



PLAN-IT X
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING SERVICES

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

October 2021

**PLANIT-X TOWN AND COUNTRY
PLANNING SERVICES LTD**

21 New Road
Burton Lazars
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire. LE14 2UU

t: 01664 568819
e: info@planit-x.co.uk
w: www.planit-x.co.uk

Registered company no 07387991 | Registered office address: Unit F Whiteacres Whetstone Leicester LE8 6ZG



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mediation of space - making of place

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 (as amended) (The Regulations) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning, and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been met.
- 1.2 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that Neighbourhood Development Plans must meet the following basic conditions:
- i. the Neighbourhood Development Plan must have appropriate regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - ii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - iii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the local planning authority, in this case the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026 (Adopted December 2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Management Policies (DPD) 2006 – 2026 (Adopted July 2016);
 - iv. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet the relevant EU obligations; and
 - v. prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.3 This Basic Conditions Statement addresses these requirements in five sections:
- Section 2 demonstrates the conformity of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance;
 - Section 3 shows how the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;
 - Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan with the adopted Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026 (2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD 2006-2026 (2016);
 - Section 5 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters; and
 - Section 6 addresses other basic conditions that apply besides those set out in the primary legislation.

- 1.4 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement, Equality Impact Assessment (included in this document at Appendix 1) and this Basic Conditions Statement.

Submitting Body

- 1.5 The Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Sheepy Parish Council, which is a statutory Qualifying Body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

Neighbourhood Area

- 1.6 This Plan applies to the Parish of Sheepy, which was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 22 October 2015. In accordance with Regulation 6, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, on behalf of the relevant body (Sheepy Parish Council), completed the necessary statutory processes to enable designation of the Sheepy parish area as a Neighbourhood Area. No representations were received to the consultation for the Area designation.
- 1.7 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within the Parish of Sheepy and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.
- 1.8 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is the only Neighbourhood Development Plan in the designated area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan exists nor is being prepared for part or all of the designated area. It is the intention that the current Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan ('made' March 2019) will be replaced by this new Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.9 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2018 to 2036. However, once the new Local Plan is adopted, there may be value in a further review and update of our Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.10 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Sheepy: Location

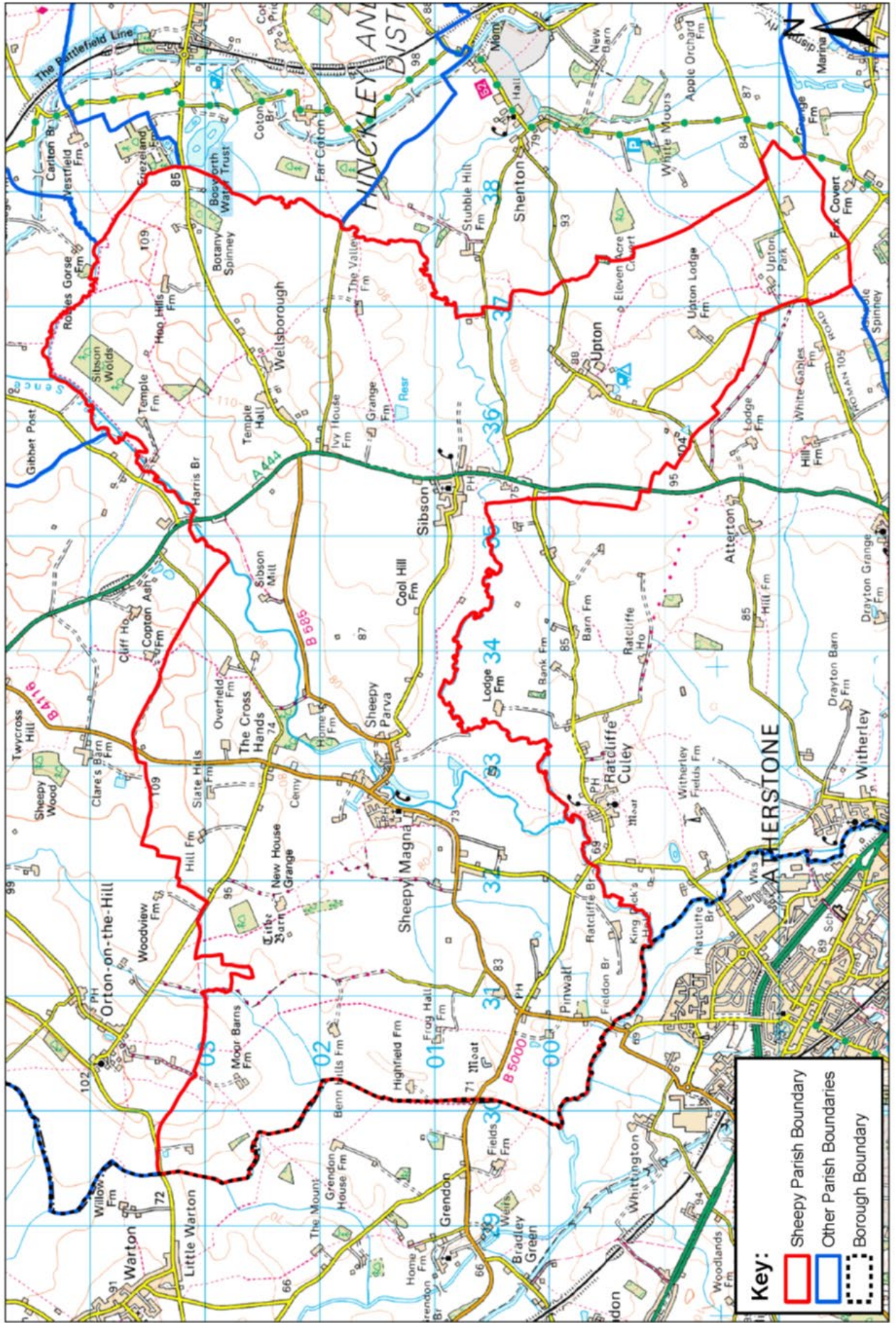
- 1.11 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area comprises the parish of Sheepy which is located within the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council area of Leicestershire. The parish is a large rural area which amounts to 3,090 hectares with a population of 1,174. It is located in south of Leicestershire and on its border with North Warwickshire. The parish contains the settlements of Sheepy Magna, Sheepy Parva, Sibson, Wellsborough, Upton, Pinwall and The Cross Hands. The River Sence crosses through the Parish and this area is famous

for the Battle of Bosworth Field and is also the location of Twycross Zoo.

- 1.12 Services within the parish are limited, Sheepy Magna has a primary school, church, pub (selling basic general provisions), memorial hall, sports and recreation facilities. There is also a church and village hall in Sibson. There are no main facilities in Sheepy Parva, Upton, Wellsborough, Pinwall or The Cross Hands.

Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

- 1.13 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Sheepy Parish Council, supported by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, with input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. The Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been consulted on as required by the Regulations and the responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the Consultation Statement.



Key:

- Sheepy Parish Boundary
- Other Parish Boundaries
- Borough Boundary

2. Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.1 It is required that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 20 July 2021 and it is against this version of the NPPF which the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed.
- 2.2 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan as there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to provide policies covering all the provisions within the National Planning Policy Framework. However, where a Neighbourhood Plan expresses a policy it must have appropriate regard to the relevant parts of the National Planning Policy Framework, as well as the Planning Practice Guidance.
- 2.3 A key theme that runs throughout the National Planning Policy Framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF specifies that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In order to achieve sustainable development, the planning has three overarching objectives, economic, social and environmental.
- 2.4 This section considers the conformity of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan in respect of relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. Planning Practice Guidance is published on a dedicated website available at www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance
- 2.5 The areas of Planning Practice Guidance which have been particularly relevant to the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to the guidance on Neighbourhood Planning are:
- Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment;
 - Climate Change;
 - Design: process and tools;
 - Flood Risk and Coastal Challenge;
 - Healthy and Safe Communities;
 - Natural Environment;
 - Neighbourhood Planning
 - Open space, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space;
 - Housing for Older and Disabled People;

- Housing Needs of Different Groups;
- Planning Obligations;
- Renewable and low carbon energy;
- Transport evidence bases in plan making and decision taking

2.6 The following table identifies the sections of the National Planning Policy Framework that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan conforms with and provides a supporting commentary. Reference is also made to the relevant Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>S1: Countryside - Protects the Countryside for its intrinsic character, beauty, landscape, heritage, wildlife, natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all. Policy provides a list of suitable development.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 78 79, 80, 84, 85, 98, 155 and 174</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p>	<p>National planning policy recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. This policy mirrors this approach and has regard to the promotion of the rural economy and allows some forms of appropriate development.</p>
<p>S2: Public Rights of Way – Seeks development to protect the Rights of Way and create new links to the network</p>	<p>Paragraphs 98 and 100</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p>	<p>This policy takes account of the different roles and character of different area as well as seeks to support the multiple benefits from the use of rural areas, such as recreation and wellbeing, and maximise opportunities for walking.</p>
<p>S3: Locally Important Views – Development should safeguard, and where possible, enhance several identified views and vistas.</p>	<p>Paragraph 170</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p>	<p>This policy allows account to be taken of the different roles and characters of areas and recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.</p>

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>S4: Renewable Energy – This policy details the circumstances that must be met for the development of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms to be supported, It also states that wind turbines will not be supported.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 152, 155 and 158</p>	<p>How can local planning authorities identify suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 5-005-20150618)</p> <p>How are 'suitable areas' defined in relation to wind energy development? (Paragraph: 032 Reference ID: 5-032-150618)</p> <p>What are the particular planning considerations that relate to large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 5-013-20150327)</p> <p>Do local people have the final say on wind farm applications? (Paragraph: 033 Reference ID: 5-033-150618)</p>	<p>The NPPF supports and encourages the use of renewable resources including the development of renewable energy and planning is recognised as having a key role to play in the delivery of renewable energy infrastructure. This policy supports the NPPF in that it includes a policy relating to the provision of such infrastructure whilst ensuring adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily. It also supports the view that the need for renewable energy does not automatically override environmental protections and the planning concerns of local communities. The views of local communities likely to be affected should be listened to.</p> <p>In the case of wind turbines, a planning application should not be approved unless the proposed development site is an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan. There is no local community support for wind turbines and the policy reflects this.</p>
<p>S5: Ecology and Biodiversity - Expects development not to harm</p>	<p>Paragraphs 174, 179 and 180</p>	<p>Is there a statutory basis for planning to seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity and</p>	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes moving from a net</p>

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>the network of local ecological features and habitats, including several identified features. New development will be expected to maintain and enhance these features. for biodiversity gain.</p>		<p>provide net gains in biodiversity where possible? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20190721)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>What evidence needs to be taken into account in identifying and mapping local ecological networks? (Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 8-011-20190721)</p> <p>What is biodiversity net gain? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 8-022-20190721)</p> <p>How can biodiversity net gain be achieved? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20190721)</p>	<p>loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature, and that a core principle for planning is that it should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.</p> <p>This policy seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and seek positives in biodiversity. It also has identified and mapped components of local ecological networks and features.</p>

<p>S6: Water Management – Requires new development to take account of flood risk. Development should be directed to locations at the lowest risk of flooding. Where appropriate developments should incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).</p>	<p>Paragraphs 148, 155, 163</p>	<p>Planning and flood risk (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 7-001-20140306)</p> <p>What is "flood risk"? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 7-002-20140306)</p> <p>What is the sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development? (Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 7-018-20140306)</p> <p>What is the Exception Test? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 7-023-20140306)</p> <p>Addressing flood risk in individual planning applications What do developers and applicants need to consider? (Paragraph: 029 Reference ID: 7-029-20140306)</p> <p>The flood risk issues raised by minor developments Are minor developments likely to raise flood risk issues? (Paragraph: 047 Reference ID: 7-047-20150415)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to mitigate climate change and take full account of flood risk and supports the use of sustainable drainage systems.</p>
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Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>What are the opportunities for reducing flood risk overall? (Paragraph: 050 Reference ID: 7-050-20140306)</p> <p>Why are sustainable drainage systems important? (Paragraph: 051 Reference ID: 7-051-20150323)</p> <p>When should a sustainable drainage system be considered? (Paragraph: 079 Reference ID: 7-079-20150415)</p> <p>What sort of sustainable drainage system should be considered? (Paragraph: 080 Reference ID: 7-080-20150323)</p>	
<p>S7: Local Heritage Assets – The determination of planning applications, which will affect 'identified' features of local heritage interest, will balance the need for and public benefit of the</p>	<p>Paragraphs 190, 194, 203</p>	<p>How can heritage issues be addressed in neighbourhood plans?(Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 18a-005-20190723)</p> <p>What are non-designated heritage assets? (Paragraph: 039 Reference ID: 18a-039-20190723)</p>	<p>This policy supports the conservation of heritage assets. It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and seeks their conservation and enhancement and plans positively with respect to non-designated heritage assets. Heritage assets within the plan area have been</p>

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>proposed development against the significance of the asset and the extent which it will be harmed. Identifies local heritage assets.</p>		<p>How are non-designated heritage assets identified? (Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 18a-040-20190723)</p>	<p>identified so they can be appropriately considered.</p>
<p>S8: Supports development which responds positively to the character of the area as set out in the Design Code. Innovative design will be encouraged. Development must work with the scale, form and character of the location, protect local features and residential amenity, utilise low carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency, and provide a safe and suitable access with adequate parking provision.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 126, 127, 129, 130, 134, 148 and 163</p>	<p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>What role can non-strategic policies play? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001)</p> <p>What are local design guides? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 26-005-20191001)</p> <p>How can the challenges of climate change be addressed through the Local Plan?</p>	<p>This policy seeks to secure high quality design that makes a positive contribution to the locality. The subject of good design is attributed great importance in the National Planning Policy Framework and is a key aspect of sustainable development and should contribute positively to making places better for people. This policy has regard to this approach and facilitates the promotion or reinforcement of local distinctiveness. It seeks to deliver development that is of a design that reflects the surrounding area and the character of Sheepy Parish. Also seeks to address the impact of climate change and the creation of safe places alongside a high standard of residential amenity.</p>

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		(Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 6-003-20140612)	
<p>S9: Local Green Spaces – Identifies Local Green Spaces within Sheepy parish which will be protected.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 101-103</p>	<p>What is Local Green Space designation? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 37-005-20140306)</p> <p>How is land designated as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306)</p> <p>How does Local Green Space designation relate to development? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306)</p> <p>What if land has planning permission for development? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306)</p> <p>Can all communities benefit from Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306)</p>	<p>Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for the protection green areas of importance to them. The Local Green Spaces meet the criteria set out in paragraph 100 of the National Planning Policy Framework as demonstrated by Neighbourhood Plan Appendix 4: Local Green Spaces: Summary of Reasons for Designation. The full reasons for designation are included in the Neighbourhood Plan evidence base.</p>

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>S10: Housing Development - This policy supports housing development within the defined settlement boundaries of Sheepy Magna and Sibson. Outside of these boundaries development will be limited to the residential development of Hornsey Rise Memorial Home, rural worker accommodation, replacement dwellings, re-use and/or adaptation of redundant rural buildings and exception site affordable housing. Also allows for housing development of exceptional quality and outstanding or innovative design.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 62, 69, 78, 79, 80 and 119</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p>	<p>This policy promotes sustainable development by seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities. It allows for certain forms of residential development outside of these boundaries, supporting the redevelopment of brownfield land, the rural economy and the vitality of rural communities, and the development of rural exception sites to provide for locally needed affordable housing. It recognises the role that conversion of buildings can make towards housing provision and is responsive to the housing needs of the community.</p>

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>S11: Neighbourhood Plan Review - This policy allows for a review of the Neighbourhood Plan to allow for new allocations to meet any housing and employment land requirements established through the emerging Local Plan</p>	<p>None relevant.</p>	<p>Can a neighbourhood plan come forward before an up-to-date local plan or spatial development strategy is in place? Neighbourhood plans, when brought into force, become part of the development plan for the neighbourhood area. They can be developed before or at the same time as the local planning authority is producing its local plan...'</p> <p>'Where a neighbourhood plan is brought forward before an up-to-date local plan is in place the qualifying body and the local planning authority should discuss and aim to agree the relationship between policies...' (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 41-009-20190509)</p>	<p>This policy will ensure the Neighbourhood Plan will be reviewed within a set timeframe if, as established through the emerging Local Plan, there is a need to allocate additional housing or employment sites to meet new requirements.</p>
<p>S12: Housing Mix – Seeks a mix of housing responsive to local needs and informed by the most up to date evidence of housing need. Developments of 10 dwellings or more should address the needs of older households and the</p>	<p>Paragraphs 62 and 78</p>	<p>How do the housing need of particular groups relate to overall housing need calculated using the standard method? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722)</p> <p>Why is it important to plan for the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 63-001-20190626)</p>	<p>The NPPF requires the delivery of homes to be informed by a local housing needs assessment and for planning policies to plan for the identified housing need. The Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and seeks to deliver a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need.</p>

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>need for smaller and/or low-cost homes.</p>		<p>What range of needs should be addressed? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 63-003-20190626)</p> <p>What evidence can plan-makers consider when identifying the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 63-004-20190626)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626)</p>	
<p>S13: Affordable Housing - Identifies the amount of affordable housing provision to be provided on windfall sites. Allows for provision to be met through rural exception sites. Seeks to ensure priority will be given to people with a local</p>	<p>Paragraphs 62, 63 and 78</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>What types of households are considered to be in affordable housing need? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 67-005-20190722)</p>	<p>This policy is responsive to local circumstances and supports housing developments that reflect local needs. It supports the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of different groups in the community.</p>

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
connection to Sheepy Parish.		Where should policy on seeking planning obligations be set out? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 23b-004-20190901)	
Policy S14: Hornsey Rise Memorial Home - – This policy identifies a housing site allocation. It identifies the amount of housing, the housing mix, the retention and residential conversion of the chapel, seeks the removal of any land contamination, seeks the provision of a cycle/footpath, and a landscaping scheme to provide for biodiversity improvements.	Paragraphs 62, 69, 78, 70, 110, 131, 119,174, 183 and 184	<p>How do the housing need of particular groups relate to overall housing need calculated using the standard method? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722)</p> <p>Why is it important to plan for the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 63-001-20190626)</p> <p>What range of needs should be addressed? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 63-003-20190626)</p> <p>What evidence can plan-makers consider when identifying the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 63-004-20190626)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans?</p>	This approach has regard to the need to meet objectively assessed housing needs and provides for the identification of a housing allocation site. The policy has regard to a range of issues contained within the National Planning Policy Framework, including providing for a mix of housing, seeks the protection and enhancement of the existing landscape and positive biodiversity benefits, seeks the provision of footpaths and cycleways and to address any land contamination issues.

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>(Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626)</p> <p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 53-003-20191101)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>What role can non-strategic policies play?</p>	

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>(Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001)</p> <p>Is there a statutory basis for planning to seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20190721)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>What is biodiversity net gain? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 8-022-20190721)</p> <p>How can biodiversity net gain be achieved? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20190721)</p>	
<p>S15: Community Services and Facilities - This policy supports the retention of identified services and facilities unless it is no longer viable or is no</p>	<p>Paragraphs 84, 92 and 93</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place?</p>	<p>The policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages and plans positively against the unnecessary loss of facilities that meet day to day needs.</p>

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
longer needed by the community and it is no longer needed for any other community use or a replacement is provided, of equivalent or better provision.		(Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)	
S16: Car Parking and New Housing Development - This expects levels of parking provision to be in accordance with the Local Plan. New developments should demonstrate that they would not exacerbate parking problems in the vicinity with increased on-street parking,	Paragraph 107	What baseline information should inform a transport assessment of a Local Plan? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 54-005-20141010)	This policy seeks to provide the appropriate level of car parking infrastructure to support new development, considering the levels of public transport provision, and to avoid exacerbating the adverse impacts being experienced by on-street parking.
S17: Communications Infrastructure – This policy requires new development to facilitate all new premises and homes to have access to fibre optic broadband technology, unless it can	Paragraph 114	Not applicable.	This policy seeks the delivery of appropriate infrastructure taking into account the needs of the local residential and business communities, The policy supports the of the development of high speed broadband technology, recognising the role it has to play in enhancing local communities.

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
be demonstrated that making such provision would render the development unviable.			
S18: Rural Economy - This policy supports the sustainable growth and expansion of businesses and enterprise through the conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings. Tourism development is encouraged as well as live/work units.	Paragraph 84	Not applicable	This policy supports sustainable economic development and supports a prosperous rural economy, including tourism development and mirrors the approach contained within the NPPF.

3. Contributing to sustainable development

3.1 Sustainable development is about positive growth- making economic, environmental, and social progress for this and future generations. The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development of which there are three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform several roles:

- a) an **economic** objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordination the provision of infrastructure;
- b) 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; and
- c) an **environmental** objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

3.2 The following section summarises how the above sustainability objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework compare with the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. This has been done by assessing the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan against each of the Planning Policy 'subjects' as contained within Sections 5 to 17 of the NPPF.

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
1 – Delivering a sufficient supply of homes	Providing a steer as to where new housing should be focused and the form development should take. Supporting a supply and mix of housing types to meet local needs, including the needs of older households, the need for smaller homes and rural worker accommodation. Identifies when affordable housing will be sought and supports the development of Rural Exception Sites with priority given to those with a local connection to Sheepy Parish when affordable housing is allocated.
2 – Building a strong, competitive economy	Supporting housing provision to meet identified requirements and providing for housing that meets local needs. Seeks the retention and improvement of key local facilities, supporting the vitality of the community. Seeks to improve internet connectivity and support local business and employment. Supporting sustainable economic growth, including the tourism economy and the provision of live/work units.
3 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres	The parish of Sheepy has a range of basic services and facilities and an ambition of the plan is to protect the vitality of the community, supporting the retention of existing services and facilities.
4 – Promoting healthy and safe communities	Seeks the protection and enhancement of Public Rights of Way, including footpaths and cycleways. Protection of the countryside, local green spaces and community facilities, providing opportunities for people to meet and protect quality of life.
5 – Promoting sustainable development	Supports housing development within the defined Settlement Boundaries of Sheepy and Sibson with their range of services and facilities. Supports the re-use and conversion of buildings and sustainable economic growth.
6 – Supporting high quality communications	Seek to facilitate improvements in broadband technology for new residential and employment development.
7 – Making effective use of land	Supports infill housing development within the defined Limits to Development, facilitates the redevelopment of brownfield land and the re-use and conversion of redundant and disused buildings.

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
8 – Achieving well-designed places	Includes policies, and the provision of a Design Code, requiring development to respond positively to the character of the area. Protection of local features including landscape as well as the built environment. Supports dwelling design that is of exceptional quality and innovative. Seeks the protection of residential amenity and the protection of the open landscape.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Not applicable
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	Supports the conversion and re-use of redundant or disused buildings. Seeks the protection and enhancement of the Public Right of Way network (footpaths and cycleways) with opportunities to create new links into the network. New development to take account types of flood risk and specific forms of development to include the incorporation a sustainable drainage system. Supports the development of a solar photovoltaic farm subject to specific criteria. Expects new development to be future-proofed with low carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency;
11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	Protects the character of the countryside, Locally Important Views, Local Green Space and the network of local ecological features and habitat. Protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development to maintain and enhance ecological corridors and landscape features for biodiversity, and where possible demonstrate overall biodiversity net gain.
12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Prevents against the loss of the historic environment, including non-designated assets of local importance. Seeks to positively contribute to and manage the district's historic environment.
13 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	Not applicable.

4. Conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan

4.1 Neighbourhood Development Plans must demonstrate that they are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. The current adopted plan for the area is the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026 (Adopted December 2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) 2006-2026 (Adopted July 2016).

4.2 The following sections identifies how the Policies of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy (Adopted 2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (Adopted 2016).

Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026

4.3 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Spatial Objective 9: Identity, Distinctiveness and Quality of Design

Spatial Objective 11: Built Environment and Townscape Character

Spatial Objective 12: Climate Change and Resource Efficiency

Policy 12: Rural Villages

Policy 13: Rural Hamlets

Policy 14: Rural Areas: Transport

Policy 15: Affordable Housing

Policy 16: Housing Density, Mix and Design

Policy 17: Rural Needs

Policy 19: Green Space and Play Provision

Policy 23: Tourism Development

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth 2006-2026	Explanation of Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy
S1: Countryside	Policy 12, Policy 15, Policy 17, Policy 19, Policy 23	Supports the provision of new housing development within the settlement boundaries. Allows for rural housing and the provision of rural exception sites.

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth 2006-2026	Explanation of Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy
		Allows for the provision of recreation facilities and tourism development
S2: Public Rights of Way	Policy 12, Policy 13, Policy 14	Seeks the delivery of cycle paths between facilities and into the countryside
S3: Locally Important Views	No relevant policies.	Not applicable
S4: Renewable Energy	Spatial Objective 12	Supports the use of renewable energies
S5: Ecology and Biodiversity	No relevant policies	Not applicable
S6: Water Management	No relevant policies	Not applicable
S7: Local Heritage Assets	Spatial Objective 11	Safeguards and enhances the parish's distinctive built environment
S8: Design	Spatial Objective 9	Supports development which reflects local distinctiveness and enhances settlement identity
S9: Local Green Spaces	No relevant policies	Not applicable
S10: Housing Development	Policy 12, Policy 13, Policy 17	Supports housing development with the defined settlement boundary of Sheepy Magna, a rural village and Sibson, a rural hamlet Support the use of rural exception sites for affordable housing to meet a local need
S11: Neighbourhood Plan Review	No relevant policies	Not applicable

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth 2006-2026	Explanation of Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy
S12: Housing Mix	Policy 12, Policy 13, Policy 16	Requires a mix of housing types based on evidence of housing need
S13: Affordable Housing	Policy 12, Policy 13, Policy 15, Policy 17	Seeks the provision of affordable housing taking account of local need Allows for rural exception sites within the Sheepy Magna and Sibson Settlement boundaries, where the development is in keeping with the scale and character of the village and locality, protects residential amenity, and, with safe and suitable access When affordable housing is allocated, priority will be given to people with a local connection to Sheepy Parish.
S14: Hornsey Rise Memorial Home	No relevant policies	Not applicable
S15: Community Services and Facilities	Policy 12, Policy 13	Supports the safeguarding of services and facilities in the rural village of Sheepy Magna and the rural hamlet of Sibson Facilities will be safeguarded unless it can be demonstrated they are no longer viable, are no longer needed by the community, are not needed by any other community use or the facility is being replaced by equivalent or better provision The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the facilities to be safeguarded
S16: Car Parking and New Development	No relevant policies	Not applicable
S17: Communications Infrastructure	No relevant policies	Not applicable
S18: Rural Economy	Policy 12, Policy 13, Policy 23	Supports the sustainable development of the rural economy Supports and facilitates home working Supports tourism related development, specifically that

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth 2006-2026	Explanation of Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy
		related to the Battle of Bosworth Field, recognising its value to the rural economy

Hinckley and Bosworth Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (Adopted 2016)

4.4 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Policy DM2: Delivering Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Development

Policy DM3: Infrastructure and Delivery

Policy DM4: Safeguarding the Countryside and Settlement Separation

Policy DM5: Enabling Rural Worker Accommodation

Policy DM6: Enhancement of Biodiversity and Ecological Benefit

Policy DM7: Preventing Pollution and Flooding

Policy DM8: Safeguarding Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities

Policy DM9: Safeguarding Natural and Semi-Natural Open Spaces

Policy DM10: Design and Development

Policy DM11: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Policy DM12: Heritage Assets

Policy DM14: Replacement Dwellings in Rural Areas

Policy DM15: Redundant Rural Buildings

Policy DM18: Vehicle Parking Standards

Policy DM20: Provision of Employment Sites

Policy DM24: Cultural and Tourism Facilities

Policy DM25: Community Facilities

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD	Explanation of Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD
S1: Countryside	Policy DM4, Policy DM5, Policy DM11, Policy DM14, Policy DM15, Policy DM20 and Policy DM24	<p>Protects the countryside for its intrinsic value, beauty, and open and landscape character</p> <p>Allows for development for recreational purposes</p> <p>Supports the re-use and adaption of existing buildings in the countryside</p> <p>Allows for replacement dwellings</p> <p>Supports the provision of rural worker accommodation</p> <p>Supports the provision of renewable energy developments</p> <p>Support and enhance the historic environment</p> <p>Supports the rural economy and the protection and enhancement of tourism facilities</p>
S2: Public Rights of Way	Policy DM9	<p>Seeks the protection of Rights and Way and promote the creation and enhancement of new links including footpaths and cycle ways</p> <p>Seeks to retain access to and usability of these links</p>
S3: Locally Important Views	Policy DM9	Seeks to safeguard and enhance specific views/vistas which have been identified for their wildlife value, their character and contribution to the character of the area, or their recreational value
S4: Renewable Energy	Policy DM2, Policy DM11, Policy DM12	Policy supports solar farm development where it does not have an adverse visual impact and does not adversely impact

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD	Explanation of Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD
		on Features of Local Heritage Interest
S5: Ecology and Biodiversity	Policy DM6	Seeks to protect the network of local ecological features and habitats and ensure that new development does not harm these features New development should maintain and enhance these features. Seeks a net gain in biodiversity.
S6: Water Management	Policy DM7, Policy DM10	Seeks the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems Seeks to avoid adverse impacts from flooding
S7: Local Heritage Assets	Policy DM11	Seeks to protect the parishes historic environment, namely its features of local heritage interest, from harm The Neighbourhood Plan provides a consolidated list of features of local heritage interest
S8: Design	Policy DM10	Seeks to prevent adverse impact on residential amenity Support development that would complement and enhance the character of the surrounding area Protects important existing features including landscaping
S9: Local Green Spaces	Policy DM8	Seeks to prevent the loss of the character and value of Sheepy Magna Playing Fields and All Saints Churchyard
S10: Housing Development	Policy DM5, DM10, Policy DM14 and Policy DM15	Supports the development of rural worker accommodation, replacement dwellings in rural areas and the re-use and adaptation of redundant rural buildings. Allows for development of outstanding and innovative design.
S11: Neighbourhood Plan Review	No relevant policies	Not applicable

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD	Explanation of Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD
S12: Housing Mix	No relevant policies	Not applicable
S13: Affordable Housing	Policy DM3	Seeks the provision of affordable housing
S14: Hornsey Rise Memorial Home	No relevant policies	Not applicable
S15: Community Services and Facilities	Policy DM25	Resists the loss of existing community facilities
S16: Car Parking and New Development	Policy DM18	Seeks to provide an appropriate level of parking provision, taking into account local circumstances and ensure existing parking issues are not exacerbated
S17: Communications Infrastructure	Policy DM3	Seeks the provision of appropriate infrastructure to support development
S18: Rural Economy	Policy DM5, Policy DM20	Allows for development that contributes to the rural economy and rural diversification

5. Compliance with European Union obligations

5.1 A neighbourhood plan or Order must be compatible with European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. There are three directives that may be of particular relevance to neighbourhood plans:

- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive). This seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing plans and programmes.
- Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (often referred to as the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives respectively). These aim to protect and improve Europe's most important habitats and species.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

5.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement for the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan (August 2021) has been used to determine whether or not the contents of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Neighbourhood Plans only require a SEA where they are likely to lead to significant effects. The Screening Statement provides a screening opinion as to whether the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects. This statement includes a commentary on whether these effects are likely to be significant.

5.3 The outcome of this assessment concludes that whilst environmental effects have the potential to take place as a result of the neighbourhood plan, including in relation to the majority of the SEA 'topics', it is considered that these are unlikely to be significant in the context of the SEA directive. Therefore, it is considered that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is not subject to the requirements of the Directive 2001/41/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and accompanying regulations and therefore will not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken.

5.4 The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) have been consulted on this Screening Statement and their responses are summarised below:

- Environment Agency – Based on the submitted information we have no comments to make on whether an SEA is required.
- Natural England – Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. We can confirm that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan. Natural England also agrees with the report's conclusions that Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work under the Habitats Regulations would be required.
- Historic England – Thank you for your consultation of 19 August 2021 and the request for a Screening Opinion in respect of the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan. For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request.

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

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

5.5 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect on the Natura 2000 network of protected species. There are no Special Areas of Protection within 10km of the Neighbourhood Area. There are two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within 10km of the Neighbourhood Area.

5.6 The Hinckley and Bosworth Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2017 confirms there is no physical connection between the Borough and The Ensor's Pool SAC. From this we consider that activities within the Borough – and indeed the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area - would not have implications for this site

5.7 Part of the River Mease (not the part defined as a SAC) passes through the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. In addition, three tributaries of the river flow down towards and through Norton juxta Twycross. As a result, given the physical connection to the River

Mease SAC, provided by its flow through the Borough and via these tributaries, it might be conceivable that some areas of the Borough could have an impact on this site despite the actual designation being outside the Borough.

- 5.8 However, no part of the River Mease or its tributaries as described above flow through the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area. The tributaries as described above are located roughly 3km away from the closest part of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area boundary. In view of this as well as considering the scope of proposals within the draft Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council considers that further stages in the HRA process are not required (including further screening, or Appropriate Assessment) and that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to have any impact on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites.
- 5.9 Other European directives, such as the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) or the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) do not apply to the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Other basic conditions

- 6.1 Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) prescribe 2 basic conditions in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. These are:
- the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites;
 - having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that the Neighbourhood Development Order is made (see Schedule 3 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), where the development described in an order proposal is Environmental Impact Assessment development.
- 6.2 As set out above, a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan concluded that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.
- 7.2 Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Equalities Impact Assessment of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1) has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made and the assessment finds the Neighbourhood Development Plan to be appropriate and that the duty prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) are met by the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan complies with paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

Appendix 1: Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Equalities Impact Assessment

Introduction

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty of care on public bodies to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity for specified equality groups. Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Assessment must address the 'protected characteristics' identified within the Act:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex; and
- sexual orientation.

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment is to help understand and ultimately protect the groups identified above from any adverse impact. This Assessment considers the needs of these particular groups and how they might be affected by the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Methodology

The assessment considers whether the Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics (in so far as data is available) by reference to the Key Issues and Policies of the Plan. Where an adverse impact is identified the Assessment considers whether that impact is high, medium or low.

High impact: a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact: some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence.

Low impact: almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation-led.

Baseline Data

This Assessment has relied on Census data for 2011 published by the Office for National Statistics. Data is available for Sheepy for age, disability, race, religious belief and sex. There is no known data for gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity or sexual orientation.

In 2011 there were 1,174 people living in Sheepy Parish, 47% were Male and 53% were Female. By Comparison, the figures for the United Kingdom were 49.3% (Male) and 50.7% (Female).

17.9% of the population was 0-15 years old and 23.7% were 65% or over. The UK proportion of over 65's was 16.3% and 18.9% for 0-15's.

2% of the population was from a black or minority ethnic background. The proportion of the UK population classed as 'non-white' was 14.3%.

74.3% of the population was Christian and 1.2% other religions including Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim. By comparison 59.4% of the UK population consider themselves to be Christian whilst 8.3% considered themselves to be Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim or Sikh.

8.6% of residents considered that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot through health and disability and a further 10.1% considered that their activities were limited a little. The comparable proportions for the UK were 8.9% (limited a lot) and 9.3% (limited a little).

63.5% of people who were 16 or over were married or in a registered civil partnership compared to 48.7% of people in the UK.

Gender reassignment and sexual orientation are generally invisible characteristics for which little reliable data exists at local level. There was also no data available for pregnancy or maternity.

Summary

Generally, the proportion of Male/Females is comparable to the national picture.

The proportion of older people is higher than the national picture, common with rural areas.

The proportion of BMEs is noticeably lower than the national picture, common with rural areas.

The proportion of Christians is higher to the national average, whilst the proportion of other religions is markedly lower.

Key Issues and Policies of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following key issues for Sheepy;

Maintaining the rural character of the area

Protecting the countryside

Supporting an accessible countryside

Minimising flood risk

Conserving local heritage

Protecting green areas in settlements

Ensuring new development is consistent with strategic requirements

Meeting local housing needs

Improving or retaining local services and facilities

Controlling speeding traffic

Providing more employment opportunities for local people

These issues are reflected in the Vision for the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan;



The Neighbourhood Plan contains a suite of 18 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues and objectives.

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy S12 requires new developments to deliver a mix of housing types to reflect evidence of need, noting in particular the need to demonstrate how the housing needs of older households and smaller-low cost homes will be met in developments of 10 or more dwellings. Policy S13 seek a supply of affordable housing in the parish; and for priority to be given to people with a local connection to Sheepy Parish when allocating affordable housing. There is a strong potential for positive impacts on young or new households or the elderly seeking to address their needs.

Policy S9 requires local green spaces to be protected and enhanced and development will not normally be supported on these spaces if harm would occur. As green spaces include spaces which have recreational

value this is likely to benefit the young who are engaged in play and this is considered to have potential for a positive impact. This potential positive impact is also supported by Policy 2 which seeks to protect Rights of Way and create new links to the network including footpaths and cycleways.

Policy S15 makes provision for the retention of community services and facilities. This is seen as important for the long-term sustainability of Sheepy and Sibson. In addition, with an increasing proportion of older people in the population, access to locally based services will become increasingly important, reflecting lower mobility levels. Some of the parish services include a primary school, public houses and village halls. Their retention is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact.

Disability

Policy S8 to have a safe and suitable access and consequently there is potential for a positive impact on this characteristic.

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (Policy S12) there is a possibility that homes could be sought to the benefit of people with disabilities. However, the lack of evidence to include a specific requirement by reference to type of disability prevents a recommendation by this assessment for modification to the policy and leads to a conclusion that Policy S21 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Policy S2 seeks the creation of footpath links. This has the potential for a positive impact on this characteristic although the degree will be dependent on the nature and definition of individual disabilities.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy S8 may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Marriage and civil partnership

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Pregnancy and maternity

There are potential benefits for this protected characteristic from the retention of key services and potential for their replacement by equivalent

or better provision, such as the primary school and village halls (Policy S15). These impacts might be considered to be positive but the lack of data for this characteristic and any tangible evidence suggests that the impact should be considered neutral.

Race

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Religion or belief

There is a potential benefit for this protected characteristic from the protection of key services and facilities (Policy S15), including Sheepy Magna Memorial Hall and Sibson Village Hall with potential for multi-use facilities. However, the uncertain prospects for demand and delivery draw the same conclusion that there is only a neutral impact although the potential for positive impacts should again be noted.

Sex

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Sexual orientation

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy S8 may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic the potential for tangible impacts is unknown and consequently this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Conclusion

The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan provides a suite of policies to respond to the vision for the benefit of the local community including protected characteristics but perhaps most particularly older people, young people, mothers to be and with young children, disabled people and those with limited mobility.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not explicitly address the needs of racial or religious groups, or transgender, gay or lesbian groups, or inequalities of sex. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks a range of housing types, and seeks retention of and improvements in facilities and services which will benefit these groups equally. It also seeks to provide a higher quality public realm where people with protected characteristics will be less liable to be subject to hate crime.

In conclusion, this assessment has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made, and the assessment finds the Sheepy Parish

Neighbourhood Plan to be appropriate and that the duty of care prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.