



Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report

September 2019

On behalf of Leasingham and Roxholm Parish Council

Date of assessment:	20 th August 2019
Date/ version of neighbourhood development plan to which Screening Report applies:	Pre-Submission Draft Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan, dated July 2019

Contents

Overview	3
1. Introduction	4
2. Strategic Planning Context	5
Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012-2036	5
Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Review	6
Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment (April 2016)	6
3. Summary of Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan	8
Overview of the Neighbourhood Plan	8
Map 3.1: Boundary of Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Area	10
Summary of Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Area Characteristics	11
Map 3.2: Listed Buildings in Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan Area	13
Map 3.3: Flood Risk Zones LRNP Area	14
4. Screening Methodology: Criteria for Assessing the Effects of Neighbourhood Plans	15
Strategic Environmental Assessment	15
Habitats Regulations Assessment	16
Figure 1: SEA Assessment Criteria	17
Figure 2: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes	18
5. SEA and HRA Screening Assessment of Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan	19
Determination of likely significant environmental effects (SEA Screening)	19
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	19
Population and human health	19
Soil, air and water	20
Climatic factors	20
Material assets	21
Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage	22
Landscape	22
Determination of likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (HRA Screening)	22
Map 5.1: Location of Grimsthorpe SAC	24
SEA/HRA Assessment	25
Figure 3. Assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment	25
Figure 4: Application of the SEA Directive to Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan	27
6. Consultation with Statutory Bodies	30
7. Screening Outcome	31
Appendix 1: Summary of Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan Policies	32
Appendix 2: Consultation Response From Statutory Bodies	33

Overview

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

Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan

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

Pre-Submission Draft (received 22/07/2019)

Neighbourhood area to which the NDP applies:

Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Area

Parish Council within the neighbourhood area:

Leasingham and Roxholm Parish Council

Acronyms

CLJSPC	Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee
ECJ	European Court of Justice
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan
NKDC	North Kesteven District Council
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
LRNP	Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan
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

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 Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan (LRNP) requires a full SEA and / or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The screening exercise will therefore support the LRNP 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 Sites as a result of the plan's implementation, the HRA proceeds to Appropriate Assessment. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites 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 Sustainability Appraisal (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 of covered by the City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey
- 2.5. At the time at which the LRNP 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 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, Leasingham is defined as a 'Medium Village'. As a medium village, the Local Plan does not allocate sites for development within Leasingham. The policy states that, typically, development proposals will be on sites of up to 9 dwellings (0.25ha for employment uses), however in exceptional circumstances (as set out in the policy) proposals may come forward at a larger scale on sites of up to 25 dwellings (0.5 ha for employment uses).
- 2.7. Roxholm is defined as a 'Hamlet' under the settlement hierarchy set out in policy LP2. As a hamlet, the Local Plan does not allocate sites for development within Leasingham. The policy allows very limited development within a hamlet, typically 1 dwelling infill developments within the developed footprint of the village and in an otherwise continuous built up frontage of dwellings.
- 2.8. During its preparation, the Local Plan was subject to SA (incorporating SEA) and HRA (see paras 2.11 to 2.16 below).

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Review

- 2.9. 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 of for the new Local Plan is proposed to be 2018 to 2040.
- 2.10. The first stage of the review was the Issues and Options consultation, which was held for six weeks between 6th June and 18th July 2019. The consultation document set out a revised proposed settlement hierarchy. Both Leasingham and Roxholm remain unchanged from their 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)

- 2.11. Central Lincolnshire's Habitats Regulations Assessment Report¹ (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.
- 2.12. 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

- 2.13. 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

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

- 2.14. 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 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 programmes², 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.
- 2.15. 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”.

- 2.16. 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.”*

² 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 Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan

Overview of the Neighbourhood Plan

3.1. The subject of this screening report is the Pre-Submission Draft *Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan (dated July 2019)* (LRNP). The next stage of the LRNP is the Regulation 14 consultation.

3.2. The LRNP has been prepared by Leasingham and Roxholm Parish Council, the 'qualifying body' for the purposes of neighbourhood planning. The Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Area was formally designated by North Kesteven District Council on 24th March 2017 and follows the parish boundary. A map of the designated area is shown in **Map 3.1** below.

3.3. The LRNP sets out a vision for the parish of Leasingham and Roxholm as follows:

"The parish of Leasingham and Roxholm will develop and thrive whilst retaining its rural character and strong community spirit, maintaining and developing services, facilities and opportunities to reduce reliance on neighbouring towns and villages for day-to-day requirements.

The parish will grow during the life of this plan without overwhelming services and facilities. These will be extended and enhanced to match the growing need from an increasing population residing in a sustainable community with a mix of housing types on a suitably sized and appropriately located developments within the village.

The parish will retain its distinct identity preserving its rural setting including green spaces both within and around the parish, conserving and enhancing the many heritage assets and maintaining visual and physical separation from Sleaford and nearby villages and through encouraging the retention of a tight village nucleus, avoiding further ribbon development.

The parish will also benefit from access to the countryside and public rights of way which will be preserved and wherever possible enhanced thereby safeguarding the close affiliation between the parish and the countryside, including ensuring the important rural views from and close to the parish remain open and that wildlife and their habitats are protected."

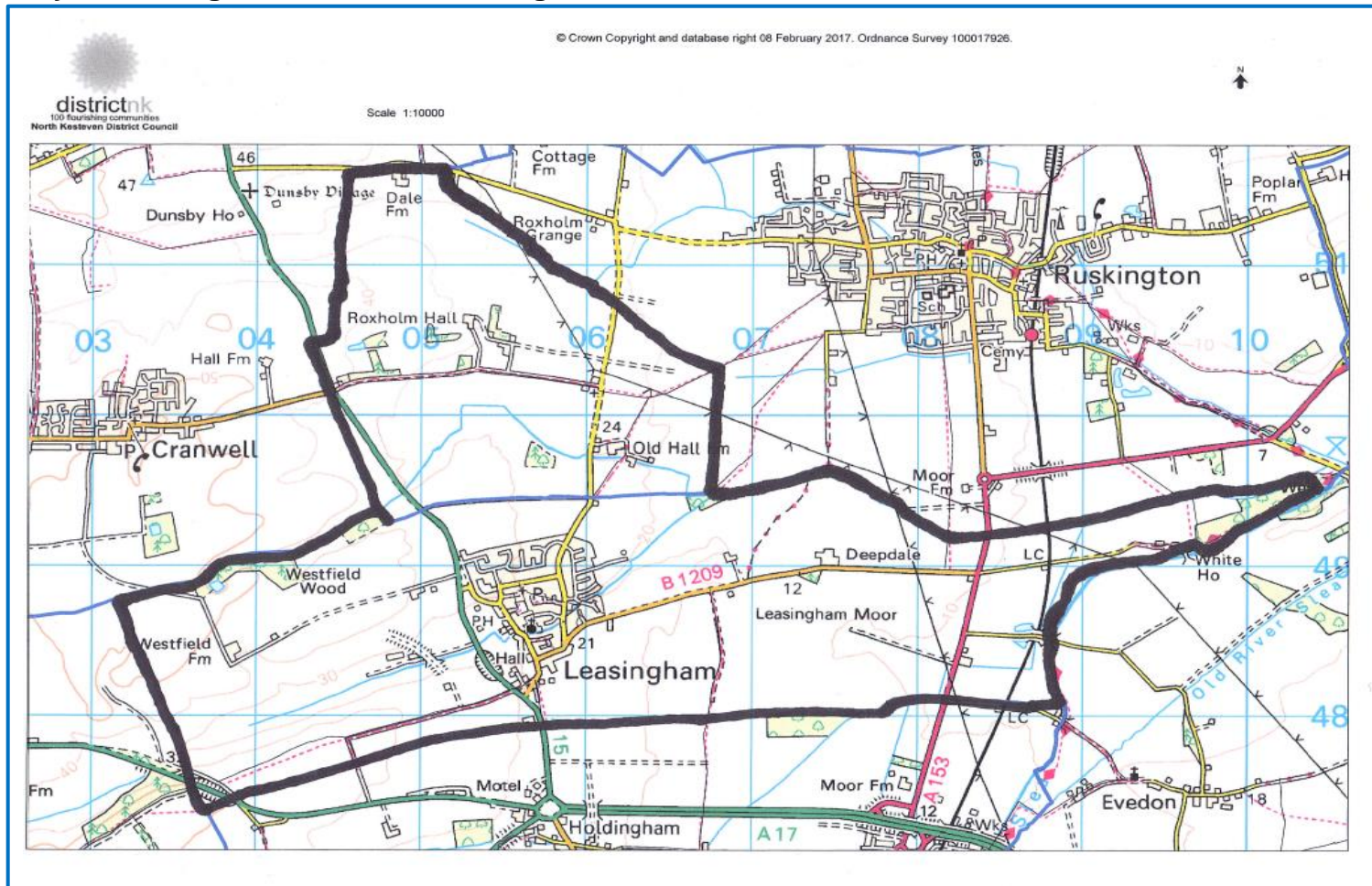
3.4. The LRNP identifies eight overarching objectives to achieve the vision:

1. Indicate a preferred design of new developments in line with the wishes of the parish as expressed in the questionnaire for the type and size of any new buildings;
2. Support for building of affordable housing within our parish;
3. Maintain and, if possible, extend community facilities;
4. Minimise the impact of any development on the natural environment;
5. Maintain and if possible, extend the parish's green infrastructure;
6. Seek to designate local green spaces if presently unprotected;
7. Consider the provision of transport, public rights of way and movement around the parish for all of its inhabitants;
8. Local Plan Policy LP 55 provides appropriate protection for the best agricultural land in the parish. It also provides for agricultural land designated as grade 3 to be considered for development provided plans follow the above.

3.5. In summary, to deliver these objectives the LRNP proposes 8 policies in total (see **Appendix 1** for a brief summary of each policy):

- Policy 1 – Location of Development
- Policy 2 – Maintaining Separation
- Policy 3 – Housing Character and Design for Future Development
- Policy 4 – Heritage Protection
- Policy 5 – The Green Environment
- Policy 6 – Local Green Spaces
- Policy 7 – Pedestrian Access and Public Rights of Way
- Policy 8 – Community Assets

Map 3.1: Boundary of Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Area



Source: North Kesteven District Council

Summary of Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Area Characteristics

- 3.6. In order to determine the likely significant effects of the LRNP on the environment, it is important to consider the characteristics of the area likely to be affected.
- 3.7. The total population of the LRNP area at the time of the 2011 Census was 1,584 people. Of these, 98.1% lived in households and 1.9% in communal establishments. The average age of residents was 50.7 years compared to the average of 42.7 in North Kesteven.
- 3.8. There are no internationally designated sites of nature conservation interest within the boundary of the LRNP area. The nearest Natura 2000 site is Grimsthorpe Park SAC, located approximately 28km to the south of Leasingham village. This SAC consists of a former limestone quarry, which supports rich limestone flora and important orchid sites.
- 3.9. There are no nationally designated sites of nature conservation interest within the boundary of the LRNP area, such as Ancient Woodland, National Nature Reserves or Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- 3.10. There is one locally designated site of nature conservation interest within the boundary of the LRNP area:
- Leasingham Wood, Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)
- 3.11. Windmill Plantation SNCI lies immediately adjacent to the parish boundary to the south west.
- 3.12. Leasingham and Roxholm fall within a biodiversity opportunity area for calcareous grassland.³
- 3.13. The LRNP area lies within the Southern Lincolnshire Edge National Character Area. The key characteristics⁴ 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;
 - 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. Approximately half of the area, to the west, falls within Agricultural Land Classification Grade 3 - good to moderate quality, with approximately the other half of the area, to the

³ Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Study 2013

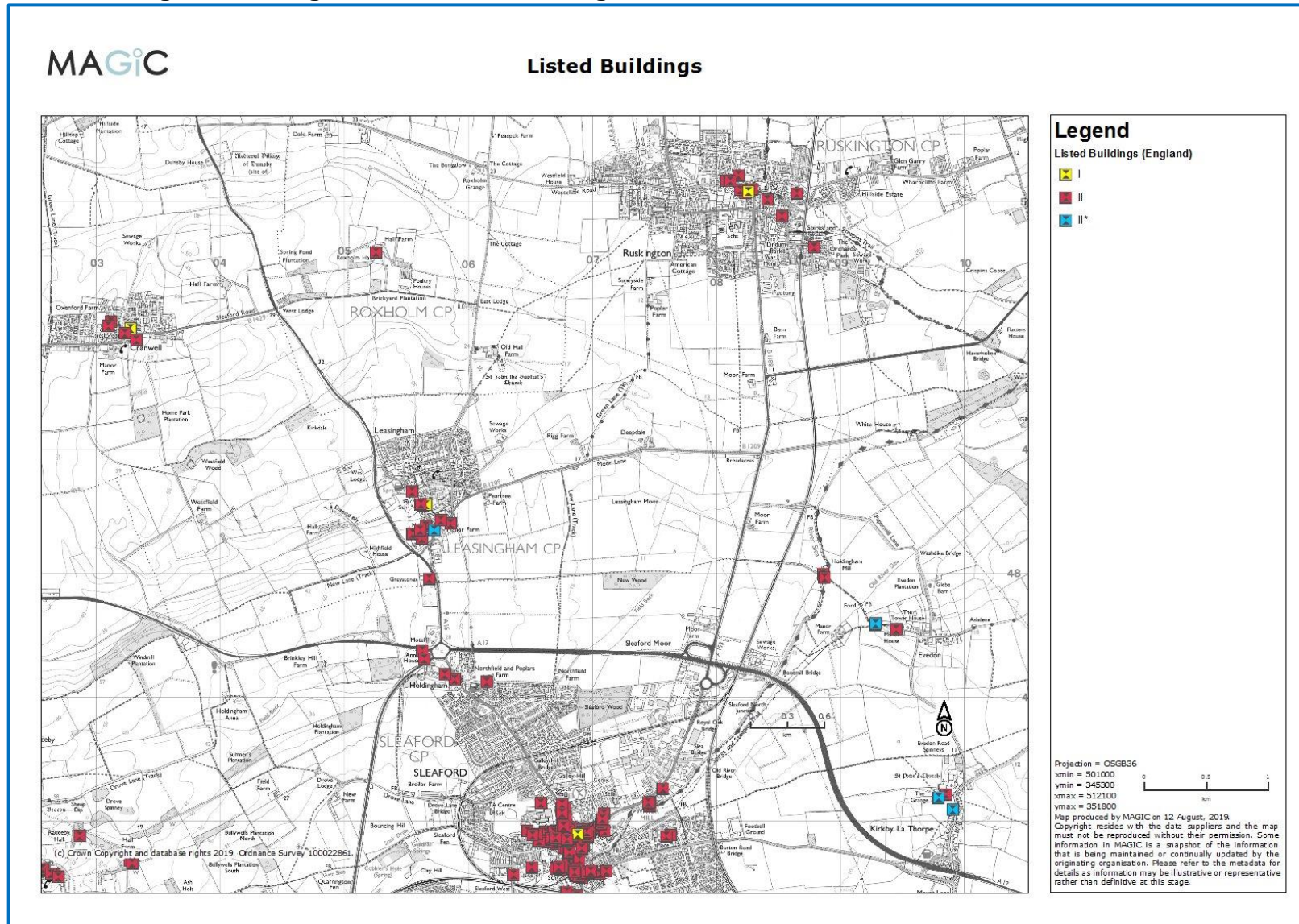
⁴ <file:///H:/Downloads/NCA47%20Southern%20Lincolnshire%20Edge.pdf>

east, classified as Grade 2 – very good quality. The predominant soil type is freely draining lime-rich loamy soils, with the main land cover being arable and grassland.⁵

- 3.15. From a historic environment perspective, there are 13 listed buildings within the LRNP area and their location is shown on **Map 3.2**:
- Hall Farmhouse, Captain's Hill (Grade II);
 - Milepost 3 Metres South of Hall Farmhouse, Captain's Hill (Grade II);
 - Leasingham Hall, Captain's Hill (Grade II);
 - The Old Rectory, Main Road (Grade II);
 - Obelisk 4 Metres South East of Number 4, Rookery Lane (Grade II);
 - Wellhead 10 Metres North of Rookery Cottage, Rookery Lane (Grade II);
 - Wellhead to rear of No 18, Moor Lane (Grade II);
 - Horse Monument 10 Metres North west of April Cottage, Rookery Lane (Grade II);
 - The Manor, Sleaford Road (Grade II*);
 - Church of St Andrew, Captain's Hill (Grade I);
 - The Old House, Lincoln Road (Grade II);
 - Homeleigh Llanberis, More lane (Grade II);
 - Dovecote, 15 Metres North West of Roxholm Hall, Roxholm Hall Lane
- 3.16. There are no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens or Conservation Areas within the LRNP area.
- 3.17. There are no Air Quality Management Areas designated within the LRNP area.
- 3.18. In terms of the water environment, the LRNP area falls within the Witham Catchment Management Area. There are no waterbodies in the LRNP area that are monitored by the Environment Agency for their ecological and chemical status.
- 3.19. Flood risk in the LRNP area (i.e. flood risk zones 2 and 3) is confined to a small area either side of a drain running through Leasingham village west to east, to the north of the village, and to the east and west of East Road (see **Map 3.3**). The majority of the area lies within Flood Zone 1 and therefore has a low probability of flooding. Parts of the area, to the east of East Road and to the north of Moor Lane, falls within the management of the Witham First Internal Drainage Board.
- 3.20. The LRNP 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.

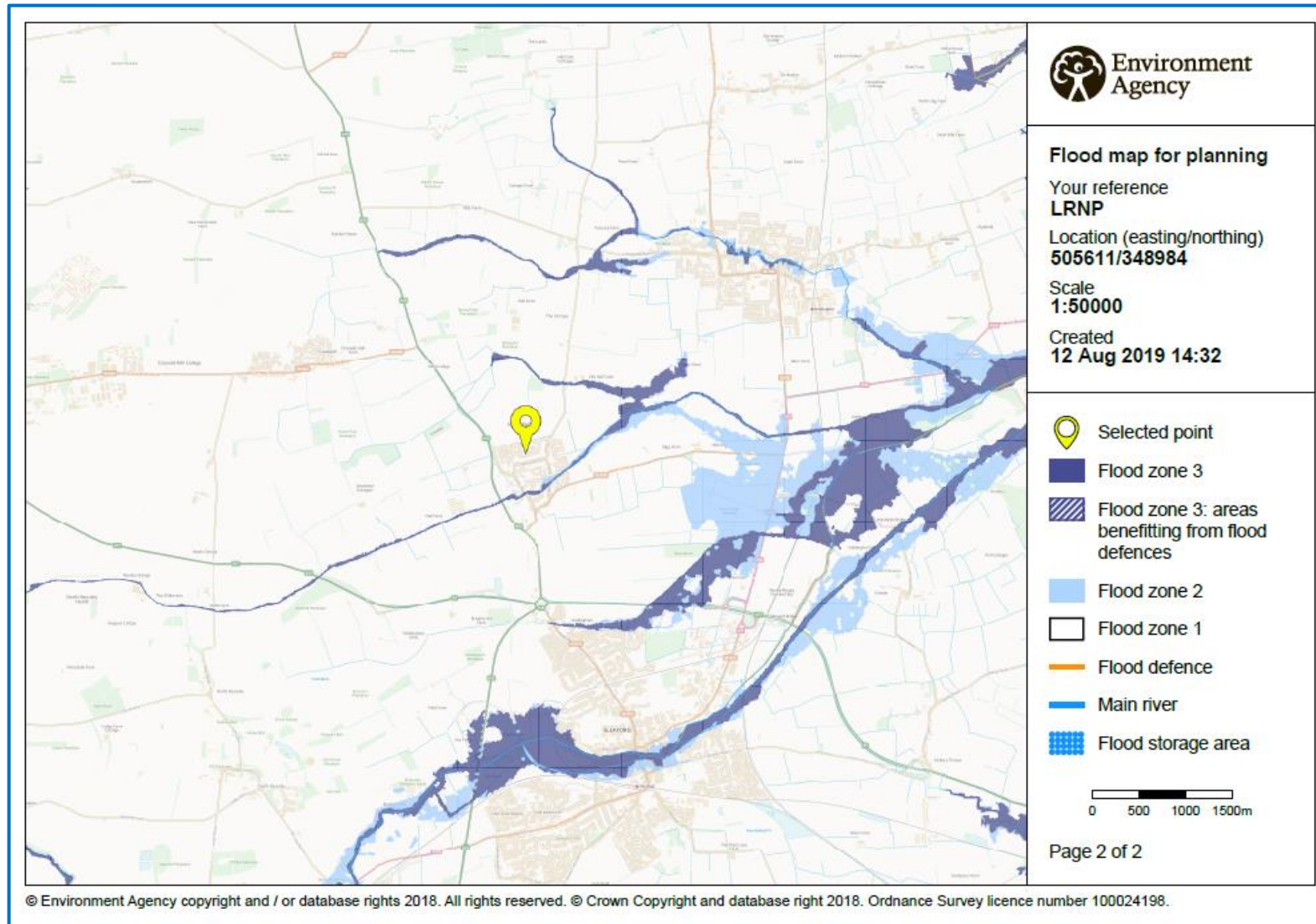
⁵ National Soil Map of England and Wales, accessed online at www.magic.defra.gov.uk

Map 3.2: Listed Buildings in Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan Area



Source: Natural England

Map 3.3: Flood Risk Zones LRNP Area



Source: Environment Agency

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

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 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 Neighbourhood Development Plans (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'⁶ and paragraph 073 of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) 'Neighbourhood Planning' section⁷.
- 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 Strategic Environmental Assessment. 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**.
- 4.5. The Department of the Environment produced a flow chart diagram⁸ 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**.

⁶ Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf

⁷ Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#basic-conditions-for-neighbourhood-plan-to-referendum>

⁸ Department of the Environment, A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005)

- 4.6. Section 5 provides firstly, a screening assessment of the LRNP, 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 LRNP, as per the flow chart in **Figure 2**, to determine whether the principle of the LRNP 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 the 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*⁹ 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 LRNP have not been considered.

⁹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/1307/contents/made>

Figure 1: SEA Assessment CriteriaArticle 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.

5. SEA and HRA Screening Assessment of Leasingham and Roxholm 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 LRNP, is likely to have a significant environmental effect with reference to specified criteria. The following section sets out an assessment of the LRNP against this criteria.
- 5.2. **Figure 3** and **Figure 4** consider the LRNP 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 5.34 consider the likely environmental effects of the LRNP in relation to the topics set out in Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive. Paragraphs 5.31 to 5.33 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 3.8 to 3.9 above, there are no international or national designated sites for nature conservation within the Neighbourhood Area. There is one SNCI within the boundary of the LRNP area; Leasingham Wood. Negative impacts as a result of the implementation of the LRNP are not expected as the LRNP does not set out a quantum of development or allocate any sites for development.
- 5.4 The LRNP includes a specific objective to "*Minimise the impact of any development on the natural environment*". There are policies within the plan that seek to protect and enhance biodiversity and therefore should result in positive effects.
- 5.5 Policy 3 - Housing Character and Design of Future Development requires development proposals to consider existing features such as trees and "*include a robust green landscaping scheme that is appropriate for the site and links well with surrounding green infrastructure*".
- 5.6 Policy 5 - The Green Environment requires development proposals to "*retain well-established landscape features such as mature trees, woodlands, hedgerows, ponds and other watercourses, wherever possible*", "*use natural boundary treatments where appropriate that will maintain and enhance biodiversity and green networks*" and "*plan positively for the protection and enhancement of existing green networks, and the creation of new green networks to improve connectivity*".
- 5.7 Policy 6 – Local Green Spaces designates green spaces in order to protect them from development.
- 5.8 Overall, it is expected that the LRNP 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

- 5.9 Leasingham and Roxholm has a small population of 1,584 people at the time of the 2011 Census. The average age is above that of the average for the district.

- 5.10 There are no GPs within the Neighbourhood Area, with the nearest located approximately 2 miles away in Ruskington. There is a large playing field with football pitches, bowling green and a young children's play area. However, the LRNP states that there are few leisure activities for young people, very few areas within the village for off-lead dog walking and a lack of allotments or community garden.
- 5.11 Policy 8 – Community Assets seeks to protect existing community services and facilities whilst supporting the provision of new facilities. Policy 7- Pedestrian Access and Public Rights of Way, is expected to have a positive impact on human health, by protecting existing walking routes and supporting the extension of, or new provision of, such routes.
- 5.12 Overall, the LRNP is not likely to have a significant impact on human health, given the relatively small population that the LRNP applies to and the fact that no sites are allocated for development within the plan.

Soil, air and water

- 5.13 In terms of soil, the Neighbourhood Area consists of roughly 50% Grade 2 and 50% Grade 3 agricultural land. Policy 1 - Location of Development directs development to within the existing footprint of the village which should help to protect agricultural land.
- 5.14 There are no air quality management areas within the Neighbourhood Area and therefore no current air quality issues.
- 5.15 In terms of water, there are no waterbodies in the LRNP area that are monitored by the Environment Agency for their ecological and chemical status. The majority of the area is located within flood zone 1, with small areas located within flood zone 2 or 3. However the LRNP does not include specific allocations for development and therefore is not anticipated to have any direct implications within the flood zone area. The LRNP 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.
- 5.16 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 LRNP.

Climatic factors

- 5.17 Climatic factors involves 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.
- 5.18 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.

- 5.19 The LRNP 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.
- 5.20 The LRNP includes the following objectives: “*Minimise the impact of any development on the natural environment*” and to “*Maintain and if possible, extend the parish’s green infrastructure*”. Policy 5 – The Green Environment requires the protection of green networks and enhancement of green infrastructure to improve connectivity. This should have a positive effect on helping biodiversity adapt to the effects of climate change.
- 5.21 The LRNP identifies that car use is high within the parish, with 75.9% of respondents to the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire stating that they never use public transport and only 18% used it occasionally. 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 LRNP includes a specific objective to “*Maintain and, if possible, extend community facilities*”. Policy 8 - Community Assets 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.
- 5.22 Overall, it is considered unlikely that there would be any significant adverse impacts on climate change factors as a result of the LRNP. The plan does not set a quantum of development, no sites are allocated for development and only small scale windfall development is likely to come forward over the plan period.

Material assets

- 5.23 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.
- 5.24 The LRNP includes two policies relating to infrastructure and facilities, which address issues relating to Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and community services and facilities.
- 5.25 Policy 7 – Pedestrian Access and Public Rights of Way supports the extension, enhancement and improved connectivity of the existing PRoW. The policy states that any proposals that would obstruct or would result in a significant negative impact upon the enjoyment of a PRoW would not be supported.
- 5.26 Policy 8 - Community Assets aims to protect existing services and facilities and supports their expansion, or the provision of new services and facilities. The loss of Class A1 and D1 uses will generally be resisted unless certain criteria can be met. Specific services or facilities are not identified within the policy and the scale of this development is expected to be modest.
- 5.27 It is considered unlikely that that the LRNP would have a significant adverse effect on material assets within the Neighbourhood Area.

Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

- 5.28 As identified in para 3.14 above, there are 13 listed buildings in the Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Area. Policy 4 – Heritage Protection seeks to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the historic environment and any designated or undesignated heritage asset and their setting listed buildings and their setting, as well as supporting proposals that “*sensitively promote and interpret heritage assets*”.
- 5.29 Policy 6 – Local Green Spaces seeks to provide significant protection for the Church Meadow, the setting of St Andrew’s Church, through designation as a Local Green Space.
- 5.30 Given that the LRNP does not allocate any sites for development, and 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 their setting.

Landscape

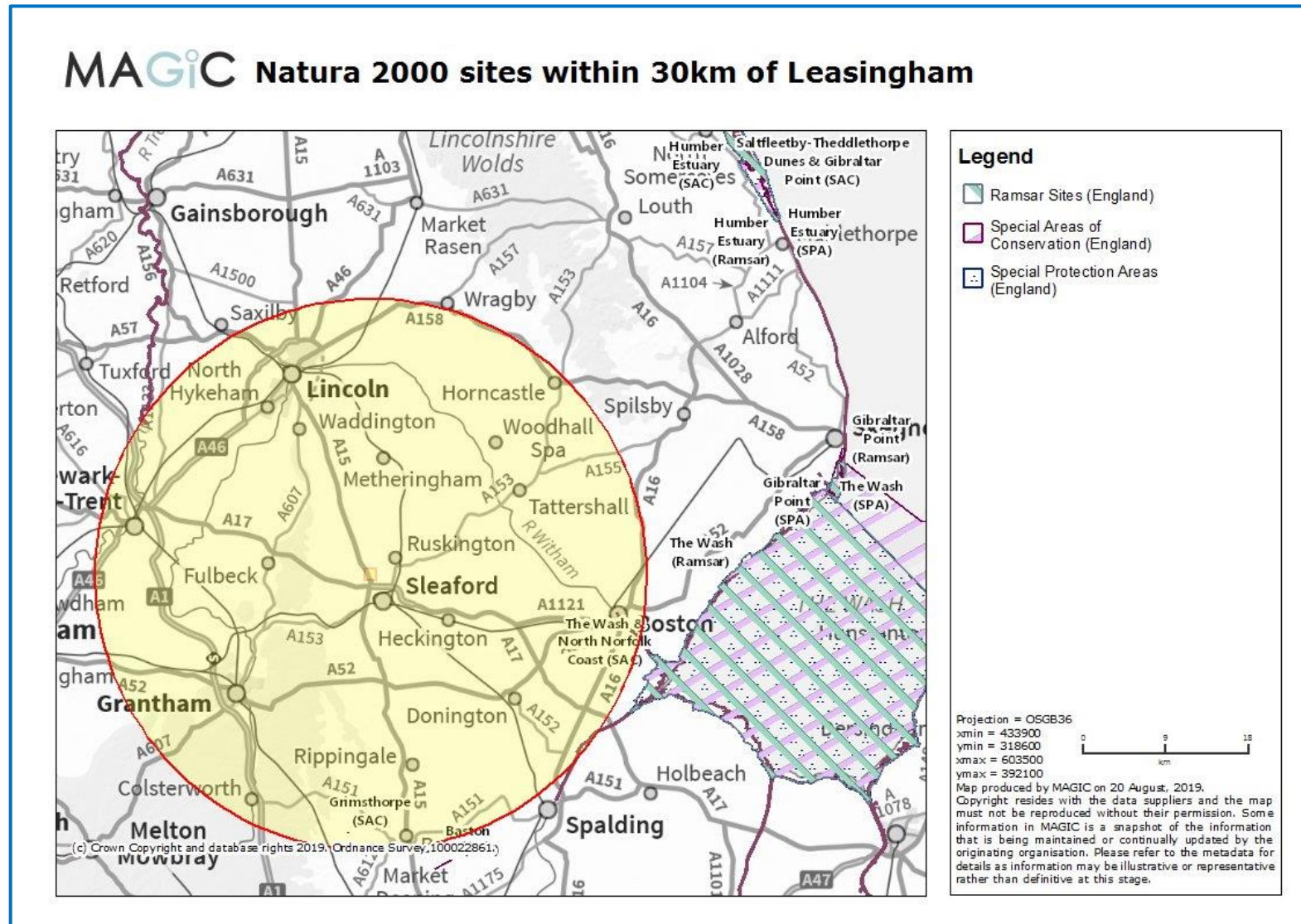
- 5.31 The Neighbourhood Area falls within the Southern Lincolnshire Edge National Character Area. A Landscape Character Assessment was undertaken by NKDC in 2007. This indicates that the parish predominantly falls within the Limestone Heath landscape character sub area, which is situated in the centre 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.
- 5.32 Policy 1 – Location of Development supports development proposals within the developed footprint of the parish and requires proposals to demonstrate that development would not have an unacceptable impact on “*the setting, character and appearance of the parish within the wider landscape*”.
- 5.33 Policy 2 – Maintaining Separation recognises the importance of maintain separation between Leasingham and Holdingham to retaining the character of the two settlements. The policy specifically seeks to protect the landscape between the two settlements by stating that development proposals “*located in areas between Leasingham and Holdingham that would either visually or physically reduce the separation, or sense of separation, will not be supported.*”
- 5.34 The LRNP does not allocate sites for development and therefore, with the policies in place, a significant impact on the local landscape is considered to be unlikely.

Determination of likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (HRA Screening)

- 5.35 There are no Natura 2000 sites within the boundary of the LRNP area. The nearest Natura 2000 site, Grimsthorpe Park SAC, is located approximately 28km from the village of Leasingham (see **Map 5.1** for location). The other Natura 2000 sites screened into the HRA Report undertaken for the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan in April 2016 are over 30km from Leasingham.

- 5.36 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, for example, feeding;
 - 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
- 5.37 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).
- 5.38 Using this approach, and given the fact that the LRNP does not set out a quantum of development, nor allocate sites for development, it is possible to conclude that there are unlikely to be any significant adverse effects on Grimsthorpe Park SAC or 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 Grimsthorpe SAC



Source: Natural England

SEA/HRA Assessment

5.39 **Figure 3** provides assessment of the LRNP 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
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to -		
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	<p>The LRNP 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 LRNP. 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 LRNP would only apply to a very limited geographical area (the Leasingham and Roxholm 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 LRNP 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 local area only. The LRNP would therefore not influence other plans and programmes to a significant degree.</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 LRNP seeks to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account. It includes the following policies which promote environmental considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policy 3 – Housing Character and Design for Future Development</i> • <i>Policy 4 – Heritage Protection</i> • <i>Policy 5 – The Green Environment</i> • <i>Policy 6 – Local Green Spaces</i> 	No

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment	Likely <i>significant</i> environmental effect
	These policies are compatible with the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, which was subject to both SA and HRA throughout the plan making process.	
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	The LRNP applies to a small geographical area. The environmental problems are considered in detail in paragraphs 3.6 to 3.19 above.	No
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The content of the LRNP is not in conflict with any plans or programmes within the wider area for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment.	No
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—		
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	The LRNP does not allocate sites for development. The effects of the implementation of the LRNP 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, infill development, 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 5.34 above.	No
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	The cumulative effects of implementing the LRNP, both between the policies within the LRNP 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 sites for development.	No
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The LRNP 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 LRNP 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 Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Area is coterminous with the boundary of Leasingham and Roxholm parish. This includes the village of	No

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment	Likely significant environmental effect
the population likely to be affected);	<p>Leasingham, the small hamlet of Roxholm and surrounding countryside which is principally in agricultural use. The population of Leasingham and Roxholm Parish at the time of the 2011 Census was 1,584 people living.</p> <p>The spatial extent of any effects of the implementation of the LRNP 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>	
(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 5.34, it is considered unlikely that the LRNP would adversely impact the special natural characteristics or cultural heritage of the Neighbourhood Area. The LRNP is not expected to exceed environmental quality standards or lead to intensive land use.</p> <p>The LRNP does not allocate any sites for development. Furthermore, the LRNP 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 LRNP is unlikely to result in any significant adverse effects. Any effects of the LRNP on the landscape are expected to be positive and localised, and are not likely to be significant.	No

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

Figure 4: Application of the SEA Directive to Leasingham and Roxholm 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	Yes	The preparation and adoption of the LRNP is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Whilst the LRNP has been prepared by Leasingham and Roxholm

Criteria	Response: Yes/ No/ Not applicable	Details
Parliament or Government? (Art 2 (a))		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. GO TO STAGE 2
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. GO TO STAGE 3
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 LRNP is being prepared for town and country planning and land use, setting a framework for future development consents within the Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Area. However, the NDP is unlikely to set a framework for consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive. GO TO STAGE 4
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 5.31 to 5.33 for assessment of the LRNP in terms of HRA. GO TO STAGE 6
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 LRNP 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. GO TO STAGE 8
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	n/a	The LRNP does not deal with these issues.

Criteria	Response: Yes/ No/ Not applicable	Details
structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7?		
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 paras 5.3 to 5.34 and Figure 3 .
Outcome: SEA NOT REQUIRED		

6. Consultation with Statutory Bodies

- 6.1 The assessment is **Section 5** indicates that it is unlikely that there are any significant environmental effects arising from the LRNP (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 LRNP 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 4th September 2019:

On this occasion we do not have any comments to make on the SEA Screening.

Natural England

- 6.3 Received by email on 17th September 2019:

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

- 6.4 In response to the above comments, the LRNP does not specifically allocate any land or sites for development. Policy LP21 Biodiversity and Geodiversity in the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan requires all development to protect species of national and local importance. It is therefore considered that the LRNP would not lead to any significant effects on protected species.

Environment Agency

- 6.5 Received by email on 19th September 2019:

There are areas of fluvial flood risk and watercourses within the neighbourhood plan area. In particular, we note that the boundary does extend into areas of flood zones 2 and 3 of the River Leasingham Beck.

On the basis that future development is steered away from the sensitive aspects of the environment highlighted, we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints. Nevertheless we recommend the inclusion of relevant policies to cover the management of flood risk.

- 6.6 In response to the above comments, whilst there are small areas of flood risk in the LRNP area, there are no site allocations or policies proposed in the Plan that will affect these areas. Any development that does come forward in the LRNP area will be required to

meet the requirements of national policy as set out in the NPPF, national planning guidance and the Central Lincolnshire flood risk policy (LP14 Managing Water Resources and Flood Risk). It is therefore considered that a specific flood risk policy in the LRNP is not required as it would be repeating policy set out in higher tier plans.

7. Screening Outcome

- 7.1 Having reviewed the environmental characteristics of the LRNP area and the vision, objectives and policies against the criteria set out in **Section 5** of this report, and following consultation with the statutory bodies, North Kesteven District Council consider it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the LRNP and thus the LRNP can be **screened out** for out for further SEA.
- 7.2 Section 5 of this report indicates that there are unlikely to be any significant effects on a designated Natura 2000 site and therefore further HRA assessment under the Habitats Regulations can be **screened out**. Natural England concur (see **Appendix 2**).
- 7.3 The LRNP does not allocate any sites for development, but provides guidance to be used to determine applications should they come forward. The policies in the LRNP 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 LRNP 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 LRNP includes policies to protect the surrounding landscape character and setting of the village and to preserve or enhance designated and undesignated heritage assets and their setting.
- 7.5 To take an alternative approach, such as preparing evidence bespoke to the LRNP, 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 LRNP 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 Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Policy Reference and Title	Brief Summary of Policy
Policy 1: Location of Development	This policy supports development proposals within the developed footprint of the parish, where they comply with all relevant development plan policies and criteria set out in the policy.
Policy 2: Maintaining Separation	This policy seeks to maintain the gap and sense of separation between Leasingham and Holdingham. The policy states that development proposals located between Leasingham and Holdingham that would either visually or physically reduce the separation or sense of separation will not be supported.
Policy 3: Housing Character and Design for Future Development	This policy seeks to ensure that development proposals deliver high quality design. Proposals that exhibit substandard design quality, particularly when considered against the requirements set out in the policy, will not be supported.
Policy 4: Heritage Protection	This policy recognises the historic environment as one of the parish's most valued assets. The policy requires development proposals to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the historic environment and any designated or undesignated heritage asset and their setting.
Policy 5: The Green Environment	This policy seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment, including green networks to improve connectivity.
Policy 6: Local Green Spaces	This policy proposes the designation of 9 Local Green Spaces in Leasingham village. Their location is shown on the map on page 33 of the LRNP. The policy states that applications for development on the identified local green spaces, which would adversely affect their function as open green spaces, will not be permitted.
Policy 7: Pedestrian Access and Public Rights of Way	This policy recognises that PRoW are an important asset for many residents. The plan aims to retain these PRoW and also, wherever possible, to enhance and extend them for the benefit of the future growing community.
Policy 8: Community Assets	This policy resists the loss of community services and facilities unless certain criteria are can be met, and supports the provision of new, improved or expanded services or community facilities, providing that there are no significant harmful impacts on the amenities of residents or on other neighbouring uses.

Appendix 2: Consultation Response From Statutory Bodies



Historic England

Ms Anne-Marie Shepherd
North Kesteven District Council
District Council Offices
Kesteven Street
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 7EF

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: PL00614782

4 September 2019

Dear Ms Shepherd

Thank you for the consultation dated 28 August 2019. On this occasion we do not have any comments to make on the SEA Screening.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Clive Fletcher
Principal Adviser, Historic Places

[REDACTED]



THE AXIS 10 HOLLIDAY STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 1TF

Telephone 0121 625 6888
HistoricEngland.org.uk



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

Date: 17 September 2019
Our ref: 293378



North Kesteven Council



BY EMAIL ONLY

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Crewe
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CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir/Madam

Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan – SEA Screening Opinion

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 28 August 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.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#). The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully
Dawn Kinrade
Consultations Team



Anne-Marie Shepherd
North Kesteven District Council
Planning Department
Council Offices Eastgate
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 7EF

Our ref: AN/2006/000029/OT-
06/EW2-L01

Your ref:

Date: 19 September 2019

Dear Anne-Marie

**Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening -
Consultation**

Thank you for consulting us on the Strategic Environmental Assessment screening report for the draft Leasingham and Roxholm Neighbourhood Plan neighbourhood plan.

Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, we find that there are areas of fluvial flood risk and watercourses within the neighbourhood plan area. In particular, we note that the boundary does extend into areas of flood zones 2 and 3 of the River Leasingham Beck.

On the basis that future development is steered away from the sensitive aspects of the environment highlighted, we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints. Nevertheless we recommend the inclusion of relevant policies to cover the management of flood risk.

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 (Pychley Lodge Industrial Estate),
Pychley Lodge Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6JQ
Email: LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk

*Customer services line: 03708 506 506
Calls to 03 numbers cost the same as calls to standard
geographic numbers (i.e. numbers beginning with 01 or 02).*

End