



North Norfolk District Council

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for Consultation

Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan - Submission Version

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North Norfolk District Council
Planning Policy Team

01263 516318

planningpolicy@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Planning Policy

North Norfolk District Council

Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN

www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/ryburghnp

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the **Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan** requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. **It is based on the screening opinion request and the information provided on the emerging content of the plan as of January 2019.** To avoid any doubt, this does not affect the Council's obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan/SEA process which may subsequently arise if there are changes to the plan's content that could have an adverse effect upon the environment.
- 1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment is the process by which environmental considerations are required to be fully integrated into the preparation of plans and programmes prior to their final adoption. SEA is a tool used internationally to improve the environmental performance of plans so that they can better contribute to sustainable development.
- 1.3 Establishing whether a Neighbourhood Plan takes into account SEA is an important legal requirement. The Independent Examiner subsequently appointed to consider the Neighbourhood Plan for Ryburgh will check that it meets the 'Basic Conditions' set out in the national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)¹. One of the Basic Conditions is whether the Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with European obligations. This includes the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. This directive is transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)². A Neighbourhood Plan must be compatible with European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant.
- 1.4 In meeting these obligations, the national PPG sets out that an initial screening stage is required to establish whether a Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. As the "responsible body" this report sets out North Norfolk District Council's conclusions in respect the emerging policy areas of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.5 The screening report will seek the views of the statutory consultees³ and their comments will inform the final screening report.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made>

³ Historic England, Natural England & Environment Agency

2 Legislative Background

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment legislation is European Union Directive 2001/42/EC⁴ which requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans or programmes that could have a significant environmental effect. This was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, commonly referred to as the SEA Regulations⁵. The Government published ‘A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’ (ODPM 2005)⁶, which provides more detailed guidance on how an SEA should be carried out.
- 2.2 In accordance with the provisions of the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) (Regulation 9(1)), the Council must determine if a plan requires an environmental assessment. This process is commonly referred to as a “screening” assessment. Where the Council determines that SEA is not required, then the Council must, under Regulation 9(3), prepare a statement setting out the reasons for this determination. Where it is determined that proposals in a Neighbourhood Plan are likely to have significant environmental effects, the Neighbourhood Plan may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft Neighbourhood Plan proposals should then be assessed to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant Environmental effects as prescribed in regulation 12 (2)& (3) of the above legislation.
- 2.3 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, Ryburgh Parish Council (the qualifying body) has requested North Norfolk District Council (NNDC), as the responsible authority, to consider whether an environmental assessment of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan is required due to significant environmental effects.
- 2.4 Whether a Neighbourhood Plan requires an SEA, and if so, the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan. The national PPG⁷ suggests that an SEA may be required, 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; and
 - 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.

⁴ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042>

⁵ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal> para 013 Ref ID: 11-013-20140306

- 2.5 It remains the responsibility of the Local planning authority to ensure that all the regulations appropriate to the nature and scope of a [Neighbourhood Plan](#) proposal submitted to it have been met in order for the proposal to progress. However it remains the qualifying body's responsibility to make every effort to ensure the resultant draft neighborhood plan that it submits to the local planning authority:
- Meets each of the basic conditions;
 - Has been prepared in accordance with the correct process and all those required to be consulted have been;
 - Is accompanied by all the required documents⁸
- 2.6 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations, which implements the requirements of the SEA Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Sustainability Appraisals ensure that the potential environmental effects are given full consideration together with social and economic issues. The Government has stated that a Sustainability Appraisal is not legally required for Neighbourhood Plans, but has said that it must be demonstrated how the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development in the area. It is down to the qualifying body to demonstrate how its Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to achieving sustainable development. It is considered best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into a SA.
- 2.7 The Council has an adopted Local Plan which includes a Core Strategy, 2008, Site Allocations, 2011 and supplementary planning documents covering landscape and design. As such the accompanying SA is in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The strategies and policies were tested against the sustainability objectives (and accompanying questions) as published in the final SA.
- 2.8 As part of the emerging new single Local Plan the council published an interim Sustainability Appraisal and an Interim Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report in May 2019. The Council considers it appropriate to adopt the established SA framework used in the existing and emerging development plans for the area to undertake this screening exercise and SA of the emerging plan. Furthermore, in May 2019 the council published an Interim Habitats Regulations Assessment to accompany the Regulation 19 consultation on the First Draft Local Plan.

Habitat Regulations

- 2.9 Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012⁹ refers to the Habitats Directive. The Regulations require Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening to be undertaken (by the qualifying Body) to identify if a Neighbourhood Plan would have a significant impact on nature conservation sites that are of European importance, also referred to as Natura 2000 sites. Article 6 (3) of the EU habitats

⁸ PPG Paragraph: 031 Reference ID: 11-031-20150209

⁹ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/pdfs/ukxi_20120637_en.pdf

Directive¹⁰ and Regulation 61 of the Habitats and Species Regulations 2010¹¹ (as amended) requires that an Appropriate Assessment is carried out on any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

- 2.10 European Sites are defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2010, and consist of candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, as defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species. These are also reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework, NPPF, which also refers to Ramsar sites, which are listed in accordance with the international Ramsar Convention. The NPPF requires decision makers to apply the same protection and process to Ramsar sites as that set out in legislation for European sites¹².
- 2.11 To fulfil the legal requirements to identify if likely significant effects will occur on European Sites through the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan group should request a separate HRA Screening Assessment from the competent authority followed by a screening determination. North Norfolk District Council is the competent authority, (LPA) for the purpose of determining if further assessment of the implications for European sites is required. Details of the internationally designated sites need to be assessed to see if there is the potential for the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan to have an impact on the sites. The Regulations state¹³ that any assessment should be in view of the sites conservation. Any such affect needs to be ascertained and this can be done at the time the screening opinion is being sought.

¹⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm

¹¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>

¹² NPPF para 118

¹³ Regulation 102A (3) Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

3 Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan

3.1 The Neighbourhood Plan for Ryburgh has undergone Regulation 14 consultation and is in the final stages of preparation. The information provided in the SEA Screening Opinion request (dated 15 November 2019) stated:

- That the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan is the 'Pre-Submission version', and;
- *Any development within the RNA that may have an impact on the aquatic or terrestrial ecology of the River Wensum and its tributaries or upon any habitat covered by section 41 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 being a priority habitat shall be accompanied by an ecological assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment. Any mitigation and/or compensation measures outlined in such assessments will be secured via planning conditions and/or planning obligations.*

3.2 The Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan Area (RNA) contains the following designated nature conservation sites:

- The River Wensum Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- The River Wensum Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

3.3 The RNA contains the following non-statutory conservation sites:

- Land adjacent to Pensthorpe County Wildlife Site
- Starmoor Belt County Wildlife Site
- Land adjacent to River Wensum County Wildlife Site
- Starmoor Wood & Plantation County Wildlife Site

3.4 The RNA contains the following heritage assets:

- Great Ryburgh Conservation Area (part)
- 6 Grade II listed buildings
- 1 Grade I listed building

3.5 The RNA includes land within Flood Risk Zone 2 and 3.

3.6 The key topics to be covered by policies in the Plan are summarised below and are likely to include:

Traffic Safety

- Planning Policy 1: Traffic Safety

Footpaths / Cycleways; Access to the Countryside

- Planning Policy 2: Safeguarded Land for Public Access

New Housing

- Planning Policy 3: Infill Housing in Great Ryburgh

Protection of the Landscape

- Planning Policy 4: Landscape Character
- Planning Policy 5: Protection and Enhancement of Local Habitats, Landscape and Amenity
- Planning Policy 6: Dark Night Skies

Protection of the Environment

- Planning Policy 7: Protection & Enhancement of Local Habitats (1)
- Planning Policy 8: Protection & Enhancement of Local Habitats (2)
- Planning Policy 9: Ecological Network

Open Land Areas

- Planning Policy 10: Open Land

Protection of the Historic Environment

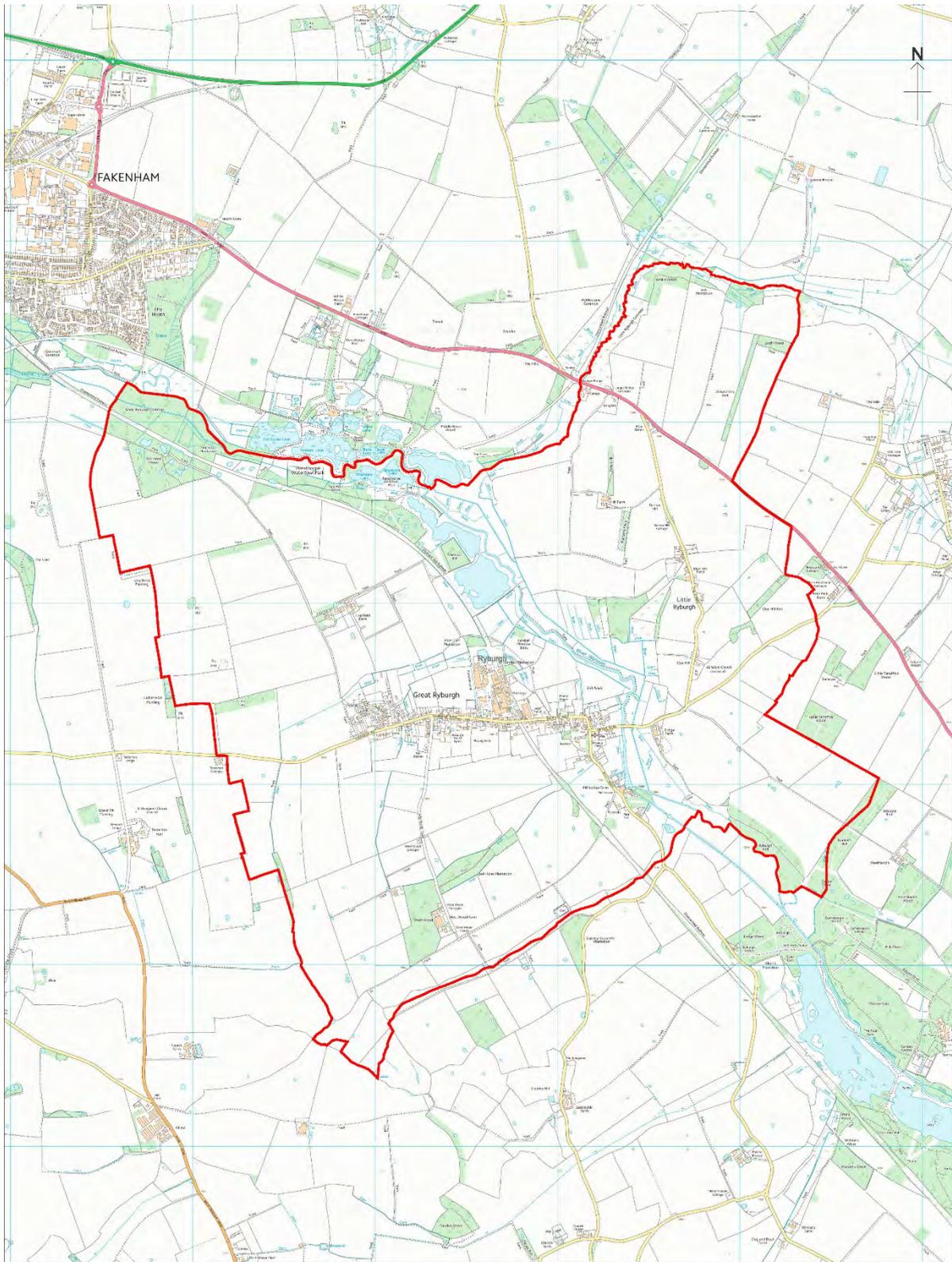
- Planning Policy 11: Archaeology

3.7 The designated Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan Area covers the whole parish.

3.8 The Plans aims as set out in the emerging plan (December 2019) are:

- Traffic Safety – to ensure the current position does not get worse;
- Footpaths, cycle ways and access to the countryside - To enhance provision and access to the countryside and safeguard existing land for public access.
- New Housing - the encouragement and management of sustainable housing growth through the use of infill sites in Great Ryburgh.
- Protection of the landscape – to ensure proposals are sympathetic to the distinctive character of the landscape.
- The Protection of the Environment to ensure the conservation and protection of valued habitat.

3.9 The Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan proposes no site allocations and only very limited growth through a tight settlement boundary and infill policy. Small scale growth is limited to locations within the settlement boundary with no more than 5 dwellings.



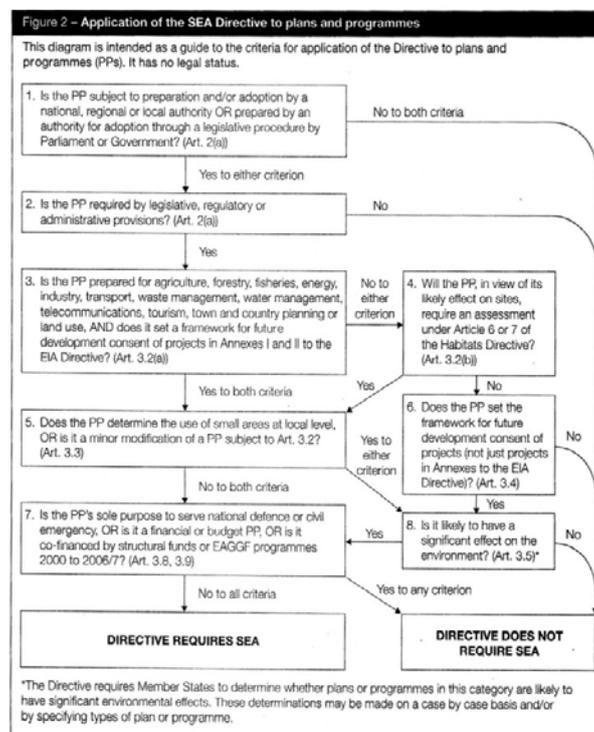
 <p>North Norfolk District Council</p>	<p>Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area</p> <p> Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area</p>		<p>1:20,000 CB</p>	<p>© Crown Copyright and database right 2018 Ordnance Survey 100018623</p> <p>Aerial Photos ©Getmapping plc</p>
			<p>16/05/2019</p> <p>North Norfolk District Council Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer, Norfolk, NR27 9EN Tel: 01263 513811 Fax: 01263 515042 www.northnorfolk.org</p>	

Figure 1 - Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area

4 SEA Screening

- 4.1 The process for determining whether or not an SEA is required is called screening. The SEA screening is a two stage interrelated process. The first part considers the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA assessment flow chart set out in the national guidance “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive”¹⁴, (Paragraph 2.18, Figure 2, ODPM, 2005). The second part of the assessment is required in order to answer specific questions contained in the above, specifically question 8 and considers whether the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, using criteria drawn from the EU SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004¹⁵.
- 4.2 The regulations state that before making a determination the three statutory consultation bodies, The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, must be consulted.
- 4.3 The process taken follows the application of the SEA Directive as set out in Figure 2 of ‘A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’ followed by application of the criteria determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC (Annex 11) and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004:

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



https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf paragraph 2.18

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

¹⁵ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made>

Table 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects

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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 trans-boundary 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.

Source: Annex 11 of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004:

5 Assessment of the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan

5.1 Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes.

STAGE	Y/N	REASON
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The preparation and adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The NP is being prepared by the parish council (as the “relevant body”) and will be “made” by North Norfolk District Council as the local authority subject to passing an independent examination and community referendum. The preparation of NP’s is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012, and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art.2(a))	Y	Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan is not a requirement of the Town and Country Planning Act as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it will be “made” and eventually form part of the Development Plan for the District. These are directed by legislative processes and it is important that the screening process considers whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive
3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Y	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan can include these policy areas and could provide, at a Neighbourhood Area level, the framework for development that would fall within Annex II of the EIA Directive. Developments that fall within Annex I are ‘excluded’ development for Neighbourhood Plans (as set out in the Localism Act 2011 and Section 61(k) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as subsequently amended).</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared to set out a framework for town and country planning and land use within the parish of Ryburgh. Its intention is to complement the higher order strategic Framework that already exists for land use planning across the District.</p> <p>The strategic framework for development is set by the adopted Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan of the North Norfolk District Council. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to align and be in general conformity with these.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not anticipate being the tool to manage development of the scale and nature envisaged by Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive.</p>

STAGE	Y/N	REASON
<p>4. Will the Neighbourhood Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the habitats Directive?(Art.3.2(b))</p>	<p>Y/N</p>	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have impacts on sites covered by the Habitats Directive. The River Wensum SAC European site is located in the Neighbourhood Plan Area.</p> <p>The North Norfolk plan level HRA work undertaken for the adopted Site Allocations document, 2011 concluded that the site allocations set out within the plan would not cause an adverse effect on any of the European sites, with the commitment of North Norfolk District Council to progress key measures at a strategic level in relation to recreation. However, no sites were allocated in Ryburgh.</p> <p>An Interim Habitats Regulation Assessment was carried out as part of North Norfolk District Council emerging Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation in May 2019 and acknowledges that policies in the emerging Local Plan have been developed with the need to protect European sites understood, and as such the policies contain strong wording and supporting text that enables a conclusion of no likely significant effects for most of the emerging policies, concluding that there are measures in progress capable of necessary strategic measures to conclude NLSE A HRA screening report for the RNP ahead of consultation with the statutory bodies concludes on that that there are likely to be no adverse effects upon the integrity of any European sites. This will be reviewed on receipt of comment from the statutory bodies.</p> <p>The intention is that the Neighbourhood Plan will be in general conformity with the existing Local Plan, especially given the small scale growth and local context it is reasonable to conclude at this stage that this Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any substantial effect on the network of protected sites as detailed in the interim HRA Screening. However, The RNA does include the River Wensum Special Area of Conservation and the screening opinion is out to consultation with the statutory bodies. It is therefore, appropriate and precautionary at this stage to conclude that there remains a possibility that an assessment may be required at this stage. Given this ambiguity both question 5 and 6 of the flowchart are enacted.</p>
<p>5 Does the Neighbourhood Plans determine the use of small areas at local level, Or is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art 3.2? (Art3.3)</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan can determine the use of small areas at a local level. The Neighbourhood Plan for Ryburgh includes a permissive and positive policy supporting small scale infill development subject to specifies criteria in a tightly defined</p>

STAGE	Y/N	REASON
		settlement boundary. The Plan proposes no site allocations and only very limited growth.
6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of Projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	Once “made” a Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory Development Plan and will be used by North Norfolk District Council in the determination of planning applications. The intention is that the Neighbourhood Plan will provide a land use policy framework for future development at a local level and be used together with the adopted higher order Plan form part of the Development Plan for the neighbourhood plan area.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment	N	The Neighbourhood Plan seeks general conformity with the adopted Core Strategy and Development Plan Documents and regard to the emerging local plan. From the application of criteria for determining the likely significant effects below it is considered it is unlikely that there will be any significant effect.

5.2 SEA Screening Stage 2: SEA Directive Article 3(5) Annex II – Application of Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects of a Neighbourhood Plan

Criteria in Annex 11 of the SEA Directive	Response	Is there a significant effect?
(1) Characteristics of the plan 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 strategic framework for development is set by the adopted Development Plan and the emerging Local Plan of North Norfolk District Council. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to align and be in general conformity with this. The expected scale of development in the RNA is expected to affect small areas and to be predominately infill development within the built up area of the village.	No
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted alongside the higher order Local Plan and form part of the District’s Development Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will expand upon some of the emerging Local Plan policies, providing supplementary information on a local scale.	No
The relevance of the plan or programme for the	Any Development that comes forward through the NP will be subject to environmental considerations of the Core	No

integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	Strategy and the Local Plan when adopted. These policies have been (will be) subject to sustainability appraisal, and are in place to ensure that sustainable development is achieved. The expected scale of development in the RNA is expected to affect small areas and to be predominately infill development within the built up area of the village.	
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;	There are not considered to be any significant environmental problems which are specific to the area, above and beyond those considered and addressed in the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies which provide additional environmental protection.	No
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).	The implementation of community legislation is unlikely to be significantly compromised by the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan introduces planning policies which introduce further protection for the environmentally sensitive locations.	No
(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 Neighbourhood Plan introduces a new settlement boundary that could promote infill development. The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to bring forward development of an extent that would result in a significant intensification of Local land Use. The Neighbourhood Plan introduces planning policies which introduce further protection for the environmentally sensitive locations.	No
The cumulative nature of the effects;	It is considered unlikely that the degree of development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan when combined with the Core Strategy and the emerging local plan will introduce significant environmental effects. Whilst both documents are being written, the Local Plan will be subject to full SEA and Habitats Regulations and a Sustainability Appraisal is recommended as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process. The Neighbourhood Plan introduces planning policies which introduce further protection for the environmentally sensitive locations.	No
The trans-boundary nature of the effects;	The Neighbourhood Plan policy areas outlined provide supplementary policy areas on a local scale. The River Wensum SAC runs through the RNA and there is the potential for impacts beyond the parish. However, given	No

	the scale and level of growth proposed it is considered that the trans-boundary effects would not be significant.	
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);	The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to produce any significant effects in relation to this criteria	No
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The Neighbourhood Plan covers the parish of Ryburgh. The 2011 census recorded the usual resident population of Ryburgh as 694. The parish area is approx. 1,003 hectares. This is in comparison to the usual resident population of 101,499 of North Norfolk and an area of 96,333 hectares. The small spatial extent and the magnitude of the population affected are not considered significant for the purpose of the SEA. ¹⁶	No
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 iii) Intensive land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The Plan Area contains a number of listed buildings and part of the RNA is a Conservation Area. The Neighbourhood Plan by virtue of the “basic conditions” will however conform to the existing Development Plan, and emerging Local Plan which provides protection to environmental characteristics across the District to ensure that they are not vulnerable to significant impacts from development. ii) The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in exceedance of environmental quality standards, such as those relating to air, water, and soil quality. iii) The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to bring forward development of an extent that would result in a significant intensification of Local land Use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) No ii) No iii) No
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	The Plan Area includes listings which reflect the cultural and heritage value of the area such as listed buildings and conservation area. The environmental effects on areas of biodiversity designations have been considered and the Neighbourhood Plan introduces planning policies which introduce further protection for the environmentally sensitive locations.	No

¹⁶ <http://www.norfolksight.org.uk/profiles/profile?profileid=18&geoTypeld=10>

Habitat Regulations

5.3 The Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area (RNA) contains the Wensum Special Area of Conservation and the Wensum Special Site of Scientific Interest. Ryburgh is approximately 14km from the Norfolk Valley Fens SAC, 14km from the North Norfolk Coast SAC/SPA/Ramsar and 28km from the Overstrand Cliffs SAC. Habitats Regulation Assessments, June 2007 & February 2010 were carried out as part of North Norfolk District Council's adopted Local Plan.

River Wensum SAC

5.4 The River Wensum SAC is designated for its riverine habitat with floating vegetation dominated by water-crowfoot. The river is a calcareous lowland river surrounded by grazing land and woodland. Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* is also a qualifying feature of this SAC amongst riparian habitats. White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* and Bullhead *Cottus gobio* are also qualifying species supported by the river.

5.5 Water quality is of key concern for the site, and threats are primarily related to agricultural practices. A precautionary check of site allocations is required, along with confirmation from Natural England that there are no further development related issues.

5.6 An Interim Habitats Regulation Assessment (2019) was carried out as part of North Norfolk District Council emerging Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation.

5.7 It is good practice to prepare a statement setting out how environmental issues have been taken into account and considered during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and this should be undertaken once policies and allocations have been developed. It remains for the Neighbourhood Plan group to satisfy themselves and demonstrate that the emerging proposed policies and site allocations align with the previous 2010 HRA and the best way to undertake this would be through the undertaking of an HRA screening report.

5.8 A HRA screening will be carried out on the Ryburgh NP by the council and will inform this SEA screening report in an iterative process. Any such report should detail the assessment of any likely significant effect (or no likely significant effect) of each Neighbourhood Plan policy on European Designated Sites.

6 Screening Outcome

- 6.1 As a result of the assessment in section 5, it is considered that it is unlikely to be any significant environmental effects from the implementation of the proposals in the emerging Draft Neighbourhood Plan for Ryburgh. As such it is considered under the Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and programmes Regulations 2004, that the emerging draft Ryburgh neighbourhood plan does not require an SEA to be undertaken.
- 6.2 The outcome of this screening report will be subject to review by the statutory bodies, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency as well as North Norfolk District Council. The screening report and subsequent screening opinion may also need to be reviewed if significant changes are made to the neighbourhood plan following this review.

Next Stages

- 6.3 A Habitats Regulations Assessment may be required and a HRA screening report is being produced to inform that process. The HRA screening report will also provide input into the final SEA determination report.
- 6.4 A Screening Determination report on whether the Ryburgh neighbourhood Plan does or does not require an SEA will be issued following receipt of advice from the statutory consultation bodies on this report and the HRA screening.

