

**Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk screening report for the
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation
Assessment (HRA) for the emerging Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan**

August 2020

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk screening report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) for the emerging Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the Terrington St John Neighbourhood 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. A SEA would be required when the implementation of the contents of the Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan are likely to cause significant environmental effects.
- 1.2 This report will also determine whether or not the contents of the Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan require a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). A HRA is required when the implementation of the contents of the Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan are likely to cause significant negative effects on a designated protected European Site (Natura 2000 sites).
- 1.3 This report is based upon the screening opinion request and information provided on the emerging content of the Plan as of June 2020 from Terrington St John Parish Council, their consultant, and the screening opinion consultation responses received from the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.
- 1.4 To avoid any doubt, this does not affect the Borough 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.

2. Legislative Background

- 2.1 **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** - The European Directive 2001/42/EC is the basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation, which was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations.
- 2.2 If a neighbourhood plan is likely to cause significant negative environmental effects, it is necessary to undertake a SEA assessment in line with the SEA regulations. To fulfil the legal requirements to identify if a neighbourhood plan requires a SEA; a screening for a SEA has to be undertaken.
- 2.3 **Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA)** - It is required by Article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive and by regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) that an appropriate assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites and with reference to other plans and projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European Site.
- 2.4 To fulfil the legal requirements to identify if likely significant effects will occur with the implementation of a neighbourhood plan upon the European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) a screening assessment has been undertaken.

3. SEA Screening

- 3.1 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”, (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 2004.
- 3.2 The regulations state that before making a determination the three statutory consultation bodies must be consulted. Accordingly they have been consulted upon the Borough Council’s preliminary opinion (July 2018) and their comments have been taken into consideration within this screening report.
- 3.3 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

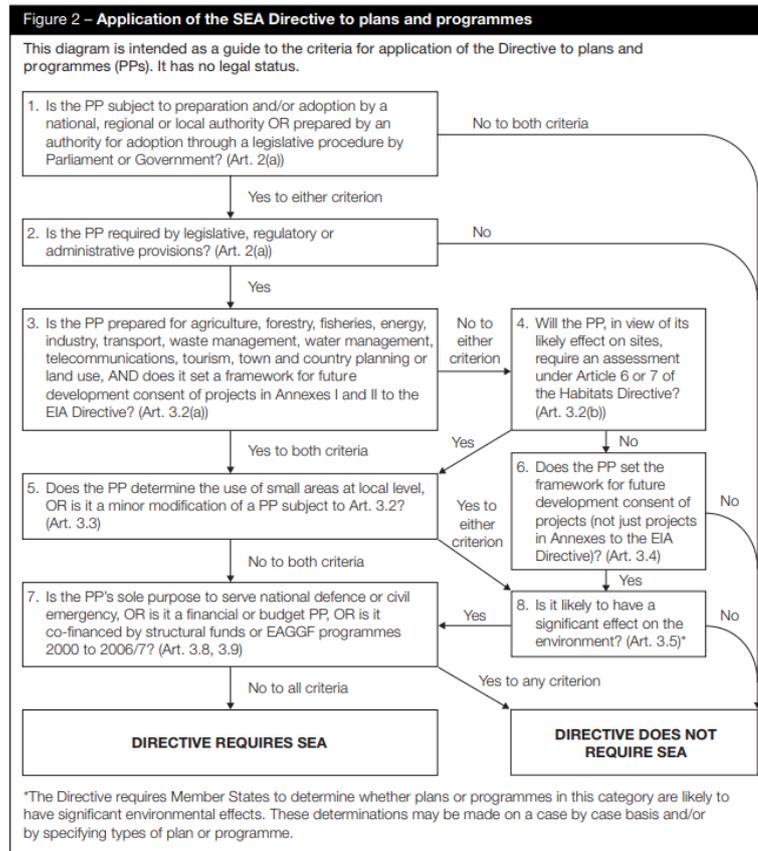


Table 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
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Source: Annex 11 of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

4. Assessment

4.1 Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes:

Stage	Yes/No	Reason
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	<p>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 the Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk as the local authority subject to passing an independent examination and community referendum. The preparation of NP’s are subject to the following regulations (not intend to be a complete list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, • the Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012 • the Neighbourhood Planning (General)(Amendment) Regulations 2015 • the Neighbourhood Planning (General)and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016 • the Neighbourhood Planning (General)and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2017
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	<p>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 Borough. 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</p>
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))	Yes	<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 Terrington St. John. Its intention is to complement the higher order strategic framework</p>

		<p>that already exists for land use planning across the Borough.</p> <p>The strategic framework for development is set by the adopted Core Strategy (2011) and the Site Allocations and Development Management (2016) of the Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to align and be in general conformity with these. 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>
<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>No</p>	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have impacts on sites covered by the Habitats Directive. Although there are no European sites located in or within close proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan Area.</p> <p>Habitats Regulation Assessment (2015) was carried out as part of Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk’s site allocation process to support the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan (SADMP)(2016) which states with regard to Terrington St. John (page 77) that the settlement is 11.06km from The Wash SPA/ Ramsar and The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC. Development would not be sufficiently close or large enough to Natura 2000 site to cause a likely significant effect. At this time the emerging allocation which now forms part of the SADMP was assessed and this was for an allocation of at least 35 new dwellings. The HRA concludes with that there would be no likely significant effect and no need for an appropriate assessment.</p> <p>Given the intention that the Neighbourhood Plan will be in general conformity with the existing Local Plan, especially given its scale and local context it could be reasonable to conclude at this stage that this Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any substantial effect on the network of protected sites.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plans seeks to support a modest amount of new development to take place in the shape of windfall development within the development boundary this is the same position as the Local Plan and is requirement of the Neighbourhood Plan Basic Conditions that a Neighbourhood Plan supports sustainable development. Albeit the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to extend the development boundary.</p>

5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a plan or project subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	No	Whilst a Neighbourhood Plan can determine the use of small areas at a local level. The Neighbourhood Plan for Terrington St. John appears to be in conformity with the Borough's Local Plan and proposals could be described as minor.
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)	Yes	Once "made" a Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory Development Plan and will be used by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk 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.
7. Is the plan or programme's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget plan or programme, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/07? (Art. 3.8, 3.9)	No	Does not apply to a Neighbourhood Plan.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	No	The Neighbourhood Plan seeks general conformity with the adopted Core Strategy (2011) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan (2016) Development Plan Documents and has regard to the emerging Local Plan review. From the application of criteria for determining the likely significant effects below it is considered it is unlikely that there will be significant effect.

4.2 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;	<p>The strategic framework for development is set by the adopted Local Plan of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council which currently comprises the Core Strategy (2011) and the Site Allocations and Development management Policies Plan (2016). The Borough Council are currently in the process of reviewing the Local Plan.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to align and be in general conformity with this.</p>	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 Borough’s Development Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will expand upon some of the Local Plan and emerging Local Plan policies, providing supplementary information on a local scale.	No
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	Any Development that comes forward through the Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to environmental considerations of the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan. These policies have been subject to sustainability appraisal, and are in place to ensure that sustainable development is achieved.	No
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.	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	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 is seeking to amend the development boundary for the settlement in a relatively minor way which could cater for sustainable development to come forward with in the development boundary. This is the approach of the existing Local Plan and supporting sustainable development is a Basic Condition of Neighbourhood Plans.	No
The cumulative nature of the effects;	It is considered unlikely when combined with the Current Local Plan and emerging Local Plan review will introduce significant environmental effects. Whilst both the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan review are being prepared, the Local Plan review will be subject to full SEA including SA and Habitats Regulations. It should be noted that the Local Plan review will not seek to propose allocations at Terrington St John, as a Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared.	No
The trans-boundary nature of the effects;	The emerging Neighbourhood Plan policy areas provide supplementary policy areas on a local scale. The impacts beyond the parish are unlikely to be significant.	No
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 criterion.	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 Terrington St. John. The 2011 census recorded the population at 891 and the Parish covers an area of 826 ha. In comparison the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk is 152,760 ha and has population of 147,451 (2011 census).	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	i) The Plan Area does not contain a conservation area. There are a small number of listed buildings, however through listing, National Policy and the Local Plan the appropriate level of protection to these historic assets and their settings is afforded. The Plan Area does not contain any areas of environmental designations. The Neighbourhood Plan by virtue of the	No

<p>iii) Intensive land use</p>	<p>“basic conditions” will conform to the existing Development Plan, which provides protection to environmental characteristics across the Borough to ensure that they are not vulnerable to significant impacts from development. It should be noted that the Neighbourhood Plan considers the Historic Environment through a dedicated section.</p> <p>ii) The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in exceedance of environmental quality standards, such as those relating to air, water, and soil quality.</p> <p>iii) The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to bring forward development of an extent that would result in a significant intensification of Local land use.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p>
<p>The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan Area includes a relatively small number of listings which reflect the cultural and heritage value of the area such as listed buildings. The environmental effects on areas of biodiversity designations have been considered through the Local Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>

5. Habitat Regulations

- 5.1 Plans which may have a significant effect on designated European Sites are required to undertake a HRA. A HRA for the Local Plan (Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan 2016) was undertaken in 2015. This can be used as basis to analyse if the proposed Terrington St. John Neighbourhood Plan might have a significant effect on designated European sites.
- 5.2 There are no International and European Protected Sites within the Parish Boundary and Neighbourhood Plan Area. Or within close proximity.
- 5.3 The Local Plan HRA says that the settlement / Local Plan allocation was 11.06km from The Wash SPA / Ramsar and The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC. The HRA states: *'Development would not be sufficiently close or large enough to Natura 2000 site to cause a likely significant effect.'* The HRA concludes that there is no likely significant effect and no need for Appropriate Assessment. (Page 77).
- 5.4 Given the Neighbourhood Plan will be in general conformity with the Local Plan and the above it is considered unlikely that a HRA will need to be undertaken. In general it is noteworthy, that if a HRA is necessary automatically also a SEA has to be undertaken.

6. Screening Outcome

- 6.1 The Borough Council prepared a preliminary screening opinion (June 2020). The statutory bodies, the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England, as required within the SEA and HRA screening process, were consulted upon this. The consultation responses of the statutory bodies have underpinned the Local Planning Authority's evaluation and conclusions. The statutory bodies' consultation responses are appended in full to this report.
- 6.2 The assessments contained within this report are based upon the Borough Council's preliminary screening opinion and the consultation responses received from the statutory bodies. They clearly identify that, based upon the information available to date, that an SEA or HRA is not required:
- 6.3 The Environment Agency do not state that in their view an SEA is required for this Neighbourhood Plan. Historic England in their response concurs with the Borough Council's screening opinion that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. Therefore, **the Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).**
- 6.4 The consultation response from Natural England, agreed with the Borough Council's preliminary screening opinion, and the assessments within this report in that a Habitats Regulation Assessments would not be required for the Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, **the Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan does not require a Habitats Regulation Assessments (HRA).**
- 6.5 It should be noted that this is the second screening process that the emerging Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan has been through. The first was in 2018 and the outcome of this was that an SEA and HRA were not required. The process has been carried out again as the Parish Council felt their plan had changes significantly in the intervening period and that it was appropriate to re-appraise the emerging plan.
- 6.6 After careful consideration and on balance the Borough Council agrees with the opinion of the three statutory bodies.
- 6.7 This report is based on the screening request June 2020. The Neighbourhood Plan at this stage is emerging. The outcome of this screening report will be subject to review by Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. The screening opinion and report may also need to be reviewed if changes are made to the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.8 This report will be issued to the Terrington St John Parish Council, and in line with the requirements, Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. A copy of the report must also be submitted with the Neighbourhood Plan proposal and made available to the independent examiner.

Report agreed by Geoff Hall, Executive Director Environment and Planning, 03/08/2020:

GH Geoff Hall
Mon 03/08/2020 15:48
To: Alex Fradley
Cc: Alan Gomm; Katie Evans

I am happy that you adopt this approach.

...

From: Alex Fradley <Alex.Fradley@West-Norfolk.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 August 2020 15:46
To: Geoff Hall <geoff.hall@West-Norfolk.gov.uk>
Cc: Alan Gomm <alan.gomm@west-norfolk.gov.uk>; Katie Evans <Katie.Evans@West-Norfolk.gov.uk>
Subject: Terrington St John NP Screening

Good afternoon Geoff,

Hope you're keeping well?

We have been asked to screen the TSJ Neighbourhood Plan, which we have done and consulted the 3 environmental bodies. The outcome is the attached report which concludes that an SEA and HRA are not required for the TSJ NP.

Previously we would have asked for your signature, however in today's world a digital approach seems appropriate. Therefore the easiest way forward would be an email reply stating that you agree with the screening report and its conclusion.

Many thanks,

Alex

Alex Fradley BSc (Hons) MA MRTPI
Principal Planner
Planning Policy
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

Appendix: Statutory Body Consultation Responses

Natural England

Date: 21 July 2020
Our ref: 320398
Your ref: Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan



Katie Jayne Evans
Assistant Planner
Planning Policy
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Ms Evans,

SEA HRA Screening for Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 23 June 2020.

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.

Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening

Natural England considers that, based on the material supplied with the consultation, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned, significant environmental effects resulting from the neighbourhood plan are unlikely. We therefore agree with the conclusion of the SEA screening report that a Strategic Environmental Assessment would not be required.

Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#).

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening

Natural England agrees with the report's conclusions that the Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.

For any further consultations on your plan, please contact: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Jones
Consultations Team

Annex 1 - Neighbourhood planning and the natural environment: information, issues and opportunities

Natural environment information sources

The [Magic¹](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/) website will provide you with much of the nationally held natural environment data for your plan area. The most relevant layers for you to consider are: **Agricultural Land Classification, Ancient Woodland, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Nature Reserves, National Parks (England), National Trails, Priority Habitat Inventory, public rights of way (on the Ordnance Survey base map) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (including their impact risk zones)**. Local environmental record centres may hold a range of additional information on the natural environment. A list of local record centres is available [here²](#).

Priority habitats are those habitats of particular importance for nature conservation, and the list of them can be found [here³](#). Most of these will be mapped either as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**, on the Magic website or as **Local Wildlife Sites**. Your local planning authority should be able to supply you with the locations of Local Wildlife Sites.

National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each character area is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. NCA profiles contain descriptions of the area and statements of environmental opportunity, which may be useful to inform proposals in your plan. NCA information can be found [here⁴](#).

There may also be a local **landscape character assessment** covering your area. This is a tool to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identify the features that give it a sense of place. It can help to inform, plan and manage change in the area. Your local planning authority should be able to help you access these if you can't find them online.

If your neighbourhood planning area is within or adjacent to a **National Park** or **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**, the relevant National Park/AONB Management Plan for the area will set out useful information about the protected landscape. You can access the plans on from the relevant National Park Authority or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website.

General mapped information on **soil types** and **Agricultural Land Classification** is available (under 'landscape') on the [Magic⁵](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/) website and also from the [LandIS website⁶](http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm), which contains more information about obtaining soil data.

Natural environment issues to consider

The [National Planning Policy Framework⁷](#) sets out national planning policy on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. [Planning Practice Guidance⁸](#) sets out supporting guidance.

Your local planning authority should be able to provide you with further advice on the potential impacts of your plan or order on the natural environment and the need for any environmental assessments.

¹ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

² <http://www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk/nfbr.php>

³ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

⁵ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

⁶ <http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm>

⁷ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807247/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

⁸ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/>

Landscape

Your plans or orders may present opportunities to protect and enhance locally valued landscapes. You may want to consider identifying distinctive local landscape features or characteristics such as ponds, woodland or dry stone walls and think about how any new development proposals can respect and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness.

If you are proposing development within or close to a protected landscape (National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) or other sensitive location, we recommend that you carry out a landscape assessment of the proposal. Landscape assessments can help you to choose the most appropriate sites for development and help to avoid or minimise impacts of development on the landscape through careful siting, design and landscaping.

Wildlife habitats

Some proposals can have adverse impacts on designated wildlife sites or other priority habitats (listed [here](#)⁹), such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or [Ancient woodland](#)¹⁰. If there are likely to be any adverse impacts you'll need to think about how such impacts can be avoided, mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for.

Priority and protected species

You'll also want to consider whether any proposals might affect priority species (listed [here](#)¹¹) or protected species. To help you do this, Natural England has produced advice [here](#)¹² to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected species.

Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services for society. It is a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, a store for carbon and water, a reservoir of biodiversity and a buffer against pollution. If you are proposing development, you should seek to use areas of poorer quality agricultural land in preference to that of a higher quality in line with National Planning Policy Framework para 171. For more information, see our publication [Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land](#)¹³.

Improving your natural environment

Your plan or order can offer exciting opportunities to enhance your local environment. If you are setting out policies on new development or proposing sites for development, you may wish to consider identifying what environmental features you want to be retained or enhanced or new features you would like to see created as part of any new development. Examples might include:

- Providing a new footpath through the new development to link into existing rights of way.
- Restoring a neglected hedgerow.
- Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the site.
- Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.
- Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.
- Incorporating swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of new buildings.
- Think about how lighting can be best managed to encourage wildlife.
- Adding a green roof to new buildings.

⁹<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences>

¹¹ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

¹³ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012>

You may also want to consider enhancing your local area in other ways, for example by:

- Setting out in your plan how you would like to implement elements of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy (if one exists) in your community.
- Assessing needs for accessible greenspace and setting out proposals to address any deficiencies or enhance provision.
- Identifying green areas of particular importance for special protection through Local Green Space designation (see [Planning Practice Guidance on this](#)¹⁴).
- Managing existing (and new) public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g. by sowing wild flower strips in less used parts of parks, changing hedge cutting timings and frequency).
- Planting additional street trees.
- Identifying any improvements to the existing public right of way network, e.g. cutting back hedges, improving the surface, clearing litter or installing kissing gates) or extending the network to create missing links.
- Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g. coppicing a prominent hedge that is in poor condition, or clearing away an eyesore).

¹⁴ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/local-green-space-designation/>

Historic England

RE: SEA HRA Screening for Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan - Ref: PL00462423

James, Edward <Edward.James@HistoricEngland.org.uk>

Tue 28/07/2020 13:13

To: Katie Evans <Katie.Evans@West-Norfolk.gov.uk>

Cc: Martin, Eric <Eric.Martin@HistoricEngland.org.uk>

Dear Ms Evans,

Our Reference: PL00462423

Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment on this consultation. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process. Therefore we welcome this opportunity to review the Screening Report for this plan. For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question, "Is it (the Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan) likely to have a significant effect on the historic environment?". Our comments are based on the information supplied with the Screening Opinion.

The revised Screening Report indicates that the Council considers that the plan will not have any significant effects on the historic environment. We note the changes to the development boundary, and the local planning policy context set out by the Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan. The report indicates that the revised neighbourhood plan does not itself propose to allocate any sites for development, although it does seek to guide the development of two sites already allocated through the Local Plan process.

On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

As before, the views of the other two statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for an SEA is made.

I should be pleased if you can send a copy of the determination as required by REG 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

We should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by you with your correspondence. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the SEA process and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan) where we consider that, despite the SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.

As we have previously advised, we would strongly suggest that the conservation and archaeological staff of the relevant local authorities are closely involved throughout the preparation of the plan and its assessment, as well as in the development of policies related to the two development sites. They are best placed to advise on; local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the Historic Environment Record (HER), how the allocation, policy or proposal can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.

Please do contact me, either via email or the number below, if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

Edward

Edward James MA BA ACIFA
Historic Places Adviser - East of England
Historic England

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Environment Agency

RE: SEA HRA Screening for Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan

Anglian Central, Planning_Liaison <planning.brampton@environment-agency.gov.uk>

Tue 30/06/2020 15:19

To: Katie Evans <Katie.Evans@West-Norfolk.gov.uk>

Dear Katie

Thank you for consulting us on the Terrington St John Neighbourhood Plan SEA/HRA Screening Opinion.

Due to resource pressures we are no longer able to provide Local Planning Authorities with bespoke advice on screening opinions. If there is a specific issue that you require our expert advice on before issuing the screening opinion then please contact us with details and we will endeavour to assist you. We remain a statutory consultee for scoping opinions so please continue to submit these for our review and comments.

Below is a link to our developers guidance entitled 'Building a better environment' this sets out our role in development and how we can help.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/289894/LIT_2745_c8ed3d.pdf

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Alison Craggs

Sustainable Places Advisor

East Anglia Area (West)

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Does Your Proposal Have Environmental Issues or Opportunities? Speak To Us Early!

If you're planning a new development, we want to work with you to make the process as smooth as possible. We offer a bespoke advice service where you will be assigned a project manager who be a single point of contact for you at the EA, giving you detailed specialist advice within guaranteed delivery dates. This early engagement can significantly reduce uncertainty and delays to your project. More information can be found on our website [here](#).