



Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan Environmental Report

September 2019

Quality information

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Table of Contents

Non-Technical Summary	1
What is strategic environmental assessment?.....	1
What is the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan?.....	1
Purpose of the Environmental Report.....	1
Scoping.....	2
Assessment of alternative approaches for the NVNP.....	2
Assessment of the current version of the NVNP.....	2
Mitigation	3
Monitoring	3
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 SEA explained.....	2
1.3 Structure of this Environmental Report	3
2. Local Plan context and vision for the NVNP.....	4
2.1 Local Plan context for the NVNP	4
2.2 Vision for the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan.....	5
3. The Scope of the SEA	5
3.1 SEA Scoping Report.....	5
3.2 Key sustainability / environmental issues	6
3.3 SEA Framework.....	8
4. What has plan making / SEA involved to this point?	11
4.1 Introduction.....	11
4.2 Overview of plan making / SEA work undertaken to date	11
4.3 Assessment of reasonable alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan.....	11
5. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?	20
5.1 Introduction.....	20
5.2 Current approach in the Neighbourhood Plan and the development of Neighbourhood Plan policies.....	20
5.3 Approach to the appraisal.....	21
5.4 SEA Objective 1: Biodiversity	22
5.5 SEA Objective 2: Climate change	23
5.6 SEA Objective 3: Landscape	25
5.7 SEA Objective 4: Historic Environment.....	26
5.8 SEA Objective 6: Population and community.....	27
5.9 SEA Objective 7: Health and wellbeing.....	29
5.10 SEA Objective 8: Transportation.....	30
5.11 Conclusions at this current stage	31
5.12 Recommendations.....	33
5.13 Monitoring	34
6. What are the next steps?	35
Appendix A: Scoping Report.....

Non-Technical Summary

What is strategic environmental assessment?

A strategic environmental assessment has been undertaken to inform the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan (NVNP). This process is required by the SEA Regulations.

Neighbourhood Plan groups use SEA to assess Neighbourhood Plans against a set of sustainability / environmental objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the assessment is to avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects through the Neighbourhood Plan, and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan and the quality of life of residents.

What is the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan?

The Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan (NVNP) presents a plan for the administrative area of Newbold Verdon Parish for the period to 2036. Prepared to be in conformity with the existing and emerging Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan; it sets out a vision and a range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area. These relate to a range of topics, including, but not limited to, housing, environment, community facilities, transport and employment.

Purpose of the Environmental Report

The Environmental Report, which accompanies the current consultation on the NVNP, is the second document to be produced as part of the SEA process. The first document was the SEA Scoping Report (April 2019), which includes information about the Neighbourhood Plan area's environment and community.

The purpose of the Environmental Report is to:

- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the NVNP and alternatives; and
- Provide an opportunity for consultees to offer views on any aspect of the SEA process which has been carried out to date.

The Environmental Report contains:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the NVNP and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- Relevant aspects of the current and future state of the environment and key sustainability / environmental issues;
- The SEA Framework of objectives against which the NVNP has been assessed;
- The appraisal of alternative approaches for the NVNP;
- The likely significant environmental effects of the NVNP;
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the NVNP; and
- Potential monitoring measures.

Scoping

The scoping stage involves the collection of information relating to:

- the state of the environment in the plan area; *and*
- relevant objectives and targets set out within plans, policies and programmes.

This information allowed for a range of key issues to be identified, and to establish what topics should be the focus of the SEA. The scoping process led to the following topics being scoped in or out of the SEA. These topics then formed the basis of an SEA Framework, which is the basis for appraising the Plan (and reasonable alternatives).

- Air Quality – **Scoped out**
- Biodiversity – **Scoped in**
- Climatic Change - **Scoped in**
- Landscape – **Scoped in**
- Historic Environment – **Scoped in**
- Land, soil and water resources – Water quality, Land and soil - **Scoped out**
- Land, soil and water resources – Waste and recycling - **Scoped out**
- Population and community – **Scoped in**
- Health and wellbeing – **Scoped in**
- Transportation – **Scoped in**

Assessment of alternative approaches for the NVNP

No strategic approaches to growth have been tested in the SA as this was considered to be unnecessary / unreasonable.

A range of site options were assessed around the settlement against a comprehensive site assessment framework.

Of the sites that were tested the allocated site scored well and was the 'top ranking site'.

Though the site is somewhat distant from the existing village centre, this is also the case for the alternative site options. Conversely, the site has good access to natural open space and could be made accessible to existing public rights of way networks.

The allocated site has few major constraints and is a logical extension to the built up area within an enclosed parcel of land which is bounded by two main road connections. Therefore, significant effects would be unlikely, making this preferable to alternatives that perform less well when considered in the round against the full range of sustainability criteria.

Assessment of the current version of the NVNP

The draft NVNP has been appraised against each of the environmental objectives in the SEA Framework. In undertaking the appraisal, each of the policies in the Plan has been considered individually and collectively. A summary of the findings is presented below.

This section summarises the overall effects of the Plan against each of the SEA Topics. It is important to differentiate between significant effects, which are predicted to lead to changes in the baseline position, and those effects that are broadly positive or negative, but are less likely to lead to substantial changes.

Summary of overall effects for each SEA Topic.

<i>Biodiversity</i>	<i>Climate change</i>	<i>Landscape</i>	<i>Historic Environment</i>	<i>Population and community</i>	<i>Health and wellbeing</i>	<i>Travel and transport</i>
Minor +ve	Neutral	Significant +Ve	Minor +ve	Significant +Ve	Significant +Ve	Uncertain minor +Ve

The plan is predicted to have mostly positive effects.

Three significant positive effects are predicted overall, relating to Landscape, Population and Community and health and wellbeing.

The effects upon Landscape are predicted to be significantly positive as the Plan identifies and provides protection for locally specific features that may otherwise not be considered up-front in as great a detail.

A key aim of the Plan is also to ensure that the character of the surrounding landscapes is protected and enhanced where possible.

The effects on population and community are predicted to be significant too, as the Plan should help to deliver different types of housing to meet the needs of the people of Newbold Verdon. In particular this includes reference to specialist housing and a high proportion of affordable homes.

The effects upon health and wellbeing are predicted to be significant due to the cumulative positive effects associated with affordable housing provision, protection and improvement of recreational opportunities, contributions to health care improvements, and potentially improvements in walking and cycling infrastructure.

No significant negative effects have been predicted, and any minor negative effects ought to be possible to mitigate through the application of policies within the Neighbourhood Plan and the parent Local Plan.

Mitigation

In order to enhance the positive effects and minimise any negative effects, a number of recommendations were made throughout the development of the Plan. The Newbold Verdon NP Steering Group will consider these recommendations when it finalises the Plan following focused consultation on this Environmental Report.

- Provide a multifunctional landscape buffer to the south of the allocated site to provide screening and enhance biodiversity features
- Connect existing public footpaths through the allocated development site.
- Ensure connections and permeability with regards to the adjacent Bloor Homes development.
- Identify and allocate a specific site(s) for car parking

Monitoring

There is a requirement to present measures that could be used to monitor the effects of the Plan identified through the SEA. It is particularly important to monitor effects that are predicted to be significant, whether this be positive or negative. Monitoring helps to track whether the effects turn-out as expected, and to identify any unexpected effects.

Three significant effects have been predicted in the SEA. Whilst three of these are positive, it is still important to monitor whether the effects that occur in reality are as positive as expected. Potentially suitable indicators are identified below for each of the significant effects.

Significant effects	Monitoring measures
<p>A significant positive effect is predicted on landscape due mainly to improved protection for locally important environmental features and key views</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Townscape and landscape character analysis. • Developments refused on the grounds of adverse effects on important views and landscape features.
<p>A significant positive effect is predicted for population and communities as the Plan will contribute towards meeting local housing needs, as well as protecting locally important community facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net housing completions per annum • Progress in delivery at the allocated site. • Number of homes for older people. • Number and percentage of affordable homes delivered.
<p>A significant positive effect is predicted on health and wellbeing due to cumulative effects of affordable housing, recreational links, improvements to health facilities and protection of community facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and percentage of affordable homes delivered • Percentage of developments delivering targets for adaptable and accessible homes • Achievement of open space and sport standards • Length of new cycle and pedestrian routes • Value of contributions towards healthcare provision • Loss or gain of community facilities

At this stage, the monitoring measures are not 'decided'; rather they are suggested as potentially suitable indicators.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan (NVNP).

The NVNP is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2012. The Neighbourhood Plan area, which includes the administrative area of Newbold Verdon Parish (Figure 1.1) in Leicestershire, is being prepared in the context of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan.

Key information relating to the NVNP is presented in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Qualifying Body	Newbold Verdon Parish Council
Title of Plan	Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan (NVNP)
Subject	Neighbourhood planning
Purpose	The Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in conformity with the existing Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2006-2026, with due regard to the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Review 2016-2036.
Timescale	2018-2036
Area covered by the plan	The emerging NVNP will be used to guide and shape development within the area covered by the administrative area of Newbold Verdon Parish.
Summary of content	The Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Plan contact point	Heather Davison Email address: hdavison1806@gmail.com

1.2 SEA explained

The Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan was ‘screened-in’ by Hinckley and Bosworth Council as requiring an SEA.

SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative environmental effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SEA for the NVNP seeks to maximise the emerging Neighbourhood Plan’s contribution to sustainable development.

The SEA has been prepared in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive¹.

The SEA Regulations require that a report is published for consultation alongside the draft plan that ‘identifies, describes and evaluates’ the likely significant effects of implementing ‘the plan, and reasonable alternatives’. The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.

In line with the SEA Regulations this Environmental Report must essentially answer four questions:

- What is the scope of the SEA?
- What has plan-making/SEA involved up to this point?
 - ‘Reasonable alternatives’ must have been appraised for the plan.
- What are the appraisal findings at this stage?
 - i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
- What happens next?

These questions are derived from Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, which present ‘the information to be provided within the report’. **Table 1.2** presents the linkages between the regulatory requirements and the four SEA questions.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC

1.3 Structure of this Environmental Report

This document is the Environmental Report for the NVNP and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed above with a view to providing the information required by the SEA Regulations.

Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as follows:

Table 1.2: Questions that must be answered by the Environmental Report in order to meet regulatory² requirements

Environmental Report question	In line with the SEA Regulations, the report must
	main objectives of the plan relevant plans and
	al protection objectives , l or national level al problems which are ng those relating to any onmental importance
	e current state of the evolution thereof without n teristics of areas likely to be
	al problems which are ng those relating to any onmental importance
	d objectives that should be a network' for) assessment
	ng the alternatives dealt ion of the 'reasonableness' of s associated with
	ng the preferred approach in- isal/a description of how and considerations are
	s associated with the draft to prevent, reduce and as significant adverse effects of an
	aking/SEA process.

² Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

³ NB this column does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation.

2. Local Plan context and vision for the NVNP

2.1 Local Plan context for the NVNP

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council was established as a Metropolitan Borough in 1974 following a merger of Hinckley Urban District and the Market Bosworth Rural District less Ibstock. There are several towns including Hinckley, Earl Shilton and Market Bosworth. The Borough is divided into twenty one parishes as follows:

:

- Bagworth and Thornton
- Barlestone
- Barwell
- Burbabge
- Cadeby
- Carlton
- Desford
- Earl Shilton
- Groby
- Higham on the Hill
- Market Bosworth
- Markfield
- Nailstone
- **Newbold Verdon**
- Osbaston
- Peckleton
- Ratby
- Shackerstone
- Sheepy
- Stanton-under-Bardon
- Stoke Golding
- Sutton Cheney
- Twycross
- Witherley

Hinckley and Bosworth have an adopted local plan that is for the period of 2006-2026. The NVNP has been prepared in the context of this Plan. However, Hinckley and Bosworth have started a local plan review which is at the call for sites stage. The new local plan will be for the period of 2016-2036 the draft plan will be prepared by October 2019.⁴ The NVNP has also had regard to the work that is ongoing as part of the new Local Plan.

In relation to Newbold Verdon, the village has been designated in the emerging Local Plan as a “Rural Centre”. Rural Centres are defined as “...”.*those villages that have populations over 1500 people, have a primary school, local shop, post office, GP, community/leisure facilities, employment and a 6 day a week bus service (hourly). key Rural Centres that provide localised provision of facilities permit access by foot, cycle and local bus and can minimise car journeys not only for those people who are living in the Key Rural Centres, but also the rural villages and hamlets surrounding these centres*”⁵

In terms of housing delivery, the emerging Local Plan places a strong impetus on designated Neighbourhood Plan areas delivering housing through their Neighbourhood Plans. In this context Policy 11 highlights that 110 homes should be delivered in Newbold Verdon Parish through the NVNP between 2006 and 2026. The amount of homes required in the new plan period has not yet been established.

⁴ https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/1004/planning_policy/1315/local_plan_review

⁵ Hinckley and Bosworth (2006) core Strategy

2.2 Vision for the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan

The vision / mission statement for the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan, which was developed during earlier stages of plan development, is as follows:

“ In 2036 Newbold Verdon will have retained its existing character, friendliness and sense of community that parishioners are so proud of. It will remain a unique rural community with distinct areas of separation from other local villages and towns enjoying open views of the countryside and increased access to areas of natural beauty. ”

Vision / Mission Statement for the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan

To support the Neighbourhood Plan’s mission statement, the NVNP sets out a number of Neighbourhood Plan policies. The latest iterations of these policies (considered together as a ‘whole plan’ have been appraised in **Chapter 5** of this Environmental Report.

3. The Scope of the SEA

3.1 SEA Scoping Report

The SEA Regulations require that: “*When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies*”. In England, the consultation bodies are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.⁶ These authorities were consulted on the scope of the NVNP SEA in April 2019.

The purpose of scoping was to outline the key issues that the SEA should focus on through setting out:

- A context review of the key environmental and sustainability objectives of national, regional and local plans and strategies relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Baseline data against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed;
- The key sustainability / environmental issues for the Neighbourhood Plan; and
- An ‘SEA Framework’ of objectives against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed.

The Scoping Report is attached as **Appendix A**, with a summary provided in the following section of this report.

The statutory consultees provided a response to the Scoping Report within the five week consultation period. Comments made on the Scoping Report, and how they have been considered and addressed, are presented in **Table 3.1** below.

⁶ In-line with Article 6(3) of the SEA Directive, these consultation bodies were selected because ‘by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, [they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes.’

Table 3.1: Consultation responses received on the SEA Scoping Report

Consultee	Consultation Response	How the response was considered and addressed
Natural England	No comments received.	n/a
Historic England	No comments received within statutory period but a response has been promised.	TBC
Environment agency	As you are aware the EA were of the opinion SEA was not necessary. Notwithstanding this, the EA has reviewed the attached report and have no comment to make on it.	n/a

3.2 Key sustainability / environmental issues

Drawing on the review of the policy context and baseline information, it was possible to identify a range of sustainability / environmental issues that should be a particular focus of SEA. These issues are as follows, presented by eight environmental themes:

The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive⁷. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects (drawing from the screening opinion and local knowledge).

The scoping process allowed for some sustainability topics to be 'scoped out'; as it was considered the Plan is unlikely to have significant effects on certain factors.

3.2.1 Air quality

- There is likely to be continued reliance on the car to access services, jobs and facilities. However, there are no Air Quality Management Areas or air quality action plans within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Scoped out

3.2.2 Biodiversity

- Locally designated priority habitat sites are present in the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- The Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan Area is in close proximity to priority habitats for farmland birds such as Curlew, Lapwing, Grew Partridge, Yellow wagtail, Tree Sparrow and Redshank.
- The Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan Area is in close proximity to priority habitats that consist of watercourses, open water, marsh, woodland, hedgerows, green lanes and unimproved grassland

Scoped in

⁷ The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on *'the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors'* [our emphasis]

3.2.3 Climatic factors

- Mitigation of and adaptation to climate change are national and local priorities that the Plan should seek to contribute towards.
- There are areas within the Plan area at risk of surface water flooding.

Scoped in

3.2.4 Landscape

- The distinctive surrounding farmland landscape plays a significant role in the setting of Newbold Verdon.
- Newbold Verdon is characterised by the Desford rolling farmland which are comprised of rural settlement pattern of compact and nucleated agricultural settlements connected by a network of rural lanes and minor roads is largely unspoiled.
- There are important views in Newbold Verdon such as views to the church and tower.

Scoped in

3.2.5 Historic Environment

- Newbold Verdon contains a large number of listed and non-listed heritage assets, which could be affected by policies and proposals within the Plan (either positively or negatively).
- Preserving the Newbold Verdon conservation area is an important objective;
- Preserving the local townscape.

Scoped in

3.2.6 Land, soil and water resources

- The majority of Newbold Verdon is grade 2- 3a agricultural land but the areas in the plan that could potentially be allocated for development are largely within existing built up areas.
- There are no groundwater source protection zones or nitrate vulnerable zones in the Plan area.
- Local waste water treatment networks and drainage systems should be adequate to support modest additional growth.
- A range of kerbside waste and recycling services are provided by the Council.
- Nitrate Vulnerable zones cover the plan area. However any significant effects to this zone are unlikely.

Waste and recycling – Scoped out

Water quality and soil- Scoped out

3.2.7 Population and community

- The population of Newbold Verdon marginally decreased between 2001 and 2011 (-7.2%).
- Newbold Verdon has a lower proportion of residents within the 0-15 and 16-24 age groups than the regional and national averages. Conversely the proportion of residents within the 25-44, 45-59 and 60+ groups is higher.
- With the number of elderly residents projected to increase, this may require provision of specialist housing.

- Newbold Verdon mostly falls within some of the least deprived areas in England. However, there are areas of higher deprivation to the south compared to the north of the village.

Scoped in

3.2.8 Health and Wellbeing

- Newbold Verdon performs relatively well compared to the national average in terms of health indicators.
- The percentage of those with a limiting lifelong illness or disability is higher than the national average for England.
- There is a range of parks, leisure and recreational facilities within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- The proportion of people who consider themselves in good health is 36.6%, which is slightly lower than the average for England and Leicestershire.

Scoped in

3.2.9 Transportation

- The plan area has higher private vehicle commuting to work figures than either the Leicestershire or national averages.
- The plan has a lower percentage of people who walk to work.
- Less people own one car in Newbold Verdon than the national average and the Leicestershire average. However, more people in Newbold Verdon own more **than** one car compared to the Leicestershire and national averages. This may be due to the relatively rural location of Newbold Verdon.
- Newbold Verdon is served by public transport. There are two regular buses services, one service route provides residents with access to Leicester, Desford, Barlestone, and Market Bosworth (152 service), the second runs between Hinckley and Coalville (159 service). The nearest train station is 7.9 miles away at Narborough. This rail station has services towards Hinckley, Birmingham New Street, Leicester, Nuneaton, South Wigston and Water Orton.

Scoped in

3.3 SEA Framework

The SEA framework has been established through the identification of key issues and environmental objectives as part of the scoping exercise. This draws upon the baseline position and policy context that has been prepared for a range of SEA topics.

These issues were then translated into an 'SEA Framework'. This SEA Framework provides a methodological framework for the appraisal of likely significant effects on the baseline.

The framework consists of a set of headline objectives and supporting questions, and has been used to appraise the environmental effects of the draft Plan (and any reasonable alternatives).

Table 3.2 below outlines the full SEA Framework, which focuses on those issues that have been identified as the most important to consider in the preparation of the Plan; but acknowledging the limited influence that the Plan can/will have in some areas.

Table 3.2: SEA Framework for the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan

SEA Theme	SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features, and support ecological connectivity.	<p>Support/ improve the status and condition of the Newbold's biodiversity ?</p> <p>Protect, create and enhance priority habitats, and the habitats of priority species?</p> <p>Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</p> <p>Support ecological connectivity within the Plan area and in the wider surroundings?</p> <p>Support enhancements to multifunctional green and blue⁸ infrastructure networks?</p> <p>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</p>
Climate Change	Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan Area	<p>Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?</p> <p>Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources?</p> <p>Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made?</p> <p>Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</p>
Landscape	Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan Area	<p>Conserve and enhance landscape character?</p> <p>Conserve and enhance townscape character?</p> <p>Protect and enhance key landscape features?</p>
Historic environment	Protect and enhance the rich historic environment within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan Area, including the Newbold Conservation Area, further designated and non-designated heritage assets and archaeological assets.	<p>Conserve and enhance Listed Buildings, Locally Listed Buildings, and their settings, within and surrounding the Plan area?</p> <p>Conserve and enhance the Newbold Conservation Area?</p> <p>Conserve and enhance local identity and distinctiveness?</p> <p>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</p>

⁸ Green and blue infrastructure networks include (but are not limited to); green spaces, open spaces, parks, gardens, allotments, natural areas, river corridors, waterbodies; and the links between these assets

<p>Population and community</p>	<p>Seek to reduce deprivation and create socially inclusive communities.</p>	<p>Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities?</p> <p>Close the gap between the areas that experience the highest and lowest levels of deprivation?</p> <p>Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents?</p> <p>Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?</p>
	<p>Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.</p>	<p>Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes, including specialist needs?</p> <p>Support the provision of affordable housing?</p> <p>Support enhancements to the current housing stock?</p> <p>Meet the needs of all sectors of the community?</p> <p>Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?</p>
<p>Health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Enable communities to live long, healthy and happy lives that are not restricted by the place they live or their background.</p>	<p>Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?</p> <p>Address the specific challenges outlined in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy?</p> <p>Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green and blue infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?</p> <p>Promote healthy and active lifestyles and travel?</p> <p>Improve access to the countryside for recreational use?</p> <p>Ensure good access to healthcare facilities?</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Support the uptake of more sustainable and active forms of travel whilst reducing the need to travel to access local services.</p>	<p>Encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?</p> <p>Enable sustainable transport infrastructure improvements?</p> <p>Facilitate working from home and remote working?</p> <p>Reduce the need to use a car to access local opportunities for recreation, health and leisure facilities, schools and convenience shopping?</p>

4. What has plan making / SEA involved to this point?

4.1 Introduction

In accordance with the SEA Regulations the Environmental Report must include...

- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with; and
- The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives / an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of alternatives appraised.

The 'narrative' of plan-making / SEA up to this point is told within this part of the Environmental Report. Specifically, this section explains how preparation of the current version of the NVNP has been informed by an assessment of alternative site options.

4.2 Overview of plan making / SEA work undertaken to date

Hinckley and Bosworth Council formally designated the whole of Newbold Verdon Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan area in June 2016.

Since 2016 the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have gathered a range of evidence, and undertaken significant consultation with local communities and other key stakeholders to identify the issues and opportunities that need to be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan.

AECOM worked alongside the Newbold Verdon Parish Council to ensure that the SEA helps to inform the approaches and policies within the draft Plan.

Newbold Verdon Parish Council have undertaken their own research with assistance from consultants Your Local to identify and appraise site options.

4.3 Assessment of reasonable alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan

A key element of the SEA process is the appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' for the NVNP. The SEA Regulations⁹ are not prescriptive as to what constitutes a reasonable alternative, stating only that the Environmental Report should present an appraisal of the '*plan and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan*'.

The following sections therefore describe how the SEA process to date has informed the development strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan area. Specifically, this chapter explains how the NVNP's plan policies relating to housing and site allocations have been dealt with in the SEA.

4.3.1 Housing Strategy

Housing growth targets

Overall housing numbers (targets) are primarily the responsibility of the Planning Authority, Hinckley and Bosworth.

The Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan proposed a target of 110 homes for Newbold Verdon from 2006-2026. This equates to 5.5 dwellings per annum.

To verify the appropriateness of this target and to inform the Plan strategy, the Parish Council requested support from YourLocale to undertake a Housing Needs Assessment for Newbold Verdon (Published April 2017).¹⁰

⁹ *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004*

¹⁰ Your local

It is also necessary to understand needs beyond 2026, as the NVNP is proposed for the period of 2018-2036.

In terms of the types of housing required, the HNA revealed that there is a particular need for older people's accommodation. In particular, there are a lot of semi-detached and detached dwellings that are slightly larger than what older people in Newbold Verdon require.

The report states that there is some under occupation. Therefore, there is a need for smaller dwellings of one – two bedroom homes. There was no statement in the HNA to indicate the amount of houses needed within Newbold Verdon .

The Newbold Verdon Parish council's engagement with the community gave a number of 100 dwellings as a preferred approach.

There have been 5 planning approvals in the Parish boundary from 2016 which bring the number of committed dwellings to 158. The Parish Council is keen to continue responding to meeting the current needs of the area and as such seeks to allocate several housing sites that will help to meet and potentially exceed these needs. Furthermore, there is no certainty that all of these schemes will go ahead as planned.

The Parish Council have worked alongside Hinckley and Bosworth Council in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and are keen to ensure that it supports the strategy for the Borough that will be set out in the new Local Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan set a housing target of around 100 dwellings. Further housing development is also possible on a site that is allocated for a range of potential uses.

Distribution / choice of development locations

The Newbold Verdon NP has concentrated on the development potential of brownfield sites within the perimeter of the settlement. This is a reasonable strategy, as most of the development opportunities offer easy access to the village centre and local shops, services and transport (main roads).

There have been greenfield sites allocated also as they are in close proximity of services in the town.

The choice of specific locations has been influenced by an assessment of individual sites.

Are there any other reasonable alternatives?

Housing growth

One alternative would be not to allocate any sites, and to rely upon existing commitments, windfall development and any site allocations made through the Local Plan process.

However, a key objective of the Neighbourhood Plan is to influence the location and type of housing development that is secured in Newbold Verdon. Community consultation has also generated broad support for housing development. Therefore, this approach has been discarded as unreasonable. This would essentially represent the baseline position, against which the Plan has been assessed anyway.

A second alternative would be to allocate additional sites to provide a wider range of choice and flexibility in meeting the housing needs of Newbold Verdon. It is considered that the proposed approach already provides a degree of flexibility, and that there is no evidence to justify substantially higher levels of housing growth. Therefore, this alternative is also considered to be unreasonable.

It is also important to note that the issue of housing growth levels across Hinckley and Bosworth is being dealt with through the Local Plan process (which is also subject to SEA).

Housing distribution

The scale of development involved in the site allocations is relatively small (50 dwellings and potential for additional dwellings should it be proposed on sites identified for multiple uses).

This therefore limits the range of strategic options to be tested.

One approach may be to allocate all homes on one large site / in one particular location (i.e. a cluster of sites) rather than allocating several sites in a dispersed manner.

The only strategic approach considered to be reasonable was a dispersed approach to development seeking to support brownfield land release as much as possible (but not exclusively) and have sites that support a range of housing types and mix of tenure. Therefore, the reasonable alternatives were essentially the different site options that were put forward for consideration as part of the plan-making process. These are discussed below.

4.3.2 Site allocations

The Plan proposes to allocate four sites for housing development three brownfield sites and one site brought forward from the local landowners plus one 'employment site'. To inform the decision on which sites to allocate, the steering group identified a range of sites that could potentially be allocated.

Three brownfield sites plus a further nine interested landowners were identified by the NVNP Steering Group through a workshop exercise over two events in 2017.

Following a process of short listing, 12 site options were identified. One landowner withdrew, leaving 11 sites as reasonable for further assessment.

These sites were assessed by **YourLocale using a sustainable site assessment matrix** with the findings supporting the Steering Group in their decision making. The strongest site with the highest 'ranking' was identified as the preferred site.

The Site Selection package report can be found on the Neighbourhood Planning Website for Newbold Verdon at <https://www.newboldverdonparishcouncil.org.uk/community/neighbourhood-plan/> and includes a detailed discussion of the site sieving and appraisal process.

There was one site allocated in the NVNP for 100 housing units.

The site appraisal framework identified for the SEA overlaps considerably with the criteria within the site assessment prepared by *Your Locale*. Therefore, information has been drawn from this report as much as possible to avoid unnecessary duplication. Where there has been a need to gather additional information to fill any gaps in the SEA site appraisal framework, this has been undertaken.

The result of this exercise is the production of a proforma for each of the reasonable site options, setting out the performance against the site appraisal criteria. These can be found in the site assessment document on the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan website with a full explanation of methods.

A summary of the findings for the sites is presented in **Table 4.1** below, along with a short discussion of how each site performs. The site that is proposed for allocation is shaded blue.

A green score reflects a stronger performance, suggesting that development of the site should not result in any adverse impacts on the environment and may bring about improvements.

Where environmental harm is possible but it can be avoidable or mitigated relatively easily, an amber score is given.

A red score reflects a more significant constraint that may be difficult to mitigate.

Table 4.1: Summary of site appraisal findings

Site name	1. Site capacity	2. Current uses	3. Adjoining uses	4. Site availability - Single ownership or multiple ownership	5. Distance to designated village centre with community facilities, the Co-Op junction.	6. Current existing informal/formal recreational opportunities on site	7. Any noise issues	8. Topography	9. Greenfield or Previously Developed Land	10. Good Quality Agricultural Land (by the Natural England classification)	11. Gas and/or oil pipelines & electricity transmission network. (Not water or sewage systems)	12. Any contamination issues	13. Landscape Quality, Visual Impact Assessment (VIA)	15. Relationship with existing pattern of built development	16. Local Wildlife considerations	17. Important Trees, Woodlands & Hedgerows	18. Listed Building or important built assets and their setting	19. Impact on the Conservation Area or its setting	20. Ancient monuments or archaeological remains	21. Safe pedestrian access to and from the site	22. Safe vehicular access to and from the site	23. Impact on existing vehicular traffic	24. Safe access to public transport (specifically a bus stop with current service)	25. Any existing public rights of ways/bridle path	26. Any known flooding issues	27. Any drainage issues
1. Barlestone Road/Bosworth Lane (SHELAA Ref 434)	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	
2a. Old Farm Lane North extension site part (SHELAA ref 436a)	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	
2b. Old Farm Lane extension site South (SHELAA ref 436b)	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	
3. Brascote Lane expansion site (SHELAA ref 443)	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	
4. Arnold Crescent extension site (SHELAA ref 444)	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
5. West of Kirby Lane expansion site (SHELAA Ref 445)	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
5a. West of Kirby Lane expansion site (Part of SHELAA Ref 445)	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Green	

Site name	1. Site capacity	2. Current uses	3. Adjoining uses	4. Site availability - Single ownership or multiple ownership	5. Distance to designated village centre with community facilities, the Co-Op junction.	6. Current existing informal/formal recreational opportunities on site	7. Any noise issues	8. Topography	9. Greenfield or Previously Developed Land	10. Good Quality Agricultural Land (by the Natural England classification)	11. Gas and/or oil pipelines & electricity transmission network. (Not water or sewage systems)	12. Any contamination issues	13. Landscape Quality, Visual Impact Assessment (VIA)	15. Relationship with existing pattern of built development	16. Local Wildlife considerations	17. Important Trees, Woodlands & Hedgerows	18. Listed Building or important built assets and their setting	19. Impact on the Conservation Area or its setting	20. Ancient monuments or archaeological remains	21. Safe pedestrian access to and from the site	22. Safe vehicular access to and from the site	23. Impact on existing vehicular traffic	24. Safe access to public transport (specifically a bus stop with current service)	25. Any existing public rights of ways/bridle path	26. Any known flooding issues	27. Any drainage issues
5b. Peters Avenue extension (Part of SHELAA Ref 445)	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	
6. Verdon Sawmills (SHELAA Ref 898)	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	
8. Bagworth Road, Newbold Heath (No SHELAA Ref)	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Green	
9. Harry's Lane expansion off B582 (No SHELAA Ref)	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Green	





This section presents a brief discussion of site performance.

Table 4.2: Rationale for site selection.

Site Name.	Summary of performance	Summary of Scores
1. Barlestone Road/Bosworth Lane SHELAA Ref 434	This parcel of land is a large greenfield site in current use for agricultural purposes. The site is located near open landscape countryside. The site is physically suitable for development. The site demonstrates little connectivity to the current urban area and inclusion of the site will affect a compact settlement pattern. The site is not within a conservation area. The site could deliver a very large number of units which will affect current vehicular traffic. The site is not contaminated and does not have flooding issues. Overall the site ranks as a low scoring green site in comparison to other sites.	<p>7 criteria scored ■ 10 criteria scored ■ 9 criteria scored ■</p> 
2a. Old Farm Lane North SHELAA ref 436 (map 2a)	The site is a small site and is comprised of an arable field in current use. This site is attached to the recent Bloor Homes development accessed from Dragon Land and close by to schools and open space. The site would be a logical expansion of the existing urban area. The site is relatively flat and located far west of the urban centre. The majority of the site is suitable for agricultural activities. The site is approximately 600m from community facilities. The site is not contaminated and does not have flooding issues. Overall the site ranks as a high scoring green site in comparison to other sites.	<p>4 criteria scored ■ 8 criteria scored ■ 14 criteria scored ■</p> 
2b. Old Farm Lane South	Site 2B is that of similar to Site2A however Site 2B demonstrates minimal safe pedestrian and vehicular access to the site. The site is slightly more uphill than 2A. There are no public rights of way identified on the site. The site is not contaminated and does not have flooding issues. Overall the site ranks as a medium scoring green site in comparison to other sites.	<p>5 criteria scored ■ 12 criteria scored ■ 9 criteria scored ■</p> 
3. Brascote Lane	This site is a large arable field in current use. The site is in the countryside surrounded by three arable fields and copses of trees. The site is detached from the village centre and will disrupt a compact settlement pattern. There are nesting birds and small mammals adjacent to the site. The site will affect existing vehicular traffic and there are no public transport options close by. The site displays some form of flooding and drainage issues. Overall the site ranks as a low scoring red site in comparison to other sites.	<p>8 criteria scored ■ 12 criteria scored ■ 6 criteria scored ■</p> 

Summary of Scores

Site Name. Summary of performance

<p>4. Arnold Crescent Extension</p>	<p>This site is small agricultural land used for grazing purposes. The majority of the site is identified as very good quality land for agriculture. There are several established trees of high quality on site. Nesting birds, small mammals, foxes and badgers are found on an adjacent site. The site will affect existing vehicular traffic and there are no public transport options close by. Overall the site ranks as a medium scoring red site in comparison to other sites.</p>	<p>9 criteria scored ■ 11 criteria scored ■ 6 criteria scored ■</p> 
<p>5. West of Kirby Lane</p>	<p>The greenfield site comprises of six arable fields and is a relatively flat site. The site is recognised as having agricultural value. There are several established trees of high quality on site. Nesting birds, small mammals, foxes and badgers are found on an adjacent site. The site is outside of the urban centre and will disrupt a sensible pattern of development. There is a major public right of way in the centre of the site that will need to be re-routed. The site displays some form of flooding and drainage issues. Overall the site ranks as a high scoring red site in comparison to other sites.</p>	<p>12 criteria scored ■ 7 criteria scored ■ 7 criteria scored ■</p> 
<p>5A. Part West of Kirby Lane</p>	<p>The site is a small countryside arable field in current use. Development on the site would disrupt a compact settlement pattern. Majority of the site is of significant agricultural value. Important trees and wildlife are present on this site. The site display no form of noise, contamination or flooding, however some drainage issues. Overall the site ranks as an amber site in comparison to other sites.</p>	<p>9 criteria scored ■ 8 criteria scored ■ 9 criteria scored ■</p> 
<p>5B. Part West of Kirby Lane – off Allan’s Way.</p>	<p>The site comprises of two arable fields in current use. It forms part of the countryside landscape. The land may affect the current urban form. The site is classified as agriculturally valuable. The site has several owners. The site contains important trees, woodlands and hedgerows. The site is located well away from public transport and community facilities. The site display no form of noise, contamination or flooding, however some drainage issues. Overall the site ranks as an amber site in comparison to other sites.</p>	<p>9 criteria scored ■ 10 criteria scored ■ 7 criteria scored ■</p> 

Summary of Scores

Site Name. Summary of performance

6. Verdon Sawmills	<p>The site is currently a working sawmill and provides local employment which may be expensive and difficult to relocate. The adjoining landscape is countryside. The site is a mix of brown field and some greenfield use. The site holds some agricultural value. There are important trees located on site. The site is not located near a conservation area. The site demonstrates issues with contamination. The sawmill will have polluted the soil which will require remediation. No flooding issues or noise issues on site. Overall the site ranks as a low scoring red site in comparison to other sites.</p>	<p>7 criteria scored ■ 12 criteria scored ■ 7 criteria scored ■</p> 
8. Bagworth Road	<p>The site is surrounded by three arable fields, with the sawmill to the southern boundary. The site is within a local landscape character area. There are important trees on the site with some wildlife. There will be a negative impact on current vehicular traffic. There is no safe access to public transport. There are no contamination, drainage or flooding issues however there are noise issues due to being within close proximity to the existing sawmill. Overall the site ranks as a low scoring green site in comparison to other sites.</p>	<p>7 criteria scored ■ 11 criteria scored ■ 8 criteria scored ■</p> 
9. Harry's Lane	<p>This site is a working farm located near several arable fields. The site holds agricultural value. There are important trees on the site with some wildlife. There will be negative impacts on the existing vehicular traffic, and there is no access to public transport. The village centre is well away from the site. A reroute of Harrys Lane may be needed. The networks are sound however there are a couple of large spoil tips found on site. Overall the site ranks as a low scoring red site in comparison to other sites.</p>	<p>12 criteria scored ■ 8 criteria scored ■ 6 criteria scored ■</p> 

Outline reasons for selecting the preferred site options

The decision relating to the allocation of the preferred site is based primarily on the outputs from the sustainable site assessment exercise.

This demonstrates that the preferred site performs the best overall compared to the discounted site options (when considered across the full range of criteria).

Though some of the discounted sites perform better in respect of certain assessment criteria (*for example, several sites are less constrained by the potential for impacts on heritage assets*), the Parish Council consider that the chosen site performs better 'in the round'.

It is also considered possible that mitigation can minimise any adverse effects where a 'red' or 'amber' score has been identified for the preferred site.

Mitigation measures could also be applied to the discounted sites. However, availability of sites, likelihood of development taking place, and the ability to address constraints has also been considered.

In this respect, the Parish Council are confident that a sustainable development would be deliverable at the preferred site (more so than the discounted site options).

The site assessment report sets out more detailed discussions for each site.

5. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the post Regulation 14 version of the NVNP (November 2018).

5.2 Current approach in the Neighbourhood Plan and the development of Neighbourhood Plan policies

Housing Policies

Policy H1:	Residential Site Allocations
Policy H2:	Settlement Boundary
Policy H3:	Priority To Be Given To Brownfield Sites Development
Policy H4	Windfall Sites
Policy H5	Housing Mix
Policy H6	Design

Environmental Policies

Policy ENV1	Protection Of Local Green Space
Policy ENV2	Protection Of Sites And Features Of Environmental Significance
Policy ENV3	Ridge And Furrow
Policy ENV4	Biodiversity And Wildlife Corridors
Policy ENV5	Landscape Character Areas
Policy ENV6	Safeguarding Important Views
Policy ENV7	Footpaths And Bridleways
Policy ENV8	Renewable Energy Generation Infrastructure

Community Facility Policies

Policy CF1	Health, Welfare And Education
Policy CF2	Community Amenities
Policy CF3	Assets Of Community Value

Transport Policies

Policy T1	Travel Requirements For New Development
Policy T2	Traffic Management
Policy T3	Cycle And Pedestrian Routes
Policy T4	Public Car Park

Economic Development

Policy E1	Support For Existing Employment Opportunities
Policy E2	Support For New Employment Opportunities
Policy E3	Working From Home
Policy E4	Re-Use Of Agricultural And Commercial Buildings
Policy E5	Broadband Infrastructure

5.3 Approach to the appraisal

The appraisal is structured under each of the SEA Objectives that are set out in the SEA Framework.

For each theme 'significant effects' of the current version of the plan on the baseline are predicted and evaluated. Account is taken of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the Regulations.¹¹ So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. These effect 'characteristics' are described within the assessment as appropriate.

Every effort is made to identify / evaluate effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high level nature of the plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline and the nature of future planning applications. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure all assumptions are explained. In many instances it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.

The effects are categorised as follows:

Significant positive effects

Minor positive effect

Neutral effects

Minor negative effects

Significant negative effects

A significant effect reflects measurable changes to the baseline position, whereas minor positive effects acknowledge that a policy measure is beneficial or adverse, but may not result in substantial change to the current baseline position.

Neutral effects are predicted mostly where there is no policy link to the sustainability objectives or where the plan would not lead to a different outcome compared to a 'no-plan' situation.

For example, provisions set out in the NPPF and the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan (existing and emerging plans) already provide guidance on certain factors. If the Neighbourhood Plan does not add specific local detail or additional requirements, then the effects would not be different in the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan (I.e. there would be neutral effects on the baseline position).

Recommendations for mitigation and enhancement are made throughout the assessments (highlighted in pink text) and are brought together in Section 5.12.

¹¹ *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004*

5.4 SEA Objective 1: Biodiversity

Appraisal findings: site allocations

Policy H1 involves the development of 100 dwellings on land that is currently agricultural in nature. There are no designated national or local habitats in close vicinity; and so the effects are predicted to be neutral in this respect. There are no risks identified within the SSSI protection zones associated with residential development.

Locally, there are some boundary features such as trees and hedges that could potentially be affected by development, but buffer zones ought to help minimise effects.

If the development incorporates areas that introduce green infrastructure there could potentially be a net gain in biodiversity; but this is not explicit in the supporting policy.

On balance, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Appraisal findings: Draft Plan

Policy H2 will likely have a **minor positive effect** as it restricts most development outside of the settlement boundary; helping to conserve wildlife in these locations. However, the current and emerging local plan would also seek to manage development in these areas; so the difference in relation to the baseline position is not significant.

A brownfield first approach is suggested in Policy H3, with several sites noted. None of these are thought to contain important habitats or species, and so the effects in this regard are likely to be neutral.

Policy H6 sets out design principles, with specific mention of biodiversity features such as trees, hedges, and site specific measures such as bird houses and underpasses for hedgehog. The policy provides some additional detail compared to the current policy context, and so **minor positive effects** are predicted.

Policies ENV1, ENV2 and ENV4 should each contribute **minor positive effects** with regards to biodiversity as they involve protection of locally important green space, wildlife corridors and environmental features.

Policies ENV3, ENV5 and ENV6 are focused upon the protection of landscape features and important views. Whilst not directly related to biodiversity, some of these areas overlap and there could therefore be some minor positive effects in terms of the retention of trees, hedges and providing buffers between development and areas of biodiversity importance.

Policy T3 is predicted to have **uncertain effects**. On one hand, pedestrian and cycle infrastructure could potentially lead to disturbance to wildlife. On the other, it encourages a reduction in car uses, which has indirect benefits for wildlife in terms of better air quality, less disturbance and accidents.

Policy T4 supports the provision of a new public car park 'in an appropriate location'. This could potentially be in areas with value for biodiversity, but it is not possible to make an accurate assessment without an allocation being made. Therefore, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Policies E1 – E4 are predicted to have **neutral effects** on biodiversity as they relate to the use of land for employment purposes. There are no specific sites allocated for new development, and therefore there are no effects in this regard.

There are a range of policies that are not directly related to biodiversity and are unlikely to have any effect beyond the baseline position. These are H4, H5, ENV5, CF1, CF2, CF3, T1 and T2.

Overall effects

Overall, the Neighbourhood Plan is considered likely to lead to a **minor positive effect** with regards to biodiversity.

The proposed allocation is predicted to have neutral effects on biodiversity as there are no major constraints. However, if there was an explicit requirement to achieve net gain, then benefits would be secured.

The positive effects relate primarily to policy ENV4 (which identifies and seeks to protect and enhance local biodiversity corridors) and ENV2 (which identifies locally important sites with regards to wildlife). These policies provide a stronger element of protection for biodiversity, but the effects are not anticipated to be significant as there would be limited effects on the most sensitive habitats in the borough. Furthermore, the extent to which enhancement would be secured is uncertain given that no specific opportunities have been identified.

Policy H6 is also positive as it complements the existing Local Plan for Hinckley and Bosworth, setting out the need to consider site level mitigation and enhancement measures for biodiversity.

5.5 SEA Objective 2: Climate change

Appraisal findings: site allocations

Policy H1 is a residential site allocation. The site is not at risk of flooding and its development is unlikely to lead to increased flood risk elsewhere. In terms of other adaptation factors such as the need for heat resistant places, the loss of this piece of land would be unlikely to have an effect on the settlement. With regards to climate change mitigation, there are no specific requirements to deliver low carbon homes or adaptable developments. Therefore, the effects are **neutral**.

Appraisal findings: Draft Plan

Policies H2 and H3 seek to limit development on greenfield land / locations outside of the settlement boundary. These could have some **minor positive effects** with regards to flooding, as it helps to maintain areas with natural drainage. Though there are areas at risk of surface water flooding in the urban area, development management policies would deal with this and could potentially help to improve the situation.

With regards to carbon emissions, keeping development within the settlement area is positive in that it should help to reduce the need and distance of travel. The magnitude of effects would be minor though.

Policy H6 states that development should incorporate sustainable design and low carbon technologies, but does not provide specific standards or opportunities. Therefore, the effects beyond the current policy context are **neutral**. Likewise, there is a need for SuDs, but this too is already a requirement of development.

Policies that protect open space and natural features (ENV1-ENV5) should have indirect benefits in terms of managing flood risk, as they will maintain areas of natural land that help in terms of surface water run-off / infiltration. The effects are likely to be minor though.

The transport policies are likely to have mixed effects. On one hand, T1 and T3 encourage walking, cycling and public transport use, which is positive in terms of reducing carbon emissions. However, policies T2 and T4 facilitate a continued reliance on cars, which is slightly negative. Overall though, the effects are likely to be **neutral**. The magnitude of effects would be very small, and the likelihood of a shift in travel behaviours occurring as a result of these policies is low.

Policy E1 promotes the retention of existing employment areas, which are broadly suitable locations in terms of flood risk and accessibility.

With regards to new development (Policy E2), no specific sites are allocated so it is difficult to ascertain effects in terms of climate change.

Policies E3 and E5 are beneficial in terms of reducing the need to travel to access work or do business (which reduces carbon emissions). However, the effects are very minor.

There are a range of policies that are not directly related to climate change and are unlikely to have any effect beyond the baseline position. These are H4, H5, ENV3, ENV6, ENV7, CF1-CF3 and E4.

Overall effects

In conclusion, the Plan is predicted to have **neutral effects** with regards to climate change. The only allocated site is not at risk of flooding, and there are already policies in place to manage surface water run-off and drainage. The development is also unlikely to contribute to issues with regards to heating. Therefore, with regards to resilience, neutral effects are predicted.

In terms of climate change mitigation, the allocated site is not ideally related in terms of walking and cycling, but this would not lead to a substantial increase in greenhouse gas emissions. The general strategy also seeks to maintain development in the most accessible locations, which is broadly positive.

Though the design policy H6 states that high standards of design would be sought, the standard of homes would be governed by national standards and local policies.

Though the NP contains a policy on renewable energy (ENV8) this is not likely to lead to a major uplift in the amount of schemes that are proposed in the area. Policy ENV8 provides some clarity on what is and is not acceptable, but it does not particularly encourage renewables (and broadly delivers the same message as policy DM2 within the Site Allocations and DM policies DPD (2016)). Consequently, the plan is predicted to have **neutral effects** for climate change mitigation as well.

5.6 SEA Objective 3: Landscape

Appraisal findings: site allocations

The allocated site is predicted to have **minor negative effect** upon landscape. There will be a loss of greenfield land at the edge of the settlement which will change the open feel in this location. However, the development is a logical extension to the settlement, is enclosed, and fairly flat and open. It should be possible to secure suitable mitigation with boundary wide landscaping as well as creating green infrastructure throughout the site. Therefore, with good quality design, neutral effects would be recorded. **It would be useful to explicitly state the requirement for landscaping around the boundaries, but ensuring that continuity with the existing housing estate is maintained.**

Appraisal findings: Draft Plan

Policies H2, H3 and H4 are predicted to have **minor positive effects** as they seek to avoid development outside recognised settlement boundaries and encourage brownfield development. This should help to protect the more sensitive locations that add to the character of the surrounding countryside, particularly at gateways to the settlement. The effects are not recorded as significant, as there would be a presumption against development in the open countryside anyway.

Policy H5 is predicted to have **neutral effects** as housing mix is not likely to affect the overall character of landscape features.

Policy H6 is predicted to have **minor positive effects** as it requires development to respect character and to preserve features such as trees and hedges. These considerations would be required to comply with existing policy, but a locally specific policy strengthens the position slightly.

Policies that seek to protect and enhance open space, environmental features and landscape character (ENV1-ENV6) are predicted to have **significant positive effects** in combination. The policies identify locally important historic and environmental features, safeguards important views and requires development to respect local character areas. Together, these provide a stronger framework for enhancing the landscape compared to the existing policy position.

Policy EN7 protects existing footpaths and bridleways, which allow for appreciation of countryside and add to the character of an area. This is therefore positive in principle.

Policy ENV8 is predicted to have **neutral effects** upon landscape. Although there is a requirement for development to respect landscape character, this is already covered by existing policies at a national and local level, and so the additional benefits of this policy are very minor.

Policy CF1-CF3 are predicted to have **neutral effects** as the focus is upon the retention and enhancement of community facilities, rather than their implications for character.

Policy T1 -T4 are predicted to have **neutral effects** as they focus on local transport infrastructure improvements, which are unlikely to lead to physical changes in the landscape.

Policy E1 supports the retention of existing employment areas, which is indirectly positive by avoiding the need for greenfield land release on the edge of the settlement.

Policy E2 supports new employment uses provided that it does not have unacceptable effects on landscape (amongst other factors), and does not make any specific allocations. Therefore, the effects are predicted to be **neutral**.

Policy E4 is also predicted to have neutral effects, as it is unlikely that redevelopment of rural buildings would lead to large scale impacts upon landscape. Furthermore, the policy requires sympathetic development that complements the surrounding area.

Policies E3 and E5 are not likely to involve physical changes to the environment that would affect landscape character. Therefore, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Overall effects

Overall, the effects upon landscape are predicted to be broadly positive.

Whilst there is an allocated site that could have **minor negative effects** on a specific part of the settlement, it should be possible to mitigate effects.

The majority of Plan policies are predicted to have neutral effects as they do not directly relate to landscape character.

However, the Plan includes several policies that build upon the existing position by seeking to protect and enhance areas identified of local importance for the environment (including landscape). In combination, these policies are predicted to have **significant positive effects**.

5.7 SEA Objective 4: Historic Environment

Appraisal findings: site allocations

Policy H1 allocates 100 dwellings on a site that does not contain any designated or locally important heritage assets. In this respect, neutral effects are predicted. Though the site is somewhat visible from the Moated Site Ancient Monument to the south, there still remains a large area of open space that contributes to the setting of the monument. **Introducing a landscape buffer to the south of the site would help to mitigate effects though**, meaning that **neutral effects** would occur.

Appraisal findings: Draft Plan

Policies H2-H3 could have some **minor positive effects** as they each seek to contain development within the main built up area of the settlement in a way that complements the existing character.

Policy H5 will likely have neutral effects as the focus is upon the mix of housing types rather than appearance. Though inappropriate mixes of housing can affect the character of an area, this is unlikely to be an issue in Newbold.

Policy H6 supports high quality design that is in keeping with the character of the settlement. Whilst this is positive, such provisions are already a requirement through national / Local Plan policies. Therefore effects are not significant. **It would be beneficial to state the need for the new development to integrate well with the recently built Bloor Homes estate.**

Policies ENV1, ENV2 and ENV4 involve the protection and enhancement of open space and locally important environmental and historic features. In some instances, these contribute to the character of the built environment (or are specific heritage assets in themselves) and so therefore, indirect **positive effects** are predicted.

Policy ENV3 will likely have a **minor positive effect** as it identifies an important local feature and requires any harm from development to be avoided and balanced. Identifying this feature should help developers to consider potential harm in advance and avoid negative effects.

Policy ENV5 will likely have a **minor positive effect** with regards to the historic environment. There are identified areas of historic importance outside the settlement boundary that also contribute to landscape character (for example field patterns). Therefore, protection of landscape character would have wider historical benefits too. A similar positive effect would be generated with regards to ENV6 by protecting important views.

Policy ENV7 is predicted to have **neutral effects** as it seeks to retain existing rights of way infrastructure. These features do not contribute significantly towards the character of the historic environment.

Policy ENV8 is predicted to have **neutral effects** as there is already sufficient protection for heritage features in national and local policies relating to renewable energy schemes.

Policy CF1 is predicted to have uncertain effects. It is unclear new community facilities would be located, but there is an assumption that due care would be taken to factor in the impacts on heritage.

Policy CF2 and CF3 could have **minor positive effects** as assets of community value could potentially be those of cultural / historic value. Their preservation or enhancement would therefore be beneficial. There is uncertainty about the effects though as no specific assets are named.

Policies T1-T3 are predicted to have **neutral effects** as they are specific measures to manage traffic and travel that are unlikely to affect heritage assets.

Uncertain effects are predicted for T4 as a specific site for parking is not identified. Whilst a car park could have effects upon heritage, this can't be determined from the policy detail.

Policies E1-E4 are considered unlikely to have significant implications for heritage. No specific allocations are made, and policies E3 and E4 are unrelated to the historic environment.

Overall effects

Overall, Neighbourhood Plan policies take a proactive approach in conserving and enhancing the distinctive character and heritage interests of Newbold Verdon which will lead to long term **positive effects**. This is recognised through its focus on assets that are important locally and may not otherwise be protected through national or Local Plan policies.

There is also a common theme throughout the plan that high quality design should be achieved and the character of the settlement should be respected.

Though a site allocation is made for 100 dwellings, it is distant from designated heritage assets in the village centre and is adjacent to a modern residential development with little historic value. There was some concern that it could detract from the setting of the moated site Scheduled Monument and Grade 1 Listed Newbold Verdon Hall. However with adequate landscape screening the effects ought to be limited as an open and relatively natural setting would still be maintained between the development site and these heritage assets.

5.8 SEA Objective 6: Population and community

Appraisal findings: site allocations

The emerging NVNP has highlighted that 100 units at Old Farm Lane are proposed to meet housing needs. This is a **significant positive effect** with regards to housing delivery as it will guide development to an area with broad community support.

At a minimum, 40% of housing units will be 'affordable housing' to allow for residents on a lower income to have the opportunity to live comfortably. This is also reflected in the core strategy for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough. Therefore, whilst positive, the effects in relation to affordability are not considered to be significant.

The site is surrounded by public right of way paths to the north and south west. An opportunity for the neighbourhood would be to extend Path R60 to link with Path S19 to allow for connection between the network of footpaths/public right of ways/ bridle paths (if appropriate). This could promote a sense of community and social cohesion by connecting the neighbourhood.

Accessibility to services and facilities is a key influence on the quality of life of residents and community cohesion. In this respect the proposed allocation is in a location that is broadly accessible to the key services and facilities present in the town. It is also in a location that is relatively accessible to key public transport links. This will support accessibility to key amenities within and outside of the village.

Appraisal findings: Draft Plan

Policy H1 sets out the need to achieve 5% accessible and adaptable housing which will support people with additional needs within the area. This policy is also stated in the core strategy for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough.

Policies H2, H3 and H4 are predicted to have minor positive effects as they allow for minor housing development, which is positive for communities, but also retain the broad settlement pattern and ensure that development is not remote from services.

Policy H5 will likely have a **minor positive effect** in terms of housing and population as it seeks to ensure that new development involves a variety of housing types that will suit the needs for an ageing population and families.

Policy H6 will likely have a **minor positive effect** as it should ensure future development is well designed; contributing to a more fit-for-purpose housing stock that meets community needs over time.

Policy ENV1 will likely have a **significantly positive effect** on the objective as it keeps the amenity space available for the community and distinctively lists the local green spaces that are exempt from any development unless under very special circumstances.

Policy ENV2, ENV3, ENV5 and ENV6 will likely have a **positive effect** as it will protect environmental sites, landscape views and local heritage assets protected which are locally important therefore are of great value to the local community and will add to peoples sensory experiences.

Policy ENV7 will likely have a **minor positive effect** due to the policy protecting footpaths and bridle paths which people in the community use as a form of active travel.

Policy ENV8 will likely have **some positive effect** due to the policy being in support of renewable energy developments which will encourage sustainable development however the policy will only support such developments if there is no detriment to the existing area and the local community.

Policy CF1 will likely have some **positive effect** on the community as it supports new community facilities.

Policy CF2 and CF3 will likely have a **significant positive effect** on this policy due to it protecting community assets in the Newbold Verdon Parish, the policy allows development proposals as long as the community asset is replaced and is no longer viable for the community.

Policy T1 will likely have **some positive effect** on the population and community objective due to the policy providing free transportation for new housing developments with over 5 dwellings which will try to encourage people using public transport and it provides transport provision for the community.

Policy T2 will likely have **some positive effect** due to the policy looking at ways to improve existing road networks for the Newbold Verdon area.

Policy T3 will likely have **some positive effect** due to the policy looking at ways to encourage active travel throughout the parish particularly connecting new developments to the current transport infrastructure network.

Policy T4 will likely have a **neutral effect** on the population and community objective due to the policy focussing on the provision of parking which does not directly relate to the core theme of the objective.

Policy E1 and E2 will likely have **some positive effect** due to the policy protecting employment land in Newbold Verdon and increasing any potential employment opportunities in Newbold Verdon for local people.

Policy E3 will likely have **some positive effect** as the policy will give people in the local community to work from home if they wish to do so and potentially provide new developments with working at home facilities.

Policy E4 will likely have **some positive effect** on the population and community objective as it is providing the potential for new employment opportunities to be created in disused buildings. Policy E5 will likely have some positive effect as it is improving public infrastructure networks for people in the parish area which could help businesses develop.

Overall effects

The plan is predicted to have **significant positive effects** overall in relation to the 'Population and Community' theme. This reflects the NVNP's close focus on delivering housing for local needs, protecting and enhancing community facilities, supporting accessibility and promoting the quality of life of residents. It also has a close focus on promoting economic vitality in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

5.9 SEA Objective 7: Health and wellbeing

Appraisal findings: site allocations

Allocation of a site for 100 dwellings is positive with regards to the provision of affordable housing.

The site allocated for development (Old Farm Lane) is relatively close to health associated services. Measures are also taken to enhance health provision for all residents in the village through contributions to improvements to patient access. In this respect, the effects are a **minor positive**.

A key contributor to health and wellbeing is the network of green spaces, green corridors, and open space for recreation and physical activity. The allocated site is located within proximity of existing corridors and would also be able to deliver on site facilities as deemed necessary. There are several walkable tracks and public rights of way near by the site. **However, an opportunity for enhanced positive effects would be to create linkages from the site to existing public right of way paths, as well as linking existing routes together from north to south.**

Appraisal findings: Draft Plan

Policy H2 will likely have a **minor positive effect** on health and wellbeing as it relates to the placement of new sporting and recreational facilities for the local area. This will allow for opportunities to increase physical and recreational activities.

Policy H3 will likely have **minor positive effects** as it states that brownfield development is prioritised for new development. Greenfield site options will therefore be less likely to be developed over brownfield sites, giving greater certainty that green and open space will remain prominent in the locality. Greenfield and open space contributes to health and wellbeing for reasons such as physical activity, recreational value and visual amenity.

Together, the environmental policies are predicted to have **minor positive effects** as they help to protect locally important open and green space, as well as preserving and enhancing the countryside. This is positive as green space can be used for various purposes that can contribute to overall health and wellbeing (for example, creating a sense of natural amenity, encouraging use of open space and connecting with the natural habitats).

Policy ENV7 which seeks to protect existing footpaths and bridleways should complement these policies by providing access to such features. They are also beneficial for accessibility and walkability, which encourages healthier lifestyles.

Policy EV8 will likely have a **neutral effect**. It states that renewable energy infrastructure will only be implemented if the proposals do not have unacceptable impacts on health, wellbeing and amenity. However, there is current policy that would already deliver the same outcomes.

Policy CF1 is predicted to have **minor positive effect** as it provides opportunities for the Parish council to identify and focus on housing to be located near good health facilities, welfare and education for residents. It allows for Parish Council to work closely with the local school to support appropriate and motivating learning spaces as the population and housing increases. This increase will mean more students enrolling to local schools. This policy allows for identification of schools at capacities.

Policy CF2 will likely have a **minor positive effect** on the community as it will protect development from progressing without considering the communities needs first and foremost. Communities needs can mean enhancing in community facilities or amenity and allowing for better provisions in terms of quantity and quality of services.

Policy CF3 will likely have a **minor positive effect** as it will minimise development that does not align with the communities value and character, unless under special circumstances where equal value is gained in lieu of any adverse effects.

Policy T1 will likely have a **minor positive effect** on health and wellbeing as this policy promotes and enables active modes of transport such as cycling and walking.

Policies E1 and E2 seek to ensure that there is sufficient land available locally for employment use. This ought to contribute to **minor positive effects** on health by providing jobs to local people.

Policy E3 is predicted to have an **uncertain minor positive effect**. On one hand it could encourage residents to stay home and become more sedentary rather than travelling to work (as the need for leaving the house becomes reduced). However, it may free up time for leisure activities, and also supports flexible living for those that struggle to get to work.

Overall effects

A key objective of the Plan is to achieve positive outcomes for health and wellbeing, and this is reflected in the policies. There are a range of policies that contribute minor benefits with regards to health and wellbeing such as the provision of housing (including specific provisions for different community groups), protection and provision of community facilities, protecting and enhancing green and open space, through encouraging active transport and walkability, and importantly by contributing to improvements in patient access to Newbold Verdon Medical Practice.

Together, these factors are likely to lead to **significant positive effects** in the long term.

5.10 SEA Objective 8: Transportation

Appraisal findings: Site Allocations

The allocated site through policy H1 locates new homes in a location that has fair access to public transport. Given its outer location, it does not have ideal access to central facilities and services. However, this is the case for all of the strategic site options with the capacity to deliver a substantial amount of housing. **One way of encouraging walking and cycling would be to enhance links between existing footpaths and bridleways and ensuring permeability with the existing development on the Bloor Homes estate. This could be made more explicit in policy H1.**

On balance, a **neutral effect** is predicted, as development in this location is unlikely to lead to a significant shift in modes of transport.

Appraisal findings: Draft Plan

Policies H2-H4 are supportive of development in the main urban area, which should help to ensure that development has adequate access to services; particularly when compared to development in more remote locations. However, this pattern of growth is well established in the Core Strategy and emerging local plan, so may have likely continued anyway.

The remaining housing policies are predicted to have **neutral effects** as they relate to specific factors such as affordability and housing mix.

The environmental policies which seek to protect local green space ought to have **minor positive effects** with regards to maintaining access to local recreational opportunities. This is strengthened by policy ENV7 which specifically seeks to protect and enhance footpaths and bridleways. However, enhanced access is not a certainty.

The community policies would help to maintain access to such facilities locally, which could also help to reduce the need to travel further afield. However, the effects are minor and dependent upon new facilities being established. Therefore, **uncertain minor positive effects** are predicted.

Policy T1 will likely have a **minor positive effect** upon transport provision as it encourages greater awareness of active travel and public transport and seeks contributions towards free bus passes. However, whilst this is a beneficial policy it will only affect a small amount of people and is therefore unlikely to have significant effects on overall patterns of transport and travel in the Parish.

Policy T2 will likely have **minor positive effects** as the policy supports traffic management on of the main roads within Newbold Verdon which will help the flow of vehicle traffic. Traffic calming mechanisms and traffic restrictions will allow for more controlled and monitored road environments, which promotes safe communities and reduce the risk of accidents in both adults and children. The locality will most likely see a minor reduction in road accidents and vehicular related crimes.

Policy T3 will likely have a **minor positive effect** as the policy will encourage active travel and maintain pedestrian and cycle links throughout the parish area. It will maintain opportunities to utilise active transport modes.

Policy T4 will likely have **minor positive effect** as there may be potential to increase the provision of car parking spaces in the village parish.

Overall effects

The plan includes several policies that encourage a shift away from car-based travel. This includes policies to protect access to local green space, maintaining local community facilities, and encouraging walking and cycling. However, the effects are small and in combination are still unlikely to lead to significant effects. There is also a degree of uncertainty, as the measures depend upon enhancements being secured.

The site allocation is in a location that has fair access to public transport and open space, but it somewhat distant from central facilities. Therefore, the effects are broadly neutral.

On balance an **uncertain positive effect** is predicted. **This could be improved by making infrastructure improvements more explicit such as (identifying a car park location; and stating that the housing allocation should be well linked to neighbouring residential areas and public open space / footpath links).**

5.11 Conclusions at this current stage

5.11.1 Summary of effects

This section summarises the overall effects of the Plan against each of the SEA Topics. It is important to differentiate between significant effects, which are predicted to lead to changes in the baseline position, and those effects that are broadly positive or negative, but are less likely to lead to substantial changes.

Table 5.1: Summary of overall effects for each SEA Topic.

<i>Biodiversity</i>	<i>Climate change</i>	<i>Landscape</i>	<i>Historic Environment</i>	<i>Population and community</i>	<i>Health and wellbeing</i>	<i>Travel and transport</i>
Minor +ve	Neutral	Significant +Ve	Minor +ve	Significant +Ve	Significant +Ve	Uncertain minor +Ve

The plan is predicted to have mostly positive effects.

Three significant positive effects are predicted overall, relating to Landscape, Population and Community and health and wellbeing.

The effects upon Landscape are predicted to be significantly positive as the Plan identifies and provides protection for locally specific features that may otherwise not be considered up-front in as great a detail.

A key aim of the Plan is also to ensure that the character of the surrounding landscapes is protected and enhanced where possible.

The effects on population and community are predicted to be significant too, as the Plan should help to deliver different types of housing to meet the needs of the people of Newbold Verdon. In particular this includes reference to specialist housing and a high proportion of affordable homes.

The effects upon health and wellbeing are predicted to be significant due to the cumulative positive effects associated with affordable housing provision, protection and improvement of recreational opportunities, contributions to health care improvements, and potentially improvements in walking and cycling infrastructure.

No significant negative effects have been predicted, and any minor negative effects ought to be possible to mitigate through the application of policies within the Neighbourhood Plan and the parent Local Plan.

5.12 Recommendations

In order to enhance the positive effects and minimise any negative effects, a number of recommendations were made throughout the SA process. These are listed in table 5.2 below. The Newbold Verdon NPSG will consider these recommendations when it finalises the Plan following focused consultation on this Environmental Report.

Table 5.2: Mitigation and enhancement measures

Issue / opportunity	Recommendations
Potential impacts upon landscape character and the setting of historic assets associated with the Site allocated by Policy H1	<p>It would be useful to explicitly state the requirement for landscaping around the boundaries of the proposed housing site. However, it is important to ensure that continuity and permeability with the existing housing estate is created.</p> <p>Boundary features such as trees and hedges may have value for biodiversity and ought to be enhanced. This can be done as part of landscaping schemes that are not just about 'prettification'.</p>
Enhancements to public rights of way could be achieved at the allocated site. This would improve accessibility and enjoyment of the countryside.	<p>The allocated site is surrounded by public right of way paths to the north and south west. An opportunity for the neighbourhood would be to extend Path R60 to link with Path S19 to allow for connections between the network of footpaths/public right of ways/ bridle paths. A green infrastructure corridor could be crated through the new development to aid this (ownership of the southern fields could prove to be a barrier though).</p>
There is potential that the existing adjacent residential areas could be isolated from the new development if pedestrian and cycling linkages are not created.	<p>Policy H1 could explicitly set out the requirement for the allocated site to provide throughways / permeability onto existing pedestrian routes. It is important that the existing development does not become 'fenced off' from the new development.</p>
Impacts associated with a new car park are difficult to ascertain without a site being identified.	<p>Identify and allocate a specific site for car parking to ensure that the most appropriate location is planned strategically.</p>

Overall, the Plan has been positively prepared and does not generate any significant negative effects. As a result, the number of recommendations made through the SA process has been limited.

Whilst these recommendations are considered to add clarity on certain issues, the effects of the Plan would not be significantly different should they be implemented (though the changes would certainly be beneficial).

5.13 Monitoring

There is a requirement to present measures that could be used to monitor the effects of the Plan identified through the SEA. It is particularly important to monitor effects that are predicted to be significant, whether this be positive or negative. Monitoring helps to track whether the effects turn-out as expected, and to identify any unexpected effects.

Three significant effects have been predicted in the SEA. Whilst these are all positive, it is still important to monitor whether the effects that occur in reality are as positive as expected. Potentially suitable indicators are identified below for each of the significant effects.

Significant effects	Monitoring measures
A significant positive effect is predicted on landscape due mainly to improved protection for locally important environmental features and key views	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Townscape and landscape character analysis. • Developments refused on the grounds of adverse effects on important views and landscape features.
A significant positive effect is predicted for population and communities as the Plan will contribute towards meeting local housing needs, as well as protecting locally important community facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net housing completions per annum • Progress in delivery at the allocated site. • Number of homes for older people. • Number and percentage of affordable homes delivered.
A significant positive effect is predicted on health and wellbeing due to cumulative effects of affordable housing, recreational links, improvements to health facilities and protection of community facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and percentage of affordable homes delivered • Percentage of developments delivering targets for adaptable and accessible homes • Achievement of open space and sport standards • Length of new cycle and pedestrian routes • Value of contributions towards healthcare provision • Loss or gain of community facilities

At this stage, the monitoring measures are not 'decided'; rather they are suggested as potentially suitable indicators.

6. What are the next steps?

This Environmental Report should accompany a Regulation 14 version of the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan for consultation. However, the Screening Opinion for the SEA was amended following the Reg14 consultation, meaning that the SEA process had to be started at the latter stages of plan making.

To ensure that the final Plan is informed by a robust SEA, the Plan has not yet been submitted to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. It is important that stakeholders have sight of the Environmental Report before the Plan is submitted so that they are able to make additional representations on the draft Plan (that are informed by knowledge of the environmental impacts).

Consequently, the Environmental Report will be consulted upon for three weeks.

Following consultation, any additional representations made (both on the Environmental Report and the Plan itself) will be considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The Environmental Report will be updated as necessary to reflect any technical comments, and in response to Plan changes. In particular, it will be important to record how the recommendations made in this SA Report have been taken into consideration when finalising the Plan.

The updated Environmental Report will then accompany the Neighbourhood Plan for submission to the Local Planning Authority, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for subsequent Independent Examination.

At Independent Examination, the Neighbourhood Plan will be considered in terms of whether it meets the Basic Conditions for Neighbourhood Plans and is in general conformity with the existing Local Plan.

If Independent Examination is favourable, the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum, organised by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the Neighbourhood Plan, then it will be 'made'. Once made, the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the development plan for Newbold Verdon Parish.

Appendix A: Scoping Report

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Neighbourhood Plan for Newbold Verdon Parish

Scoping Report

Newbold Verdon Parish Council

April 2019

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Table of Contents

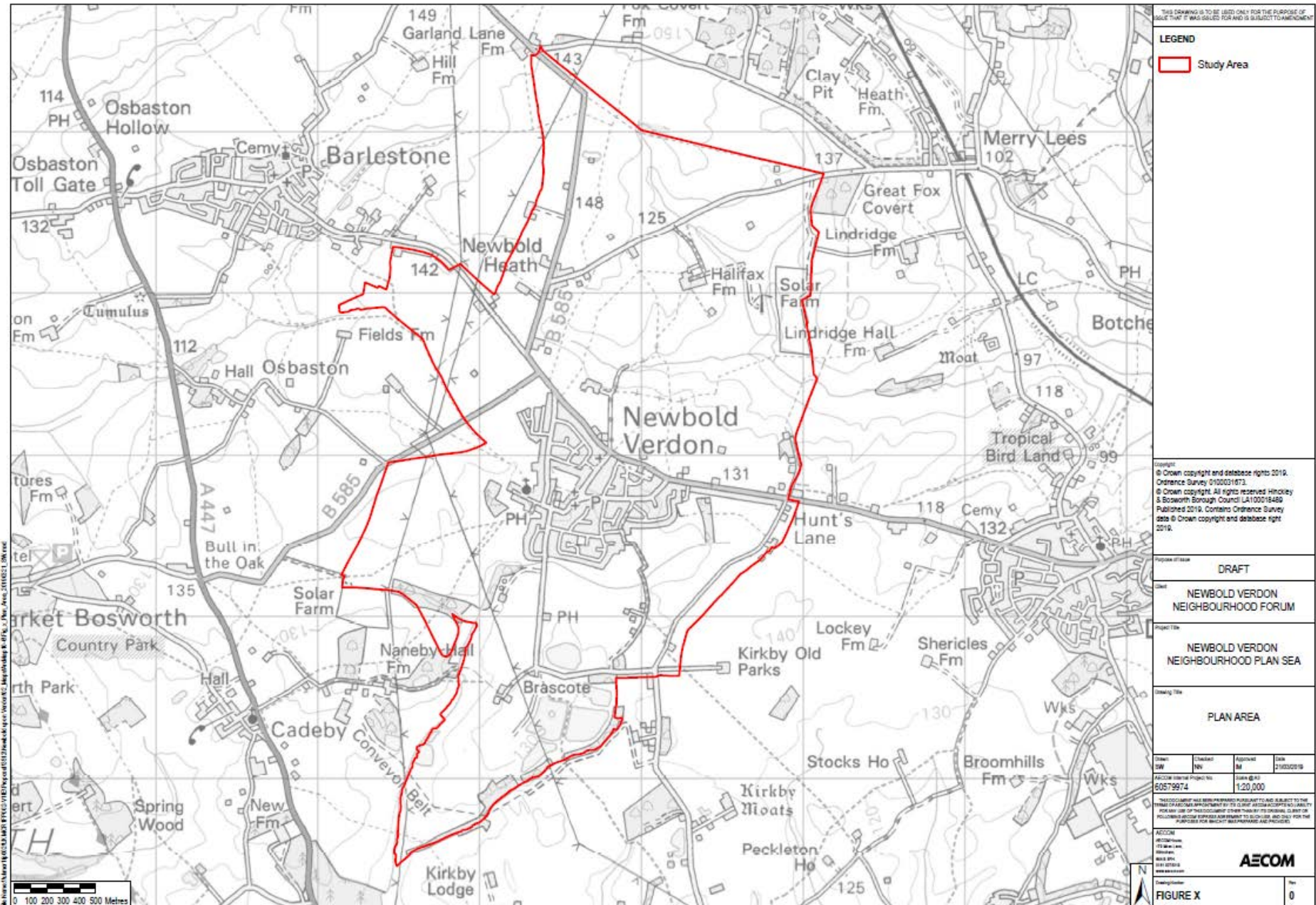
1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	Air Quality	6
3.	Biodiversity	9
4.	Climate change.....	17
5.	Landscape	27
6.	Historic environment	34
7.	Land, soil and water resources	41
8.	Population and community.....	48
9.	Health and Wellbeing.....	60
10.	Transportation.....	66
11.	Next steps.....	72
	Appendix I: SEA Framework	73

1. Introduction

- 1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan for Newbold Verdon Parish (NP4NV).
- 1.2 The NP4NV is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan Area was designated in June 2016, and the NP4NV is being prepared in the context of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2006-2026 (Core Strategy) and the emerging Local Plan Review.

Table 1-1: Key facts relating to the Neighbourhood Plan for Newbold Verdon Parish Council

Name of Responsible Authority	Newbold Verdon Parish Council
Title of Plan	Neighbourhood Plan for the Newbold Verdon Parish (NP4NV)
Subject	Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose	<p>The NP4NV is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy and Emerging Local Plan.</p> <p>The emerging NP4NV will be used to guide and shape development within the designated Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan Area.</p>
Timescale	2018-2036
Area covered by the plan	The Neighbourhood Plan Area covers the Parish of Newbold Verdon (Figure 1.1)
Summary of content	The NP4NV will set out a vision, objectives, a strategy and range of policies to guide future development within the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area. The Plan is likely to allocate development sites to accommodate around 100 new dwellings.
Plan contact point	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Email address: Heather Davison hdavison1806@gmail.com</p>



Relationship of the NP4NV with the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan

- 1.3 The NP4NV is being prepared in the context of the existing and emerging development plans for Hinckley and Bosworth.
- 1.4 Currently, this consists of the Core Strategy (adopted 2009), the Area Action Plans for Hinckley Town Centre (2011), Earl Shilton & Barwell (2014), and the Site Allocations DM Policies DPD (2016) together with the Neighbourhood Plan for Market Bosworth (2015).
- 1.5 A Local Plan Review is underway, which will set a new vision and a framework for the future development of the Borough from 2016-2036.
- 1.6 Neighbourhood Plans will form part of the development framework for Hinckley and Bosworth, alongside the 'parent' document – the Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in Hinckley and Bosworth, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.
- 1.7 The Hinckley and Bosworth Local plan Core Strategy (2009) states that 110 homes should be delivered through Newbold Verdon (Policy 11). The Local Plan Review will establish an up to date housing target for Newbold Verdon and will need to be taken into account alongside the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

SEA explained

- 1.8 The NP4NV has been screened in by Hinckley and Bosworth Council as requiring a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the potential impacts of a draft plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential negative impacts. Through this approach, the SEA for the NP4NV seeks to maximise the emerging plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.9 SEA is undertaken to meet specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).
- 1.10 Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Regulations are that:
 - When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the Environmental Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
 - A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan (i.e. the draft NP4NV) that presents outcomes from the environmental assessment (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives
- 1.11 This 'Scoping Report' is concerned with item (i) above. It presents a suggested scope for the SEA so that the designated authorities (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) and other interested partners can provide timely comment.

SEA ‘scoping’ explained

1.12 Developing the draft scope for the SEA as presented in this report has involved the following main steps:

1. Defining the broader context for the NP4NV and associated SEA (i.e. EU, UK Government and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and policy framework;
2. Establishing the baseline for the SEA, (i.e. the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the NP4NV), in order to help identify the plan’s likely significant effects;
3. Identifying particular problems or opportunities (‘issues’) that should be a particular focus of the SEA; and
4. Developing a SEA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions (on the basis of the key issues) which can then be used to appraise the draft Plan.

Structure of this report

Key sustainability issues

1.13 The outcomes of the scoping elements introduced through steps 1-4 above have been presented under a series of nine key environmental themes, as follows:

- Air Quality
- Biodiversity
- Landscape
- Historic Environment
- Climate Change (including flood risk)
- Land, Soil and Water Resources
- Population and Community
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transportation

1.14 The selected environmental themes incorporate the ‘SEA topics’ suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive.¹ These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects for this plan area though.

1.15 It is intended that presenting the scoping information under these themes will help enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them. Once agreed (i.e. subsequent to consultation on this Scoping Report), the suggested scope presented under the nine themes will provide a methodological ‘framework’ for the environmental assessment of the draft plan and reasonable alternatives. The discussion of the scoping information for each theme is presented in Sections 2 to 10.

¹ The SEA Directive is ‘of a procedural nature’ (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on ‘the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors’ [our emphasis]

SEA framework to assess policy proposals

- 1.16 The SEA Framework provides a way in which environmental effects can be defined and subsequently analysed based on standard 'tests'. Each proposal within the emerging NP4NV will be assessed consistently using the framework.
- 1.17 The SEA objectives and appraisal questions proposed for the NP4NV SEA are presented under each of the themes in Sections 2 to 10, and are also presented collectively within one framework in **Appendix I**.

2. Air Quality

Focus of theme

- Air pollution sources
- Air quality hotspots
- Air quality management

Policy context

2.1 The UK's Air Quality Strategy² details a long term vision for improving air quality in the UK, which involves objectives and policies for the different pollutants and the environmental implications associated with these.

2.2 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework³ (NPPF) include:

- *'Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality of mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management, and green infrastructure provision and enhancement. So far as possible these opportunities should be considered at the plan-making stage, to ensure a strategic approach and limit the need for issues to be reconsidered when determining individual applications. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones is consistent with the local air quality action plan.'*
- *'Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health.'*
- *'New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.'*

2.3 Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'⁴ sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, Goal 1 'Clean Air' and the policies contained within 'Chapter 4: Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste' within the 25 year plan directly relate to the air quality SEA theme.

² DEFRA (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69336/pb12654-air-quality-strategy-vol1-070712.pdf [accessed 03/02/19]

³ MHCLG (2018) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf [accessed 03/02/19]

⁴ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 05/02/19]

- 2.4 In terms of the local context, there are no major congestion issues in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough and air quality is generally considered to be good. The Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) published in June 2018 found that the nitrogen dioxide levels did not exceed the national average, and therefore an air quality management area in the borough was not put in place⁵.
- 2.5 Additionally, at the local level, the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Core Strategy states in *Policy 8* that there is a need to support measures that reduce the noise and air pollution currently experienced by the village due to its proximity to the M1, A50 and A46.
- 2.6 Policy 20 'Hinckley Town Centre' also states that development must mitigate against the urban 'heat island' effect by increasing the number of street trees to provide shade, cooling and air quality improvements.

Baseline summary

Summary of current baseline

- 2.7 As of December 2018, there are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) within the Neighbourhood Plan area or within Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. The nearest AQMA is located in Leicester, approximately 6.3 miles to the east of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 2.8 The Leicester NO₂ AQMA encompasses the inner and outer roads circling the city and well as some sections of neighbouring and outer roads. The nearest road to the neighbourhood plan area with an AQMA is the M1.
- 2.9 Hinckley and Bosworth has 19 properties that fall within Smoke Control Areas, meaning that the emissions from chimneys are controlled. For example, through a requirement to use smokeless fuel or appliances that burn alternative fuels with lower emissions. This effort focuses on home and building heating systems. None of these properties fall within the neighbourhood plan area though⁶.

Summary of future baseline

- 2.10 Whilst no significant air quality issues currently exist within the Newbold Verdon Parish, new housing provision within the parish area could potentially have adverse effects on air quality through an increase in traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as NO₂.
- 2.11 Areas of particular sensitivity to increased traffic flows are likely to be town / village centres and routes with heavier traffic flows; including the B582 and Main Street. In the absence of a Plan, housing development could still come forward in a less planned way, but the trends with regards to air quality are likely to remain the same (i.e. it is unlikely that it would be a significant issue in the Plan area).

⁵ Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council(2018) 2018 Air Quality Annual Status Report

⁶ Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2018)List of properties in the smoke control area [online] available at: https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/4989/list_of_properties_in_the_smoke_control_area [accessed 24/01/2019]

Headline sustainability issues

- There are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the Neighbourhood Plan Area or nearby.
- Traffic and congestion arising from planned new development within and surrounding the area have the potential to increase emissions and reduce air quality in the Neighbourhood Plan Area. However, this would be unlikely to lead to a significant worsening and air quality objectives would likely be met.
- The closest AQMA is located in Leicester approximately 6.4miles to the east of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The scope of the neighbourhood plan is unlikely to generate any significant effects in terms of contributions to issues in this area.

2.12 Due to the absence of any significant air quality issues within the Neighbourhood Plan Area, air quality has been '**scoped-out**' for the purposes of the SEA process.

3. Biodiversity

Focus of theme

- Nature conservation designations
- Habitats
- Species
- Geodiversity

Policy context

3.1 The EU Biodiversity Strategy⁷ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to '*halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020*'.

3.2 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework⁸ (NPPF) include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to 'contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment' including by 'helping to improve biodiversity.'
- 'Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value[...], take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.'
- 'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with the statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); and minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.'
- 'To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
 - *Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and*
 - *Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.'*
- Take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, considering the long term implications for biodiversity.

⁷ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52011DC0244&from=EN> [accessed 07/02/19]

⁸ MHCLG (2018) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf [accessed 07/02/19]

- The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment because of its potential impact on a habitats site is being planned or determined.
- 3.3 The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)⁹ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity by 2010, and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other, and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:
- Halt biodiversity loss, support functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020;
 - Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting to be tested in pilot areas;
 - Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and
 - Address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth.
- 3.4 Reflecting the commitments within the Natural Environment White Paper and the EU Biodiversity Strategy; the 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services'¹⁰ aims to *'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'*.
- 3.5 The recently published 25 Year Environment Plan¹¹ sets out the Government's environmental plan of action over the next quarter century, in the context of Brexit. The Plan aims to tackle the growing problems of waste and soil degradation, improving social justice through tackling pollution and promoting the mental and physical health benefits of the natural world. It also sets out how the Government will address the effects of climate change. These aims are supported by a range of policies which are focused on the following six key areas:
- Using and managing land sustainably;
 - Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes;
 - Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing;
 - Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste;
 - Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and
 - Protecting and improving the global environment.

⁹ HM Gov (2011) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228842/8082.pdf [accessed 18/01/19]

¹⁰ DEFRA (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf [accessed 18/01/19]

¹¹ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 18/01/19]

3.6 In this context, Goal 3 'Thriving plants and wildlife' and the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Chapter 5 'Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans' directly relate to the Biodiversity SEA theme.

3.7 At the local level, the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (LLRBP)¹² sets out a strategy to protect and enhance biodiversity in the region from 2016 to 2026. The plan identifies the following key actions:

- Establish inventories of priority habitats in Leicestershire and Rutland;
- Management, restoration and creation of BAP habitat through the planning system and other local actions;
- Survey and monitor priority habitat and local wildlife sites;
- Increase the amount of land managed to increase the amount of wildlife in Leicestershire and Rutland;
- Provide appropriate protection and better wildlife management to priority habitats and priority species through designated sites;
- Protect sixteen priority species through species action plans;
- Increase the number of local nature reserves;
- Work with volunteers and community groups to increase awareness of wildlife issues and getting people to participate in the conservation of biodiversity;
- Promote the inclusion of biodiversity in the objectives of other sectors wherever possible;
- Provide good management to existing habitats and prevent loss; and
- Record details of habitats through GIS data.

3.8 The Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Core Strategy (2009) sets out a strategy and several specific policies that will work to protect and enhance biodiversity from 2006 to 2026. The plan identifies the following key actions¹³:

Policy 9 and 19 - to provide opportunities for biodiversity to be protected and enhanced alongside recreational facilities.

Policy 20- To provide opportunities to increase biodiversity through a network of green infrastructure throughout the borough.

Policy 21 to implement a national forest north east of the borough to enhance biodiversity and protect existing habitats.

¹² Timms, S. (2016) Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan [available online] https://www.lrw.org.uk/media/uploads/miscellaneous/space_for_wildlife_llrbap_2016-26_part_1.pdf [accessed 18/01/19]

¹³ Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2009) Local Development Framework Core Strategy [available online] https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/487/core_strategy_adopted_document [accessed 18/01/19]

Baseline summary

Summary of current baseline

European designated sites

- 3.9 There are no European or international designated sites within, or in close proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Nationally designated sites

- 3.10 There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located within, or in close proximity to the Newbold parish. The nearest SSSI is Bocheston Bog, approximately 3.2 km to the north of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 3.11 SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) are a tool/dataset which map zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which that SSSI is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs.
- 3.12 There are areas within the Neighbourhood Plan Area that are located within Impact Risk Zones. In these locations, certain types of development within the Plan could potentially have implications if it is above a certain scale, including: residential development, rural residential development, and rural non-residential development.

Locally designated biodiversity

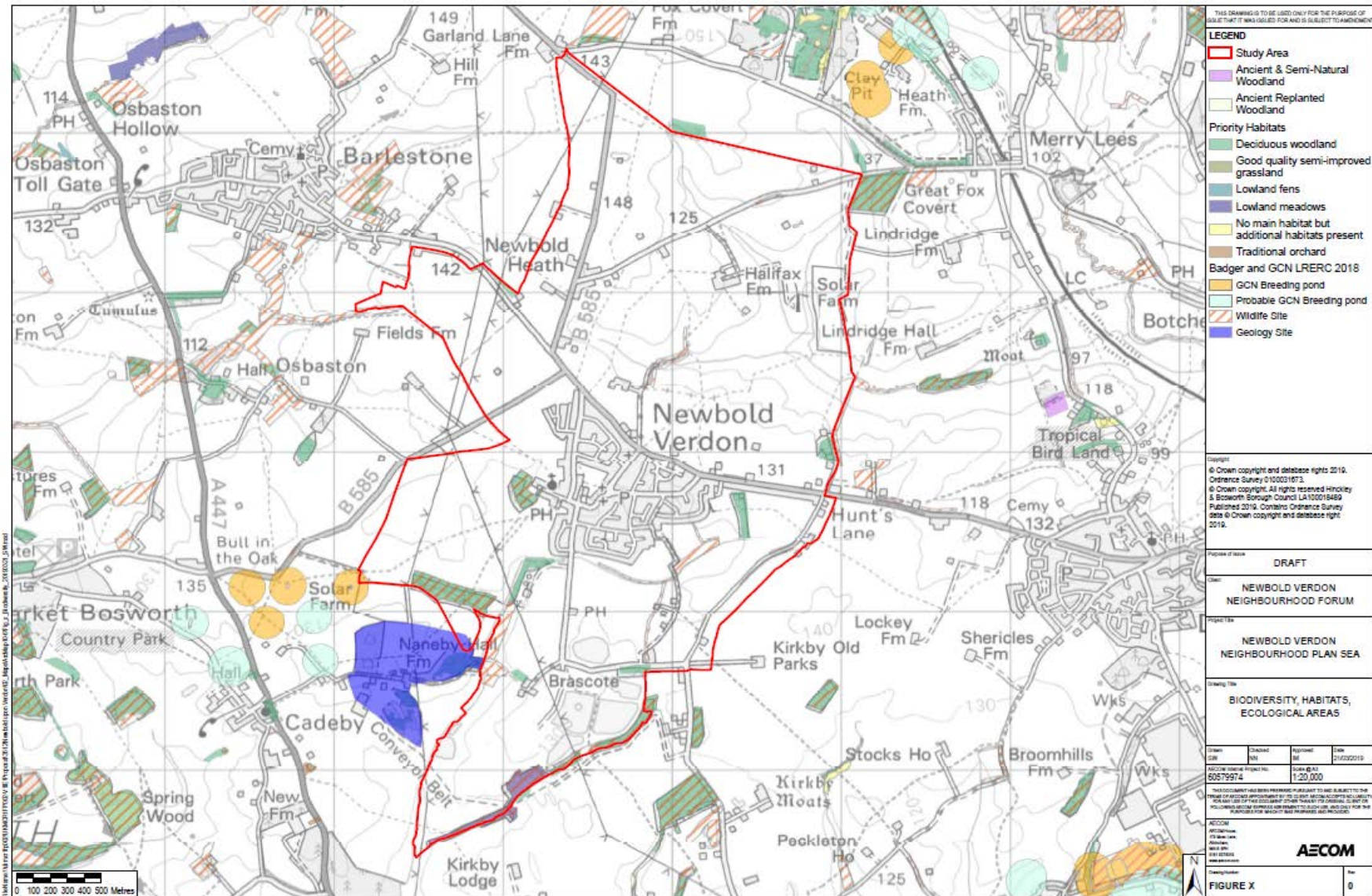
- 3.13 There are some local priority habitats within the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan area, much of which involve deciduous Woodland.
- 3.14 Leicestershire nature reserves, managed by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, have no statutory designation but provide recognition for areas of high wildlife value in terms of species, habitats or both. There are no nature reserves in the neighbourhood plan area though.¹⁴
- 3.15 UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats cover a wide range of semi-natural habitat types. The following Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)¹⁵ priority habitats are located within the Neighbourhood Plan Area:
- Good quality semi-improved grassland: there are two small areas of this habitat which can be found in the west and south of the Parish.
 - Wildlife corridors including habitats based on watercourses, open water, marsh, woodland, hedgerows, green lanes and unimproved grassland.
 - Deciduous woodland: patches of this habitat are scattered throughout the Neighbourhood Plan area.
 - Habitats for farmland birds such as Curlew, Lawping, Grew Partidge, Yellow wagtail, Tree Sparrow and Redshank.

¹⁴ Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (no date) Local wildlife Sites[online] available at: <https://www.lrwf.org.uk/our-work-for-wildlife/local-wildlife-sites/> [accessed 18/03/19]

¹⁵ MAGIC (2018) Interactive Map – Habitats and Species [online database] available at: <http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> [accessed 18/03/19]

3.16 **Figure 3.1** shows the designated BAP priority habitats located within the Neighbourhood Plan area. It also shows areas of Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland, and indicates locations that are thought to contain great crested newt populations.

Figure 3.1 Priority Habitats and Ancient Woodland in the Newbold Neighbourhood Plan area



Summary of future baseline

- 3.17 Habitats and species are likely to continue to be afforded protection through the higher level planning framework, however; they will potentially face increasing pressures from future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with the potential for negative effects on the wider ecological network, which can be exacerbated by the effects of climate change.
- 3.18 Whilst there are not any nationally protected biodiversity designations within the Neighbourhood Plan Area, there are areas that are recognised locally in the context of protecting biodiversity.
- 3.19 Development of any kind can have the potential for negative impacts on such areas (such as habitat fragmentation) through poor location and/or design.
- 3.20 The Newbold Neighbourhood plan presents an opportunity to maximise benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of important local habitats, species, undesignated sites, and connections between designated sites and undesignated sites at a localised scale, and at an early stage of planning for future growth. In the absence of the Plan, the baseline conditions would likely remain the same though.
- 3.21 Although some of the BAP priority habitats within the Neighbourhood Plan Area are well away from the built-up areas and are unlikely to be directly affected by development, there are others within or adjacent to the built areas of Newbold (e.g. deciduous woodland and lowland dry acid grassland). It will be important for future development to have regard to these habitats in particular. In the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan, these areas are considered unlikely to be affected by development (either positively or negatively).

Headline sustainability issues

- There are no biodiversity sites within the Neighbourhood Plan area which have been designated at an international, European or national level.
- Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats are present in the Neighbourhood Plan Area, including deciduous woodland and grassland and habitats contribute to ecological connectivity in the Plan area.

Due to the presence of locally important / priority habitats in the Plan area there is potential for significant negative effects upon biodiversity. Conversely, there may be potential to enhance biodiversity within the plan area. For these reasons, Biodiversity has been **'scoped-in'** for the purposes of the SEA process.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the biodiversity SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features, and support ecological connectivity.	Protect, create and enhance priority habitats, and the habitats of priority species?
	Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?
	Support ecological connectivity within the Plan area and in the wider surroundings?
	Support enhancements to multifunctional green and blue ¹⁶ infrastructure networks?
	Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?

¹⁶ Green and blue infrastructure networks include (but are not limited to); green spaces, open spaces, parks, gardens, allotments, natural areas, river corridors, waterbodies; and the links between these assets

4. Climate change

Focus of theme

- Contribution to climate change
- Effects of climate change
- Climate change adaptation
- Flood risk

Policy context

4.1 The UK Climate Change Act¹⁷ was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement. The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- The Act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.
- The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets' - a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2032.
- The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The National Adaptation Programme requires the Government to assess the risks to the UK from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage key organisations to do the same.

4.2 The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published on a 5-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It required the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report aiming to understand the current and future climate risks and opportunities. The evidence report¹⁸ contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years, identified below:

- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
- Risks to health, wellbeing and productivity from high temperatures;
- Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry;

¹⁷ GOV.UK (2008) Climate Change Act 2008 [online] available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents?sm_au=IvVt4Hr6tjgnqNj [accessed 21/01/19]

¹⁸ GOV.UK (2017) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017 [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017> [accessed 21/01/19]

- Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
- Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and
- New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals.

4.3 Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'¹⁹ sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, policies contained within Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 6 'Protecting and improving the global environment', Goal 4 'A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought' and Goal 7 'Mitigating and adapting to climate change' directly relate to the Climate Change SEA theme.

4.4 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework²⁰ (NPPF) include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to '*contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment*' including by '*mitigating and adapting to climate change*' and '*moving to a low carbon economy.*' '*The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.*'
- '*Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure.*'
- '*Local planning authorities should support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in local plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning.*'
- Direct development away from areas at highest risk of flooding (whether existing or future). '*Where development is necessary, it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.*'

4.5 The Flood and Water Management Act²¹ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

¹⁹ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 10/03/19]

²⁰ MHCLG (2018) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf [accessed 10/02/19]

²¹ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents> [accessed 10/02/19]

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
 - Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
 - Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
 - Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and
 - Creating sustainable drainage systems
- 4.6 At the local level, the Leicestershire Transport Plan 3 discusses ways to reduce CO2 emissions from the road transport network and assesses possible emissions reductions from various mitigation measures. There are two main principles identified in this strategy²²:
- *'Having more reliable services to encourage more people to use public transport'*; and
 - *'To allow plans to be made to decarbonise the current transport network and provide a range of viable sustainable transport options'*
- 4.7 The Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy (2009) identifies the following strategic objectives which relate to climate change:
- *'To minimise the impacts of climate change by promoting the prudent use of resources through sustainable patterns of development, investment in green infrastructure, minimising the use of resources and energy, increasing reuse and recycling of natural resources, increasing the use of renewable energy technologies and minimising pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions'*
 - *'To reduce the high reliance on car travel in the borough and to increase the opportunities for other forms of transport by focusing the majority of development in the Hinckley urban area where there is a range of transport options available and through securing improvement to public transport infrastructure and facilities that promote walking and cycling and through the use of travel plans'*
- 4.8 The Core Strategy also includes a range of policies relating to key climate change topics that relate to Newbold Verdon;
- 4.9 Policy 20: Green Infrastructure , Policy 24 Sustainable Design Renewable Energy and Policy 12: Rural Villages.
- 4.10 There is a Carbon Management plan in the borough that aims to reduce the amount of CO2 emissions. There was a target to reduce CO2 emissions by 20% between 2013-16 which was met and a new target to reduce CO2 emissions by 35 % from 2016-2020. Buildings managed by the council such as Hinckley Leisure centre have set targets to reduce carbon emissions, so far there have been reductions in electricity, gas, fleet fuel and business miles.²³

²² Leicestershire County Council (2011) Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 3 [available online] https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2017/1/9/Local_transport_plan.pdf [accessed 18/01/19]

²³ Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2018) Carbon Management plan [available online] <https://moderngov.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/documents/s10140/Carbon%20Management%20report%202008-18%20final.pdf> [accessed 12/04/19]

Summary of current baseline

Climate change mitigation

4.11 Leicestershire communities benefit from a grant scheme for community organisations to apply for funding to improve community buildings in regards to reducing their carbon footprint ²⁴

4.12 In relation to GHG emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that Hinckley and Bosworth has had lower per capita total emissions than that of Leicestershire and the East Midlands, since 2005 (see Table 4.1 below). Conversely, from 2005 to 2012, per capita total emissions have been higher in Hinckley and Bosworth, compared with the average per capita total emissions for the whole of England. Within Hinckley and Bosworth the transport sector is identified as the biggest contributor to these emissions, as is found at the borough level.

Table 4.1: Per capita local CO₂ emission estimates; industry, domestic and transport sectors²⁵

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Hinckley and Bosworth								
Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	3.4	3.4	2.9	2.7	2.2	2.4	2.0	2.3
Domestic (t CO ₂)	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.1	2.3
Transport (t CO ₂)	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7
Total per capita (t CO₂)	9.2	9.0	8.6	8.1	7.2	7.5	6.9	7.3
Leicestershire								
Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.5	2.7	2.3	2.5
Domestic (t CO ₂)	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.1	2.3
Transport (t CO ₂)	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9
Total per capita (t CO₂)	9.4	9.3	9.0	8.6	7.8	8.1	7.4	7.7

²⁴ Leicestershire Communities(2019) The Shire Community Climate Change Grant for 2018/2019 is now open [online] <https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/grants/case-studies3.html> [accessed 21/02/2019]

²⁵ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) 2005 to 2012 UK local and regional CO₂ emissions: Per capital local CO₂ emissions estimates; industry, domestic, and transport sectors [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates> [accessed 10/02/19]

East Midlands

Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.2
Domestic (t CO ₂)	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.1	2.3
Transport (t CO ₂)	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3
Total per capita (t CO₂)	9.6	9.5	9.1	8.8	7.9	8.3	7.6	7.8

England

Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.4	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.9
Domestic (t CO ₂)	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.0	2.2
Transport (t CO ₂)	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
Total per capita (t CO₂)	8.5	8.5	8.2	7.9	7.1	7.3	6.7	7.0

Potential effects of climate change

4.13 Following the success of the UK Climate Projections released in 2009 (UKCP09), the Met Office recently released the UK Climate Projections for 2018 (UKCP18).²⁶ UKCP18 provides the most up to date climate observations and projections out to 2100, using cutting-edge climate science. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

4.14 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the East Midlands by 2040-2059 (at a 50% percentile)²⁷ are likely to be as follows:

- The central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 1°C to 2°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 1°C to 3°C
- The central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 0% to 20% and summer mean precipitation is -10% to -30%

4.15 Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Neighbourhood Plan area, including:

- Effects on water resources from climate change;

²⁶ Data released 26th November 2018 [online] available at: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp> [accessed 21/01/19]

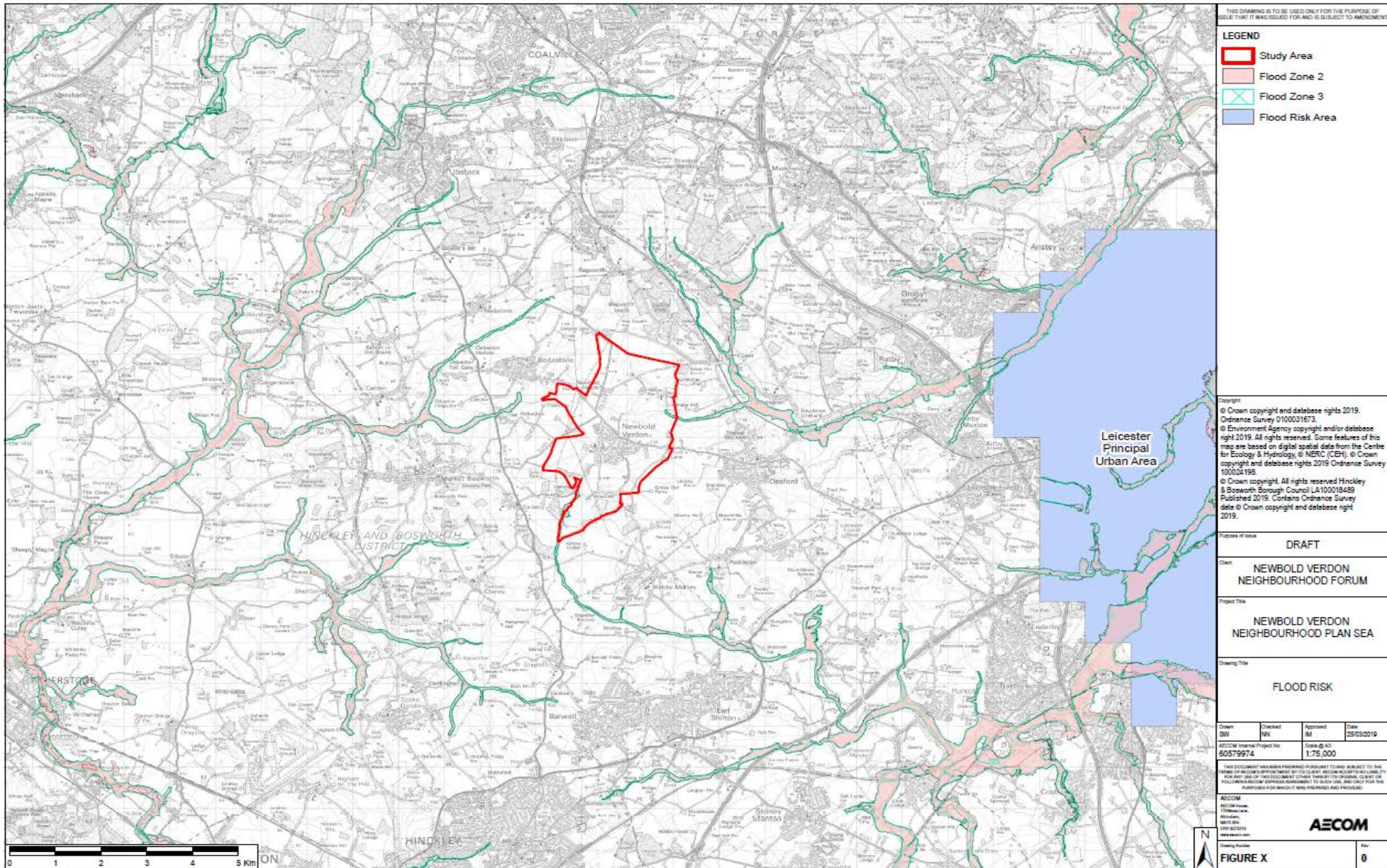
²⁷ Met Office (2018) Land Projection Maps: Probabilistic Projections [online] available at: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp/land-projection-maps> [accessed 20/01/19]

- Reduction in availability of groundwater for extraction;
- Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
- A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- A need to upgrade flood defences;
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- Increased demand for air-conditioning;
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- Flooding of roads;

Flood risk

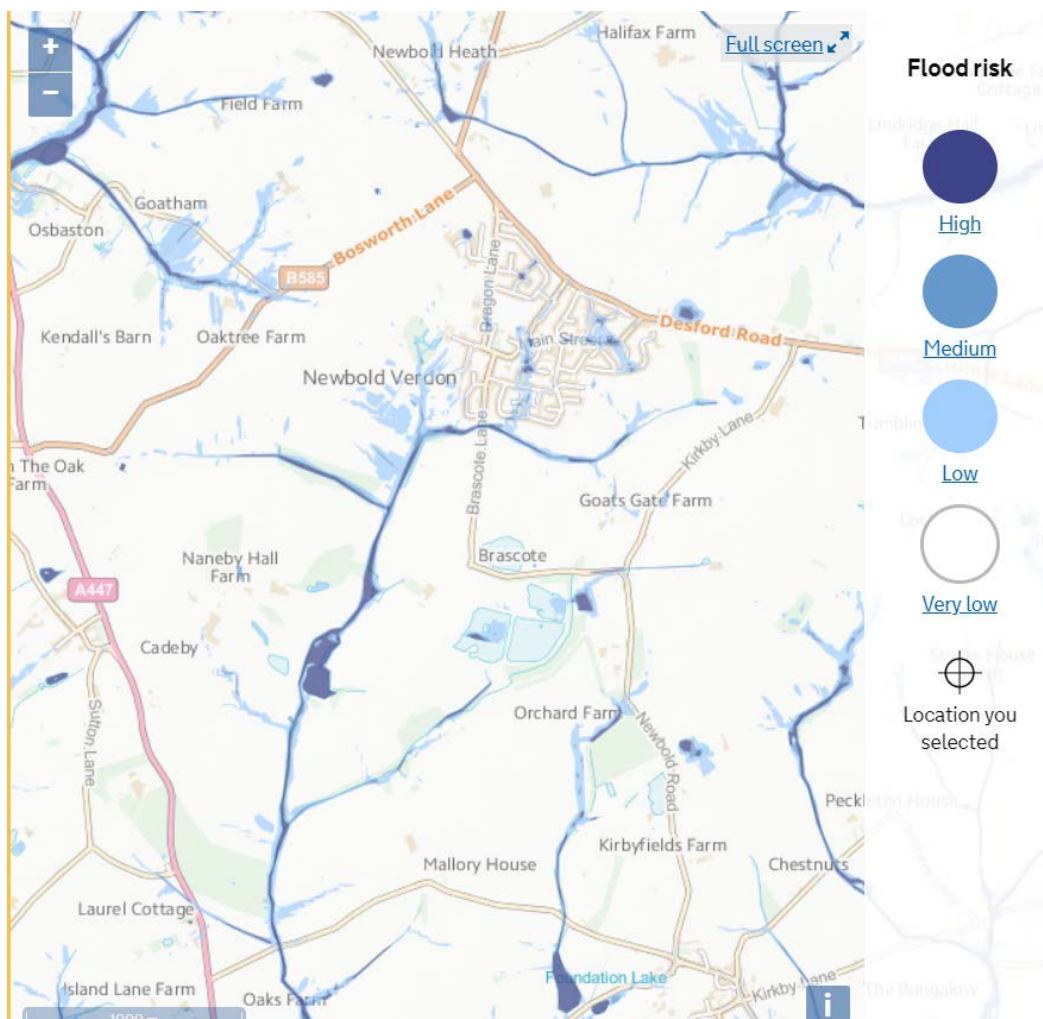
- 4.16 The majority of the Parish area is located within the lowest risk area in terms of fluvial flooding. In Flood Zone 1 there is a >0.1% chance (1 in 1000) of fluvial flooding in any given year.
- 4.17 As depicted in **Figure 4.1**, the areas at highest risk of flooding in the Plan area are concentrated around the corridors of the tributary of the river storm. These are Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3 areas which have a >0.1% chance of flooding and a >1% chance of flooding each year, respectively, however these areas are away from the main built up area of the neighborhood area .

Figure 4.1: Fluvial flood risk in the Newbold Neighbourhood Plan area



4.18 Surface water drainage and sewer flooding is also a risk for some parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area. **Figure 4.2** below.

Figure 4.2: Surface water flood risk in the Newbold Neighbourhood Plan area²⁸



Summary of future baseline

4.19 Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Neighbourhood Plan area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter, and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including fluvial flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.

4.20 In terms of climate change contribution, GHG emissions may continue to decrease with wider adoption of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies. There is also a need to increase renewable energy development in Newbold Verdon, which local and neighborhood planning can contribute to delivering.

4.21 Development is likely to increase built surface areas and reduce groundwater absorption, which has the potential to increase surface water flood risk.

²⁸ Environment Agency (2018) Long term flood risk information - flood risk from surface water [online] available at: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map> [accessed 10/03/19]

4.22 A Critical Drainage Area (CDA) is a discrete geographic area where multiple and interlinked sources of flood risk causes flooding in one or more Local Flood Risk Zones (LFRZ) during severe weather. There could be potential for the Environment Agency or Hinckley borough Council to consider designating CDAs in the Neighbourhood Plan Area in the future should issues such as surface water capacity become problematic.

Headline sustainability issues

- From 2005 to 2012, Hinckley and Bosworth had lower total per capita emissions than Leicestershire and the East Midlands, but higher total per capita emissions than the national average.
- The transport sector is identified as the biggest contributor to GHG emissions in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough.
- There are areas with a small risk of flooding (fluvial and surface water flooding) within the Neighbourhood Plan area, and around the corridors of the tributaries of the River Soar.
- The Newbold Neighbourhood Plan should seek to increase the Plan area's resilience to the effects of climate change by supporting and encouraging mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- There is a need for renewable energy development to increase the renewable energy capacity of Hinckley and Bosworth.

4.23 Though climate change mitigation is a critical issue, the scope of the Plan is unlikely to contribute significantly to the mitigation of carbon emissions, nor is it likely to generate significant emissions. For this reason, this factor is **scoped-out** of the SEA process for detailed consideration. With this being said, it is possible that high quality design can be promoted as part of the neighbourhood Plan.

4.24 With regards to climate change adaptation, the plan has the potential to contribute towards improved resilience (through green infrastructure enhancements for example). However, the effects are considered unlikely to be significant. For this reason this factor has been **scoped-out** of the SEA process.

4.25 With regards to flood risk, it is unlikely that the Plan would have a significant effect in terms of fluvial flooding. However, surface water flooding could present a potential issue, and so this factor has been **scoped-in** to the SEA purposes.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the climate change SEA theme?

SEA objective

Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:

Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan Area to the potential effects of climate change, particularly flooding

Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change?

Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change?

Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)?

5. Landscape

Focus of theme

- Landscape and townscape character and quality

Policy context

5.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
- Develop ‘robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics’.
- Consider the effects of climate change in the long term, including in terms of landscape. Adopt ‘proactive strategies’ to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

5.2 At the local level, Strategic Objective 10 in the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy (2009) include:

“To deliver a linked network of green infrastructure, enhancing and protecting the borough’s distinctive landscapes, woodlands, geology, archaeological heritage and biodiversity and encourage its understanding, appreciation, maintenance and development.”

This objective is supported by a number of plan policies, particularly policies 19, 20, 21 and 22²⁹:

Baseline summary

Summary of current baseline

- 5.3 National Character Areas (NCAs) are landscape areas which share similar characteristics, following natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. Developed by Natural England, NCA profiles describe the natural and cultural features that shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to their character. Figure 5.8 displays the NCA’s for Newbold Verdon .
- 5.4 Newbold Verdon lies within the Leicestershire Vales National Character Area The environmental opportunities in this area relate to the preservation of the historic character within rural and urban landscapes and enhancement of woodlands,
- 5.5 The Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Landscape Sensitivity Study³⁰ has explored Newbold’s local landscape, categorising Newbold as falling within landscape character area LCA D : *Newbold and Desford rolling farmland*. Key characteristics of this are :

²⁹ Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2017)

- Predominantly arable farmland with clustered areas of industry and recreational facilities near to the village fringes.
- Open views where hedgerows have been removed, giving an impression of a large scale landscape.
- Few major roads;
- Good network of footpaths link settlements;
- Electricity pylons and wind turbines are often prominent vertical features in this open landscape; and
- Tree cover is limited, with scattered trees and small linear woodland copses and Large to medium sized field pattern defined by single species hawthorn hedgerows.

The key characteristics that particularly relate to the character of Newbold Verdon UCA7 are the following:

- A compact settlement with a defined historic core and a mixture of historic buildings on Main Street, with areas of 20th century and modern development to the north and east;
- Traditional two storey buildings fronting directly on to the pavement, terraced cottages with small flat frontages and large Victorian houses;
- The wide Main Street with a small green at the centre creates a sense of openness, scale and distinction;
- Local vernacular of red brick or render with slate or tiled roofs and small white window frames;
- Strong sense of enclosure created by buildings fronting onto the street, or walls of stone or red brick enclosing gardens;
- Parish church and Newbold Verdon Hall are dominant landmarks; and
- Mature trees at the Old Rectory and green space around the church and cemetery.

5.6 The Landscape character assessment states that the key sensitivities with regards to Newbold and Desford rolling farmland are as follows:.

- The rural settlement pattern of compact and nucleated agricultural settlements connected by a network of rural lanes and minor roads is largely unspoiled;
- The rural landscape and sense of tranquillity is sensitive to change from further development;
- Isolated farmsteads interspersed throughout the farmland contribute to the historic rural character and provide continuity to the past;
- Long distance and panoramic views from the elevated land in the north creates a high scenic quality and adds to the visual amenity;
- Relatively small communities of mesotrophic grassland and deciduous woodland provide valuable habitat in a predominantly agricultural landscape;
- The areas which provide a rural setting to the settlements are sensitive to changes as a result of new development, as well as views from the wider landscape to church spires.

The key characteristics that relate to the sensitiveness of Newbold Verdon are the following:

- The historic core and Conservation Area which provide a sense of history and architectural interest as a result of the traditional historic buildings and the unified pattern of built form.
- The distinctive character of Main Street including the vernacular materials, locally distinctive details on buildings and sense of enclosure provided by built form or traditional boundaries.
- The dominance of Newbold Verdon Hall and the Parish Church as local landmarks and the homogenous, channelled views along Main Street towards them.
- Mature trees, including those at the church and Old Rectory which provide visual and biodiversity value and are uncommon within the settlement.
- The open views from the settlement edge across an agricultural landscape which provides a strong rural setting to Newbold Verdon.
- The number of public footpaths providing recreational links with the wider landscape and adjacent villages in all directions.

5.7 The Landscape character assessment states that the following should be done to protect the landscape of Newbold and Desford rolling farmland:

- Conserve historic field patterns where possible, and the agricultural setting to isolated farmsteads.
- Conserve and enhance the long, panoramic views from higher ground of uncluttered skylines and church spires, and consider the visual impact of vertically prominent elements in any new development.
- Conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the landscape through a mosaic of habitats.
- Identify opportunities for replacement of hedgerows along roadsides and their future management as landscape features
- Promote regeneration and enhancement of tree cover through establishment of linear copses and hedgerow trees within field boundaries and around urbanising influences.

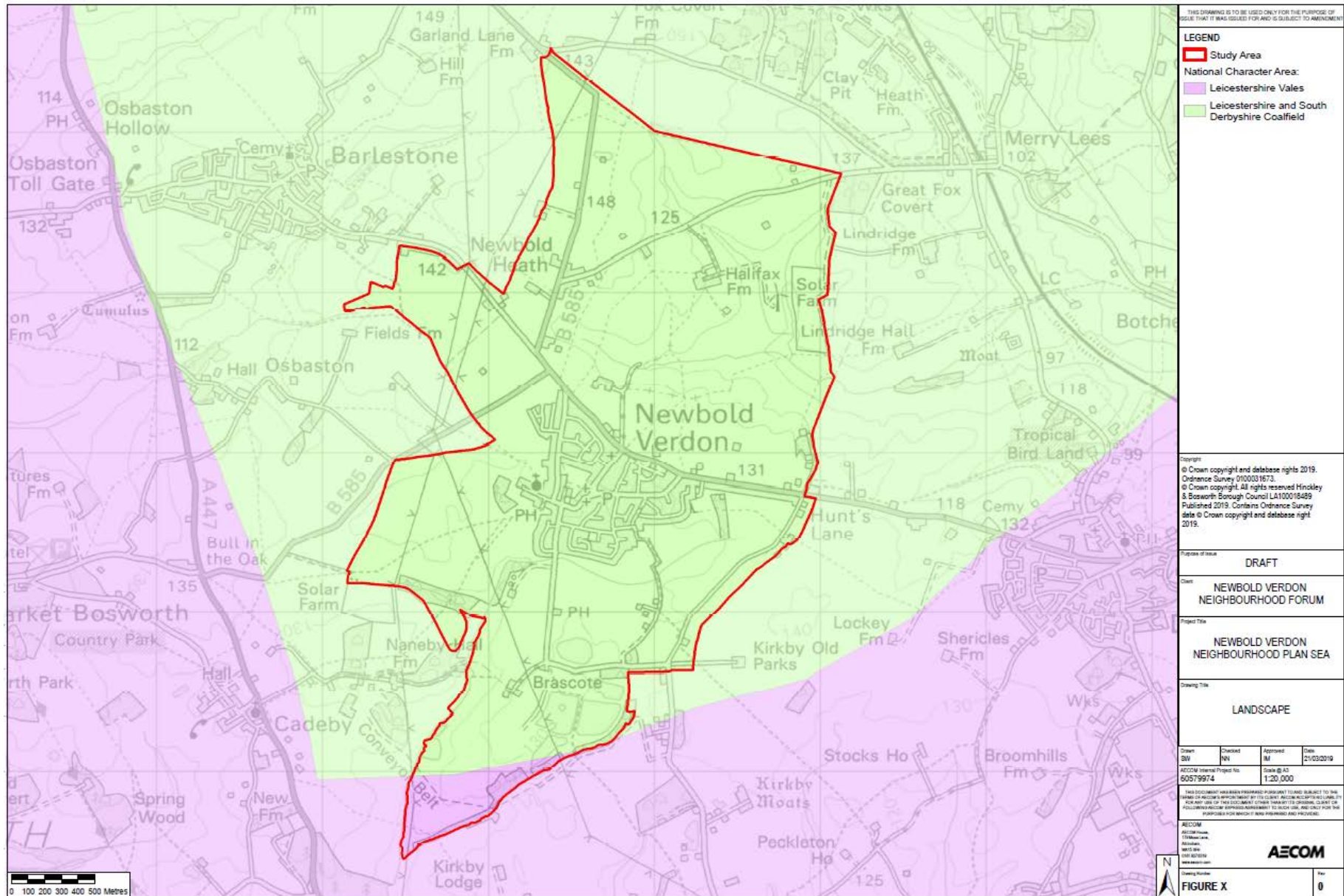
5.8 with regards to protecting Newbold Verdon's features, the following are important factors:

- Ensure that new development maintains or enhances local identity and setting of the village. Particular consideration should be given to the materials, scale, layout and form of new development in the context of the characteristics of the existing place, and discouraging inappropriate boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the rural character of the village by careful consideration of new lighting and encouraging protection of traditional features such as chimneys, stone and brick garden walls, hedges and railings as well as important trees and open spaces.
- Protect important views of the church and out into the open countryside.
- Enhance public access links to the National Forest, considering exploration of the potential to promote Newbold Verdon as a gateway town to the National Forest as suggested in the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

- Enhance local detracting elements (such as those identified in the Conservation Appraisal) including the boundary between the western end of Main Street, the countryside and adjacent semi-detached houses.

Figure 5.8 displays the Landscape National character areas relevant to Newbold Verdon.

Figure 5.8 National Character Areas for Newbold Verdon



Summary of future baseline

- 5.9 New development is likely to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape character and townscape in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area which is recognised in many areas for its high landscape sensitivity.
- 5.10 Newbold Verdon has a particularly distinct townscape in terms of the red brick buildings, slate roofs and white window frames. It is likely that new development would be in keeping with this given the need to comply with Local Plan policies.
- 5.11 In the absence of the neighbourhood Plan there would be a degree of protection afforded to the landscape and townscape given that development would need to be in conformity with the Local Plan. However, the potential to secure enhancements to the public realm would be lower. Piecemeal development could also occur leading to cumulative effects that may not be recognised over a longer period of time.

Headline sustainability issues

- Newbold Verdon is located within the Newbold and Desford rolling farmland Landscape character area, which contributes to the setting of the settlement.
- There are important features such as field patterns and views to churches and spires that need to be protected.
- The policy framework is clear that there is a need to protect and enhance landscape and townscape character.

There are important landscape and townscape features that could potentially be affected by development in the Plan area. Consequently, this factor has been **scoped-in** for the purposes of the SEA process.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the landscape SEA theme?

SEA objective

Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:

Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Conserve and enhance landscape character?

Conserve and enhance townscape character?

Protect and enhance key landscape features, vistas and views?

6. Historic environment

Focus of theme

- Designated and non-designated sites and areas
- Setting of cultural heritage assets
- Archaeological assets

Policy context

6.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Heritage assets should be recognised as an ‘irreplaceable resource’ that should be conserved in a ‘manner appropriate to their significance’, taking account of ‘the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits’ of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Set out a ‘positive strategy’ for the ‘conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the historic environment’, including those heritage assets that are most at risk.

6.2 Additionally, the National Planning Policy Guidance states that Neighbourhood Plans should include enough information, where relevant, “about local heritage to guide decisions and put broader strategic heritage policies from the local plan into action at a neighbourhood scale” and “about local non-designated heritage assets including sites of archaeological interest to guide decisions”.

6.3 The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England³¹ sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

6.4 Along with the policies contained within Chapter 2 ‘Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes’, Goal 6 ‘Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment’ of the Government’s ‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’³² directly relates to the Historic Environment SEA theme.

Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy (2009) seeks to protect distinctive landscapes, woodlands, geology, and archaeological heritage’.

Policy 11 within the Core Strategy (Key Rural Centres) also requires new development to respect character and the appearance of the Newbold Verdon Conservation Area by incorporating locally distinctive features into development.’³³

³¹ HM Government (2010) The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx [accessed 05/03/19]

³² HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 05/03/19]

³³ Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy Adopted (2009)

Summary of current baseline

World Heritage Sites

- 6.5 The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) select areas or landmarks with significant cultural, historic or scientific importance that are subsequently protected through international treaties, these are known as World Heritage Sites (WHS).³⁴ There are no such areas identified within Hinckley and Bosworth.

Designated heritage assets

- 6.6 Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on development and other mechanisms.
- 6.7 Listed buildings hold special historic or architectural interest for the community; these buildings are often selected because they provide insights into the history of an area. There are three categories for listed buildings:
- Grade 1 (with exceptional interest, only 2.5% of all listed buildings)
 - Grade II* (with greater special interest, only 5.8% of all listed buildings)
 - Grade II (with special interest, 91.7% of all listed buildings)
- 6.8 Any changes to a listed building require a consent application. There is also a need to protect and enhance listed heritage assets and their setting.
- 6.9 Listed buildings in Newbold Verdon are as follows³⁵:
- Newbold Verdon Hall (Grade 1)
 - Pavillion at North West Corner of Forecourt at Newbold Verdon Hall
 - Pavillion at South West Corner of Forecourt at Newbold Verdon Hall
 - Pavillion at South East Corner of Forecourt at Newbold Verdon Hall
 - The Old Rectory
 - Gates and side screens The Old Rectory
 - Cob Cottage
 - K6 Telephone Kiosk adjoining number 49, Main Street
 - Church Farmhouse and Fence
 - Ivy Cottage
 - Moated site south of The Hall
 - Church of St James
 - Quorn Hall
- 6.10 Newbold Verdon Hall is the only grade 1 listed building within the Plan area. It is located on the main street of Newbold within the conservation area and was listed in 1952 . The building is a former countryhouse built in the 1700's.

³⁴ United Nations, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, "World Heritage" 1992-2018 [online] available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/about/> [22/02/2019]

³⁵ Historic England (2019) Listed building register [online] <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/results/?searchType=NHLE+Simple&search=newbold+verdon> [22/02/2019]

- 6.11 The moated site at Newbold Verdon survives in good condition despite infilling of one arm of the moat. The moat island will contain evidence of the development of the manor house and associated buildings. A post-medieval hall is situated a few metres to the north of the site.
- 6.12 This medieval moated site is important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. There has been some 20th Century development that obscures views of the moated site, but areas of open land still remain, which form part of the setting of the site.

Heritage at risk

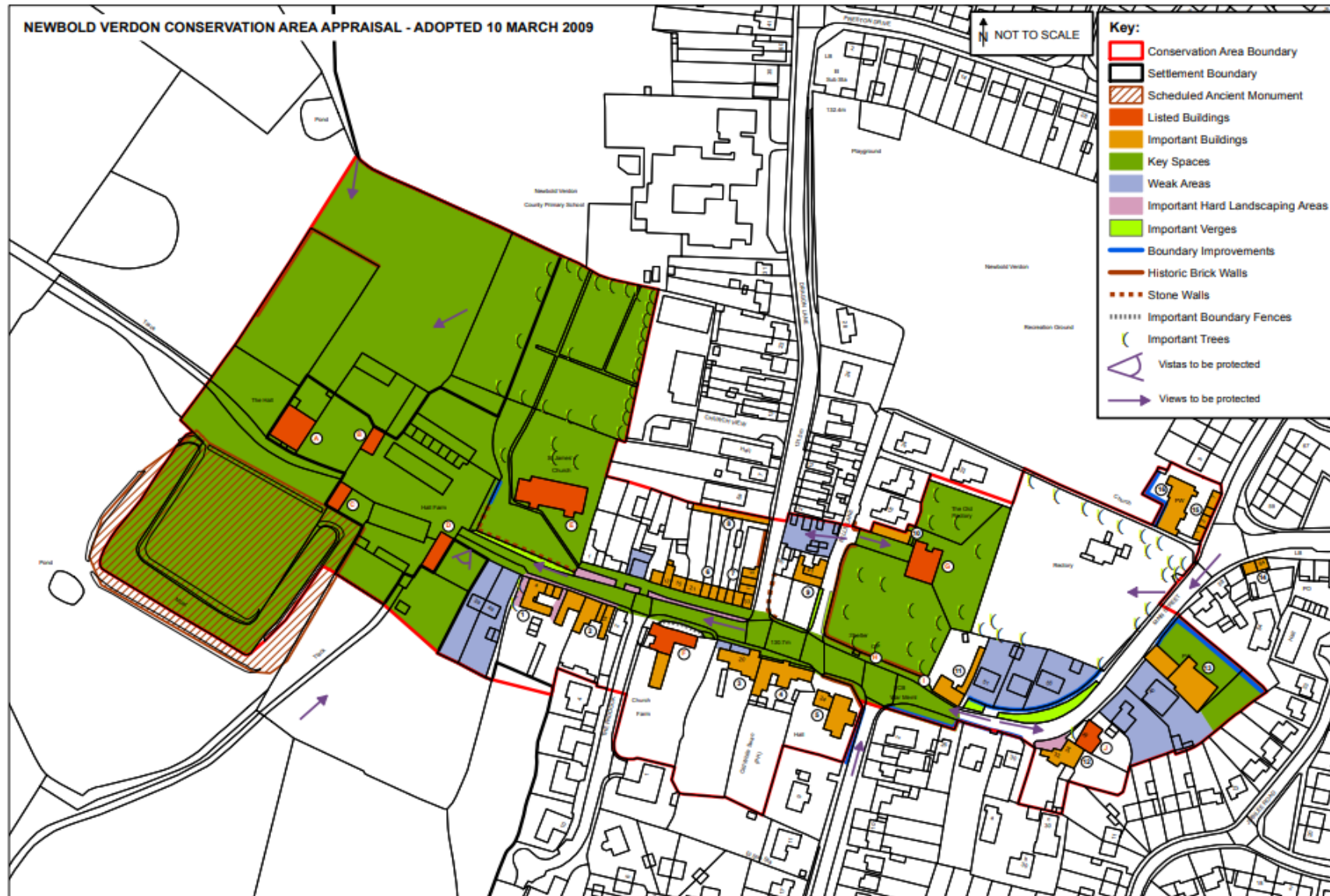
- 6.13 Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I, Grade II and Grade II* listed buildings, scheduled monuments, historic parks and gardens, registered battlefields, wreck sites and conservation areas deemed to be 'at risk'.
- 6.14 The Historic England Heritage at risk register contains one building, a structure entry, two places of worship and three conservation area entries within Hinckley and Bosworth. None of these fall within the Newbold Verdon plan area though.
- 6.15 It is important to recognise that the Heritage at Risk Register for areas outside of London do not contain information about the status of non-secular Grade II listed buildings. Due to this gap in the baseline, it is currently not possible to determine whether any Grade II listed buildings within the Newbold area are at risk.

Newbold Verdon Conservation Area

- 6.16 The Newbold Verdon Conservation Area is characterised by a large village with redbrick houses. The main street is characterised by the rows of small, two storey flat fronted terraced cottages which form its edges. Its surface is a random mix of cobbles, tarmac, and granite setts broken only by a series of small trees on its eastern edge. The natural elements of the street are green spaces with mature trees around the village.
- 6.17 It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment features are subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. For example, open spaces and key distinctive buildings in the area are likely to be of value for local people.
- 6.18 The Conservation area has a management plan to preserve and enhance its character. It requires all new development to make a positive contribution. For example highways that match the existing granite kerbs and cobbled streets and housing with similar materials as the existing area including features such as chimneys, stone and brick garden walls. The removal of infrastructure such as overhead wiring is encouraged in new development proposals to help restore the original character and form of the village.
- 6.19 **Figure 6.1** indicates the boundary for the Newbold Verdon Conservation Area and the features that fall within it.³⁶
- 6.20 **Figure 6.2** shows the designated historic environment assets located within the wider Neighbourhood Plan Area. (Thirteen listed buildings and one scheduled monument).

³⁶ Hinckley and Bosworth (2009) Newbold Verdon Conservation Area Management Plan Long Term Strategy [available online] https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/1257/long_term_strategy_pdf [accessed 12/03/19]

Figure 6.1 Neighbourhood plan area Conservation Area



Archaeology and other historic records

6.21 Several archaeological studies and watching briefs have been undertaken within the Plan area, with the following findings noted:

- A rectangular crop-mark discovered from the air by Jim Pickering was fieldwalked by the Newbold Verdon and District Fieldwork Group and produced Roman pottery in small quantities.
- To the south of the present Hall and moat is a series of earthworks associated with this manorial complex. The Newbold Verdon and District Fieldwork Group have surveyed these and suggest landscape gardening and drainage as their function. Fishponds and a dam are probably medieval.
- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground works for a residential development at Mill Lane, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire on behalf of Jelson Limited (2004). The only feature of any significance that was observed was a possible undated pit or ditch located directly adjacent to Mill Lane.
- An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Dragon Lane in support of a planning application by Bloor Homes Ltd. The evaluation identified the remains of medieval/post-medieval plough furrows in the southern part of the site, and crossing the centre of the site from north-east to south-west was a ditch that corresponded with a field boundary shown on late 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps of the area.

6.22 A search of the Historic Environment Record has been requested from the County Council, and the findings will be included in the next iteration of the scoping report. This will help to inform the appraisal of the Plan (and any reasonable alternatives).

Summary of future baseline

6.23 New development in Newbold Verdon has the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of Newbold's cultural and historic character; for example through inappropriate design and layout.

6.24 In the absence of a Plan, further growth is likely to lead to incremental but small changes in the character and setting of the historic settlement which can detract from its recognised special qualities

6.25 The Conservation Area Management Plan will help to ensure that significant harm to heritage and cultural assets within this area are protected. This is likely to be the case irrespective of a neighbourhood plan being on place or not.

Headline sustainability issues

- The protection and enhancement of the Conservation Area is an important policy objective.
- The Plan Area has a historic environment with several designated and non-designated heritage assets that new development would need to positively respond to .
- Development has the potential to positively affect the setting of designated heritage assets through townscape/ public realm improvements, and may also increase access to and awareness of heritage assets.

- New development near or within the conservation area will need to respect the management plan recommendations and local planning policy.

Given the presence of a conservation area, listed buildings, a scheduled monument, and a distinctive townscape/landscape, there is potential for development to negatively or positively affect the historic environment within Newbold Verdon . Consequently, the historic environment has been **scoped-in** for the purposes of the SEA process.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the historic environment SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment within and surrounding Newbold Verdon.	Conserve and enhance Listed Buildings, Locally Listed Buildings, and their settings?
	Conserve and enhance the Newbold Verdon Conservation Area?
	Conserve and enhance local identity and distinctiveness?
	Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?
	Protect and record archaeological and other historic features such as field patterns?

7. Land, soil and water resources

Focus of theme

- Land quality and Soil resources
- Waste management
- Watercourses
- Water availability
- Water quality

Policy context

7.1 The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy³⁷ presents a strategy for protecting soil resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

7.2 The EU Water Framework Directive³⁸ (WFD) drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is establishing 'Significant Water Management Issues' and recently presented second River Basin Management Plans to ministers. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD, namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

7.3 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework³⁹ (NPPF) include:

- *'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*
 - a. *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils; and*
 - b. *recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.'*

³⁷ European Commission (2006) Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/three_en.htm [accessed 10/03/19]

³⁸ European Commission (2000) Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html [accessed 10/03/19]

³⁹ MHCLG (2018) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf [accessed 10/03/19]

- Prevent new or existing development from being '*adversely affected*' by the presence of '*unacceptable levels*' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate '*despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate*'.
- '*Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or 'brownfield' land.*'
- '*Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains.*'
- Planning policies and decisions should '*give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs*', and '*promote and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings.*'
- Taking a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for water supply.
- Prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution.
- The government has produced a separate plan that specifically deals with planning policy in relation to waste management; this should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.

7.4 Along with the policies contained within Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 4 'Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste', Goal 2 'Clean and plentiful water', Goal 5 'Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently' and Goal 8 'Minimising waste' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'⁴⁰ directly relates to the land, soil and water resources SEA theme.

7.5 Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England⁴¹, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper⁴², which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

7.6 In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England⁴³ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

⁴⁰ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 10/03/19]

⁴¹ DEFRA (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england> [accessed 10/12/18]

⁴² DEFRA (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228861/8230.pdf [accessed 10/03/19]

⁴³ DEFRA (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69401/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf [accessed 10/03/19]

- 7.7 The National Waste Management Plan⁴⁴ provides an analysis of the current waste management situation in England, and evaluates how it will support the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the revised Waste Framework Directive⁴⁵. This includes an assessment of the need for new collection schemes, additional waste infrastructure and investment channels, as well as providing general or strategic waste management policies.
- 7.8 The Leicestershire Minerals Development Framework⁴⁶ will prevent unnecessary sterilisation of valuable minerals. It will also prevent the contamination of the national drinking water supplies by having mine water treatment schemes. The strategy will minimise mineral production waste. Overall the plan aims to minimise adverse effects from mineral and waste. The main objectives of the plan are the following:
- To safeguard minerals and prevent unnecessary sterilisation
 - For efficient use of high quality minerals and minimisation of waste materials
 - To make sufficient provision delivery of measures for environmental, recreational, economic and community gain in mitigation or compensation for the effects of mineral development where possible.
 - Find the most sustainable solutions to deal with any waste produced.
- 7.9 There are several policies within the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy that directly relate to the land, soil and water SEA theme. These policies include:
- Policy 24 (Require development to be of the highest environmental standards) - Residential developments in Key Rural Centres and Rural Villages will be expected to meet the sustainability targets set out in Building a Greener Future.

Baseline summary

Summary of current baseline

Land quality

- 7.10 The Neighbourhood Plan Area does not have a history of heavy industrial land use. However, this does not preclude the potential for localised soil or groundwater contamination to be present, particularly on land surrounding the built-up area.

Soil resources

- 7.11 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into size grades (plus 'non-agricultural land' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are recognised as being the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 of poorer quality. In this context, there is a need to avoid loss of higher quality 'best and most versatile' agricultural land.
- 7.12 At the local level there have been some detailed surveys undertaken which have confirmed that there are areas of Grade 2 and 3a land within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. However, for much of the area, there is a need to rely on the national

⁴⁴ DEFRA (2013) Waste Management Plan for England [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265810/pb14100-waste-management-plan-20131213.pdf [accessed 10/03/19]

⁴⁵ Directive 2008/98/EC

⁴⁶ Leicestershire Minerals Development Framework (2016) Minerals Core Strategy [online] available at: https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2016/10/4/Minerals_core_strategy_development_control_policies.pdf [accessed 12/03/19]

'Provisional Agricultural Land Quality' dataset, which is less accurate and very old (see figure 7.2).

- 7.13 Figure 7.1 displays the agricultural land distribution in the neighbourhood plan area as identified by detailed local surveys. Figure 7.2. provides the provisional data.
- 7.14 The high-level data suggests that the centre of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is predominately urban land, with the remaining outer region (east of the neighbourhood plan area) being covered by Grade 2 and Grade 3 agricultural land. It is unclear the extent to which Grade 3 land is 3a (classified as best and most versatile) or 3b, but detailed local surveys show that Grade 3a land is present.

Water resources

- 7.15 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply.
- 7.16 As of December 2018, the majority of the east of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is located within Zone 3 (Total Catchment) defined by "the total area needed to support abstraction or discharge. In the middle of the Zone 3 area, there is a small section of land located in Zone 1 (Inner Protection Zone), defined by the EA by a "*travel time of 50 days or less from any point within the zone at, or below, the water table*", which is also surrounded by an area of Zone 2 (Outer Protection Zone) defined by "*the 400 day travel time from a point below the water table*".
- 7.17 There are no major reservoirs or river catchments located within Newbold Verdon.
- 7.18 The EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwater has nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or is thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. These areas are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) and, as such, are recognised as being at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution. Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination.
- 7.19 The whole neighbourhood plan area is in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Designation area (2017).⁴⁷

Waste management

- 7.20 No Household Waste Recycling Centres within Hinckley and Bosworth are located within the Newbold Verdon Parish. The closest Household Waste Recycling Centre is situated in Barwell, which is approximately 6.3 miles to the south of the Neighbourhood plan area.
- 7.21 There are weekly kerbside collections in Newbold Verdon which consists of fortnightly collection of recycling waste and non-recycling waste which is collected from people's homes.

⁴⁷ Environment Agency (No date) Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Designation [online] available at: <https://environment-agency.cloud.esri.uk/farmers/> [accessed 28/03/19]

Figure 7.1 Agricultural land in Neighbourhood plan area (identified through detailed surveys)

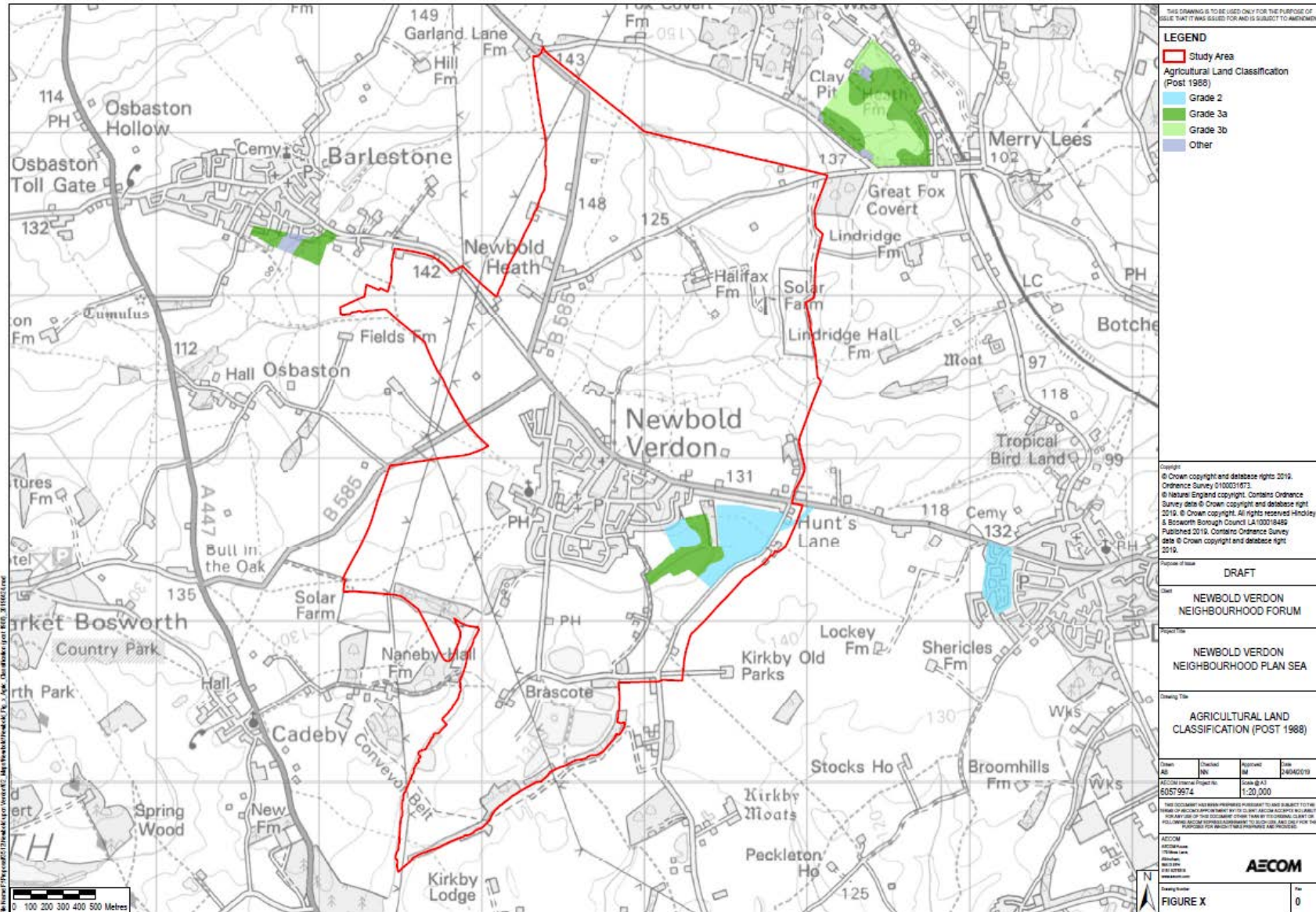
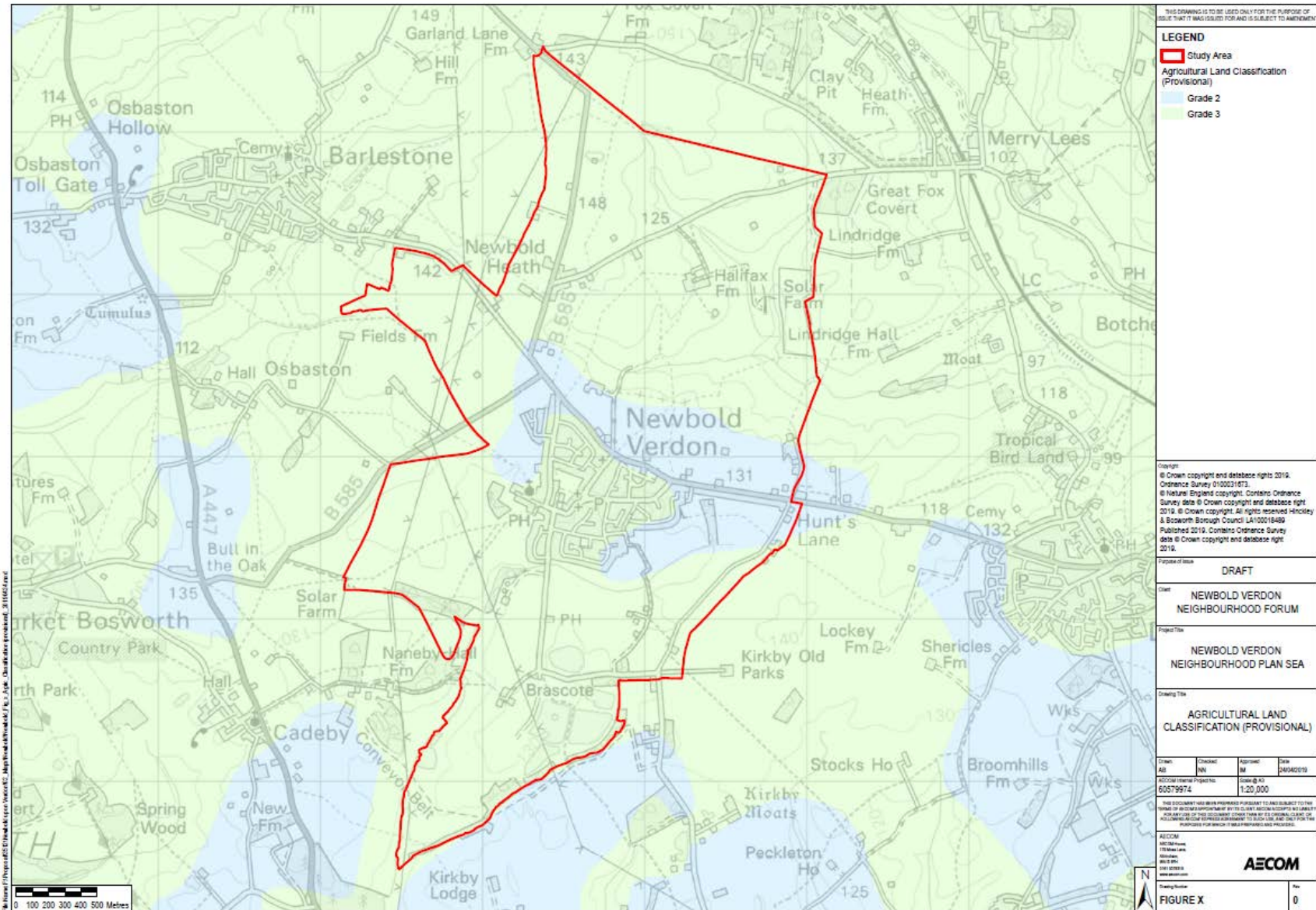


Figure 7.1 Agricultural land in Neighbourhood plan area (provisional high-level data)



Summary of future baseline

- 7.22 Further development has the potential to affect water quality through diffuse pollution, waste water discharges, water run-off, and modification. However, water companies are likely to maintain adequate water supply and wastewater management over the plan period, and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality within the Neighbourhood Plan Area and wider area.
- 7.23 It is unlikely that development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan Area would have a significant impact on the wider area's Nitrate Vulnerable Zone unless agricultural land use and management changes substantially. In the absence of a Plan this is unlikely.
- 7.24 It is possible that small scale losses of agricultural land could occur as a result of development in the Plan area, but effects would not be likely to be significant. Changes in the use of agricultural land may also occur over time, but there is uncertainty.

Headline sustainability issues

- Newbold Verdon Parish is made up of Urban land, Grade 2 agricultural land and Grade 3 agricultural land. There is a lack of evidence to verify indicative agricultural land quality for much of the Newbold Verdon Parish. However, as there are only small areas highlighted as Grade 2, this ought to be avoided.
 - Nitrate Vulnerable Zones cover the whole of the neighbourhood plan area.
 - The Plan area is well served by kerbside collection schemes.
- 7.25 There are important soil resources in the Plan area that ought to be avoided as much as possible. However, the total loss of land is unlikely to exceed 10ha (given the scale of growth likely to be involved in any site allocations), and so a significant effect upon soil resources is considered unlikely in any event. For this reason, soil is **'scoped-out'** of the SEA.
- 7.26 This does not mean that higher quality agricultural land should not be protected though, and such principles will need to be addressed through the site assessment process.
- 7.27 Despite the Plan area being covered by a nitrate vulnerable zone, it is considered unlikely that significant effects upon water quality would occur as a result of the Plan. The scale of growth is not major, and changes to land use would not be anticipated to increase nitrate pollution. With regards to waste water treatment and drainage, the scale of growth would not be expected to cause issues to existing and planned infrastructure, and so significant effects in this respect are also unlikely. Consequently, water quality has been **'scoped out'** of the SEA.
- 7.28 Waste is also **scoped out** of the SEA process as there is limited potential for the Plan to have significant effects with regards to waste generation or levels of recycling, reuse and composting.

8. Population and community

Focus of theme

- Population size
- Population density
- Age structure
- Deprivation
- House prices and affordability
- Homelessness
- Education and skills

Policy context

8.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework⁴⁸ (NPPF) include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; *'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing.'*
- To support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of housing, strategic policies *'should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance. In addition to the local housing need figure, any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas should also be taken into account in establishing the amount of housing to be planned for.'*
- The size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies. Where a need for affordable housing is identified, planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required, and expect it to be met on-site where possible.
- Recognise the important contribution of small and medium sized development sites in meeting housing needs. Local Plans should identify land to accommodate at least 10% of their housing requirement on sites no larger than one hectare, and neighbourhood planning groups should also consider the opportunities for allocating small and medium-sized sites.
- In rural areas, planning policies and decisions should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.

⁴⁸ MHCLG (2018) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf [accessed 07/03/19]

- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a '*sufficient choice of school places*' and taking a '*proactive, positive and collaborative approach*' to bringing forward '*development that will widen choice in education*'.

8.2 The 'Ready for Ageing?' report, published by the Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change⁴⁹ warns that society is underprepared for an ageing population. The report states that 'longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises'. The report recognises that the supply of specialist housing for the older generation is insufficient for the demand. There is a need for central and local Government, housing associations, and house builders to ensure that these housing needs are better addressed, giving as much priority to promoting an adequate market of social housing for the older generation as is given to the younger generation.

8.3 Policies contained in Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 4 'Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'⁵⁰ directly relates to the Population and Communities SEA theme.

8.4 At the local level, the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy identifies the following key objectives:

- Ensure sufficient housing is provided to meet the requirements of the East Midlands Regional Plan to enable all residents of the borough to have access to a suitable home which they can afford in a range of sustainable locations, tenures and house types.
- The focus of development will be in and around the Hinckley urban area, with more limited development in the rural areas to meet local needs. All housing will be high quality, locally distinctive, sustainable developments.
- To develop strong and safe communities by designing out crime, sensitively locating development and encouraging community involvement and positive interaction, particularly in the areas experiencing multiple deprivation.
- Ensure that development contributes to the necessary infrastructure required by new development, through provision of new, or where appropriate, enhancement of existing infrastructure (for example through appropriate developer contributions).
- Develop healthier and stronger communities by improving access to, and the provision of, community, sports and cultural facilities, green infrastructure and

⁴⁹ Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldselect/ldpublic/140/140.pdf> [accessed 05/03/19]

⁵⁰ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 05/03/19]

walking and cycling routes integrated with local public transport. Whilst there are localised areas where additional community, sports and cultural facilities are required, overall, provision is generally sufficient across the borough, but the quality of these facilities needs to be improved.

- Ensure rural communities have access to a range of shops, education, community, leisure facilities and employment opportunities in the Key Rural Centres to support, enhance and improve the sustainability, vibrancy and vitality of our rural areas.

8.5 There are a number of policies within the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy which directly relate to the Population and Community SEA theme.

8.6 Policy 7 Key Rural centres (which includes Newbold Verdon) sets out that key rural centres are needed to support rural communities. The types of services the policy supports includes local retail development, employment opportunities, transport improvements, bringing a variety of housing types and tenures to the rural centres of the borough.

8.7 Policy 11 Key Rural Centres Standalone allocates a minimum of 110 homes AT Newbold Verdon and seeks to improve local services such as GP surgeries and community facilities.

8.8 Hinckley and Bosworth Council sets out the housing priorities for the area in the local plan 2006-2026. The strategy focuses on four key areas:

- Delivering affordable homes (Policy 15)
- Improving current housing stock and mix of tenures (Policy 16)
- Supporting the housing needs of vulnerable and older people (Policy 16)

8.9 The Hinckley and Bosworth Homelessness Review and Strategy 2015⁵¹, reviews homelessness in the area since 2008 and the achievements so far and then sets out an action plan to minimise homelessness from 2015 to 2020.

8.10 The Hinckley and Bosworth Council Corporate Plan⁵² sets out a vision for 2017-2021 with three core headings.

- People: helping people stay healthy active and protected from harm
- Places: creating clean attractive places to live and work
- Prosperit: encouraging growth attracting businesses, improving skills and supporting regeneration.

⁵¹ Hinckley and Bosworth (2015) Homelessness Strategy

⁵² Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2009) Hinckley and Bosworth Local plan [online] available at: [accessed 29/03/19]

Summary of current baseline

Population

8.11 **Table 8.1** illustrates that the population of Newbold Verdon has decreased by -7.20% between 2001 and 2011. In contrast, during the same time period there were population increases in Hinckley and Bosworth (4.93%), the East Midlands (8.65%) and England (7.88%) during the same time period. The predicted population of Newbold Verdon in 2017 is 3,012.

Table 8.1: Population growth 2001-2011⁵³

	Newbold Verdon	Hinckley and Bosworth	East Midlands	England
2001	3,056	100,141	4,172,174	49,138,831
2011	2,850	105,078	4,533,222	53,012,456
Population change 2001-2011	-7.2%	4.93%	8.65%	7.88%

8.12 **Table 8.2** shows that the percentage of residents within the 60+ age category in the Neighbourhood Plan Area (32.4%) is higher in comparison to Hinckley and Bosworth (25.9%), the regional (23.48%) and national (22.30%) proportions. Conversely, there is a lower proportion of younger residents (aged 0-24) within the Newbold Verdon Parish (24.5%), compared to the totals for the East Midlands (30.57%) and England (30.80%). Additionally, 43.1% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan Area are aged 25-59, which is lower than the totals for Hinckley and Bosworth (46.8%), the East Midlands (45.95%) and England (46.90%).

Table 8.2: Age structure (2011)⁵⁴

	Newbold Verdon	Hinckley and Bosworth	East Midlands	England
0-15	15.1%	17.6%	18.50%	18.90%
16-24	9.4%	9.6%	12.08%	11.90%
25-44	21.4%	25.3%	25.90%	27.50%
45-59	21.7%	21.5%	20.05%	19.40%
60+	32.4%	25.9%	23.48%	22.30%
Total Population	3,012	105,078	4,533,222	53,012,456

8.13 Of the 3,012 residents, 97.9% of the usual residents in 2011 identified themselves as white, 0.7% as mixed/multiple ethnic groups, 1.2% as Asian/Asian British, 0.1% as Black/African/Caribbean/Black-British, and 0.1% as other ethnic groups.⁵⁵

8.14 Of the 3,012 usual residents in 2011, almost 70% identified with a religion, the majority of which were Christian (68.1%). 0.1% of residents identified themselves as Buddhist, 0.3% identified as Hindu, 0.1% identified as Jewish, 0.1% identified at

⁵³ City Population (no date) England and East Midlands <https://www.citypopulation.de/php/uk-england-eastmidlands.php?cityid=E34001362> [accessed 29/03/19]

⁵⁴ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Age Structure 2011 (Table KS102EW)

⁵⁵ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Ethnic Group 2011 (Table KS201EW)

Muslim, and 0.3% identified an 'other' religion. 24.8% of residents did not identify with a religion, and 5.8% preferred not to state their religious beliefs.⁵⁶

- 8.15 Of the 3,012 usual residents aged 16 and over, 56.1% were married, 0.1% in a registered same-sex civil partnership, and 25.8% were single. 9.2% of these residents were either separated or divorced and 8.8% were widowed.⁵⁷

Household deprivation

- 8.16 Census statistics measure deprivation across four 'dimensions' of deprivation, summarised below:

- **Employment:** Any person in the household (not a full-time student) that is either unemployed or long-term sick.
- **Education:** No person in the household has at least a level 2 qualification and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student.
- **Health and disability:** Any person in the household that has generally 'bad' or 'very bad' health, or has a long term health problem.
- **Housing:** The household accommodation is either overcrowded (with an occupancy rating of -1 or less), in a shared dwelling or has no central heating.

- 8.17 Based on the information presented in **Table 8.3**, 58% of households in Newbold are deprived in some form. This is higher than the proportion of deprived households seen in Hinckley and Bosworth (52.58%), the East Midlands (57.21%) and England (57.40%). This indicates that Newbold Verdon is more deprived than larger scale geographies, and in parts slightly more deprived than other communities within Hinckley and Bosworth.

Table 8.3: Relative household deprivation dimensions⁵⁸

	Newbold Verdon	Hinckley and Bosworth	East Midlands	England
Household not deprived	42%	47.42%	42.79%	42.50%
Deprived in 1 dimension	34%	31.98%	32.40%	32.70%
Deprived in 2 dimensions	21%	17.19%	19.64%	19.10%
Deprived in 3 dimensions	3%	3.21%	4.77%	5.10%
Deprived in 4 dimensions	0%	0.18%	0.40%	0.50%

Index of multiple deprivation

- 8.18 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:

⁵⁶ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Religion 2011 (Table KS209EW)

⁵⁷ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Marital and civil partnership status 2011 (Table KS103EW)

⁵⁸ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Households by Deprivation Dimensions 2011 (Table QS119EW)

1. Income: The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work but who have low earnings (satisfying the respective means tests).
 2. Employment: The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those individuals who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.
 3. Education, Skills and Training: The lack of attainment and skills in the local population.
 4. Health Deprivation and Disability: The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and premature mortality are also considered, excluding the aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.
 5. Crime: The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
 6. Barriers to Housing and Services: The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, with indicators categorised in two sub-domains:
 - I. 'Geographical Barriers': relating to the physical proximity of local services; and
 - II. 'Wider Barriers': relating to access to housing, such as affordability.
 7. Living Environment: The quality of the local environment, with indicators falling categorised in two sub-domains:
 - I. 'Indoors Living Environment' measures the quality of housing; and
 - II. 'Outdoors Living Environment' measures air quality and road traffic accidents.
- 8.19 Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), are also included:
1. Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index: The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
 2. Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index: The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.
- 8.20 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. They are standardised geographies designed to be as consistent in population as possible, with each LSOA containing approximately 1,000 to 1,500 people. In relation to the IMD 2015, LSOAs are ranked out of the 32,844 LSOAs in England and Wales, with 1 being the most deprived. Ranks are normalised into deciles, with a value of 1 reflecting the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in England and Wales (see **Table 8.4** below).
- 8.21 There are 2 LSOA's which fall within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The Index of Multiple Deprivation ranking of each LSOA is detailed in **Table 8.4**.
- 8.22 The LSOA rankings are 13,754 and 31,466, indicating varying levels of deprivation within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The majority of the LSOA's within the Newbold parish are within the 100% least deprived neighbourhoods in the country. The Hinckley and Bosworth 005D is more deprived than the 005A showing that there is a split within the parish area between the north and south of Newbold Verdon. **Figure 8.41** displays in the index of multiple deprivation in a spatial context for Newbold Verdon.

Table 8.4: Index of Multiple Deprivation for the LSOA's located in the Newbold Verdon parish⁵⁹

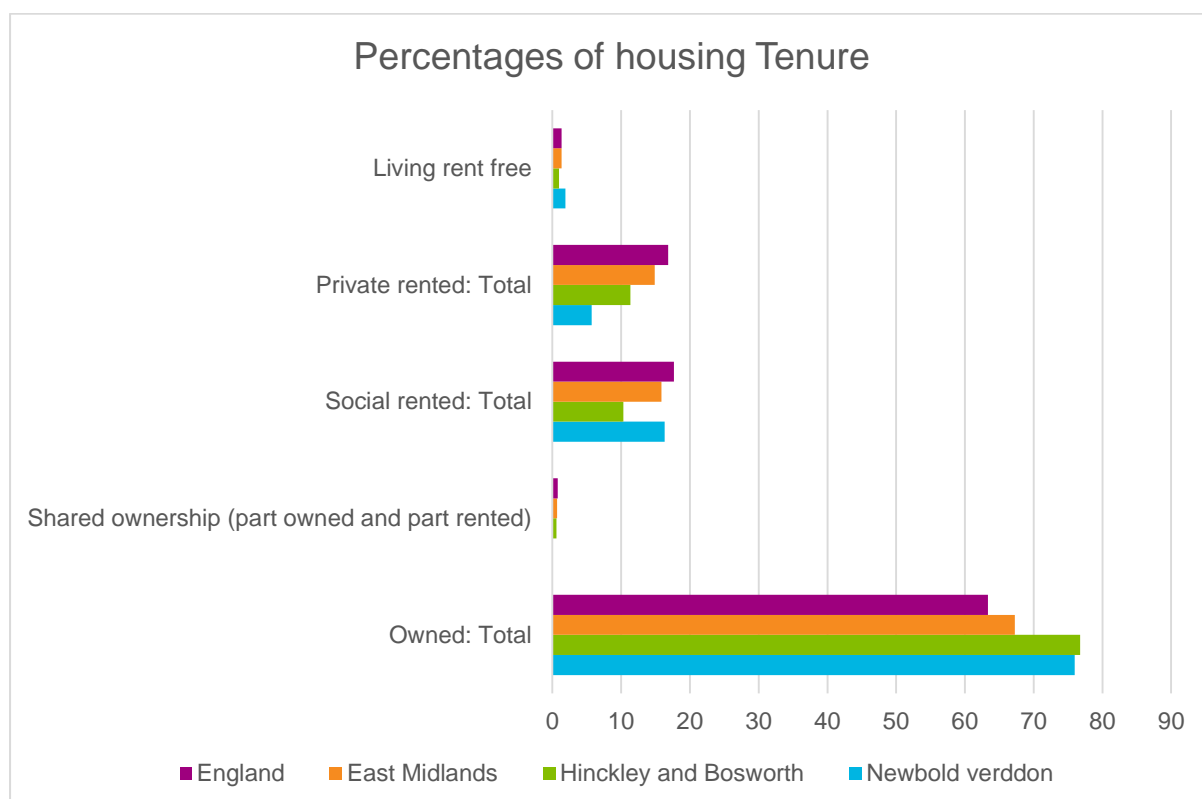
LSOA name	LSOA code	IMD Score	Rank	Decile
Hinckley and Bosworth 005A	E01025872	3.8	31466	10
Hinckley and Bosworth 005D	E01025875	20.61	13754	5

Housing

8.23 In 2011, there were 1311 occupied dwellings in the Newbold Verdon Parish. The majority of Dwellings within the Neighbourhood Plan Area were detached (36.8%), semi-detached (40.8%) or terraced (15.9%) houses or bungalows. The remaining 6.5% of dwellings within the Parish were flats, maisonettes or apartments, with no caravans / other mobile or temporary homes recorded in the 2011 census.

8.24 **Figure 8.1** shows that there is a high rate of home ownership in the Neighbourhood Plan Area. 75.97% of Newbold residents own their homes (either outright or with a mortgage), a slightly lower proportion of home ownership than at borough (76.74%), regional (67.24%) or national (63.34%) levels. Additionally, there are a small number of residents in social rented accommodation (16.32%), but a higher amount of people living in private rented accommodation (5.72%).

Figure 8.1: Tenure by household⁶⁰



⁵⁹ DCLG (2015) English Indices of Deprivation [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015> [accessed 07/03/19]

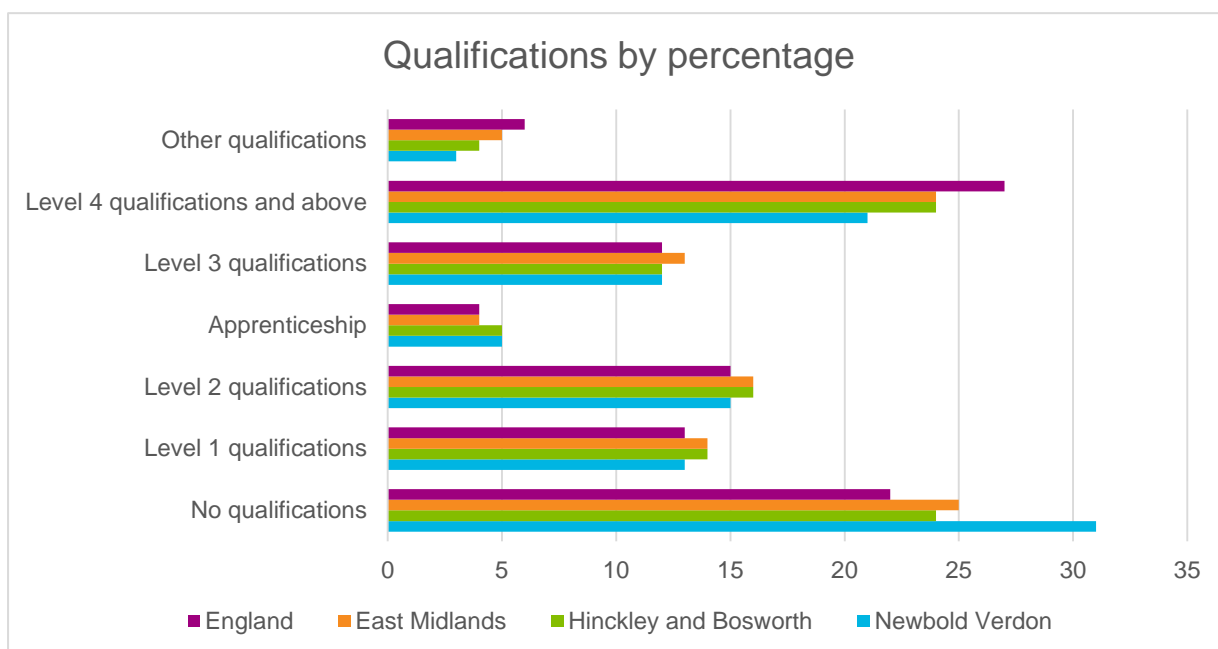
⁶⁰ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Tenure-Households 2011 (Table QS405EW)

- 8.25 In the last 12 months, Zoopla ⁶¹ identified 38 sales in the Newbold area, with an average price paid of £208,263 which is slightly lower than the average price paid for dwellings in Leicestershire (£248,444).
- 8.26 The Newbold Verdon Housing Needs assessment (HNA) identified that between 1995-2016 there were sales of 948 residential sales. The HNA states that there have been 102 new build residential sales recorded 1995 to 2015. The HNA stated that the 2011 census states there the Newbold Verdon population decreased by 6% (-181 people) between 2001-2011. There is a higher concentration of old people in Newbold Verdon therefore the need for smaller one or two bedroom homes would be suitable. Housing types such as bungalows . there is evidence of some overcrowding within the more deprived areas with dependent children in the households therefore a small amount of semidetached family homes may be appropriate for the neighbourhood plan area with the lower council tax bands. ⁶²

Education

- 8.27 Based on the 2011 Census data states that , 31%of the residents in Newbold Verdon have no qualification (**Figure 8.2**). This is higher than the totals for Hinckley and Bosworth (24%), the East Midlands (25%), and the overall total for England (22%). Additionally, there are less residents within the Neighbourhood Plan Area with level 4 qualifications or above (21%) compared with the borough (24%), regional (24%), and national (27%) totals.
- 8.28 There is one primary school in Newbold Verdon located on Dragon Lane. The school received an Ofsted rating of ‘Good’ when last inspected in 2016.

Figure 8.2: Highest level of qualification⁶³



⁶¹ Zoopla (2018) House prices in Newbold Verdon[online] available at: <https://www.zoopla.co.uk/house-prices/browse/leicestershire/> accessed 26/03/18]

⁶²Your Locale (2017)Newbold Verdon Housing Needs Report [online] available at: https://www.newboldverdonparishcouncil.org.uk/webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/NV%20Parish%20Plan/Restricted%20Documents/Submission/Appendix%204%20YourLocale%20Housing%20Needs%20Report%20%282017_04_15%2008_49_51%20UTC%29.pdf [accessed 28/03/2019]

⁶³ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Highest Level of Qualification 2011 (Table QS501EW)

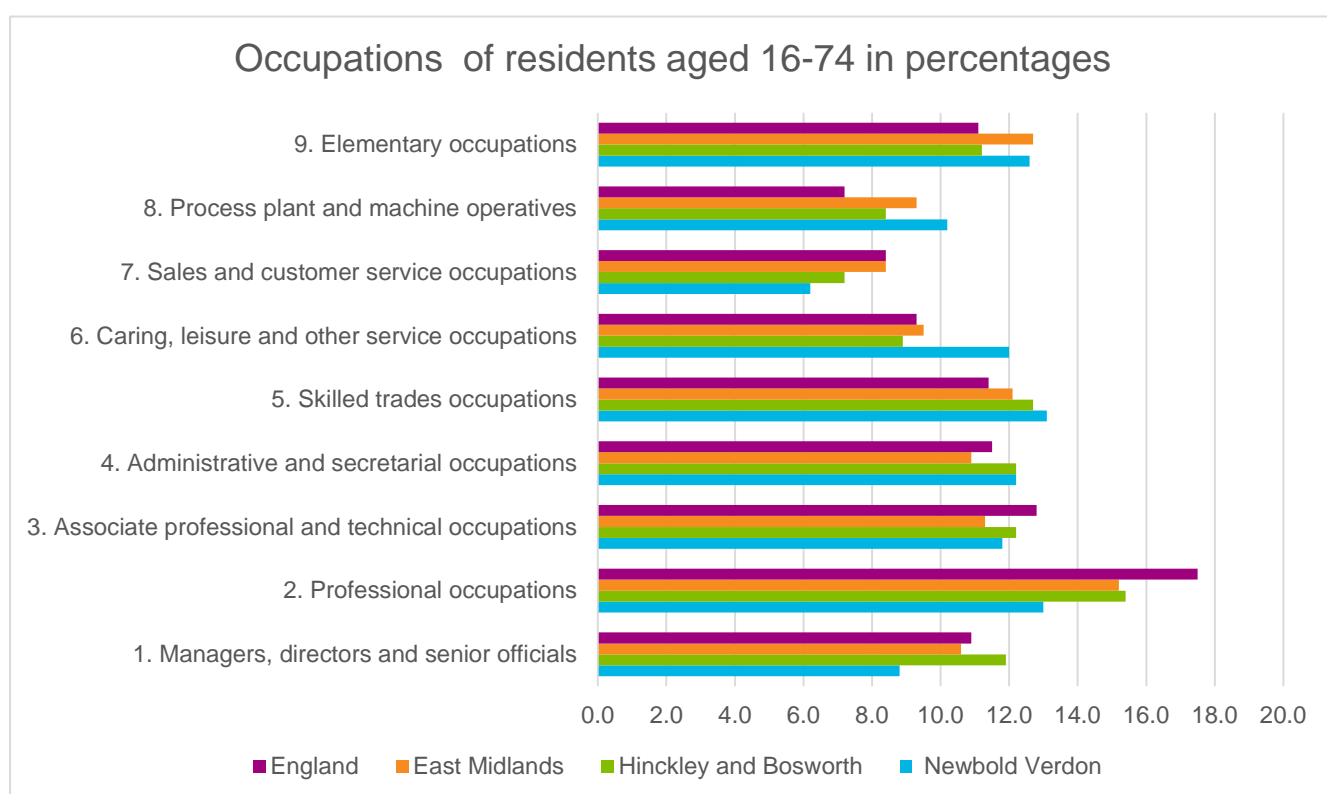
Employment

8.29 **Figure 8.3** shows that the following three occupation categories account for the greatest proportion of residents in Newbold Verdon:

- Professional occupations;
- Administrative and secretarial occupations
- Skilled trades occupations

8.30 In the Neighbourhood Plan Area, 38.3% of residents work in these three occupation tiers, a lower proportion than the borough (40.3%), regional (38.2%) and national (40.4%) levels. This reflects the high proportion of qualified and skilled residents in the Neighbourhood Plan Area is not that much lower than the national average.

Figure 8.3: Occupation of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment⁶⁴



⁶⁴ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Occupation 2011' (Table KS608EW)

Summary of future baseline

- 8.31 Population trends indicate a growing and ageing population within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Considering that the area is not significantly deprived in relation to indices such as health deprivation and disability, it is expected that increasing numbers of elderly residents will continue. This can have implications for housing and may indicate a need for more specialist accommodation to meet the needs of the elderly in the future.
- 8.32 Overall levels of deprivation in the Neighbourhood Plan Area are likely to remain relatively low. It is unlikely that a major change would occur in the absence of a Plan as there is no targeted action planned for Newbold Verdon with regards to factors that influence deprivation.

Headline sustainability issues

- Based on the most recent Census data available, the population of the Neighbourhood Plan Area decreased by over 6% between 2001 and 2011.
- There is a greater proportion of residents aged 60+ within the parish, compared to regional and national totals, indicating an ageing population.
- Households in the Neighbourhood Plan Area are relatively less deprived in comparison to borough, regional and national averages.
- The Plan area has relatively low levels of multiple deprivation, but some parts are more deprived than others.
- The majority of Newbold Verdon residents own a household either outright or by mortgage, a higher rate than the borough, regional and national averages.
- The average house prices within the Newbold Verdon parish are higher than the county averages.
- There is a high proportion of highly qualified and skilled residents with the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

There are demographic trends that need to be addressed within the Plan area, in particular there is an aging population, and the overall population of the area has decreased.

Providing the necessary accommodation to support the local population is important and the Plan could have significant effects in this respect. Consequently, housing provision has been '**scoped-in**' as an area of focus within the topic of Population and Communities.

Though deprivation is not a major issue, there are large differences between parts of the Plan area, and the Plan could potentially have significant effects in terms of closing (or widening) this gap. Therefore, deprivation has been '**scoped-in**' as an area of focus within the topic of Population and Communities.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the population and community SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Seek to reduce deprivation and create socially inclusive communities.	Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities?
	Close the gap between the areas that experience the highest and lowest levels of deprivation?
	Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes, including specialist needs?
	Support the provision of affordable housing?
	Support enhancements to the current housing stock?
	Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?

9. Health and Wellbeing

Focus of theme

- Health indicators and deprivation
- Influences on health and wellbeing

Policy context

9.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework⁶⁵ (NPPF) include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; *'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing.'*
- *'Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.'*
- Policies and decisions should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
- Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of communities. Development should avoid building on existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

9.2 The policies contained in Chapter 3 'Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'⁶⁶ directly relates to the health and wellbeing SEA theme.

9.3 Other key national messages in relation to health include; Fair Society, Healthy Lives⁶⁷ ('The Marmot Review') which investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is 'overwhelming evidence that health and environmental

⁶⁵ MHCLG (2018) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf [accessed 29/03/19]

⁶⁶ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 29/03/19]

⁶⁷ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20170106161952/http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=106106> [accessed 29/03/19]

inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities’.

- 9.4 The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012⁶⁸ transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.
- 9.5 The Leicestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy⁶⁹ aims to ‘improve health outcomes for the local population, manage future demand on services and create a strong and sustainable health and care system by making the best use of the available resources’ . The strategy identifies the following priorities to improve health and wellbeing in Leicestershire:
- Putting health and wellbeing at the centre of all public policy making by influencing other agendas such as economy, employment, housing, environment, planning and transport.
 - Supporting people to avoid ill health, particularly those most at risk, by facilitating solutions, shifting to prevention, early identification and intervention.
 - (c) Working together in partnership to deliver a positive, seamless experience of care which is focussed on the individual to give the right support, in the right place, at the right time.
 - (d) Listening to our population, building on the strengths in our communities and using place based solutions.
 - (e) Having a clear strategic understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all partner organisations and how innovation and

At the local level, the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy seeks to:

‘Develop healthier and stronger communities by improving access to, and the provision of, community, sports and cultural facilities, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes integrated with local public transport. Whilst there are localised areas where additional community, sports and cultural facilities are required, overall, provision is generally sufficient across the borough, but the quality of these facilities needs to be improved’.

Baseline summary

Summary of current baseline

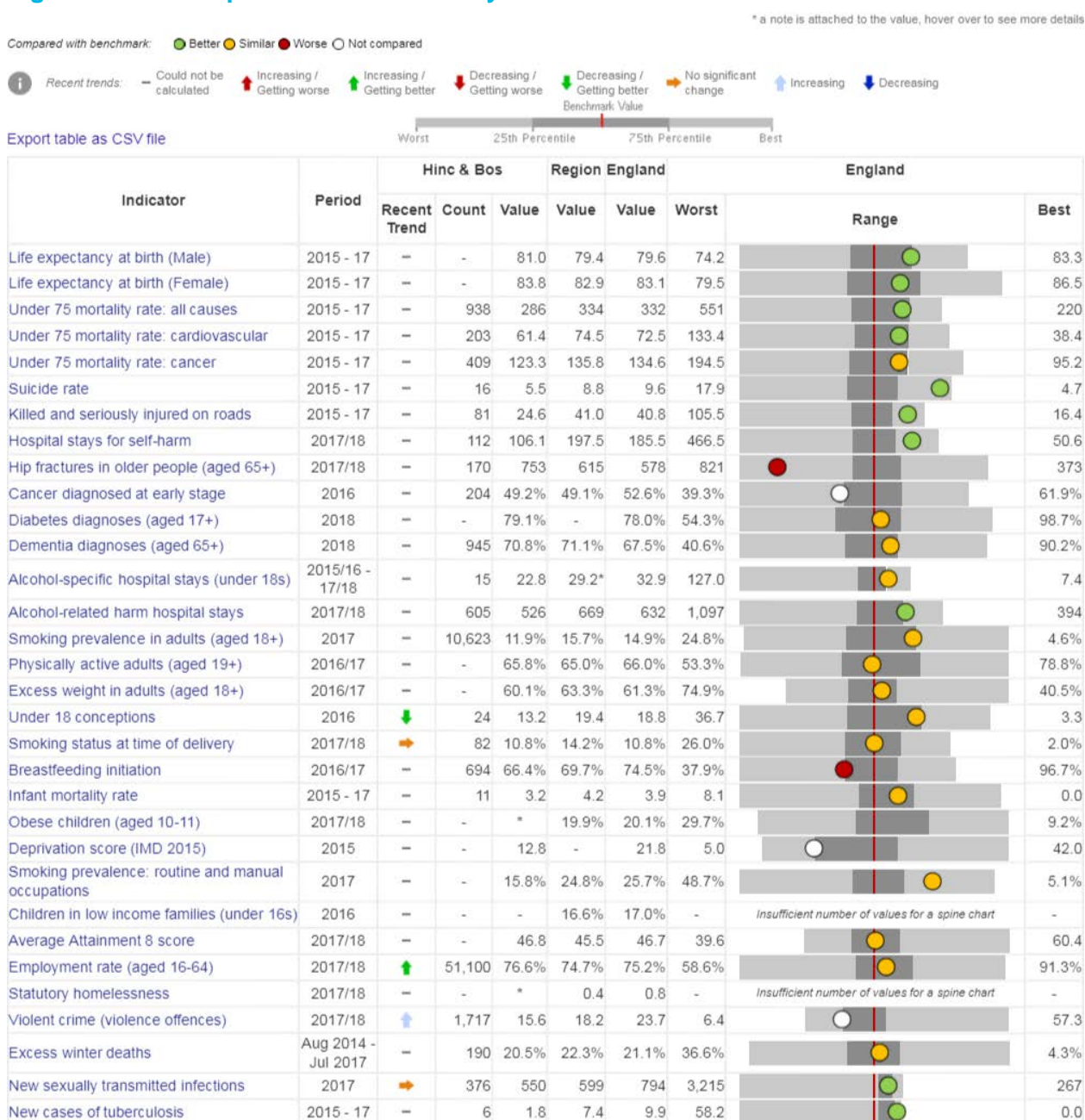
- 9.6 **Figure 9.1** shows that there are only two health indicators in Hinckley and Bosworth which perform significantly worse than the England average. These indicators are:
- Breastfeeding initiation
 - Hip fractures in Older people 65+
- 9.7 Conversely, there are nine health indicators in which Hinckley and Bosworth performs significantly better than the England average. These indicators are:

⁶⁸ Health and Social Care Act 2012: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/7/contents/enacted>

⁶⁹ Leicestershire County council (2017) Leicestershire joint Health and Wellbeing [online] available at: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2016/10/11/Leics%20JHWS%202017-22v2.pdf> [accessed 24/01/19]

- Life expectancy at birth (male and female)
- Under 75 mortality rate: all causes
- Under 75 mortality rate: cardiovascular
- Suicide rate
- Killed and seriously injured on roads
- Hospital stays for self-harm
- Alcohol-specific hospital stays
- New sexually transmitted infections
- New cases of tuberculosis

Figure 9.1: Health profile for the Hinckley and Bosworth⁷⁰

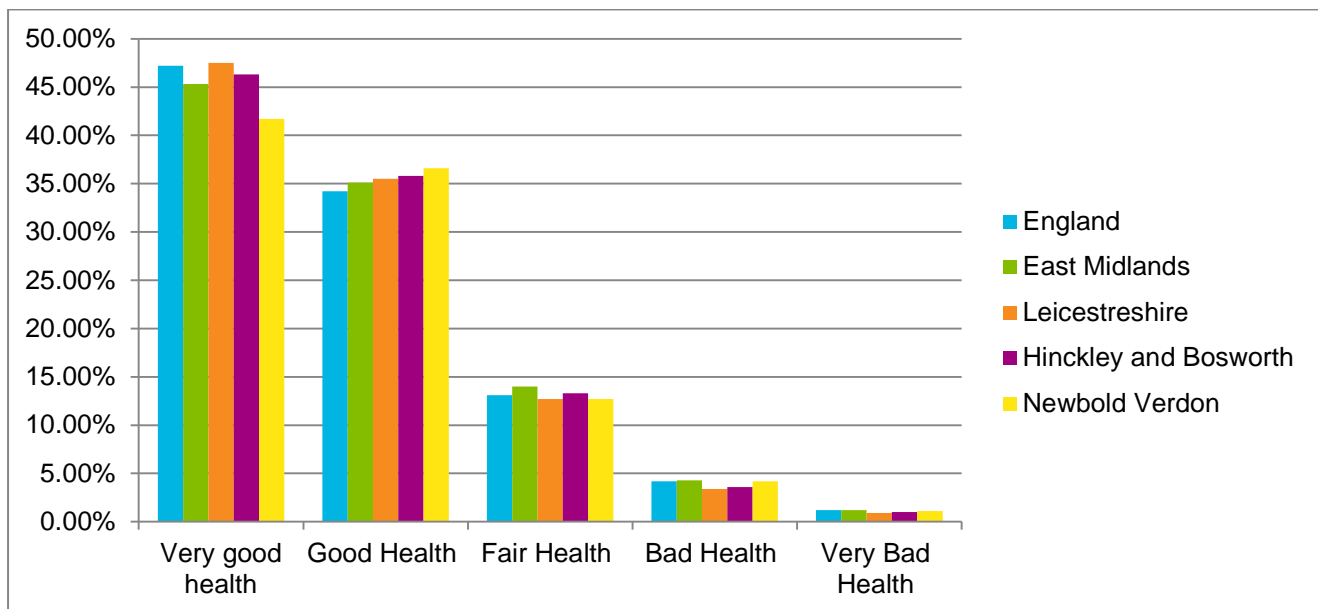


⁷⁰ Public Health England (2018)Hinckley and Bosworth [online] available at: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/>

9.8 Deprivation is a significant contributor to poor health and can have adverse effects on wellbeing, with elements related to poor housing quality, living environment, income and employment previously discussed in detail in Chapter 8.

9.9 As shown in **Figure 9.2**, a total of 78.3% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan Area consider themselves to be in 'very good health' or 'good health', which is lower than the totals for Hinckley and Bosworth (82.1%) and the East Midlands (80.40%), but broadly similar to the national average (81.40%).

Figure 9.2 General health⁷¹



9.10 Based on the 2011 census data, the majority of Newbold Verdon residents reported that their day-to-day activities are 'not limited' by disability. However, as **Table 9.1** demonstrates, the total percentage of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan Area who report that their activities are limited 'a lot' by disability (9.50%) is higher than the borough (7.50%), regional (7%), and national averages (8.70%).

Table 9.1: Activities limited by disability⁷²

	Day to day activities limited a lot	Day to day activities limited a little	Day to day activities not limited
Newbold Verdon	9.50%	10.90%	79.50%
Hinckley and Bosworth	7.50%	9.50%	83.00%
Leicestershire	7.00%	9.20%	83.80%
East Midlands	8.70%	9.90%	81.40%
England	8.30%	9.30%	82.40%

9.11 Figure 9.10 maps social infrastructure in Newbold Verdon that provide facilities and services for people in the plan area that can contribute to health and wellbeing.

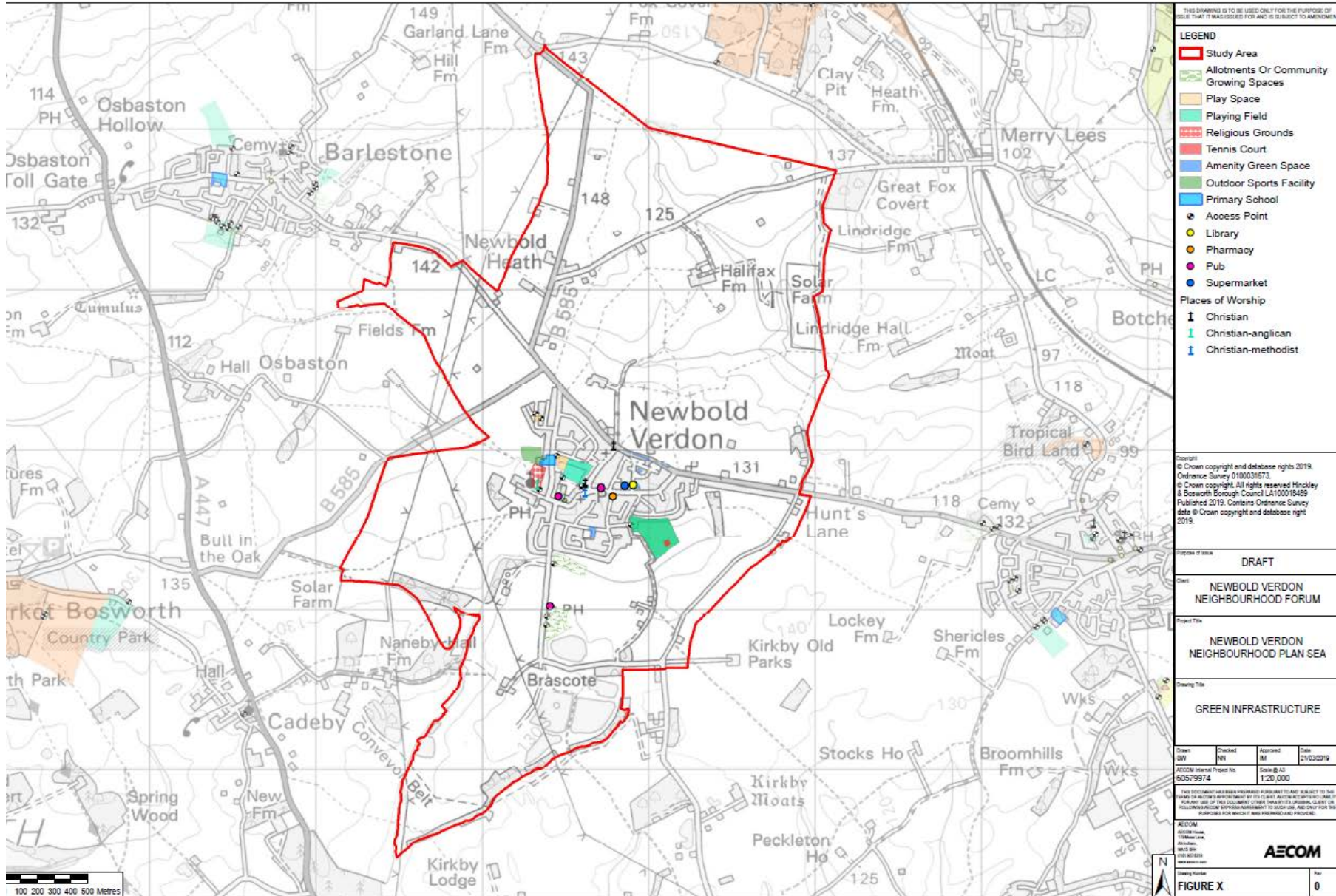
9.12 In addition to the wider countryside, there are areas of formal open space, sports facilities and allotments, which provide opportunities for recreation. There are limited cultural facilities apart from a library, and there are some facilities with community value such as several public houses and places of worship.

9.13 There is one medical centre within the settlement, but links to facilities at Market Bosworth exist.

⁷¹ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'General Health 2011' (Table KS301EW)

⁷² ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Long-term Health Problem or Disability 2011' (Table KS301EW)

Figure 9.10 Social infrastructure in Newbold Verdon



Summary of future baseline

9.14 Broadly speaking, indicators of health and wellbeing within the Neighbourhood Plan Area are good, with a high percentage of residents reporting having ‘good’ or ‘very good’ health, and a relatively low percentage of residents whose activities are limited in some way. These trends are likely to continue, though a growing elderly population could see the proportion of people with limitations increasing and those living with a health condition increase. Furthermore, there may be different and increased pressures on health care facilities, which are relatively small within Newbold Verdon itself.

9.15 In addition to the main challenges outlined in the JSNA for Leicestershire, mental health is seen as an increasing issue by health professionals for children’s and adults in Leicestershire, however the admission rate is less than the national average^{73 74}.

Headline sustainability issues

- The majority of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan Area consider themselves to have ‘very good health’ or ‘good health’. Higher than the totals for Hinckley and Bosworth and the East Midlands, but in line with the national average.
- There is a higher percentage of Newbold residents reporting that their activities are limited by disability, compared to borough , regional and national totals.
- There is an increasing amount of mental health related illnesses in Leicestershire and a higher rate of death of circulatory diseases.
- Access to quality open space and green infrastructure is an important factor in supporting health and wellbeing.

Supporting healthy lives is a key objective from the national to local level. There are a wide range of factors that contribute to health and wellbeing, some of which are not possible to address through the Plan. However, spatial factors such as access to open space, green infrastructure and community facilities are important elements that the Plan could potentially impact upon significantly. Consequently, health and wellbeing is ‘**scoped-in**’ to the SEA.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the health and wellbeing SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Enable communities to live long, healthy and happy lives that are not restricted by the place they live or their background.	Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?
	Address the specific challenges outlined in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy?
	Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green and blue infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?
	Promote healthy and active lifestyles and travel?
	Improve access to the countryside for recreational use? Ensure good access to healthcare facilities?

⁷³ <http://www.lsr-online.org/uploads/mental-health-of-children-and-young-people.pdf> ⁷⁴

<http://www.lsr-online.org/uploads/mental-health-of-adults.pdf>

10. Transportation

Focus of theme

- Transportation infrastructure
- Traffic flows and congestion
- Accessibility
- Car ownership
- Travel to work

Policy context

10.1 European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth.

10.2 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework⁷⁵ (NPPF) include:

- *‘Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that:
 - a. The potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed
 - b. Opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised
 - c. Opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued
 - d. The environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account
 - e. Patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places.’*
- *‘Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.’*

10.3 At the local level, each Local Transport Authority in England and Wales has a statutory duty to produce and adopt a Local Transport Plan through the Local Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008.⁷⁶ The Leicestershire Local Transport Plan Three (LTP3)⁷⁷ sets out the proposed transport solutions for the county up until 2026. The LTP3 aims to create a transport system

⁷⁵ MHCLG (2018) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf [accessed 29/03/19]

⁷⁶ Local Transport Act 2008 [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/26/contents> [accessed 29/03/19]

⁷⁷ Leicestershire County Council (2011) Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026 [online] available at https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2017/1/9/Local_transport_plan.pdf [accessed 29/03/19]

that is fair and efficient, which enables healthier lifestyles, safer communities, a safeguarded and enhanced natural environment and better access to jobs and services. In order to deliver this vision, the LTP3 sets out six transport goals:

- A transport system that supports a prosperous economy and provides successfully for population growth
- An efficient, resilient and sustainable transport system that is well managed and maintained
- A transport system that helps to reduce the carbon footprint of Leicestershire
- An accessible and integrated transport system that helps promote equality of opportunity for all our residents
- A transport system that improves the safety, health and security of our residents
- A transport system that helps to improve the quality of life for our residents and makes Leicestershire a more attractive place to live, work and visit

10.4 The Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy states that to reduce the high reliance on car travel in the borough and to increase the opportunities for other forms of transport by focusing the majority of development in the Hinckley urban area where there is a range of transport options available and through securing improvement to public transport infrastructure and facilities that promote walking and cycling through the use of travel plans .

10.5 To help achieve this transport objective, the plan provides two policies in regards to Newbold Verdon: 11 and 14.

Baseline summary

Summary of current baseline

Rail network

10.6 Newbold Verdon does not have a train station, with the nearest station being located 7.9 miles away at Narborough. This rail station has services towards Hinckley , Birmingham new street, Leicester (1 per hour), Nuneaton, South Wigston (1 per hour) and Water Orton (1 per 2 hour).

Bus network

10.7 The Neighbourhood Plan Area is served by two regular bus services. One service route provides residents with access to Leicester, Desford, Hinckley , Market Bosworth, Coalville and Barlestone which are one bus per hour. Figure 10.1 indicates where the bus stops are located in Newbold Verdon.

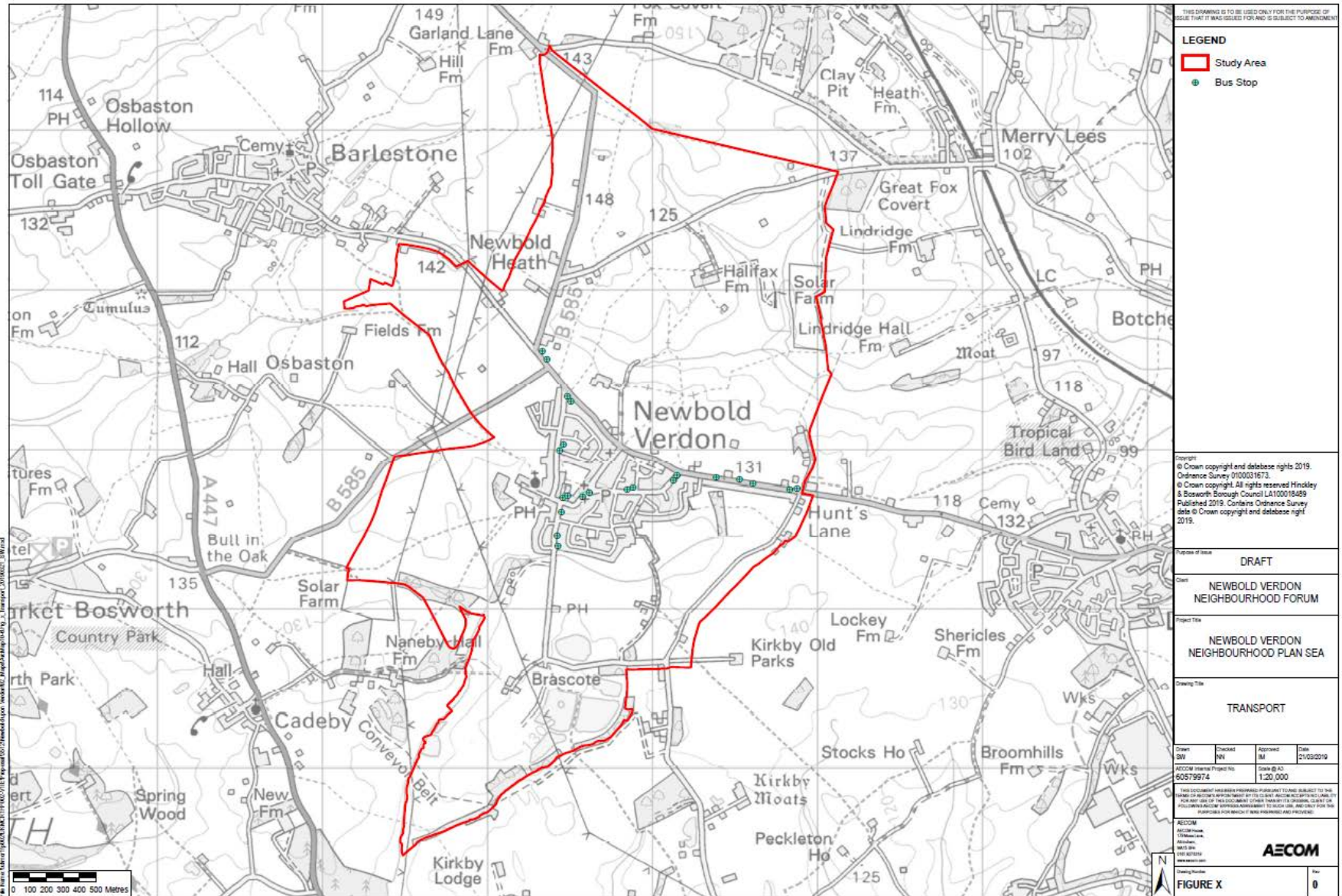
Cycle and footpath network

10.8 There are no national cycle network connections within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The closest national cycle route is number 54 which runs from Parsley Hay to Stourport via Kidderminster, Dudley, Lichfield, Burton and Derby.⁷⁸

10.9 The national trail network is not present within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. However, a number of Hinckley and Bosworth local plan routes run through the Newbold Verdon Parish.⁷⁹

⁷⁸ Hinckley and Bosworth Council (No Date) Rural Cycle Maps [online] available at: https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/1320/hinckley_rural_cycle_map [accessed 29/03/19]

Figure 10.1 Bus stops in Neighbourhood Plan Area



Road network and congestion

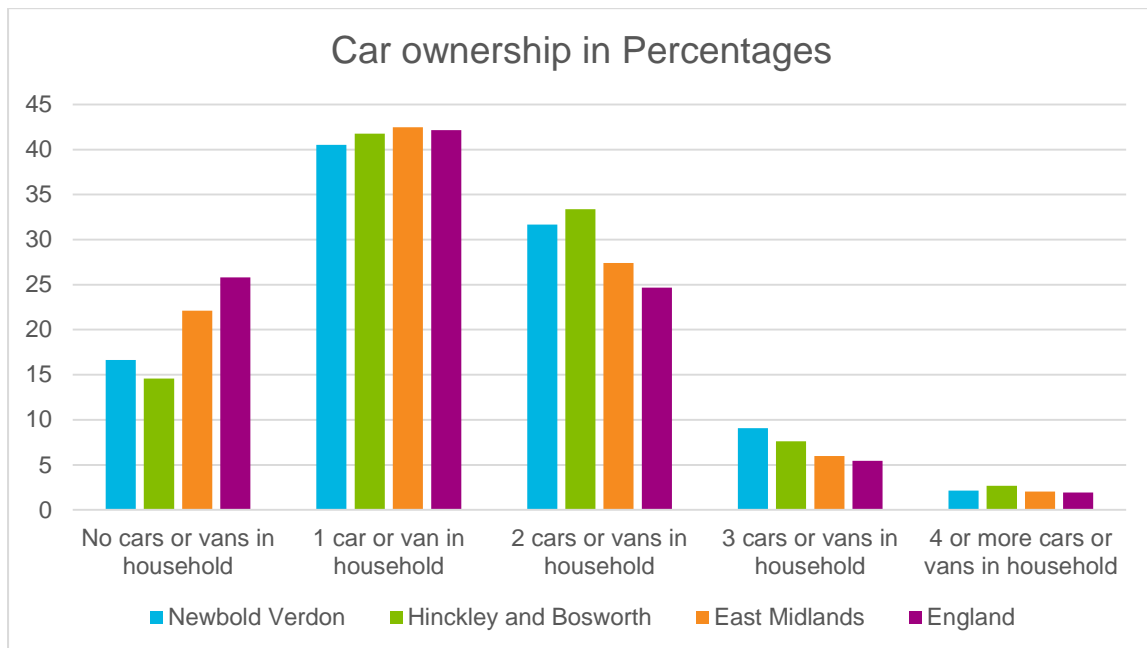
10.10 The Neighbourhood Plan Area is intersected by two 'B' roads, both in the north of the Parish. The B582 and B585 run through to Desford and Barlestone. Eventually there are links to the M1 and the M62.

Car ownership

10.11 Based on the 2011 census data, 43.52% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan Area own at least one car or van, which is higher than the percentage for Hinckley and Bosworth (43.18%), the East Midlands (77.90%) and England (74.00%).

10.12 As shown in **Figure 10.2**, Newbold Verdon has a lower percentage of households with access to 2 or more vehicles, compared to Hinckley and Bosworth. However, compared to the regional and national totals there is a greater amount of car ownership in Newbold.

Figure 10.2: Car and van ownership⁸⁰



Travel to work

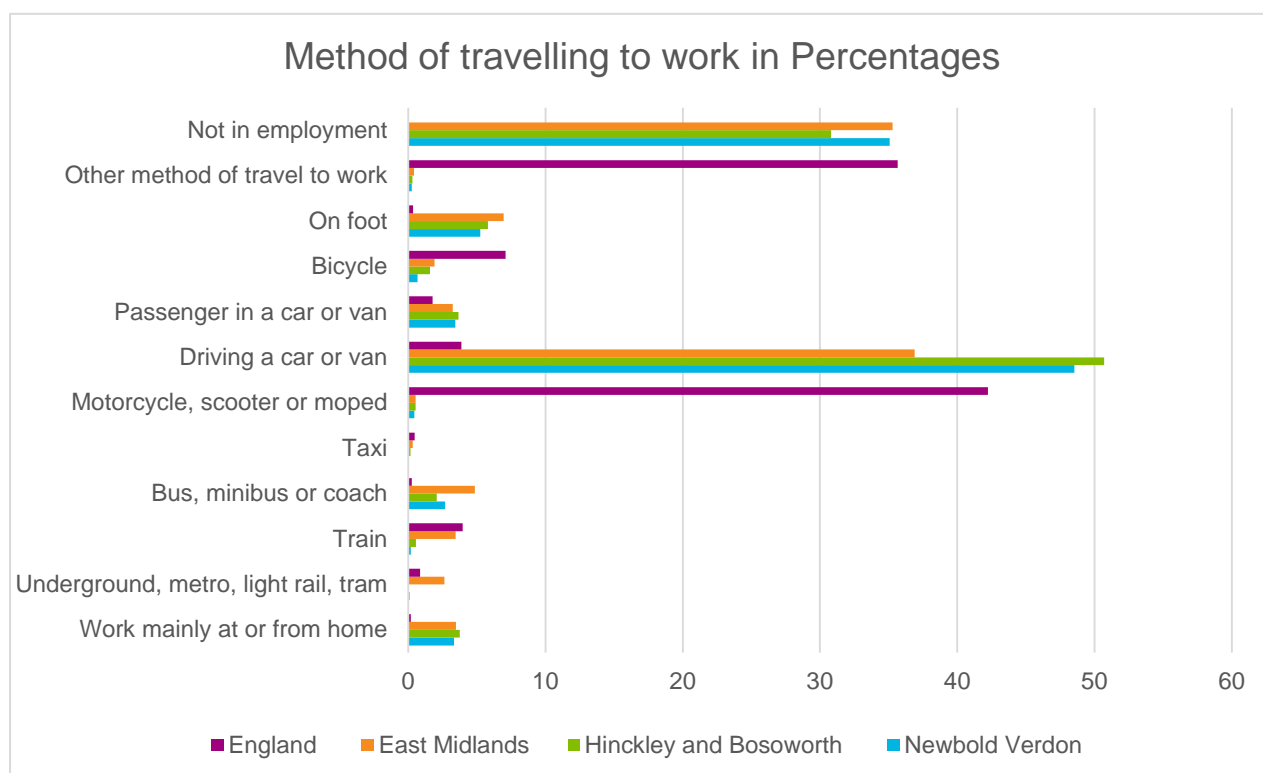
10.13 As shown in **Figure 10.3**, the most popular method of travelling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan Area is by car or van (49.52%), which is higher than the proportions for Hinckley and Bosworth (50.69%), the East Midlands (42.23%) and England (37.00%).

10.14 The percentage of people that work from home in the Newbold parish (3.34%) is broadly the same as the borough (3.75%), regional (3.47%), and national (3.00%) averages.

10.15 Finally, there is a lower percentage of people that walk, cycle, or use a bus, minibus or coach to travel to work within the Neighbourhood Plan Area (8.47%), than the East Midlands region (12.82%) and the whole of England (14.00%).

⁸⁰ ONS (no date): 'Car or Van Availability 2011', (Table QS416EW)

Figure 10.3 Method of travel to work⁸¹



Summary of future baseline

- 10.16 New development has the potential to increase traffic and cause congestion within the Neighbourhood Plan Area, principally along the B585 and B582. However, the scale of growth in Newbold and nearby settlements would not be anticipated to be significant.
- 10.17 Newbold has infrequent transport but has hourly bus travel to surrounding villages which will continue to service the village Monday- Friday. Improvements to services are unclear, but are typically unlikely to be secured without substantial increases in demand.
- 10.18 Car ownership in Newbold is high and the majority of residents rely on their cars for commuting to work. It is unlikely that modest development in Newbold would be sufficient to support new provision of public transport services within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. In the absence of intervention it is likely that these trends will continue.

Headline sustainability issues

- There is no train station in the neighbourhood plan area.
- The three bus services running within the Newbold parish provide residents with fairly good access to surrounding villages, towns and cities.
- There are no National Cycle route connections or National Trail route connections within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- There are two B roads within the neighbourhood area that give links to surrounding villages and motorways.

⁸¹ ONS (no date), 'Method of Travel to Work 2011' (Table QS701EW)

- There are high levels of car ownership in the Plan area and high levels of reliance on the private vehicle.
- Driving a car or van is the most commonly used method to get to work within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

10.19 The Plan is unlikely to have significant effects with regards to congestion and major transport infrastructure. However, the Plan could potentially have significant effects with regards to modal shift, support for the enhancement of walking and cycling infrastructure, and accessibility to services and facilities. Consequently, transportation is 'scoped-in' to the SEA.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the transportation SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Support the uptake of more sustainable and active forms of travel whilst reducing the need to travel to access local services.	<p>Encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?</p> <p>Enable sustainable transport infrastructure improvements?</p> <p>Facilitate working from home and remote working?</p> <p>Reduce the need to use a car to access local opportunities for recreation, health and leisure facilities, schools and convenience shopping?</p>

11. Next steps

Subsequent stages for the SEA process

- 11.1 The five stages of the SEA process⁸² are identified below. Scoping (the current stage) is the second 'stage' of the SEA process.
1. Screening
 2. Scoping
 3. Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan
 4. Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalisation
 5. Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making / SEA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring')
- 11.2 The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the NP4B. This will consider alternative policy approaches for the Neighbourhood Plan. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back to Newbold Verdon Parish so that they might be taken into account when preparing the draft plan.
- 11.3 The draft plan will then be subjected to SEA, and the Environmental Report will be prepared for consultation alongside it.
- 11.4 Following the consideration of consultation responses, the Neighbourhood Plan will be finalised and submitted to Hinckley and Bosworth Council for subsequent Independent Examination. As part of this process, the Neighbourhood Plan and the Environmental Report will be publicised for consultation for a period of six weeks

Consultation on the Scoping Report

- 11.5 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public. The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.
- 11.6 Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues and the proposed SEA Framework.
- 11.7 This consultation period runs from Friday 12th April to Friday 10th May 2019. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to: Nicole.Norman@aecom.com
- 11.8 All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SEA where appropriate.

⁸² In accordance with the stages set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance

Appendix I: SEA Framework

This appendix pulls together the SEA objectives and appraisal questions identified against each of the SEA themes. Taken together, this list indicates the parameters of the SEA, providing a methodological ‘framework’ for assessment.

SEA framework

SEA Theme	SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features, and support ecological connectivity.	<p>Support/ improve the status and condition of the Newbold’s biodiversity ?</p> <p>Protect, create and enhance priority habitats, and the habitats of priority species?</p> <p>Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</p> <p>Support ecological connectivity within the Plan area and in the wider surroundings?</p> <p>Support enhancements to multifunctional green and blue⁸³ infrastructure networks?</p> <p>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</p>
Climate Change	Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan Area	<p>Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?</p> <p>Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources?</p> <p>Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made?</p> <p>Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</p>
Landscape	Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan Area	<p>Conserve and enhance landscape character?</p> <p>Conserve and enhance townscape character?</p> <p>Protect and enhance key landscape features?</p>

⁸³ Green and blue infrastructure networks include (but are not limited to); green spaces, open spaces, parks, gardens, allotments, natural areas, river corridors, waterbodies; and the links between these assets

SEA Theme	SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Historic environment	Protect and enhance the rich historic environment within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan Area, including the Newbold Conservation Area, further designated and non-designated heritage assets and archaeological assets.	<p>Conserve and enhance Listed Buildings, Locally Listed Buildings, and their settings, within and surrounding the Plan area?</p> <p>Conserve and enhance the Newbold Conservation Area?</p> <p>Conserve and enhance local identity and distinctiveness?</p> <p>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</p> <p>Protect and record archaeological and other historic features such as field patterns?</p>
Population and community	Seek to reduce deprivation and create socially inclusive communities.	<p>Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities?</p> <p>Close the gap between the areas that experience the highest and lowest levels of deprivation?</p> <p>Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents?</p> <p>Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?</p>
	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<p>Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes, including specialist needs?</p> <p>Support the provision of affordable housing?</p> <p>Support enhancements to the current housing stock?</p> <p>Meet the needs of all sectors of the community?</p> <p>Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?</p>

SEA Theme	SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Health and wellbeing	Enable communities to live long, healthy and happy lives that are not restricted by the place they live or their background.	<p>Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?</p> <p>Address the specific challenges outlined in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy?</p> <p>Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green and blue infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?</p> <p>Promote healthy and active lifestyles and travel?</p> <p>Improve access to the countryside for recreational use?</p> <p>Ensure good access to healthcare facilities?</p>
Transportation	Support the uptake of more sustainable and active forms of travel whilst reducing the need to travel to access local services.	<p>Encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?</p> <p>Enable sustainable transport infrastructure improvements?</p> <p>Facilitate working from home and remote working?</p> <p>Reduce the need to use a car to access local opportunities for recreation, health and leisure facilities, schools and convenience shopping?</p>

