

**Corringham Neighbourhood Plan**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**and**

**Habitats Regulations Assessment**

**Screening Report**

**December 2020**

- 1 - Introduction
- 2 - Overview of the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan
- 3 - SEA Screening Assessment
- 4 - SEA Screening Conclusion
- 5 - HRA Screening Assessment
- 6 - HRA Screening Conclusion
- 7 - Overall Screening Conclusions
- 8 - Consultation Responses
- 9 - Determination Statement (provided by West Lindsey District Council)

Appendix 1 Text of email sent on 18th November 2020

Map – Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 Only a Neighbourhood Plan that meets the Basic Conditions can be put to a referendum and be made. One of the Basic Conditions is that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations as set out in its relevant Directives including 2001/42/EC, 79/409/EEC, 92/43/EEC, and 2009/147/EC. These Directives necessitate that a Neighbourhood Plan be screened to determine whether it requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

1.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental effects of a plan before it is made. The SEA screening determines whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an environmental report must be produced.

1.3 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. An HRA is required when it is deemed that likely negative significant effects may occur on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the implementation of a plan/project. The HRA screening will determine whether significant effects on a European site are likely.

1.4 This screening report determines whether the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA and/or HRA. It will be submitted to West Lindsey District Council by Corringham Parish Council who is the qualifying body for the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan. The Report has the support of the Parish Council. The assessment was undertaken on the Regulation 14 Draft Version of the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan.

1.6 The screening report was prepared in the context of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, adopted in April 2017 which covers the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan area and whose policies were the subject of separate SEA and HRAs. The purpose of this screening report is to assess the policies of the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan only.

## **2. Overview of the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan**

2.1 Whether the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA and/or a HRA is dependent on what is being proposed by the document itself. The Plan has a vision, with objectives, and contains a set of locally specific planning policies for the area. The plan can be viewed with its supporting documents at: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-plans-in-west-lindsey/corryingham-neighbourhood-plan/> and on the Corringham Parish website; <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Corringham/>

2.2 Corringham is considered a small village in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) and lies in the district of West Lindsey to the East of Gainsborough. The Neighbourhood Plan has 16 formal planning policies, which are:

CNP1: Sustainable development principles

CNP2: Sites for new housing in Corringham village

CNP3: Consideration of new houses in the hamlet of Aisby and in open countryside

- CNP4: Residential extensions and conversions
- CNP5: Local character and the design of new development
- CNP6: Key views
- CNP7: Designated heritage assets
- CNP8: Protecting and enhancing unlisted buildings of positive character
- CNP9: Protecting and enhancing archaeological sites
- CNP10 Existing open spaces and recreation facilities
- CNP11: Proposed Local Green Spaces
- CNP12: Countryside and landscape
- CNP13: Nature conservation and biodiversity
- CNP14: Community buildings and facilities
- CNP15: Local employment and businesses
- CNP16: Transport and Active Travel in and around Corringham

There are 3 informal Community Aspirations (invest in community facilities, local heritage and countryside management), but these are not part of the SEA screening.

2.3 The Neighbourhood Plan (CNP2) makes three (small scale) site allocations for a total of 14 new dwellings to meet the balance of the CLLP housing requirement (24 units). The preferred sites were selected through a rigorous process, including: a call for sites, independent sites assessment, a selection methodology (local criteria) and consultation with external organisations and the local community. Consequently, the 3 sites do not affect environmental interests (e.g., drainage, heritage or habitats).

2.4 There are two criteria-based policies on sustainable development and housing in the open countryside/hamlets. Focusing on design/character, there are six policies on; residential extensions, local character, key views, designated and undesignated heritage assets and archaeology. There are two policies on open spaces (existing and proposed Local Green Spaces). Two policies cover countryside, landscape and habitats. Community facilities and employment are addressed by two other policies. Transport issues and the concept of active travel are covered by a final policy.

2.5 The existing constraints and designations in the Plan area include:

**Heritage.**

2.6 There are 7 Listed Buildings in and around Corringham village and Aisby, as detailed in the Character Study and the Draft Plan document.

2.7 There is a Scheduled Monument in Corringham (Dunstall deserted medieval village, Mon. No.150 Grid Ref.SK 8900 9360). The adjoining Parishes of Pilham and Thonock, have two Monuments:

- Gilby medieval settlement (Monument No.22758 - Grid Ref. SK 8646 9312).
- Castle Hills Wood earthworks (Monument No.31639 - Grid Ref.SK 81849150).

In Willoughton, to the east of the Plan Area, there are also two Scheduled Monuments.

- Monks Garth moated site (Monument No.22618 Grid Ref. SK 9323 9320)
- Temple Garth medieval preceptory (Mon. No.22612 Grid Ref. SK 9277 9314)

In Harpswell, east of the Plan Area, there is a Scheduled Monument, Harpswell Hall (post medieval house & gardens. Overall medieval settlement remains) South of Hall Farm (Monument No.33122 – Grid Ref. SK 9328 8985)

In Hemswell, also to the east of the Plan Area, there are 3 Scheduled Monuments.

- Moated manorial complex northeast of Elm Tree farm (Mon. No.31612 – Grid Ref. SK 8810 8892).

- Dovecote at Elm Tree Farm (Mon. No.22773 – Grid Ref. SK 8820 8878).

- Cross in All Saints churchyard (Mon. No.22723 – Grid Ref. SK 8780 8849).

(The Historic England National Heritage List (NHLE) includes Listed Buildings & Scheduled Monuments: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/map-search?clearresults=True>

2.8 However, none of the designated heritage assets, many of which are outside the Parish/Plan area, are affected by the (small scale) new housing site allocations in the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan. Indeed, the rejection of some of the other sites submitted (e.g. Old Hall) was because of the adverse impact on Listed Buildings.

### **Rivers and drainage**

2.9 In terms of surface water flooding, although the area north of East Lane is designated only as low risk, the impact of development on local drainage ditches is a consideration, (e.g. Corringham Beck). In terms of flooding from the rivers/sea, there are no areas designated by the Environment Agency as Flood Zones 2 or 3. The proposed site allocations take account of local drainage issues, but there are no strategic constraints. The Environment Agency Mapping website shows flood maps, see: <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>

### **Nature Conservation and Biodiversity**

2.10 There are 5 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) North/North West of Corringham (Laughton Common, Scotton Common, Scotton Beck Fields, Forest Ponds and Misterton Drain at West Stockwith). To the South East (of Gainsborough) is Lea Marsh SSSI and further East, (next to the A15) is Cliffe House SSSI. The north of the Parish is within the 15km impact zone of Lea Marsh, Laughton Common and Scotton (two sites), but these SSSI's will not be adversely affected by the small-scale housing site allocations in the Neighbourhood Plan. (Details of all sites can be found on the website <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>).

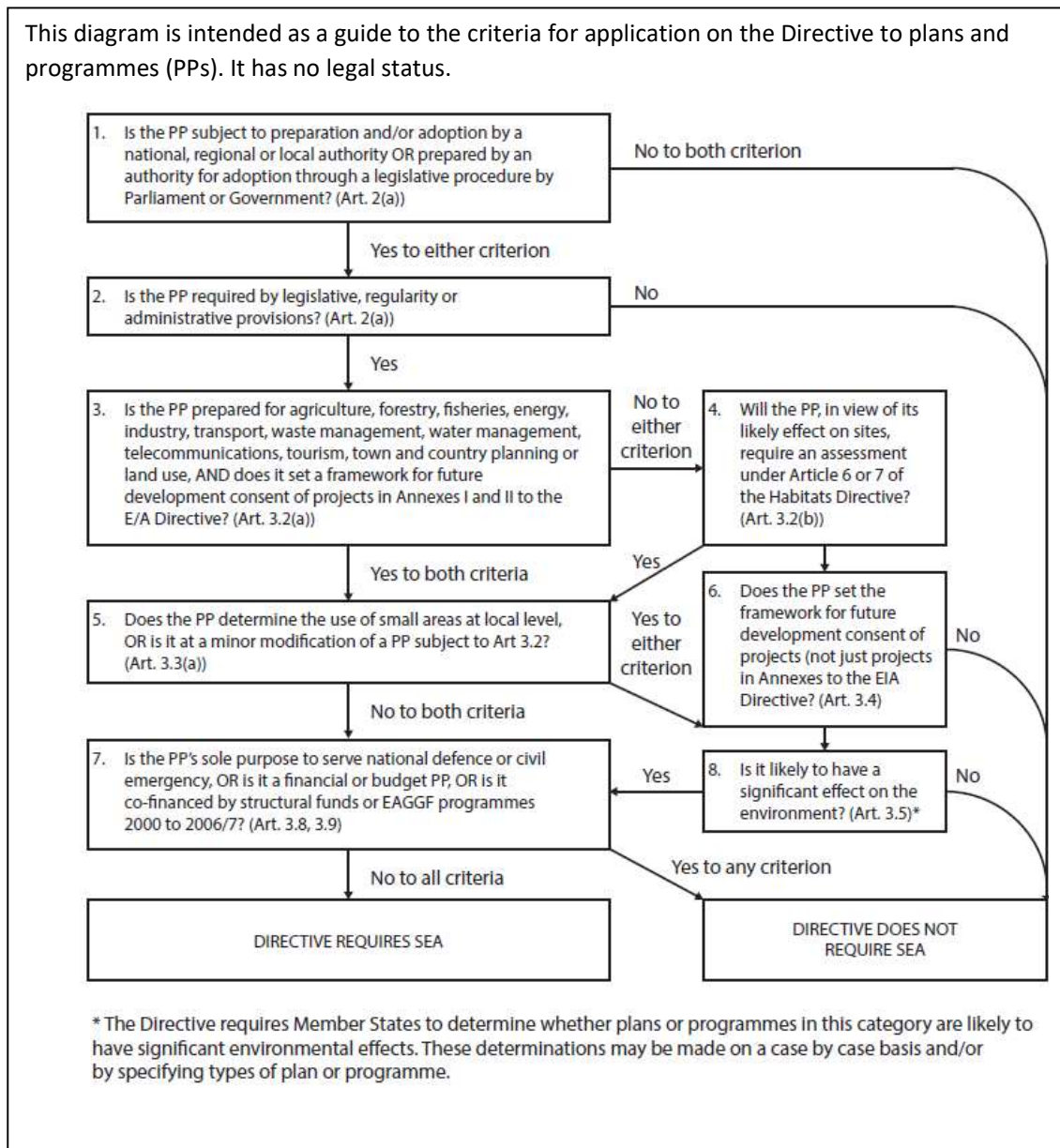
2.11 Owlet Plantation (West of Blyton, 5km North-West of Corringham village) is a Local Nature Reserve. In the West of the Parish/Plan Area, Wharton Woods, Birch Wood, Hornby Wood and Somerby Wood are (in part) Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and in part Ancient Replanted Woodland. Neither are affected by the allocations in the Neighbourhood Plan. They are affected by the committed Gainsborough Northern SUE, which is within the Corringham NP area but as a strategic matter it is not covered by any of its policies. There will have been full SEA and HRA assessments for the CLLP as part of the SUE allocation.

2.12 There is no SAC (Special Area of Conservation) within a 15km radius.

### **3. SEA Screening Assessment**

3.1 Figure 1 below illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required. The findings for SEA screening of the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan are given in Table 1 and in Tables 2, 3 and 4 which specifically examine the likely significant effect of the Plan on the environment.

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



**Table 1: Assessment of Corringham Neighbourhood Plan against Fig 1**

<b>Criteria/Stage</b>	<b>Response: Yes/ No/ Not applicable</b>	<b>Details</b>
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	Yes	Neighbourhood Plans are made by a 'qualifying body' (e.g., parish/town council) under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. A Neighbourhood Plan is subject to an examination and referendum. If it receives 50% or more 'yes' votes at referendum, it will be 'made' by West Lindsey District Council as the local planning authority. GO TO STAGE 2
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Yes	Communities have a right to be able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, but they are not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative purposes to produce one. GO TO STAGE 3
3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive?	Yes	The plan is being prepared for 'town and country planning and land use...' (Article 3(2)) and, once adopted, will be part of the planning policy framework determining future development within the Neighbourhood Area. Developments that fall within Annex I are 'excluded' developments for Neighbourhood Plans (as set out in Section 61(k) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)). It is not anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan would be the tool to manage development of the scale and nature envisaged by Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive. GO TO STAGE 5
4. Will the Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?	Yes	See screening assessment for HRA in report.
5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a Plan subject to Article 3.2?	Yes	Once made the Neighbourhood Plan will be part of the land use framework for the area and will help to determine the use of small areas of land at a local level. The NP proposes 4 small housing allocations and designates 7 local green spaces. It seeks to protect and enhance community facilities, listed buildings and buildings of positive character. It recognises 4 character areas highlighting their key features and attributes to guide the design of new development in the area. The plan is not a minor modification of a previous Neighbourhood Development Plan. GO TO STAGE 6

6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)?	Yes	The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a framework for the consent of any future development projects in the Neighbourhood Plan area. GO TO STAGE 8
7. Is the Neighbourhood Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF 2000 to 2006/7?	N/A	The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with these issues.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	No	See Table 2: Assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment. Also see Tables 3 and 4 for detailed assessments by Neighbourhood Plan policy and environmental receptors respectively.
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>SEA not required</b>	

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

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment	Likely significant environmental effect?
<b>1. The characteristics of plans &amp; programmes, having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	The Neighbourhood Plan will set a policy framework for the determination of planning applications for future development projects within the designated Neighbourhood Area. Once made the NP will form part of the West Lindsey Development Plan.	No
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The NP must be in general conformity with the West Lindsey Development Plan, i.e. the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (adopted April 2017) and the National Planning Policy Framework. It does not have any influence over other plans. Once made, the NP will form part of the planning policy framework for the designated Neighbourhood Area and will be used in conjunction with the CLLP and other relevant policy/material considerations to determine planning applications.	No



(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The achievement of sustainable development is one of the basic conditions that the NP must meet. The draft plan includes policies for the built and natural environment and, in particular, the provision of local green spaces. Coupled with only limited new housing (14 units on three small sites), this means that it would be unlikely that there would be any significant environmental effect.	No
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	It is not considered that there are any particular environmental problems relevant to the NP. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	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 NP is not directly relevant to the implementation of any European legislation.	No
<b>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	Only 3 small scale new housing sites are allocated to meet the CLLP dwelling requirement. As such, only a limited element of environmental change will take place. The Plan policies, however, are designed to expect any new development to contribute to the sustainability and minimise environmental impacts within the Neighbourhood Plan Area where possible. The designation of two Local Green Spaces and other landscape and countryside policies should create a positive environmental outcome. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	No
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	The effects of the NP need to be considered alongside the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, it is required to be in general conformity with that plan, which was subject to full SEA and HRA assessments. These concluded that its implementation would not result in any likely significant environmental effects or sufficient mitigation measures were in place to address any effects. The NP is in general conformity with the Local Plan. The NP policies provide for protection of the character of Corringham, including heritage assets, green spaces and	No

	community facilities. The NP is focused on future sustainability, and as such has a core principle of sustainable development. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The proposals within the NP are unlikely to have a significant impact beyond the Neighbourhood Area boundary. Through consultation with neighbouring Parishes, the NP has sought to align its policies so that they conform to the overall strategy for the surrounding area.	No
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	There are no significant risks anticipated, and it is considered that the NP will enhance human health and the environment. Health and safety measures will be dealt with on a procedural basis by prospective applicants. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	No
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of effects (area and population likely to be affected);	The potential for any environmental impacts is likely to be local, limited and minimal. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	No
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected by: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	The NP promotes the protection of the built and natural environment. One policy is intended to ensure that development responds to the existing surrounding character. Any effects of the plan are expected to be positive on these characteristics. The NP is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area related to its special natural characteristics or cultural heritage. The policies provide greater protection to the specific rural character of the area, as well as encouraging new developments to be in keeping with historically and culturally important design characteristics. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	No
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	It is not considered that the draft policies in the NP will adversely affect any areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status. Also see assessment Tables 3 & 4.	No

**Table 3: Detailed assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment by Neighbourhood Plan policy**

NP policy with summary	Assessment- Likely significant effect?
<p>Policy CNP1: Sustainable Development Principles. (Overall sustainability of any new development).</p>	<p>This policy provides a positive framework for decision making, as required in the National Planning Policy Framework. Locally the concept of sustainability relates particularly to the need for sensitive design, such that development reflects the character of the surroundings; meeting environmental, social and economic objectives and better facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, all of which contribute to the quality of life for residents in Corringham Parish.</p>
<p>Policy CNP2: Sites for new housing in Corringham village. (The location, design and character of new housing).</p>	<p>This policy helps to deliver policies LP2 and LP4 of the CLLP, including the balance of the specified dwelling requirement, such that the NP will be in general conformity with the CLLP.</p>
<p>Policy CNP3: Consideration of new houses in Aisby and in the open countryside. (Criteria to consider new houses, but only in very limited circumstances).</p>	<p>This policy accords with the restrictive approach to development in hamlets and the countryside in the CLLP but also includes references to local character.</p>
<p>Policy CNP4: Residential extensions and conversions. (Materials, scale, layout, parking and character).</p> <p>Policy CNP5: Local character and the design of new development. (Recognise &amp; complement local character).</p> <p>Policy CNP6: Key Views: (criteria to protect locally important key views).</p>	<p>In accordance with the NPPF, these policies are intended to achieve positive environmental outcomes to ensure that development is of a high quality to respect the character and setting of Corringham including its important buildings, character areas, green spaces, and attractive views.</p> <p>CNP4 will encourage detailed design that is appropriate to the setting and character of Corringham whilst also enabling energy efficiency and water management features to be incorporated into the design.</p> <p>CNP5, based on a detailed local character study, reflects NE research, the NPPF and County/District studies.</p> <p>CNP6, derived from the Character Study, again reflects the NPPF and complements the approach taken in NE, County and District studies.</p>
<p>Policy CNP7: Designated heritage assets: (the need for high quality design and to take account of character &amp; setting).</p> <p>Policy CNP8: Local heritage assets: (taking account of the character &amp; setting of local heritage assets).</p>	<p>These policies seek positive built environmental outcomes.</p> <p>CNP7 seeks to preserve and enhance Listed Buildings.</p> <p>CNP8, derived from the Character Study, identifies locally important buildings and structures which are worthy of recognition.</p>

Policy CNP9: Protect and enhance archaeological sites. (Protect known and potential local archaeology).	CNP9, based on the Lincs. Heritage Environment Record takes account of locally important archaeology.
Policy CNP10: Existing open spaces & recreation facilities. (Criteria to protect open spaces & playing fields).  Policy CNP11: Local Green Spaces: (Two are proposed; at the pond/picnic site, and the recreation ground).	These policies seek positive environmental outcomes. CNP10 protects valued existing open spaces, in accordance with the NPPF. CNP11 proposes two Local Green Spaces which make a valued environmental contribution to the setting and character of Corringham village. This policy seeks to protect them and prevent their use for unintended purposes.
Policy CNP12: Countryside and landscape. (Protect/enhance landscape & countryside).  Policy CNP13: Nature conservation and biodiversity. (Protect & enhance local sites and habitats).	Policies to seek positive environmental outcomes in the countryside. CNP12 is in accordance with the NPPF enabling local important landscape features to be protected. CNP13 reflects the NPPF and NE objectives/guidance.
Policy CNP14: Community buildings and facilities. (Criteria to protect valued local facilities).  Policy CNP15: Local employment & businesses. (Criteria to support the local economy).	CNP14 seeks to protect existing community facilities and enable improvements, which could have the potential to have positive environmental impacts. CNP15 recognises that local employment is an important element of overall sustainability. It reflects the NPPF emphasis on business. However, the limited scale of development that is likely to occur means that there would not be an adverse impact on environmental assets.
Policy CNP16: Transport and active travel in and around Corringham. (Avoid increasing existing problems and improve pedestrian and cycling options across the Parish)	CNP16 recognises the potential traffic impacts of development and seeks to protect and enhance rights of way, to support increased usage to promote the social health and well-being of the community.

**Table 4: Detailed assessment of likely significant effects on the environment by environmental receptors. Ref. Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive (2004)**

Environmental receptor	Assessment: likely significant effect?
<b>Air quality:</b> Plans should prevent development from contributing to, or being put at risk by, air pollution.	Policies include criteria to ensure such that busy roads or industrial uses, leading to poor quality air is taken into account. Limited development is unlikely to increase congestion or create air quality problems for residents or biodiversity.
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Plans should identify important biological features and work to protect and enhance these.	There are no designated wildlife sites. The small-scale development proposed will not have a significant impact on existing environmental assets. Policy CNP13 protects and enhances biodiversity. The two proposed Local Green Spaces (Policy CNP11) also support biodiversity.

<b>Landscape:</b> Development should seek to promote or reinforce local distinctive landscape features.	Policy CNP5, based on the local character study, encourages design in keeping with the local character areas as defined by the study. There are no nationally important landscape designations.
<b>Material Assets:</b> These refer to physical infrastructure (including social, transport, water and energy infrastructure).	The existing infrastructure in the area and nearby has the capacity to meet the likely demands arising from the limited small-scale development which is proposed.
<b>Population:</b> Plans should encourage development adding to the overall quality of the area: a strong sense of place, visually attractive, and contribute to safe and accessible environments.	Policies on sustainable development, design and local character mean that any development will be in keeping with local character features, be in easy reach of existing facilities, and also suitably linked to existing road and footpath networks.
<b>Health:</b> Plans should promote healthy communities; emphasising the value of social and recreational facilities, including open space.	The NP protects existing community facilities. It proposes two Local Green Spaces and protects/enhances footpaths and rural lanes in the Plan Area.
<b>Natural resources:</b> Plans should protect soils and the best and most versatile agricultural land. The plan should, where relevant, recognise the need for a sufficient supply of minerals and making best use of these finite resources.	The NP does not impact on surrounding farmland in use and would not impact on the supply of minerals.
<b>Climate change:</b> Plans should try to reduce our contribution to, and better prepare for the effects of, climate change.	Limited development on 3 small sites will not increase car use significantly and should not create flooding issues. Other policies encourage provision for electric vehicles and renewable energy.
<b>Water:</b> New/existing development should not contribute to or be put at risk from water pollution.	The proposal for limited development on three sites is unlikely to contaminate water bodies, affect water supply or impact on groundwater protection zones.

#### 4. SEA Screening Conclusion

4.1 As a result of the evaluations carried out in Tables 2, 3 and 4 it is considered that it is unlikely that any significant environmental effects will arise from the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan. Consequently, the assessment within Table 1 concludes that an SEA is not required when judged against the application of the SEA Directive criteria.

4.2 No sensitive natural or heritage assets will be significantly affected by policies contained in the NP. The Neighbourhood Plan policies are in general conformity with those within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017). The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate specific large development sites or promote a large amount of development. It is not near or in a national or international designated area or contravenes significant elements of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

#### 5. HRA Screening Assessment

5.1 The HRA involves an assessment of any plan or project to establish if it has potential implications for European wildlife sites. An HRA considers if proposals in the Neighbourhood

Plan have the potential to harm the habitats or species for which European wildlife sites are designated.

- Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

5.2 In addition to SPA and SAC sites, Ramsar sites are designated under the Ramsar Convention (Iran 1971 as amended by the Paris Protocol 1992). Although they are not covered by the Habitats Regulations, as a matter of Government Policy, Ramsar sites should be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites. European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as Natura 2000 sites.

5.3 The initial screening stage of the HRA process determines if there are any likely significant effects possible as a result of implementation of the plan and if an appropriate assessment is needed. This stage provides a description of the policies (see Table 3) and an identification of the Natura 2000 sites which may be affected by the plan and assess the significance of any possible effects on the identified sites.

5.4 As a 'rule of thumb' it is identified that sites with pathways of 10-15km of the plan boundary should be included within an HRA. There are no European sites within 15km of the Plan boundary or in Central Lincolnshire. Hatfield Moor (SAC) and Humber Estuary (Ramsar and SAC) are closer but not in the zone. Part of the Plan area is in the impact zone for SSSIs, but none are European sites.

5.5 The Neighbourhood Plan also needs to be screened for the likelihood of combined effects with other plans/projects (national plans; core strategies/local and neighbourhood plans; water resource management plans; catchment flood plans, abstraction management strategies and river basin management plans). However, as there are no European Sites affected by the Neighbourhood Plan it is not necessary to screen it for likelihood of combined effects with such plans/projects.

## 6. HRA Screening Conclusion

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

## 7. Overall Screening Conclusions

7.1 A SEA and HRA screening report exercise has been undertaken for the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan. The assessments have concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to give rise to any significant environmental effects or have significant effects on a European site. **Accordingly, it is considered that a SEA or HRA assessment is not required.**

7.2 It is important to note that this screening opinion is based on a Consultation Draft (Reg. 14) version of the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan. Consequently, if the content of the Neighbourhood Plan changes materially, the SEA/HRA screening process will be reassessed and updated.

## 8. Consultation and Responses

8.1 It is a requirement of the screening process to consult certain consultation bodies when forming a view on whether a SEA and/or HRA are required and they are: Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. A copy of the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan SEA/HRA screening report was sent to these bodies and their responses are collated below.

8.2 Following discussion with and acceptance of the report by WLDC, invitations to comment on the Draft SEA Screening Assessment were sent to Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency on 16th Nov. 2020 (copied to WLDC). The email text is in Appendix 1. The three responses received are set out below, with the conclusions **highlighted in bold type**.

**Environment Agency (24/11/20)**. Thank you for consulting us on the Strategic Environmental Assessment screening report for the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan. Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, we find that there are small areas of fluvial flood risk and watercourses within the neighbourhood plan area. **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.** Keri Monger, Sustainable Places Planning Adviser, Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire. Environment Agency, Nene House, Pytchley Lodge Road, NN15 6JQ

**Historic England (07/12/20)**. Thank you for your consultation of 18 November 2020 and the request for a Screening Opinion in respect of the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan. For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request.

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 is of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not likely to be required.**

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to neighbourhood planning see: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/> Should it be concluded that, overall, a SEA will be required for the Plan, Historic England would be pleased to discuss the scope of the assessment in relation to the historic environment in due course. I hope that this information is of use to you at this time. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. Dominic Kay, Business Officer, Historic England Midlands Region, The Axis, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Holliday Street, Birmingham, B1 1TF.

**Natural England (17/12/20)**. Thank you for your consultation on the above document dated 18 November 2020 which was received by Natural England on 19 November 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 welcomes the Draft Screening Report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan. **We can confirm that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan.**

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

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. For any new consultation, or to provide further information on this consultation please correspond with [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk) Sandra Close, Planning Adviser, East Midlands Team

**9 Determination Statement** (West Lindsey District Council - Corringham Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Determination December 2020).

9.1 To determine whether the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) required 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 screening report was completed.

9.2 The screening report also considered whether the CNP complied with the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/ 43/ECC) and Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) and if it needed a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). These are basic conditions requirements under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

9.3 WLDC, as the responsible authority, gave consideration to the screening report and agreed with its findings and that it should go out to consultation, as required by regulations and directives, with Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency in the case of SEA and also Natural England in the case of HRA.

9.4 Responses to the consultation from Natural England, Historic England, and the Environment Agency confirmed that the CNP was unlikely to give rise to any significant environmental effects and/or have significant effects on a European site.

9.5 On the basis of the screening report and responses from statutory agencies, **WLDC determined that a SEA and/or HRA assessment was not required for the CNP.**



I am a planning consultant, retained by Corringham Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to support their work in producing a Neighbourhood Plan. As one of the “Consultation Bodies”, please find attached the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups Screening Report assessing the Draft Corringham Neighbourhood Plan against relevant European Directives, to determine if the plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and or/a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

A copy of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is attached for ease of reference, but it and associated background documents can also be accessed using this link:

This consultation is open for five weeks from the date of writing. I would be grateful if you send any observations by to me by 5pm on Wed. 23rd December 2020. In the meantime, please contact me if you have any questions.

Please note. This SEA consultation is being undertaken in parallel with the wider (Regulation 14) Consultation on the Draft Plan itself, which will run for just over 7 weeks from 18th November 2020 to 8th January 2021. You and/or others in your organisation maybe contacted separately as part of that consultation.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Clive Keble (MRTPI) for Corringham PC and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

#### Map – Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area

