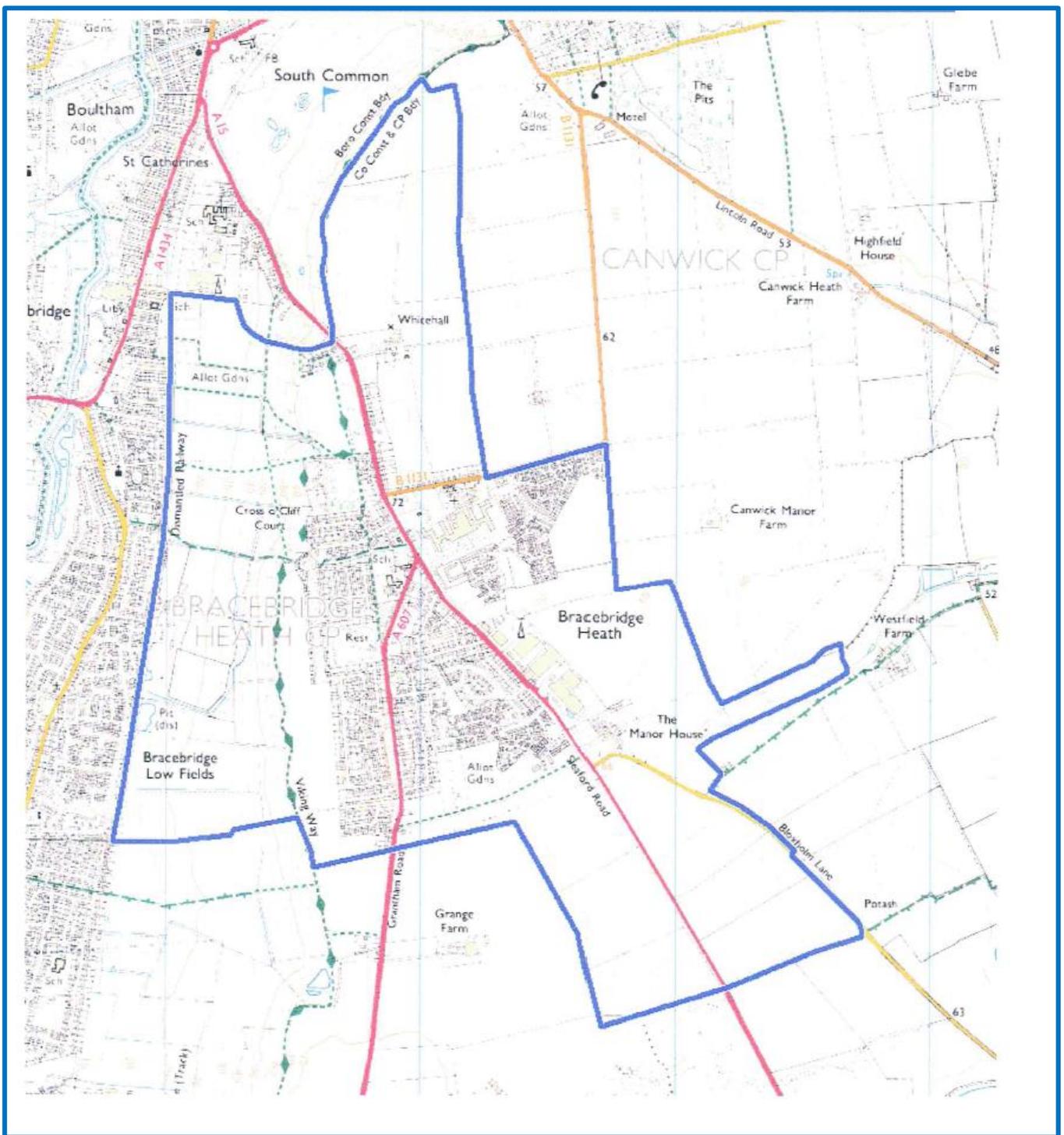
- *encourage exciting local cultural, educational and business opportunities, benefitting the community as a whole;*
- *identify and celebrate our proud village heritage by conserving our historical characteristics;*
- *protect existing, and promote the creation of new green open spaces. This will nurture a healthy environment and encourage the survival and growth of native flora and fauna within the designated area.”*

- 3.4. The BHNP identifies 12 overarching community objectives to achieve the vision:

1. ensure that the green wedges and green buffer zones around Bracebridge Heath remain intact or put in place. This will prevent ribbon development and the village merging with other villages or Lincoln;
2. enhance our local wildlife and environmental assets such as the Viking Way and the Lincoln Edge;
3. protect and enhance our community facilities, open spaces and heritage assets;
4. ensure new development has a suitable mix of housing types which meets the needs of our new and existing residents. It should not have a detrimental effect on the attractive quality of the surrounding countryside, landscape, ecosystems and historic environment;
5. encourage the inclusion of energy efficient devices in any new developments with a view to lowering future carbon emissions for our village;
6. ensure that the infrastructure, such as roads, drainage and the sewerage system are capable of supporting any further development within the parish;
7. to provide guidance/ policy for:
  - Streetscape design, management, landscaping
  - Detailed design of development in the area;

8. to preserve and enhance our public footpaths, cycle-ways and connections within the village. This will encourage the use of alternative modes of transport for journeys within the parish and to and from other communities;
  9. support and encourage the improvement of our existing transport infrastructure in the village;
  10. develop diverse leisure and recreation activities in order to promote healthy lifestyles;
  11. encourage opportunities for the younger members of the village to become fully involved with the sustainability of village life for the future;
  12. retain existing and support new employment opportunities in the village.
- 3.5. To deliver these objectives, the BHNP proposes 19 policies in total (see **Appendix 1** for a brief summary of each policy):
- Policy 1: Housing Mix
  - Policy 2: Design of New Housing Developments
  - Policy 3: Car Parking and Electric Charging Points
  - Policy 4: Cycle Parking and Storage
  - Policy 5: Allocation of Affordable Housing
  - Policy 6: Protecting the Historic Environment
  - Policy 7: St John's Hospital Craft Workshops
  - Policy 8: Retail and Leisure Provision
  - Policy 9: Sleaford Road Industrial Estate (including any extensions to the South East Quadrant)
  - Policy 10: Renewable Technologies on Employment Sites
  - Policy 11: Small Scale Business Development
  - Policy 12: Protecting Community Facilities
  - Policy 13: Green Infrastructure
  - Policy 14: Maintaining Separation
  - Policy 15: Viking Way and the Lincoln Edge Green Wedges
  - Policy 16: Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Facilities
  - Policy 17: Locally Important Views
  - Policy 18: Designated Local Green Space
  - Policy 19: Protecting Existing and Establishing New Non-Vehicular Routes for Pedestrians and Cyclists

**Map 3.1: Boundary of Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Area (in blue)**



Source: North Kesteven District Council

### *Summary of Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Area Characteristics*

- 3.6. In order to determine the likely significant effects of the BHNP on the environment, it is important to consider the characteristics of the area likely to be affected. A range of sources of information have been used to gather together this information, including DEFRA Magic Maps, Environment Agency Flood Risk Maps for Planning, the Central Lincolnshire Interactive Map and the BHNP's own evidence base.
- 3.7. Bracebridge Heath parish covers a total area of 490.09 ha. The total population of the parish at the time of the 2011 Census was 5,656 people; a density of 11.5 persons per ha. The mean age of the parish at the time of the Census was 40.2 years. This is slightly higher than the national average of 39.3 years.
- 3.8. In terms of the health of the population living within the BHNP, at the time of the 2011 Census, 49.8% of the population described their health as 'very good'. This is above the national average for England of 47.2%. The majority of the parish is ranked in the top 10% least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.<sup>3</sup>
- 3.9. There are no internationally designated sites of nature conservation interest within the boundary of the BHNP area. The nearest Natura 2000 site is greater than 30km from Bracebridge Heath village (see **Map 5.1**).
- 3.10. There are no nationally designated sites of nature conservation interest within the boundary of the BHNP area, such as Ancient Woodland, National Nature Reserves or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The IRZ for Swanholme Lakes SSSI in Lincoln, as defined by Natural England, extends into Bracebridge Heath parish (see **Map 3.2**).
- 3.11. In terms of locally designated sites, there are no Local Sites within the boundary of the BHNP area. Waddington Brick Pit Local Geological Site lies adjacent to the southern boundary of the plan area. Waddington Grassland (Viking Way) Local Wildlife Site (LWS) is within 700m of the southern boundary and South Common LWS is adjacent to the north western boundary. Cross O'Cliff Local Nature Reserve is immediately adjacent to the northern boundary (see **Map 3.3**).
- 3.12. Bracebridge Heath village falls within a biodiversity opportunity area for calcareous grassland.<sup>4</sup>
- 3.13. The BHNP area lies within the Southern Lincolnshire Edge National Character Area. The key characteristics<sup>5</sup> of this national character area include:
- Elevated arable escarpment with a distinct cliff running north-south along the western boundary;
  - Large-scale open landscape of arable cultivation with large, rectangular fields and few boundaries of tightly cut hedgerows or rubble limestone walls;
  - Small areas of woodland or parkland;
  - Semi-natural habitats in small, isolated fragments, with pockets of woodland and flower rich limestone grassland, particularly along road verges;

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<sup>3</sup> Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

<sup>4</sup> Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Study 2013

<sup>5</sup> <file:///H:/Downloads/NCA47%20Southern%20Lincolnshire%20Edge.pdf>

- Sparse settlement on higher land, with springline villages along the foot of the cliff, parklands and country estates on lower ground and larger settlement to the east of the dip slope;
  - Active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgetop;
  - Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges;
  - Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm coloured limestone and dark brown pantiles.
- 3.14. A Landscape Character Assessment was undertaken by NKDC in 2007. The parish falls within two landscape character sub areas: Limestone Heath and Lincoln Cliff. The Limestone Heath sub area is situated in the centre of the District between the ridge of the Lincoln Cliff and the Central Clays and Gravels to the east. The assessment describes the main pressures for change and landscape detractors. They include intensive agricultural activity, housing development, infrastructure provision and the presence of the Ministry of Defence. The Lincoln Cliff sub area follows the limestone escarpment running north-south; a dramatic topographical feature in the context of the wider area. The assessment describes the main pressures for change and landscape detractors. They include increased sensitivity to change, distinctive settings of ridgeline settlements, the treescape, infrastructure and field boundaries.
- 3.15. The BHNP area predominantly consists of Agricultural Land Grade 2 – very good quality.
- 3.16. The predominant soil types within the BHNP area are shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone loamy and slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils.<sup>6</sup>
- 3.17. From a historic environment perspective, there are 11 listed buildings within the BHNP area and their location is shown on **Map 3.4**:
- Chapel at St. John’s Hospital (grade II)
  - Pump House to Bracebridge Heath Service Reservoir (grade II)
  - Farm Buildings at the Manor House (grade II)
  - Main building at St John’s Hospital (grade II)
  - 1 and 2 Oakleigh (grade II)
  - The Manor House (grade II)
  - The Lodge (grade II)
  - Crondall House (grade II)
  - The Homestead (grade II)
  - Norfolk House (grade II)
  - Gates and walls at the Manor House (grade II)
- 3.18. There are no heritage assets within the BHNP area that are currently on Historic England’s Heritage at Risk Register.
- 3.19. There are no Air Quality Management Areas designated within the BHNP area.
- 3.20. In terms of the water environment, the BHNP area falls within the Environment Agency’s Witham Catchment Management area. The eastern half of the area falls within the Witham Lower Operational Catchment, whilst the western half falls within the Witham

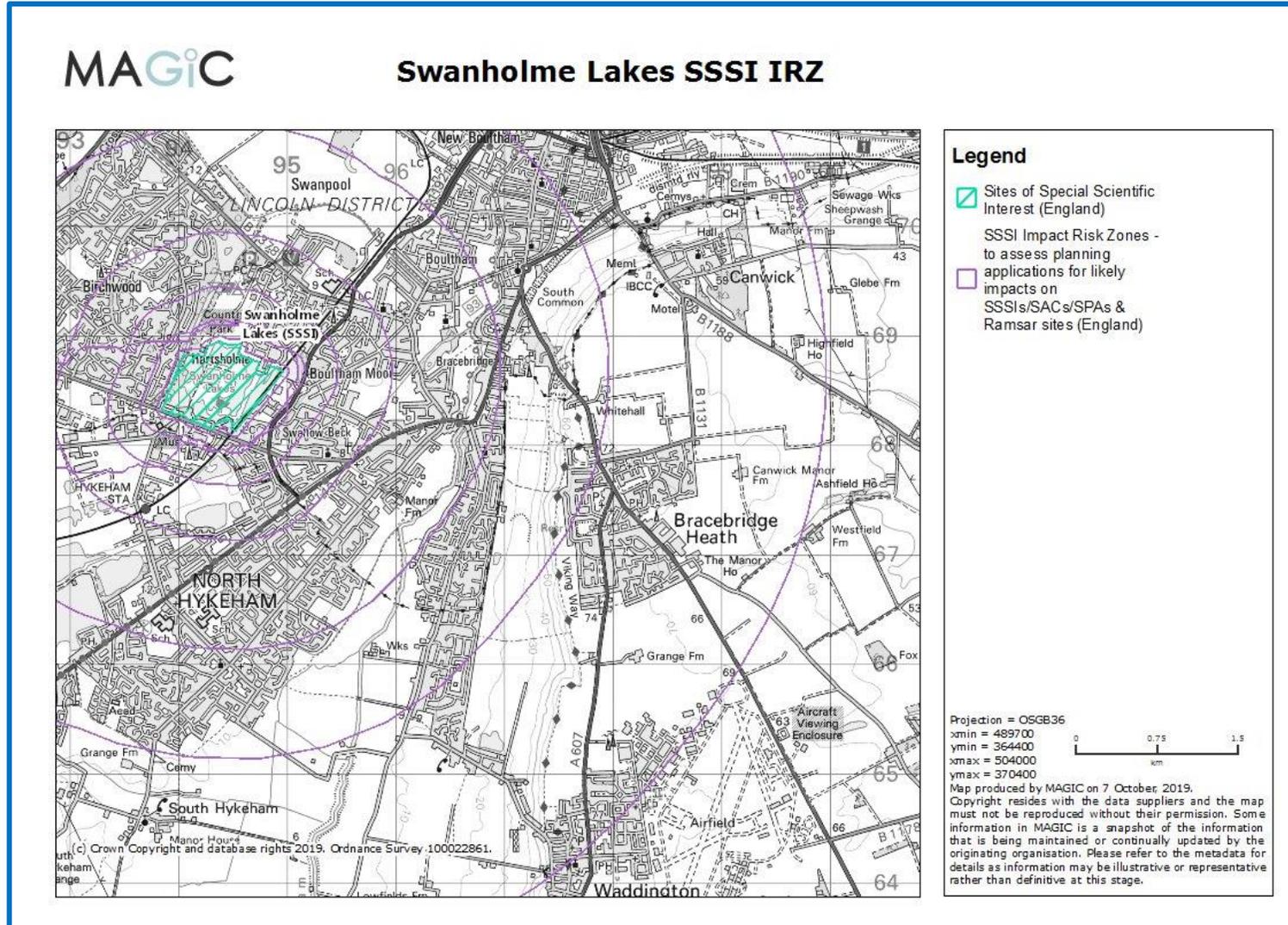
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<sup>6</sup> National Soil Map of England and Wales, accessed online at [www.magic.defra.gov.uk](http://www.magic.defra.gov.uk)

Upper Operational Catchment. There are no waterbodies within the BHNP area that are monitored by the Environment Agency for their chemical and biological status.

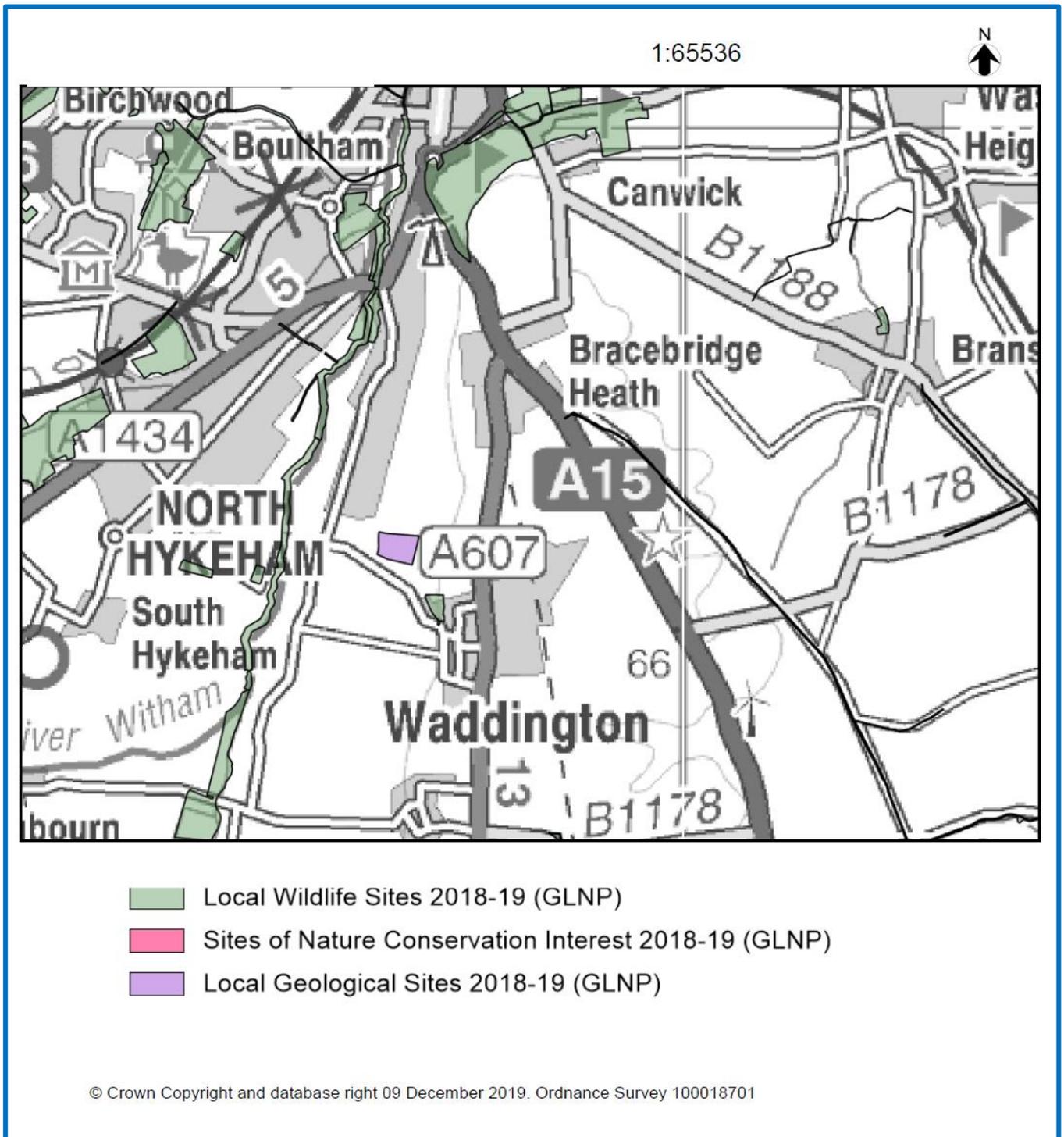
- 3.21. The BHNP area lies in an area of low flood risk (i.e. flood risk zone 1) (see **Map 3.5**).
- 3.22. The BHNP area falls within Source Protection Zones 2 (Outer Protection) and Zone 3 (Total Catchment). Source Protection Zones are defined around large and public potable groundwater abstraction sites, including wells, boreholes and springs. Groundwater Source Protection Zones are areas of groundwater where there is particular sensitivity to pollution risks due to the closeness of a drinking water source and groundwater flows. Generally, the closer the activity is to a groundwater source, then the greater the risk.

**Map 3.2: Swanholme Lakes SSSI, Lincoln and associated IRZ in Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan Area**



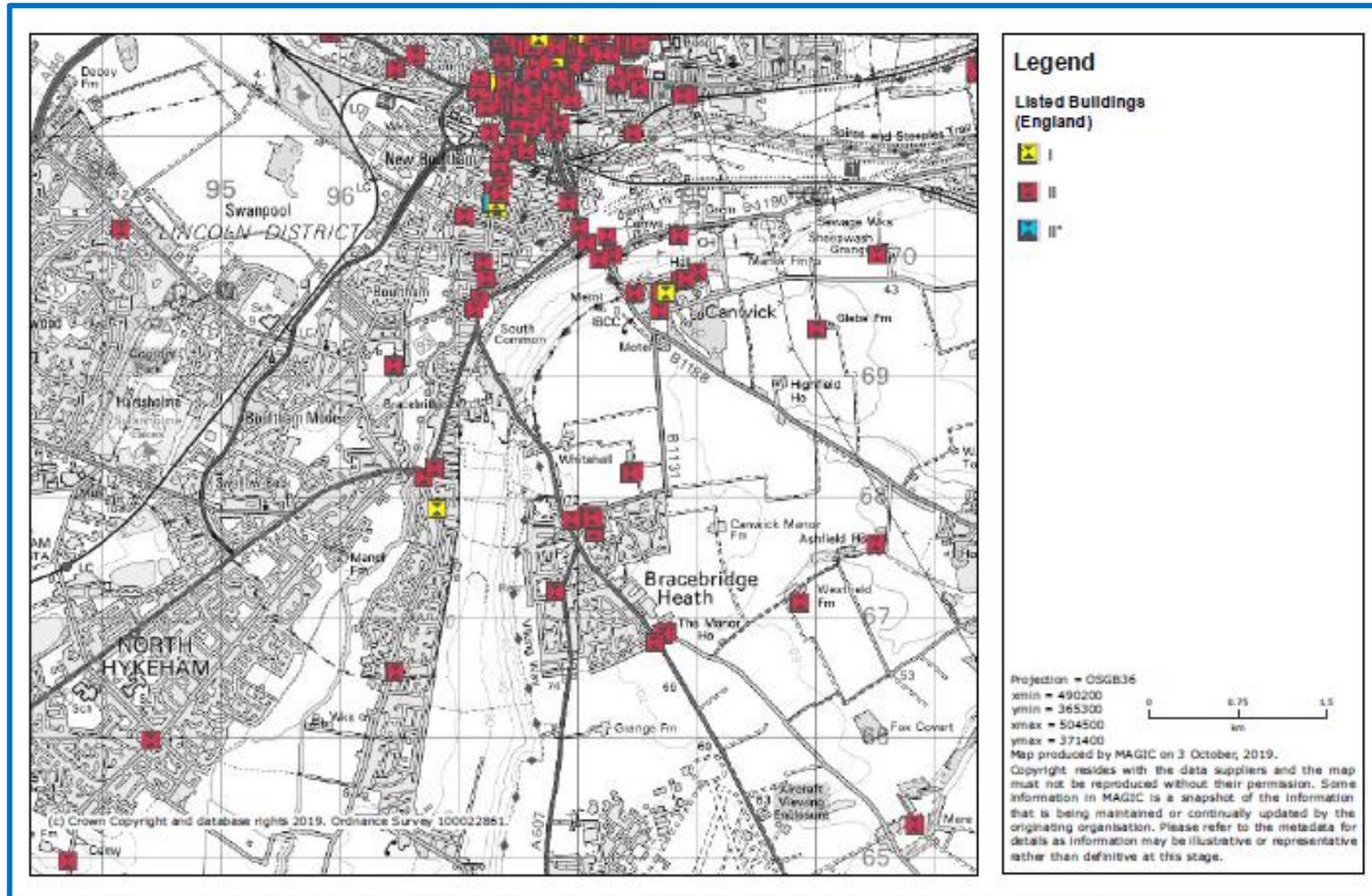
Source: Natural England

**Map 3.3: Locally designated sites the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan Area**



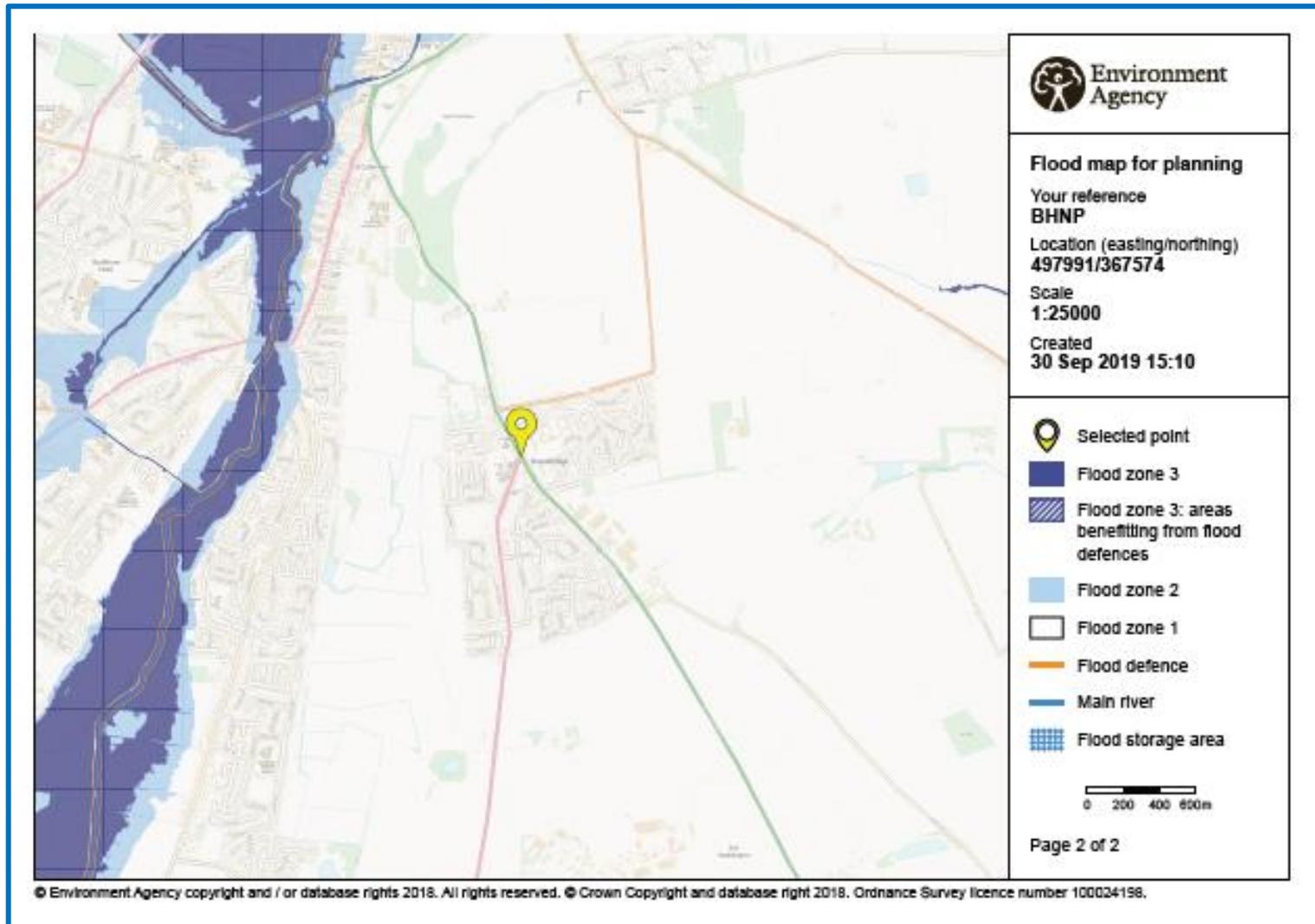
Source: Central Lincolnshire Interactive Map

**Map 3.4: Listed Buildings in the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan Area**



Source: Natural England

### Map 3.5: Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan Area – Flood Risk Zones



## 4. Screening Methodology: Criteria for Assessing the Effects of Neighbourhood Plans

### *Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*

- 4.1. The Localism Act 2011 (Schedule 9) introduced neighbourhood planning into the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The 1990 Act, as amended by Schedule 10 of the Localism Act 2011, requires that NDPs meet a set of basic conditions, one of which being that the making of the plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
- 4.2. To ensure that a NDP meets this basic condition, a SEA may be required to determine the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan. The basis for Strategic Environmental legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC, which was initially transposed into domestic law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or 'SEA Regulations'. Detailed guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'<sup>7</sup> and paragraph 073 of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) 'Neighbourhood Planning' section<sup>8</sup>. Paragraph 073 of the Neighbourhood planning section advises that a Neighbourhood Plan should be screened early. Whether a Neighbourhood Plan proposal requires a SEA, and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed within plan.
- 4.3. Where a proposed plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or European offshore marine site (in relation to the Habitats Directive), this will also trigger the need to undertake a SEA. Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 makes provision in relation to the Habitats Directive. The Directive requires that any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a European site must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. To achieve this, paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 prescribes a basic condition that the making of a Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site. Paragraphs 2 to 5 go on to amend the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 so as to apply its provisions to neighbourhood development orders and plans. A Neighbourhood Plan's (or Neighbourhood Development Order) requirements for Appropriate Assessment are clarified further by the Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018.
- 4.4. Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC details the criteria for determining whether plans are likely to have significant environmental effects. These criteria are outlined in **Figure 1**.

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<sup>7</sup> Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#basic-conditions-for-neighbourhood-plan-to-referendum>

- 4.5. The Department of the Environment produced a flow chart diagram<sup>9</sup> which sets out the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required. The flow chart diagram is provided in **Figure 2**.
- 4.6. Section 5 provides firstly, a screening assessment of the draft BHNP, against the assessment criteria (in **Figure 1**) to identify the significance of effects which may arise as a result of the plan's implementation.
- 4.7. Secondly, Section 5 applies the SEA Directive to the draft BHNP, as per the flow chart in **Figure 2**, to determine whether the principle of the neighbourhood plan would warrant the need for SEA.

### *Habitats Regulations Assessment*

#### *ECJ decision's effects on screening assessment*

- 4.8. A decision by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) (People Over Wind & Sweetman vs. Coillte Teoranta) in April 2018 has had a significant impact on the HRA process for both Neighbourhood Plans and Local Plans. In short, the ECJ ruled that in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out a full HRA of the implications of a plan, it is not appropriate to take account of mitigation measures at the screening stage. Rather, consideration of mitigation will need to occur at the full Appropriate Assessment stage.
- 4.9. A consequence of the ECJ's decision is that mitigation measures set out in a plan cannot be used at the screening stage to conclude there will be 'no likely significant effects' on European Sites. Therefore if a Neighbourhood Plan includes measures to counter the plan's effects on European Sites these should, in effect, be ignored at the screening stage.
- 4.10. Previously, plan-making in the UK has followed case law as set out in Application of Hart DC vs. Secretary of the State for Communities and Local Government in 2008, which concluded that: 'anything which encourages the proponents of plans and projects to incorporate mitigation measures at the earliest possible stage in the evolution of their plan or project is surely to be encouraged.'
- 4.11. The government has acknowledged that the ECJ's ruling has caused uncertainty in preparing Neighbourhood Plans, and could result in more plans requiring a full SEA or HRA. In December 2018, The Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018<sup>10</sup> came into force, amending the basic conditions and allowing affected Neighbourhood Plans and Orders to proceed.
- 4.12. For the avoidance of doubt, this screening report has been undertaken in accordance with the ECJ's ruling, insofar that the effects of any mitigation measures set out in the policies of the BHNP have not been considered.

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<sup>9</sup> Department of the Environment, A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005)

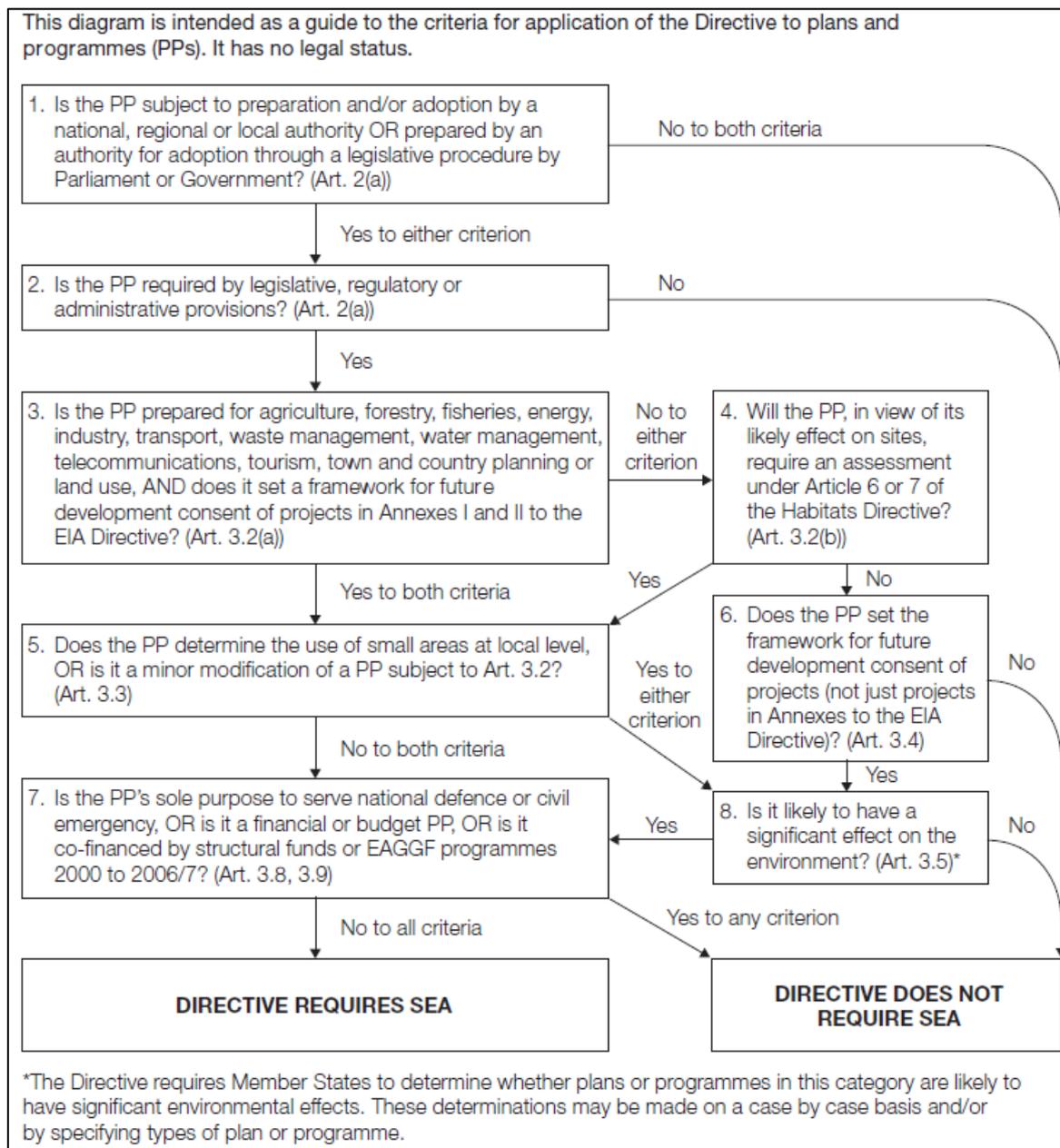
<sup>10</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/1307/contents/made>

**Figure 1: SEA Assessment Criteria**Article 3, Scope

5. Member States shall determine whether plans or programmes referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 are likely to have significant environmental effects either through case-by-case examination or by specifying types of plans and programmes or by combining both approaches. For this purpose Member States shall in all cases take into account relevant criteria set out in Annex II, in order to ensure that plans and programmes with likely significant effects on the environment are covered by this Directive.

Annex II Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
  - 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 degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
  - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
  - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;
  - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
  - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
  - the cumulative nature of the effects;
  - the transboundary nature of the effects;
  - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);
  - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
  - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
    - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
    - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;
    - intensive land-use;
  - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

**Figure 2: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes<sup>11</sup>**

<sup>11</sup> Annexes I and II of Directive 2011/92/EU (as referred to in Figure 2, question 3) available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0092&from=EN> (see <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/eia-legalcontext.htm> for details of amendments). Articles 6 and 7 of the Habitats Directive (as referred to in Figure 2, question 4) available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043&from=EN>.

## 5. SEA and HRA Screening Assessment of Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan

### Introduction

- 5.1. The 'responsible authority' in the case of SEA and the 'competent authority' in the case of HRA, must determine whether a plan or programme, in this case the BHNP, is likely to have a significant environmental effect with reference to specified criteria. The following section sets out an assessment of the BHNP against this criteria.
- 5.2. **Figure 3** and **Figure 4** consider the BHNP against the criteria from Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Paragraphs 5.3 to 5.48 consider the likely environmental effects of the BHNP in relation to the topics set out in Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive. Paragraphs 5.49 to 5.52 consider the likely significant effects in relation to the conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites.

### Determination of likely significant environmental effects - SEA Screening

#### Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

- 5.3 As identified in paragraphs 3.9 to 3.11 above, there are no international, national or locally designated sites for nature conservation within the Neighbourhood Area. There are four Local Sites on or close to the southern boundary of the BHNP area. However, negative impacts as a result of the implementation of the BHNP are not expected as the BHNP does not set out an overall quantum of development or allocate specific land or sites for development.
- 5.4 The BHNP sets out an objective to "*enhance our local wildlife and environmental assets such as the Viking Way and the Lincoln Edge*". There are several policies within the BHNP that seek to protect and enhance biodiversity. Policy 2 – Design of New Housing Developments states that new development should "*respect and work sympathetically with the local topography, landscape, hedges, trees, wildlife habitats, other flora, existing buildings and site orientation retaining these features wherever possible*".
- 5.5 Policy 13 – Green Infrastructure seeks to protect and encourage the enhancement of Green Infrastructure (GI) and requires the delivery of new GI to "*maximise the delivery of ecosystem services*".
- 5.6 Policy 16 – Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Facilities requires new open spaces to be "*able to provide a variety of natural and designed landscapes with different functions such as providing biodiversity for wildlife, trees to provide shade and interest for local residents using the open spaces.*"
- 5.7 Policy 18 – Designated Local Green Space designates green spaces in order to protect them from development. Three of the four sites designated within the policy have wildlife interest.
- 5.8 The BHNP does not include a specific policy on biodiversity, however this is covered by policy LP21– Biodiversity and Geodiversity in the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. This will ensure that any future development protects and enhances biodiversity within the BHNP area.

- 5.9 Overall, it is expected that the BHNP will help to protect and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna in the Neighbourhood Area and that significant impacts arising from the implementation of the plan are unlikely.

### *Population and human health*

- 5.10 Bracebridge Heath parish had a population of 5,656 people at the time of the 2011 Census. The average age was 40.2, slightly above the national average. The health of the population is generally good, with 49.8% of all usual residents describing their health as 'very good' and 33.3% as 'good health' at the time of the 2011 Census.
- 5.11 There is one GP surgery within the Neighbourhood Area. Map 7 on page 43 of the Neighbourhood Plan shows the main open spaces within the village curtilage and these are also listed in Appendix C. These open spaces include children's play areas, allotments, recreation ground, playing fields and a woodland walk.
- 5.12 The BHNP includes an objective to "*develop diverse leisure and recreation activities in order to promote healthy lifestyles*". There are a number of policies within the BHNP that seek to ensure new development has a positive impact on the population and human health. Policy 2 – Design of New Housing Development requires new development to "*provide an environment that contributes to the health and well-being of the residents through the provision of meeting place opportunities, shared space, and safe and accessible environments.*"
- 5.13 Policy 13 – Green Infrastructure, is expected to have a positive impact on human health, by protecting existing walking and cycling routes, supporting the improvement of such routes where possible and requiring new GI to support healthy and active lifestyles by ensuring connectivity of GI with footpaths and cycle-ways.
- 5.14 Policy 16 – Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Facilities recognises access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important to the health and well-being of Bracebridge Heath residents. This policy seeks to protect existing open spaces, specifically recreation of playing field space, and requires new open space to be designed to be able to provide opportunities for physical activity.
- 5.15 Overall, the BHNP is not likely to have a significant impact on population and human health, given the relatively small population that the BHNP applies to and the fact that no land or sites are specifically allocated for development within the plan.

### *Soil, air and water*

- 5.16 In terms of soil, the Neighbourhood Area predominantly consists of Grade 2 and Grade 3 agricultural land.
- 5.17 There are no air quality management areas within the Neighbourhood Area and therefore no significant air quality issues.
- 5.18 In terms of water, there are no waterbodies in the BHNP area that are monitored by the Environment Agency for their ecological and chemical status. The entire area is located within flood zone 1.
- 5.19 The BHNP does not include any policies directly related to soil, air and water. The BHNP does not include a policy on development and flood risk, however this is covered by policy LP14 – Managing Water Resources and Flood Risk in the adopted Central Lincolnshire

Local Plan. This will ensure that any future development does not exacerbate flood risk and surface water run-off within the Neighbourhood Area.

- 5.20 Overall, it is anticipated that there is unlikely to be any significant adverse effects on soil, air or water as a result of implementing the BHNP.

#### *Climatic factors*

- 5.21 Climatic factors involve the consideration of a plan or programme in relation to climate change. Climate change adaptation and mitigation are closely interrelated and are closely linked to other environmental issues.
- 5.22 Policy LP18 – Climate Change and Low Carbon Living of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, requires development proposals to make a positive and significant contribution to: reducing demand for energy and water, minimising the need to travel, taking opportunities to use sustainable materials in the construction process, providing site based renewable energy infrastructure and carbon off-setting. Policy LP14 – Managing Water Resources and Flood Risk, seeks to ensure that development does not place itself or others at increased risk of flooding.
- 5.23 The BHNP does not specifically reference climate change in the vision, objectives or policies. However, due to the interrelated nature of climate change effects, consideration of climatic factors may be integrated in to other policies on biodiversity, transport etc.
- 5.24 The BHNP includes the following objectives that are relevant:
- *“encourage the inclusion of energy efficient devices in any new development with a view to lowering future carbon emissions for our village”;*
  - *“to preserve and enhance our public footpaths, cycle-ways and connections within the village. This will encourage the use of alternative modes of transport for journeys within the parish and to and from other communities”.*
- 5.25 Policy 2 – Design of New Housing Developments requires proposals for new dwellings to incorporate environmental technologies, such as photovoltaic panels or solar thermal panels, and devices for rainwater harvesting.
- 5.26 Policy 13 – Green Infrastructure requires the protection of the green infrastructure network and enhancement of green infrastructure to improve connectivity. This should have a positive effect on helping biodiversity adapt to the effects of climate change.
- 5.27 Any future developments could lead to increases in greenhouse gas emissions associated with transport, with a greater number of car journeys in the parish. The BHNP includes a specific objective to *“preserve and enhance our public footpaths, cycle-ways and connections within the village. This will encourage the use of alternative modes of transport for journeys within the parish and to and from other communities”.*
- 5.28 Policy 8 – Retail and Leisure Provision, aims to protect existing services and facilities and supports their expansion, or the provision of new services and facilities. Maintaining local services and facilities may have a positive effect on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport by encouraging journeys by walking and cycling and reducing the need to travel as well as length of journeys.

- 5.29 Overall, it is considered unlikely that there would be any significant adverse impacts on climatic factors as a result of the BHNP. The plan does not set a quantum of development and no land or sites are specifically allocated for development.

#### *Material assets*

- 5.30 The SEA Directive does not define what is meant by 'material assets' and it can be interpreted in a number of ways. This screening report takes material assets to include a range of social, physical and environmental infrastructure, such as schools, health facilities, roads, railways, bus services, wastewater treatment works, flood defences etc. Impacts on materials assets are likely to relate to a number of other SEA topics.
- 5.31 The BHNP includes the following relevant objective: "*ensure that the infrastructure, such as roads, drainage and the sewerage system are capable of supporting any further development within the parish*", and several policies relating to infrastructure.
- 5.32 Policy 3 – Car Parking and Electric Charging Points, requires the provision of adequate car parking and the inclusion of facilities for electric plug-in vehicles.
- 5.33 Policy 8 – Retail and Leisure Provision, aims to protect existing services and facilities and supports their expansion, or the provision of new services and facilities.
- 5.34 Policy 12 – Protecting Community Facilities, resists the loss of community facilities unless certain conditions are met, and supports the delivery of new community facilities or extension to existing facilities in principle.
- 5.35 It is considered unlikely that that the BHNP would have a significant adverse effect on material assets within the Neighbourhood Area.

#### *Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage*

- 5.36 As identified in para 3.17 above, there are 11 listed buildings in the BHNP area.
- 5.37 The BHNP includes the following objectives: To ensure new development "*does not have a detrimental effect on the attractive quality of the surrounding countryside, landscape, ecosystems and historic environment*", and "*to provide guidance/policy for: streetscape design, management, landscaping*" and "*detailed design of development in the area*".
- 5.38 Policy 2 – Design of New Housing Developments, requires proposals for new housing to respect local character and existing buildings. Character areas are shown on Map 3, page 25 of the BHNP.
- 5.39 The BHNP recognises the importance of the historic environment and includes a specific policy. Policy 6 – Protecting the Historic Environment, seeks to protect heritage assets and their setting. The policy requires any development proposals likely to affect a locally significant heritage asset, to be accompanied by a heritage statement.
- 5.40 Policy 17 – Locally important views, designates important local views, including those for their historical significance. The views are shown on Map 8, page 46 of the BHNP.
- 5.41 Given that the BHNP does not specifically allocate any land or sites for development, taking into account the policies highlighted above, and in combination with policies in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, it is considered unlikely that any future development that

may come forward within the Neighbourhood Area would adversely impact on any heritage assets and/or their setting.

### *Landscape*

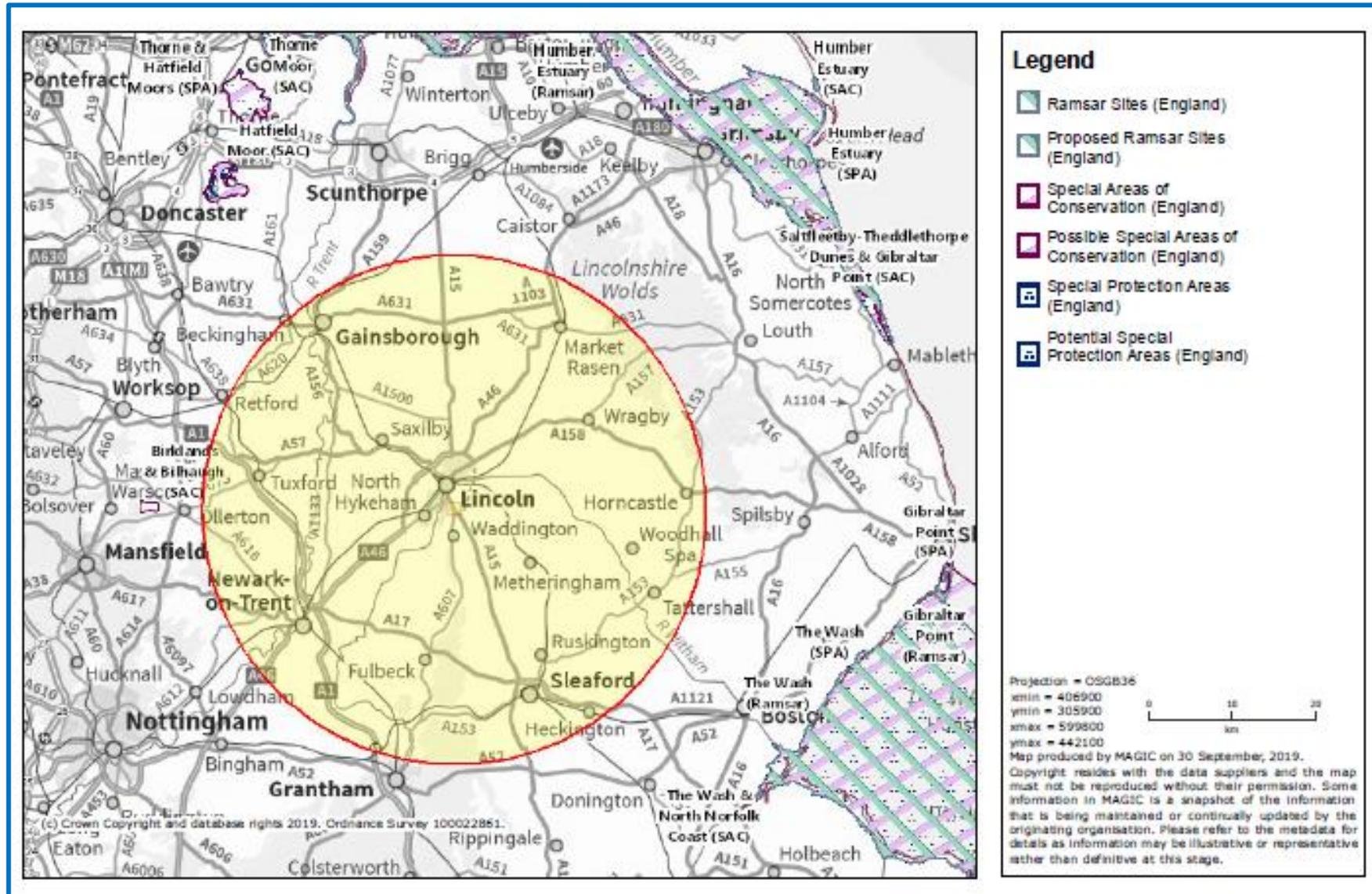
- 5.42 The Neighbourhood Area falls within the Southern Lincolnshire Edge National Character Area.
- 5.43 Objective 4 of the BHNP seeks to ensure that development should not have a detrimental effect on *“the attractive quality of the surrounding countryside, landscape, ecosystems and historic environment”*.
- 5.44 Policy 2 – Design of New Housing Developments, requires proposals to *“respect and work sympathetically with the local topography, landscape, hedges, trees, wildlife habitats, other flora, existing buildings and site orientation retaining these features wherever possible”*.
- 5.45 Policy 13 - Green Infrastructure, seeks to protect and enhance GI: *“proposals that cause loss or harm to this green infrastructure network will not be permitted unless the need for and benefits of the development demonstrably outweigh any adverse impacts.”*
- 5.46 Policy 14 – Maintaining Separation, seeks to maintain separation between Bracebridge Heath and new development in the South East Quadrant, to protect the identity of the village by avoiding coalescence.
- 5.47 Within the BHNP area, the Lincoln Edge, which forms part of the Bracebridge Heath and Canwick Green Wedges in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, is a prominent landscape feature. Policy 15 – Viking Way and the Lincoln Edge Green Wedge, seeks to ensure the Lincoln Edge is protected by ensuring any development within the Green Wedge is not detrimental to the function or aims of the Green Wedge.
- 5.48 The BHNP does not allocate sites for development and therefore, with the policies outlined above, a significant impact on the local landscape is considered to be unlikely.

### *Determination of likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites - HRA Screening*

- 5.49 There are no Natura 2000 sites within the boundary of the BHNP area (see **Map 5.1**). The Natura 2000 sites screened into the HRA Report undertaken for the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan in April 2016, are over 30km from Bracebridge Heath village.
- 5.50 There are a wide range of impacts that could potential arise as a result of implementing a Neighbourhood Plan. These include:
- Land take by development: habitat and species fragmentation and loss;
  - Impact on qualifying species that use land outside of the protected sites for feeding or roosting, for example;
  - Increased disturbance from recreational use;
  - Changes in water availability and/or water quality as a result of development and increased demand for water treatment;
  - Changes in air pollution levels due to increased traffic, pollution discharges etc.

- 5.51 It is commonly recognised in HRA guidance that when considering the potential effects on Natura 2000 sites that distance itself is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or severity of an impact. There are other factors that will influence the relative distance at which an impact can occur, such as the prevailing wind or river flow direction. Best practice is to use a 'source-pathway-receptor' model which focuses on whether there is a pathway from the **source** (the direct or indirect change occurring as a result of development) by which impacts from the Plan can affect the sensitivities of a Natura 2000 sites' environmental conditions. The **pathway** is the route or mechanism by which any likely significant effect would be manifest in the environment and would reach the **receptor** (the Natura 2000 site).
- 5.52 Using this approach, and given the fact that the BHNP does not set out an overall quantum of development, nor allocate land or sites for development, it is possible to conclude that there are unlikely to be any significant adverse effects on any of the Natura 2000 sites located beyond 30km. Any effects would be so restricted in scale or remote from a Natura 2000 site that they would not undermine the conservation objectives of the site.

Map 5.1: Location of Natura 2000 sites within 30km of Bracebridge Heath village



Source: Natural England

*SEA/HRA Assessment*

5.53 **Figure 3** provides assessment of the BHNP against the SEA Directive criteria to identify likely significant effects on the environment:

**Figure 3. 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 <i>significant</i> environmental effect
<b>1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to -</b>		
(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.	<p>The BHNP has been prepared for town and country planning purposes and would, if adopted, form part of the statutory Development Plan and contribute to the framework for future development projects.</p> <p>The principle of development in the Neighbourhood Area, including the nature of development, location and scale, has already been determined by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (April 2017) and is therefore largely beyond the influence of the BHNP. Any significant effects arising from the proposals in the Local Plan have already been identified through the SA and HRA of that plan.</p> <p>The BHNP would only apply to a very limited geographical area (the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Area) where a limited number of proposals are anticipated over the plan period, and any proposals are expected to be of a small scale.</p>	No
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	<p>The BHNP must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan provides policies for the Plan area, relevant to the parish area only. The BHNP would therefore not strongly influence other plans and programmes higher up the spatial planning hierarchy.</p>	No
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	<p>It is a basic condition that a Neighbourhood Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The BHNP seeks to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account. It includes the following policies which promote environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Policy 2 – Design of New Housing Developments</i></li> </ul>	No

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment	Likely significant environmental effect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Policy 3 – Car Parking and Electric Charging Points</i></li> <li>• <i>Policy 6 – Protecting the Historic Environment</i></li> <li>• <i>Policy 13 – Green Infrastructure</i></li> <li>• <i>Policy 14 – Maintaining Separation</i></li> <li>• <i>Policy 15 – Viking Way and the Lincoln Edge</i></li> <li>• <i>Policy 16 – Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Facilities</i></li> <li>• <i>Policy 17 – Locally Important Views</i></li> <li>• <i>Policy 18 – Designated Local Green Space</i></li> </ul> <p>These policies are compatible with the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, which was subject to both SA and HRA throughout the plan making process.</p>	
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	<p>The BHNP applies to a small geographical area.</p> <p>The environmental problems are considered in detail in paragraphs 3.6 to 3.48 above.</p>	No
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	<p>The content of the BHNP is not in conflict with any plans or programmes within the wider area for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment.</p>	No
<b>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—</b>		
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	<p>The BHNP does not allocate sites for development. The effects of the implementation of the BHNP are therefore uncertain to a certain extent, as they will depend on windfall sites that may come forward. However, such windfall sites are expected to be limited to small scale, and therefore the effects are not likely to be significant and are expected to be minimal. It is likely that some policies may result in positive effects by helping to preserve and enhance the environmental features within the Neighbourhood Area. See also paragraphs 5.3 to 5.48 above.</p>	No
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	<p>The cumulative effects of implementing the BHNP, both between the policies within the BHNP and with other plans and programmes, are expected to be very limited in nature and scale, as the plan does not identify a quantum of growth, nor allocate specific land or sites for development.</p>	No

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment	Likely <i>significant</i> environmental effect
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The BHNP is not expected to give rise to any transboundary effects.	No
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	The BHNP is not anticipated to pose any risks to human health or the environment.	No
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	<p>The Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Area is coterminous with the boundary of Bracebridge Heath parish. This includes the village of Bracebridge Heath, and surrounding countryside, which is principally in agricultural use. The population of Bracebridge Heath parish at the time of the 2011 Census was 5,656 people.</p> <p>The spatial extent of any effects of the implementation of the BHNP are expected to be limited to the immediate local area (i.e. the Neighbourhood Area), therefore the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects are expected to be limited in both the local and wider district context.</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>As highlighted in paras 5.3 to 5.48, it is considered unlikely that the BHNP would adversely impact the special natural characteristics or cultural heritage of the Neighbourhood Area. The BHNP is not expected to exceed environmental quality standards or lead to intensive land use.</p> <p>The BHNP does not allocate any land or sites for development. Furthermore, the BHNP includes policies which promote environmental considerations and seek to provide greater protection for the character of the area. Therefore it is not considered that there will be any significant adverse impacts in terms of criteria (f)(i to iii).</p>	No
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	There are no protected areas or landscapes within the Neighbourhood Area and therefore the BHNP is unlikely to result in any significant adverse effects. Any effects of the BHNP on the landscape are expected to be positive and localised, and are not likely to be significant.	No

5.54 **Figure 4** applies the SEA Directive criteria to the BHNP as per the flow chart in **Figure 2**, to determine whether the principle of the BHNP would warrant the need for SEA.

**Figure 4: Application of the SEA Directive to Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan**

Criteria	Response: Yes/ No/ Not applicable	Details
1. Is the NDP 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? (Art 2 (a))	Yes	The preparation and adoption of the BHNP is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Whilst the BHNP has been prepared by Bracebridge Heath Parish Council it will be adopted by North Kesteven District Council as the local authority and will form part of the statutory development plan for Central Lincolnshire.  <b>GO TO STAGE 2</b>
2. Is the NDP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art 2 (a))	Yes	Whilst the production of a Neighbourhood Plan is not a requirement and is optional, it will, if made, form part of the statutory development plan for the North Kesteven District Council area. It is therefore important that this screening process considers the potential effects.  <b>GO TO STAGE 3</b>
3. Is the NDP 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? (Art 3.2 (a))	Yes – Town & Country Planning / land use; No - EIA Directive Annex I & II	The BHNP is being prepared for town and country planning and land use, setting a framework for future development consents within the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Area.  However, the NDP is unlikely to set a framework for consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive.  <b>GO TO STAGE 4</b>
4. Will the NDP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art 3.2 (b))	No	See paras 5.49 to 5.52 for assessment of the BHNP in terms of HRA.  <b>GO TO STAGE 6</b>
5. Does the NDP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of an NDP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art 3.3)	n/a	
6. Does the NDP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Yes	Once 'made' the BHNP forms part of the Development Plan and will be used in the decision making process on planning applications. It therefore sets the framework for future developments at a local level.

Criteria	Response: Yes/ No/ Not applicable	Details
		<b>GO TO STAGE 8</b>
7. Is the NDP'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 BHNP does not deal with these issues.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	No	A Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have a significant effect on the environment, dependent on the proposed policies within the NDP. This requires detailed assessment to determine – see <b>paras 5.3 to 5.48</b> and <b>Figure 3</b> .
<b>Outcome: SEA NOT REQUIRED</b>		

## 6. Consultation with Statutory Bodies

- 6.1 The assessment in **Section 5** indicates that it is unlikely that there are any significant environmental effects arising from the BHNP (as submitted at the date of this assessment) and thus a SEA is not required. The relevant statutory consultation bodies, namely the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England, have been consulted on this SEA/HRA screening opinion based on the BHNP in its current form. The responses received during this consultation are summarised below, and can be viewed in full in **Appendix 2**.

### Historic England

- 6.2 Received by email on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020:

*Further to your screening request, Historic England see no Historic Environment impacts in the plan that would result a need for an SEA.*

### Natural England

- 6.3 Received by email on 10th January 2020:

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

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

### Environment Agency

- 6.4 Received by email on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019:

*Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, there are no areas of fluvial flood risk or watercourses within the neighbourhood plan area. Therefore we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints or other environmental sensitivities of interest to us.*

## 7. Screening Outcome

- 7.1 Having reviewed the environmental characteristics of the BHNP area and the vision, objectives and policies against the criteria set out in **Section 5** of this report, North Kesteven District Council consider it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the BHNP and thus the BHNP can be **screened out** for further SEA.
- 7.2 **Section 5** of this report also indicates that there are unlikely to be any significant effects on a designated Natura 2000 site arising from the implementation of the BHNP, and therefore further HRA assessment under the Habitats Regulations can be **screened out**.
- 7.3 The BHNP does not allocate any land or sites for development, but provides guidance to be used to determine applications should they come forward. The policies in the BHNP generally accord with the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, the potential environmental effects of which were duly assessed through the plan-making process through SA/SEA and HRA assessment.
- 7.4 A number of the BHNP policies are particularly environmentally conscientious and address environmental issues positively by seeking to improve the quality of new development to reduce its impacts on the environment. For example, the BHNP includes policies that: encourage environmental technologies in new developments (such as photovoltaic panels, solar panel and rainwater harvesting, require facilities for electric plug-in vehicles in car park proposals, seek to protect the surrounding landscape character and setting of the village, seek to preserve or enhance designated and undesignated heritage assets and their setting and seek to protect and enhance open spaces and the GI network.
- 7.5 To take an alternative approach, such as preparing evidence bespoke to the BHNP, would be disproportionate and result in unnecessary duplication. This would be contrary to national planning policy.
- 7.6 In the event that the vision, objectives and/or policies covered by the BHNP should change significantly during the plan-making process, or specific sites are allocated for development, this screening process should be repeated for the revised plan.

## Appendix 1: Summary of Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan Policies

<b>Policy Reference and Title</b>	<b>Brief Summary of Policy</b>
Policy 1: Housing Mix	This policy requires all developments of 10 or more dwellings to include a range of housing size, types and tenures to meet the needs and affordability of households, and this should be based on evidence.
Policy 2: Design of New Housing Developments	This policy requires new housing developments to be well designed and reflect local character. It includes a requirement for proposals to incorporate environmental technologies wherever this would not undermine viability or result in harm to local character or negative impacts on neighbouring properties.
Policy 3: Car Parking and Electric Charging Points	This policy sets out requirements in relation to car parking and electric charging points. Car parking should be integrated within the design of the scheme. Proposals will be expected to include facilities for electric plug-in vehicles.
Policy 4: Cycle Parking and Storage	This policy requires residential development to be accompanied by adequate, safe and secure cycle parking.
Policy 5: Allocation of Affordable Housing	This policy seeks to ensure that new affordable housing is offered to people with a local connection to the parish and whose needs are not met by the open market.
Policy 6: Protecting the Historic Environment	This policy seeks to protect designated and non-designated heritage assets. Development proposals likely to affect a locally significant heritage asset must be accompanied by a heritage statement.
Policy 7: St John's Hospital Craft Workshops	This policy relates to small enterprise units at St John's Hospital Craft Workshops and seeks to retain their current use unless it can be clearly demonstrated that they are no longer needed.
Policy 8: Retail and Leisure Provision	This policy seeks to strengthen the village centre and resists the loss of Class A1 and D1 uses unless certain criteria can be met. The policy also requires new leisure and sporting facilities to provide adequate and safe parking facilities.
Policy 9: Sleaford Road Industrial Estate (including any extensions to the South East Quadrant)	This policy supports new B1/B2/B8 development and/or redevelopment on this site provided the proposed development respects local character and neighbouring uses. The policy seeks B1/B2/D2 uses as part of any extension to the site.
Policy 10: Renewable Technologies on Employment Sites	This policy includes a requirement for proposals to incorporate environmental technologies wherever this would not undermine viability or result in harm to local character or negative impacts on neighbouring properties.
Policy 11: Small Scale Business Development	This policy supports the expansion or diversification of small scale businesses and the delivery of new small scale businesses, provided certain criteria are met.
Policy 12: Protecting Community Facilities	This policy resists the loss of community services and facilities unless certain criteria are can be met, and

Policy Reference and Title	Brief Summary of Policy
	supports the provision of new, or extensions to existing, community facilities, where they are appropriately located and are not likely to result in conflict with occupants of neighbouring properties or give rise to any other significant adverse impact.
Policy 13: Green Infrastructure	This policy requires development proposals to ensure existing and new green infrastructure is thoroughly considered and integrated into the scheme from the outset.
Policy 14: Maintaining Separation	This policy seeks to maintain a sense of visual and physical separation between Bracebridge Heath and neighbouring settlements. New development in the South East Quadrant must be clearly separated from the built area of Bracebridge Heath by a landscaped green buffer.
Policy 15: Viking Way and the Lincoln Edge Green Wedges	This policy seeks to protect the role and function of the Green Wedges, avoid increasing the visibility of the village from the Witham Valley floor to the west, and to avoid encroachment and urbanisation of the Viking Way route. The policy requires development proposals to retain, or where possible enhance, connectivity to the Viking Way.
Policy 16: Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Facilities	This policy recognises the importance of open spaces, sports and recreation facilities to the village. Any proposal to reduce or change the use of recreation or playing field space will be refused unless certain criteria can be met. The policy sets out criteria for the design of new open spaces.
Policy 17: Locally Important Views	This policy designates 12 locally important views. It requires development proposals likely to impact on a defined locally important view to be accompanied by a supporting landscape assessment. The location and direction of these views is shown on Map 8 of the Neighbourhood Plan.
Policy 18: Designated Local Green Spaces	This policy proposes the designation of 4 Local Green Spaces (LGS) in the village. These are shown on Map 9 of the Neighbourhood Plan. The policy states that applications for development on LGS, which would adversely affect their function as open spaces, will not be permitted.
Policy 19: Protecting Existing and Establishing New Non-Vehicular Routes for Pedestrians and Cyclists	This policy requires development proposals to incorporate safe and direct routes for pedestrians and cyclists into, and where relevant, through the development site.

## Appendix 2: Consultation Response From Statutory Bodies

**From:** Fletcher, Clive [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 January 2020 11:37  
**To:** Anne-Marie Shepherd [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Midlands ePlanning <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening

Dear Anne – Marie,  
Thanks for reminder. Further to your screening request, Historic England see no Historic Environment impacts in the plan that would result a need for an SEA.  
Yours sincerely,

Clive Fletcher, Principal Advisor and Lead Specialist, Historic Places  
Mobile phone: [REDACTED]

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[www.HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk)



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Date: 10 January 2020  
Our ref: 303837  
Your ref: None



Charlotte Robinson



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Ms Robinson

**Planning consultation: HRA/ SEA screening for the Bracebridge Heath neighbourhood plan (N. Kesteven)**

Thank you for your consultation on the above document dated 17 December 2019 which was received by Natural England on 18 December 2019

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.

We have considered '*Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report*' (December 2019).

Natural England welcomes the Screening Report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan.

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

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

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Sandra Close on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Sandra Close**

Page 1 of 2



Natural England is accredited to the Cabinet Office Service Excellence Standard





FAO Charlotte Robinson  
On behalf of  
North Kesteven District Council  
Council Offices  
Kesteven Street  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 7EF

**Our ref:** AN/2017/126755/OT-  
02/IS1-L01  
**Your ref:**  
**Date:** 23 December 2019

Dear Charlotte

### **Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening**

Thank you for consulting us on the Strategic Environmental Assessment screening report for the Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Plan.

Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, there are no areas of fluvial flood risk or watercourses within the neighbourhood plan area. Therefore we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints or other environmental sensitivities of interest to us.

The Lead Local Flood Authority's (insert LLFA name) Surface Water Management Plan will indicate if there are any critical drainage areas from local sources of flood risk (e.g. surface water, groundwater and sewerage) which coincide with the neighbourhood plan area.

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

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Sharon Nolan**  
**Sustainable Places Planning Advisor**

Direct dial [REDACTED]

Direct e-mail [REDACTED]

**Environment Agency**  
Nene House (Pytchley Lodge Industrial Estate),  
Pytchley Lodge Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6JQ  
Email: LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk

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End