

Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal

Environmental Report

Final

July 2026

**Prepared for:
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council**

www.jbaconsulting.com



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

Document Status

Issue date	July 2026
Issued to	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
BIM reference	NEK-JBA-00-00-RP-EN-0002-HBBC_Environmental_Report
Revision	A1-C01

Prepared by	Lydia Price BSc Msc, PIEMA Environmental Analyst
-------------	---

Reviewed by	Laura Thomas BA MRes PGCert CEcol MCIEEM Associate Director - Ecology
-------------	--

Authorised by	Laura Thomas BA MRes PGCert CEcol MCIEEM Project Manager
---------------	---

Carbon Footprint

The format of this report is optimised for reading digitally in pdf format. Paper consumption produces substantial carbon emissions and other environmental impacts through the extraction, production and transportation of paper. Printing also generates emissions and impacts from the manufacture of printers and inks and from the energy used to power a printer. Please consider the environment before printing.

Contract

JBA Project Manager	Laura Thomas BA MRes PGCert CEcol MCIEEM
Address	Chase Park, Redhouse Interchange DONCASTER, South Yorkshire, DN6 7FE
JBA Project Code	2024s0785

This report describes work commissioned by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council by an instruction dated 20th of May 2024. JBA Consulting carried out this work.

Purpose and Disclaimer

Jeremy Benn Associates Limited (“JBA”) has prepared this Report for the sole use of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and its appointed agents in accordance with the Agreement under which our services were performed.

JBA has no liability for any use that is made of this Report except to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared.

No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this Report or any other services provided by JBA. This Report cannot be relied upon by any other party without the prior and express written agreement of JBA.

The conclusions and recommendations contained in this Report are based upon information provided by others and upon the assumption that all relevant information has been provided by those parties from whom it has been requested and that such information is accurate. Information obtained by JBA has not been independently verified by JBA, unless otherwise stated in the Report.

The methodology adopted and the sources of information used by JBA in providing its services are outlined in this Report. The work described in this Report was undertaken between April and June 2026 and is based on the conditions encountered and the information available during the said period. The scope of this Report and the services are accordingly factually limited by these circumstances.

JBA disclaims any undertaking or obligation to advise any person of any change in any matter affecting the Report, which may come or be brought to JBA’s attention after the date of the Report.

Certain statements made in the Report that are not historical facts may constitute estimates, projections or other forward-looking statements and even though they are based on reasonable assumptions as of the date of the Report, such forward-looking statements by their nature involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the results predicted. JBA specifically does not guarantee or warrant any estimates or projections contained in this Report.

Unless otherwise stated in this Report, the assessments made assume that the sites and facilities will continue to be used for their current purpose without significant changes.

Copyright

© Jeremy Benn Associates Limited 2026

Contents

Non-Technical Summary	xii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 The Plan area	1
1.3 Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan	2
1.4 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment	3
1.5 Habitats Regulations Assessment	3
1.6 Structure of this Report	3
2 Sustainability Context	5
2.1 Baseline characteristics of Hinckley and Bosworth	5
2.2 Policies, plans and programmes	5
2.3 Keys sustainability challenges in Hinckley and Bosworth	8
3 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology	12
3.1 The Sustainability Appraisal process	12
3.2 Sustainability Appraisal Framework	19
3.3 Assessing impacts and impact significance of options, policies and sites	27
3.4 SEA topics methodologies and assumptions	29
3.5 Sustainability Appraisal details	38
4 SA Findings for the Plan Spatial Development Strategy	39
4.1 Introduction	39
4.2 Summary of Spatial Development Strategy policy assessment	41
4.3 Recommendations	42
4.4 Reasonable alternative principles	43
5 SA Findings for the Development Management Policies	45
5.1 Introduction	45
5.2 Development management policy assessment	45
5.3 Overview of development management policy assessment	47
5.4 Summary of development management policy assessment	50
5.5 Recommendations	51

6	Site Assessments	52
6.1	Introduction	52
6.2	Site assessment	52
6.3	Overview of site assessment	53
6.4	Summary of site allocations assessment	55
6.5	Recommendations	57
6.6	Reasonable alternatives	57
6.7	Overview of reasonable alternative site assessments	60
6.8	Summary of reasonable alternative site assessment	62
6.9	Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)	64
7	Monitoring and Next Steps	65
7.1	Monitoring and the predicted significant effects of the Plan	65
7.2	Consultation	68
7.3	Next steps	69
A	Appraisal of Spatial Development Strategy	A-70
B	Appraisal of Development Management Policies	B-2
C	Appraisal of Site Allocations and Reasonable Alternatives	C-3

List of Figures

Figure 1-1: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough boundary	2
Figure 3-1: Key stages of Plan preparation and how it links with the Sustainability Appraisal Process (DCLG, 2014)	17

List of Tables

Table 2-1: Summary of policy, plans and programmes review	5
Table 2-2: Key challenges facing the borough which influenced the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal	8
Table 3-1: Stages in the SA/SEA process as identified within Annex I of the SEA Directive	12
Table 3-2: Sustainability topics covered in the Sustainability Appraisal	13
Table 3-3: Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal process	15

Table 3-4: Summary of Local Plan development and SA stages, and the reasonable alternatives considered	18
Table 3-5: Sustainability Appraisal objectives, appraisal criteria and monitoring indicators for the Plan	21
Table 3-6: Impact sensitivity	27
Table 3-7: Impact magnitude	27
Table 3-8: Impact significance key	28
Table 4-1: Spatial Development Strategy policies	39
Table 4-2: Summary assessment of Spatial Development Strategy policies	40
Table 4-3: Assessment of alternative spatial strategy options	43
Table 5-1: Development management policies assessed as part of this SA assessment	45
Table 5-2: Impact matrix for development management policy assessment	47
Table 6-1: Preferred site allocations considered for development which have been assessed as part of this SA	52
Table 6-2: Impact matrix for development management policy assessment	54
Table 6-3: Reasonable alternative site references and addresses	58
Table 6-4: Impact matrix of the 61 reasonable alternative sites	60
Table 7-1: Monitoring indicators for the SA Framework	65

Abbreviations

ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Monitoring Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BMV	Best and Most Versatile land
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
DPD	Development Planning Document
FEMA	Functional Economic Market Area
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GI	Green Infrastructure
HBBC	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
HMA	Housing Market Area
LDS	Local Development Scheme
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LSOA	Lower Layer Super Output Area
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
NCN	National Cycle Networks
NHS	National Health Service
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PRoW	Public Right of Way
RTPI	Royal Town Planning Institute
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SHEELA	Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment
SLA	Special Landscape Areas

SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPZ	Source Protection Zone
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
WFD	Water Framework Directive

Definitions

Term	Definition
Agricultural Land Classifications	The Agricultural Land Classification is part of the planning system in England and Wales – it provides a method for classifying agricultural land in six categories, or “grades” according to versatility and suitability for growing crops.
Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)	Plans developed by organisations to protect and enhance the biodiversity of an area.
Brownfield land	Defined under 'previously developed land' in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), brownfield sites are land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. There are some exclusions to this definition such as mineral sites with restoration plans; recreational grounds and parks; land that was last occupied by forestry or agriculture; and where the structure has blended into the landscape.
Environment Agency	Non-departmental public body responsible for protecting and improving the environment.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	Gases in the atmosphere which trap heat and raise the surface temperature of the Earth. The main GHGs are Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂), Methane, Nitrous Oxide, water vapour, and man-made gases. Human activities are changing the Earth's natural greenhouse effect with a dramatic increase in the release of greenhouse gases. It is agreed by scientists that rising GHG emissions are the cause of global warming and climate change.
Green Infrastructure (and Blue Infrastructure which specifically relates to water)	A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which can deliver a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity (NPPF, 2024).
Indices of Multiple Deprivation	The Index of Multiple Deprivation measures relative deprivation in an area. It is a combined measure of deprivation based on 37 separate indices of deprivation, grouped into seven key domains reflecting different aspects of deprivation.

Term	Definition
Landscape Character Assessment	The process of identifying and describing variation in character of landscape in a certain area. The assessment identifies and explains the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive by mapping and describing character types and areas.
Local Nature Reserve	Statutory designation under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. These can be declared by Parish and Town Council, but these must be delegated to by principle local authority.
Nature Based Solution	The sustainable management of the environment using natural features and processes.
National Character Area	A natural subdivision of England based on a unique sense of place. The Character Area framework is used to describe and shape objectives for the countryside, its planning and management.
National Planning Policy Framework	The National Planning Policy Framework constitutes all policy statements and guidance documents into one document which forms a core part of the national planning system.
National Landscape	National Landscapes (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) were designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. They protect areas of the countryside of high scenic quality that cannot be selected for National Park status because of their lack of opportunities for outdoor recreation. Natural England is responsible for designating National Landscapes, advising the Government and others on how they should be protected and managed.
Office of National Statistics	The Office for National Statistics is the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority, a non-ministerial department which reports directly to the UK Parliament.
Planning Policy Guidance	Planning Policy Guidance Notes are statements of the Government's national policy and principles towards certain aspects of the town planning framework.
Public Right of Way	A public right of way is a right by which the public can always pass along routes over land.
Sustainability Appraisal	A process to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of a plan from the outset to support decision making that contributes to achieving sustainable development.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	SEA is a decision support process which aims to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan will help achieve relevant environmental and social objectives.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	A conservation designation legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These sites are selected for wildlife and natural features in England.

Term	Definition
Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)	SuDS are designed to manage stormwater, mimicking natural drainage and manage pollution risks resulting from runoff.
Water Framework Directive (WFD)	The Water Framework Directive is a European Union directive transposed into UK law through The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. It aims to prevent deterioration of the water environment and improve water quality.

Non-Technical Summary

This report presents the findings of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) carried out to support the preparation of the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Local Plan, which will guide future development across the borough up to 2045. The new Local Plan will shape where homes, jobs and infrastructure will be delivered over the coming decades.

A SA has been undertaken alongside the plan-making process to:

- Assess the likely impacts of the Plan on the environment, communities and the economy
- Identify ways to reduce negative effects and enhance positive outcomes
- Consider alternative options for growth and development
- Ensure the Plan complies with legal requirements for environmental assessment

The SA also incorporates the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), meaning it provides a comprehensive review of how the Plan may affect key environmental topics such as biodiversity, water, climate change and heritage.

Local context

Hinckley and Bosworth is a predominantly rural borough in Leicestershire, with a population of around 113,600 people. It includes a mix of urban areas (such as Hinckley), villages, farmland and environmentally sensitive landscapes. Its location between Leicester and Coventry, and its connections via the road network, make it attractive for growth but also place pressure on infrastructure and the natural environment.

Key Sustainability Issues

The appraisal identified a number of important challenges that the Local Plan needs to address. These include:

- **Environmental pressures**
 - Declining biodiversity and fragmented habitats
 - Poor water quality and flood risk in some areas
 - Loss of high-quality agricultural land
 - Climate change impacts, including increased flooding and emissions
 - Pressure on landscapes and heritage assets
- **Social challenges**
 - Need for more housing, including affordable homes
 - An ageing population and associated health needs
 - Pockets of deprivation and inequality
- **Economic and infrastructure issues**

- Reliance on car travel and pressure on road networks
- Limited public transport in rural areas
- Need to diversify the economy and support local employment

Methodology

The SA followed a structured process, assessing the Local Plan against a set of sustainability objectives covering topics, including biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic, material assets including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

The appraisal considered the overall spatial strategy, individual planning policies and specific allocated sites. Reasonable alternatives to each of the above were also considered and allowed different options to be compared and refined to improve sustainability outcomes.

Key Findings

The Local Plan performs well in delivering social and economic benefits, particularly in relation to housing, employment and infrastructure. However, as with most planning strategies, there are environmental trade-offs, especially where development takes place on undeveloped and greenfield land.

Spatial development strategy

The overall growth strategy is expected to:

Positive effects

- Deliver significant new housing, including affordable homes
- Support economic growth and job creation
- Improve access to services, green spaces and infrastructure
- Encourage healthier lifestyles and sustainable travel

Negative or mixed effects

- Loss of greenfield land and impacts on landscape character
- Pressure on biodiversity and habitats
- Increased traffic and potential impacts on air quality
- Uncertainty around flood risk and water management in some locations

In summary, the strategy achieves a reasonable balance between growth and sustainability, but requires careful mitigation to manage environmental impacts.

Development management policies

The detailed policies that guide planning decisions perform strongly overall. Most were assessed as having neutral or positive effects, particularly those focused on:

- Protecting biodiversity and green infrastructure
- Delivering sustainable drainage and reducing flood risk
- Promoting low-carbon development and renewable energy

- Supporting healthy communities and access to services

Only a small number of policies showed minor negative effects (for example where environmental requirements could add costs to development), and these are limited in scope.

Site allocations

The assessment of specific development sites shows a clear pattern:

Positive outcomes

- Strong delivery of housing requirements
- Good access to recreation, healthcare and green space
- Support for economic growth and employment

Negative outcomes

- Significant impacts on landscape, particularly for large sites
- Loss of agricultural land
- Increased greenhouse gas emissions from new development
- Increased waste generation
- Localised impacts on biodiversity and heritage

Overall, larger strategic sites provide greater community and infrastructure benefits, but also tend to have larger environmental impacts.

Alternatives considered

Different growth options were tested, including distributing development through villages, focusing on transport corridors, or creating a new settlement.

The appraisal found that:

- All options involve environmental impacts due to development
- Most options support housing and economic objectives
- No single option performs best overall
- Strategies based on existing urban areas or transport corridors tend to perform slightly better

Habitats Regulations Assessment

The accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessment concluded that the Local Plan is not expected to have adverse effects on internationally important nature conservation sites, provided that proposed mitigation measures within the policies (e.g. pollution control and sustainable drainage) are implemented.

Monitoring

The Council will monitor the effects of the Local Plan over time using indicators such as:

- Changes in biodiversity and landscape quality
- Air and water quality levels
- Housing delivery and affordability

- Access to services and infrastructure
- Carbon emissions and waste generation

The Local Plan and this Sustainability Appraisal will now be subject to public consultation before being submitted for independent examination.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Local Plan provides a strong framework for meeting the borough's future housing and economic needs, alongside improvements to infrastructure and community wellbeing. However, delivering this growth will inevitably place pressure on the environment.

The SA demonstrates that, with appropriate mitigation and careful implementation, the Plan can achieve a balanced approach - supporting growth while protecting and enhancing the borough's natural and built environment as far as possible.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) is currently preparing a new Local Plan for the borough. The Local Plan will set out the vision and objectives for the future form, scale and quality of development in the borough up to 2045. The plan is now in the pre-submission stage under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, and this latest version of the plan builds on previous consultations, reflecting the feedback received and incorporating new evidence gathered since those earlier stages.

To support the plan-making process, the Council is carrying out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which will consider the potential environmental and sustainability impacts of the Local Plan. In line with Government guidance, SA incorporates the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (commonly referred to as the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations') which implement the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. The Directive requires the formal assessment of plans and programmes that are likely to have significant effects (either positive or negative) on the environment.

1.2 The Plan area

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough is one of seven districts within Leicestershire, in the East Midlands. It shares boundaries with six local authorities: Rugby, North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth in the West Midlands, and Blaby, Charnwood and North West Leicestershire in Leicestershire. The borough is situated between two regional hubs, being 22km from Leicester and 24km from Coventry (see Figure 1-1). It has an area of 297km² and a population of 113,600 in 2021, which is an 8.1% increase since 2011 (ONS, 2024).

The borough extends from the rocky and steep slopes in Charnwood Borough in the north-east, across undulating arable farmland, characterised by the distinctive heritage-rich parkland of Market Bosworth. A network of tributaries of the River Sence and River Mease flow through a flat expanse of land in the south-west, which contrasts with the tributaries of the River Soar in the north-east, which flow through steeper valleys before again reaching flatter land towards the edge of the borough near Leicester. The main urban centre, Hinckley, is in the south, with Burbage, Earl Shilton and Barwell nearby, which together comprise the main urbanised areas, with numerous villages and hamlets scattered throughout the borough. Hinckley and Bosworth borough is well connected to most of the larger towns and cities in the Midlands via the regional road network. The M1 runs through the north-eastern part of the borough, connecting settlements such as Markfield and Groby to Loughborough, Derby and Nottingham to the north. The M69 runs through the southern edge of the borough, connecting the town of Hinckley to Coventry and Leicester. The A5 also forms the southern boundary of the borough, stretching from Luton to Cannock (north

of Birmingham). A single train station, at Hinckley, is in the borough, where Cross Country run hourly services to Birmingham New Street and Leicester.

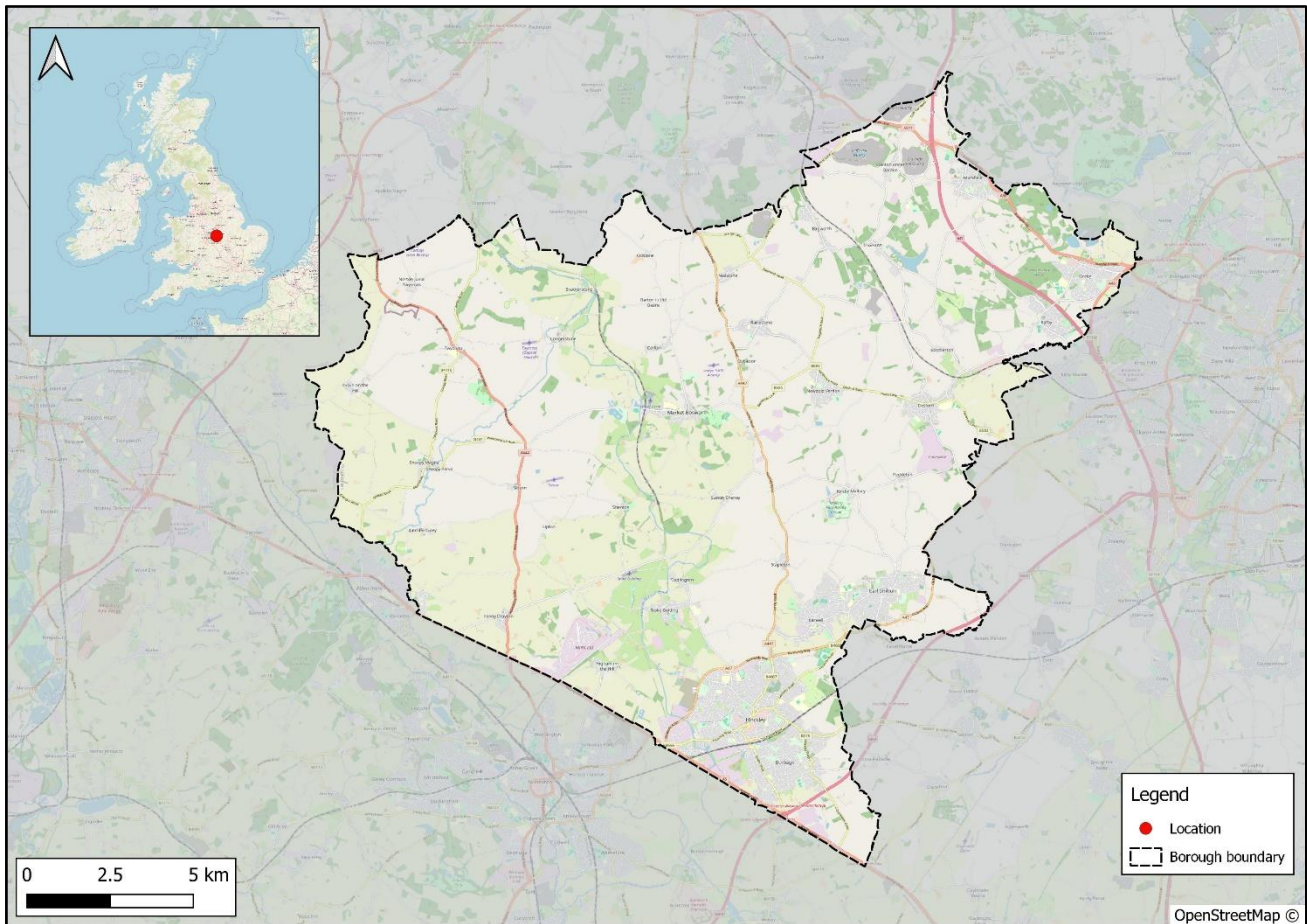


Figure 1-1: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough boundary

1.3 Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan

The current Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan (2006-2026) comprises the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD), adopted in December 2009, the Site Allocations & Development Management Policies DPD (2016), Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) DPD (2011), and Earl Shilton & Barwell AAP DPD (2014).

The Council published a new Local Development Scheme in March 2025 (HBBC, 2025), which sets out the plan documents that will be prepared and a timetable for their preparation. The new Local Plan will use the existing suite of adopted development plan documents as the starting point for developing the strategy and vision for Hinckley and Bosworth up to 2045.

The new Local Plan will set out the vision and objectives for the future form, scale and quality of development in the borough. It will identify land and areas for development for a broad range of uses and identify areas that should be conserved or enhanced and where future development should be carefully managed. In addition, it gives an overview of settlements in the borough and the aims for their growth and preservation, sets clear

policies that guide decisions on planning applications and indicates how the Plan will be delivered.

1.4 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended) (2004 SI 1633), known as the 'SEA Regulations'. These Regulations were originally transposed from the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC), prior to the UK's departure from the EU. Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 have modified several inspection requirements set out in the SEA Regulations that require responsible authorities to make physical copies of documents available for inspection at their principal office. This is particularly relevant to this stage of the Local Plan. Further details are described in Chapter 2.

The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process (as advocated in the National Planning Practice Guidance), whereby the requirements of the SEA Regulations can also be met through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken for the Local Plan. Therefore, the term 'SA' should be taken to mean 'SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations'.

1.5 Habitats Regulations Assessment

The European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) (known as 'the Habitats Directive'), as implemented through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017 (as amended) ('the Habitat Regulations'), requires a Local Planning Authority to carry out a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its Local Plan.

The purpose of the HRA is to establish whether the Local Plan will have an adverse impact on the integrity of sites designated for their nature conservation interest at an international level. These sites (known collectively as 'European Sites') include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA), and under the requirements of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025, also Ramsar sites.

The HRA work will be conducted alongside the SA process to ensure the two processes inform each other.

1.6 Structure of this Report

This SA is structured into the following sections:

- Chapter 2 presents the context for the SA and how sustainability objectives set by other policies, plans, and programmes, baseline information, and the key environmental, social, and economic issues facing Hinckley and Bosworth have been taken into account when preparing this SA.
- Chapter 3 summarises the methodology used to carry out the SA, including the 'SA Framework' (sustainability objectives and supporting assessment criteria) and site assessment criteria used to assess the Local Plan policies and site allocations, as well as any difficulties encountered in applying the methodology.
- Chapters 4 to 6 describe the results of the SA of each separate component of the Local Plan - the spatial options (Chapter 4), policies (Chapter 5), and site allocations taking into consideration mitigation measures (Chapter 6), including consideration of reasonable alternatives.
- Chapter 7 describes the sustainability effects of the Local Plan as a whole and cumulatively.
- Chapter 8 suggests a set of indicators that can be used to monitor the significant sustainability effects of implementing the Local Plan and sets out the next steps in the Local Plan and SA processes.

2 Sustainability Context

2.1 Baseline characteristics of Hinckley and Bosworth

A detailed review of the baseline characteristics of Hinckley and Bosworth was undertaken during the preparation of the SA Scoping Report. The Scoping Report describes the baseline context and identifies the key sustainability issues in the plan area which informs the preparation of the SA Framework. The Scoping Report also identifies other plans, projects and programmes, guidance and initiatives, which may influence the nature of change in the plan area (see Table 2-1).

Where information was available, significant sustainability issues were highlighted (listed in Table 2-2 below). These key sustainability issues were then used to set the overarching SA framework - the SA objectives and supporting assessment criteria against which the Local Plan objectives and policies have been assessed. The purpose of this was to ensure that the key sustainability issues were fully reflected in the assessment of the sustainability of the Local Plan, with the Plan's proposal assessed to determine whether they would positively or negatively affect these issues at a strategic level.

The SA Scoping Report, including the baseline characteristics, key sustainability issues and SA Framework was produced in October 2025, and was subject to stakeholder consultation.

2.2 Policies, plans and programmes

The key environmental, social and economic themes identified by this review, including relevant planning policies outlined within Government's planning policy for England (the National Planning Policy Framework, NPPF), are shown in Table 2-1 below. Full details of the documents and their relevance to the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan development and SA process is set out in Appendix B of the Scoping Report (JBA Consulting, 2025).

Table 2-1: Summary of policy, plans and programmes review

SA topic	Key themes
Environment	
Landscape character	Protection of sensitive landscape assets (including Special Landscape Areas (SLA) and National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, AONB); promotion of the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and amenity of important landscapes, including inland waters; definition and protection of regional and local landscape character; and the provision and enhancement of natural beauty and amenity of important landscapes, including inland waters; and the provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to benefit people and the environment.

SA topic	Key themes
Biodiversity and nature conservation	Protection of international and national designated sites and their qualifying features; preservation and enhancement of notable habitats and species, particularly those noted for their conservation value or under threat; protection and enhancement of valued sites of biodiversity and geodiversity value; identification of the roles and responsibilities of organisations including local authorities to protect and enhance biodiversity including the creation of local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and species and promotion of BAP species; provision of new/restored habitat to enable species to adapt to the future impacts of climate change; recognising the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services; and minimising impacts with provision of net gains through development.
Water environment	Promotion of the sustainable use of water resources to meet future growth in demand and impacts of climate change; better regulation and management of the water environment to benefit water resources and flood risk, and the reduction of water pollution; avoidance and redirection of inappropriate development in areas at medium and high risks of flooding; minimise risk to people and property and reduce the impacts of flooding where possible; and promotion of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
Land Use	Long term protection, improvement and sustainable management of soil quality and quantity, including the preservation of best and most versatile land (Grades 1, 2, and 3a); maximum use of brownfield land as is feasible; optimisation of land to meet housing need; consideration of suitability of ground conditions for development; and the management and remediation of contaminated land to reduce the risk to human health and the environment, particularly soils and water quality.
Historic environment	Protection and enhancement of nationally and locally important heritage assets and historic landscapes; better integration of heritage protection within the planning process; consideration of wider benefits of conservation of the historic environment; and provision of better access to heritage sites including their promotion as an economic asset.
Air quality	Protection of air quality through enhanced management of polluting emissions; prevention of new and existing development contributing to, being put at risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of air pollution; and implementation of relevant limit values for pollutants such as air quality management areas (AQMAs) and clean air zones.

SA topic	Key themes
Climate	Requirements to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions across all socio-economic sectors to limit the impacts of climate change on people and the environment; provision of measures to enable future adaptation to the impacts of climate change and increased resilience; proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change; and consideration of identification of suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources and supportive infrastructure where this would help secure their development.
Social	
Population and Human Health	Protection and improvement of human health, wellbeing and living standards; greater integration of socio-economic and environmental objectives to deliver sustainable development; promotion of prosperous, sustainable and coherent communities; provision of better public transport and access; reduction of flood risk; enhancement of/minimising loss of recreation and amenity resources to benefit health and wellbeing; protection and enhancement of public rights of way and access; identifying housing requirement; and development and provision of measures to enable adaptation to the impacts of climate change.
Economic	
Local economy	Encourage sustainable economic growth; maximise economic value and the benefits of innovation; encourage economic development through the delivery of sufficient land and tourism development; encourage enterprise, including the creation of new businesses and aiding the growth and development of small businesses; release local growth potential; enable sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas; development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based businesses; tackle worklessness and deprivation; promote links with neighbouring economies to allow the full potential of regional strengths to be recognised.
Material assets	Improvement and better management of material assets including highways and utilities infrastructure; encourage use of sustainable materials including secondary or recycled materials before extraction or primary materials; source materials indigenously; greater provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to delivery benefits to people and the environment; and provision of better public services to deliver socio-economic benefits.

SA topic	Key themes
Waste and Minerals	Improvement and better management of waste, including promotion of the waste hierarchy. Implementation of waste reduction schemes. Sustainable use of mineral resources and improvement in the effects on the environment of their extraction.

2.3 Keys sustainability challenges in Hinckley and Bosworth

Analysis of the baseline information has enabled several key sustainability challenges to be identified. A summary of these challenges as outlined during the SA scoping stage is provided in Table 2-2 below.

Table 2-2: Key challenges facing the borough which influenced the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal

Sustainability topic	Key sustainability issues
Environment	Landscape Continued afforestation within the north-west of the borough associated with the National Forest is likely to have a positive impact on landscape character. Some landscape character areas and historic parkland are in decline and require intervention to protect and improve the quality of their key characteristics. Potential development within rural areas may be detrimental to local landscape character and could place pressure on the borough's Green Wedges. Further intensification of agricultural practices could adversely affect rural landscape character. There is a potential for a reduction of tranquillity in certain areas of the borough where they are close to major transport routes or experience high visitor numbers. Climate change is likely to result in changes to the condition and character of the landscapes.
	Biodiversity, and nature conservation Relatively low proportion of the borough is protected for nature conservation, and nearly half of this area is in an unfavourable condition. Intensive farming practices and greenfield development are causing the separation and isolation of key habitats, presenting barriers to movement of key species. A reduction in wildlife corridors such as hedgerows may lead to further isolation of habitats and species. Pollution and physical modification are impacting the ecological value of important aquatic habitats within the borough. The borough supports a range of habitats and species of both local and national importance.
	Water Water quality in the borough is relatively poor and is

Sustainability topic		Key sustainability issues
	environment	failing to meet WFD objectives, with some water bodies declining in WFD status. Poor water quality is linked to nutrient input and physical modification of watercourses. Significant land and property within the borough are at a risk of flooding. Future development may cause increases in surface water run-off leading to flooding and pollution. Flooding may increase in the future with increased rainfall levels and intensity as a result of climate change. An increasing population and decreasing water availability could lead to a growing disparity between water demand and supply.
	Land	Agricultural practices have a significant influence on the natural environment and local landscape character; an increasing population and growing pressure on the rural economy could lead to further intensification of farming practices. The land is generally of high agricultural quality; this high quality needs to be maintained to avoid damage to the rural economy, environment and local landscape character. Urban land only covers a relatively small amount of land, but may expand as the population increases, placing nearby agricultural land under threat. The borough's industrial heritage and historic landfill sites could present contamination sources affecting future regeneration initiatives. The National Forest is changing both the landscape and the economy in the northeast of the borough.
	Historic environment	Several designated historical assets are listed on the Heritage at Risk Register. Future development in the borough may put pressure on the heritage value of settlements and Conservation Areas. Some statutory designated heritage assets throughout the borough are deteriorating. New development in the borough may encounter previously unknown archaeological features. Heritage assets within the borough are popular tourist destinations, and visitor numbers may need to be appropriately managed.

Sustainability topic		Key sustainability issues
	Air quality	As the larger roads in the borough get busier, air quality in the immediate area may deteriorate. This could adversely affect the health and wellbeing of local people. Industry is a significant polluter of the air in the borough, especially in certain hotspots. The borough has seen major developments in recent years, with many more in planning and development. These have the potential to adversely affect air quality.
	Climate	Climate change may have significant adverse impacts on public health, infrastructure, built heritage and natural environment within the borough. Increased flood risk from both the local river network and surface water runoff will adversely impact upon utility, residential, industrial and transport infrastructure, causing significant economic damages as well as social and public health implications. Species and habitat abundance and richness will become threatened. Climate change has the potential to adversely affect agricultural productivity, aquatic ecosystems and air quality as a result of increased soil erosion. Renewable energy generation within the borough is relatively limited. However, there is likely to be a growth in demand for renewable energy provision. There is potential for conflicts between renewable energy generation and other land uses. Energy demand and consumption is likely to rise due to increased population and development resulting from economic growth and increased mobility. The transport sector is likely to have an increasingly greater proportional input into greenhouse gas emissions in the borough.
Social	Population	The borough has a relatively small population of young people and a relatively large population over the age of 60. Ageing populations are associated with issues such as social isolation and can increase pressure on public services such as healthcare and transport. Housing supply is not keeping pace with demand and could cause a significant housing shortage in the near future.
	Human health	There are several key healthcare issues in the borough with a relatively high proportion of adults classified as obese and there remains a high proportion of smokers. There are deprivation hotspots in the borough, where the health of the local population is considerably worse than the average.

Sustainability topic		Key sustainability issues
Economic	Local economy	Whilst unemployment levels are relatively low, income and income growth is lower than the England national average. The high outward movement of workers to jobs outside the borough and places significant pressure on the borough's transport network. Over-reliance upon the strong local manufacturing industry means diversification of other economic sectors is a priority. Retail centres across the borough are generally performing well but are likely to face increasing competition from larger high-order retail destination outside of the borough in the future. Maintenance of local services and service centre vitality, particularly small rural centres, is a key objective. Regional proposals focusing investment on urban centres outside the borough may benefit the local economy and also increase economic competition.
	Material assets	The borough is relatively well connected to the country by road, but only has a single railway station. This contributes to a high percentage of car usage and significant congestion of the road network in several areas. In rural areas, the public transport services are relatively poor, which can contribute to social exclusion of the elderly and less able. As more people commute out of the borough to work, rural services are beginning to come under pressure. Maintenance of key services is needed to prevent greater social isolation. In some areas in the borough, formal green infrastructure is relatively sparse and poorly equipped.
	Waste and minerals	With increasing population, greater pressure will be placed on the borough's waste management facilities and landfill capacity. Recycling rates in the borough are relatively high and need to be maintained and improved to help mitigate future pressure on the borough's waste management facilities.

3 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

3.1 The Sustainability Appraisal process

Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process that aims to identify the significant environmental, social and economic effects of a plan. For the Local Plan, this involves assessing the spatial strategies, policies and site allocations, as well as any reasonable alternative spatial strategies, policies and site allocations considered by HBBC, to identify the extent to which sustainable development is likely to be achieved.

The SA has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations and follows good practice guidance produced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM, 2004), Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG, 2020), and Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI, 2018).

3.1.1 Meeting legal requirements

Sustainability Appraisal is a compulsory requirement for Local Plans under Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This has since been amended by the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 to ensure it functions effectively following the UK's exit from the European Union. Government guidance requires that SA incorporate the requirements of the SEA Regulations; in practice, SA and SEA follow similar methodologies and it is possible to combine them without losing the essence of either.

Annex I of the SEA Directive sets out the scope of information to be provided through the SA process and can still be used to set the framework for assessment despite the UK's exit from the EU. This is shown in Table 3-1 below, which also identifies where in the SA process each requirement will be met.

Table 3-1: Stages in the SA/SEA process as identified within Annex I of the SEA Directive

SEA Directive requirements	Location in the SA
(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	SA Scoping Report (JBA Consulting, 2025) (Chapter 3 and Appendix B)
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	SA Scoping Report (Chapter 4)
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	SA Scoping Report (Chapters 4 and 5)

SEA Directive requirements	Location in the SA
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	SA Scoping Report (Chapter 5)
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	SA Scoping Report (Chapter 6)
(f) likely significant effects on the environment – 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 these factors;	SA Environmental Report (Chapters 4-6 and Appendix A-C)
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan;	SA Environmental Report (Chapters 4-6 and Appendix A-C)
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	SA Environmental Report (Chapters 4-6 and Appendix A-C)
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10; and	SA Environmental Report (Chapter 7)
(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	SA Environmental Report - Non-technical summary

The full range of environmental receptors as detailed in the SEA Directive have been considered when developing the scope of the SA (see SA Scoping Report (JBA Consulting, 2025) for a full summary description of the scope of the SA).

The Directive states that an assessment should identify the potentially significant impacts on *'biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic, material assets including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors'* (see Table 3-2).

Table 3-2: Sustainability topics covered in the Sustainability Appraisal

SEA Directive and Sustainability guidance requirements	Where covered in the Scoping Report	Definition in relation to this report
Environmental		
Landscape	Landscape character	Local landscape character; protected and notable landscapes; key local landscape features.
Biodiversity (including flora and fauna)	Biodiversity and nature conservation	Designated nature conservation sites; protected and notable species and habitats; trends in conditions and status.
Water	Water environment	Chemical and biological water quality; surface and groundwater resources; water body hydro-morphology; flood risk.
Soil (including geology)	Land Use	Variety of rocks, minerals and landforms; the quantity and distribution of agricultural land including the highest quality soils; land contamination.
Cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)	Historic environment	Protected and notable heritage features; pressures on heritage features (including changes to setting).
Air	Air quality	Air quality issues
Climatic factors	Climate	Regional climate patterns; trends in greenhouse gas emissions and the sources of these emissions; mitigation measures and adaptation options to manage climate change.
Social		
Population	Population	Where people live and work; population trends and demographics; housing; education; inequality and deprivation; key community facilities; accessibility; crime.
Human Health	Human Health	Trends and patterns in human health; recreation opportunities.
Economic		
Economy	Local economy	Local economic and employment conditions

SEA Directive and Sustainability guidance requirements	Where covered in the Scoping Report	Definition in relation to this report
Material assets	Material assets	Critical transport and other infrastructure; community services; green infrastructure and open space.
Waste	Waste and minerals	Waste collection and recycling patterns.

3.1.2 Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal process

The ODPM guidance sets out a five-stage process (A to E) to be followed (see Table 3-3). This Environmental Report builds upon the Scoping Report (Stage A) and covers stages B and C of the process wherein the context and objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal are identified, and the scope of the assessment is determined.

Table 3-3: Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal process

SA stages and tasks	Purpose		Location in the SA
Stage A	Setting the context and SA objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.		SA Scoping Report
Stage B	Developing and refining options and assessing effects.		
	(B1) Test the plan proposals against the SA framework.	To identify potential synergies or inconsistencies between the objectives of the plan and the SA objectives and help in developing alternatives.	SA Environmental Report
	(B2) Develop the plan options including reasonable alternatives.	To develop and refine strategic alternatives.	SA Environmental Report
	(B3) Predict the effects of the options, including alternatives.	To predict the significant environmental effects of the plan proposals and alternatives.	SA Environmental Report
	(B4) Evaluate the likely effects of the plan proposals and alternatives.	To predict the effects of the plan proposals and reasonable alternatives and assist in the refinement of the plan.	SA Environmental Report

SA stages and tasks	Purpose		Location in the SA
	(B5) Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.	To ensure that adverse effects are identified, and potential mitigation measures are considered.	SA Environmental Report
	(B6) Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan.	To detail the means by which the environmental performance of the plan can be assessed.	SA Environmental Report
Stage C	Preparing the Environmental Report.		SA Environmental Report
Stage D	Consulting on the draft Plan and the Environmental Report.		SA Environmental Report (consultation to be undertaken)
Stage E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan.		SA Environmental Report and Adoption Statement (to be prepared at plan publication stage)

3.1.3 Relationship between the Plan Review and the Sustainability Appraisal

The relationship between the SA process in development of the Local Plan is summarised in Figure 3-1.

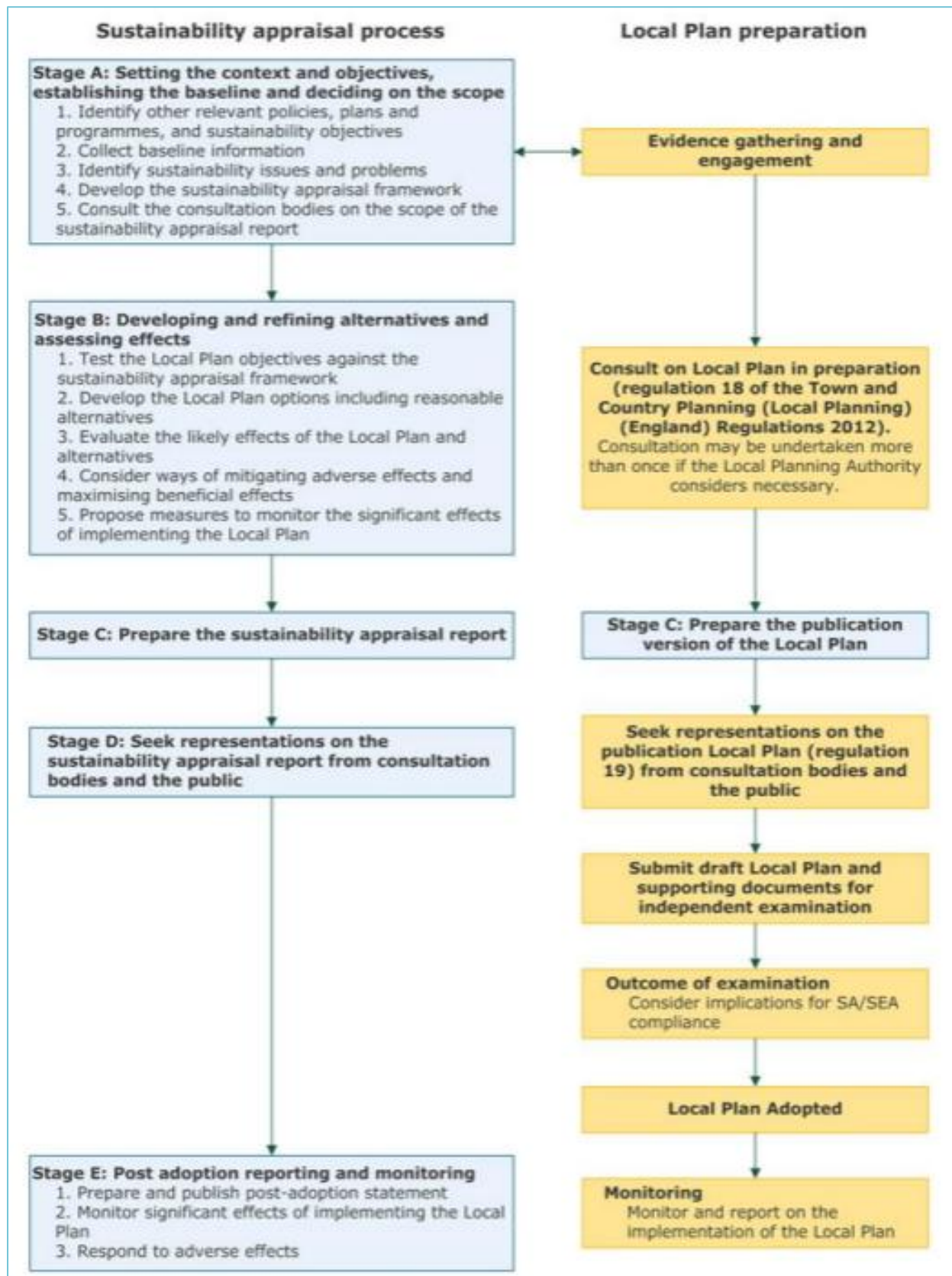


Figure 3-1: Key stages of Plan preparation and how it links with the Sustainability Appraisal Process (DCLG, 2014)

The HBBC Local Plan has been developed through ongoing engagement with the public, landowners and other key stakeholders such as parish councils, infrastructure providers, interest groups and the development industry. Throughout the process a number of stages have been completed and supporting SA documents produced which have been subject to stakeholder engagement, including public consultation.

A summary of how the Local Plan has emerged, and the stages of SA undertaken, is outlined in Table 3-4. This iterative plan development process has resulted in a number of reasonable alternatives being considered at various stages of the plan-making process, including for the spatial strategy, development policies and site allocations.

Table 3-4: Summary of Local Plan development and SA stages, and the reasonable alternatives considered

Date	Local Plan stage	Sustainability Appraisal Stage
September 2017	Scope, Issues and Options Consultation	Evidence Gathering: An SA Scoping Report was developed to review the key issues across the plan area in relation to social, economic and environmental factors. These issues then fed into the development of the SA Framework which set out criteria for the assessment of the sustainability performance of the plan options. This document was subject to consultation with the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency) for a five-week period alongside the scope, issues and options consultation document.
January – March 2018	Scope, Issues and Options Consultation	
January – March 2019	New Directions for Growth Consultation	No SA supporting documentation produced for this consultation.
September 2020	Scope, Issues and Options Consultation	Sustainability Appraisal: An SA Environmental Report was produced assessing various options for growth and development across the borough. The impacts on environmental, social and economic receptors were assessed through the SA Framework developed at the earlier scoping stage. This document was consulted on between November 2020 and January 2021. The assessment methodology developed was also consulted on.
June – August 2021	Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan Consultation	The previously produced Sustainability Appraisal was considered valid for this consultation.

Date	Local Plan stage	Sustainability Appraisal Stage
February – March 2022	Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Consultation	The previously produced Sustainability Appraisal was considered valid for this consultation.
June 2024	Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan	Evidence Gathering: The SA Scoping Report was updated to review the key issues across the plan area in relation to social, economic and environmental factors. These issues then fed into the development of the SA Framework which set out 14 criteria for the assessment of the sustainability performance of the plan options. This document was subject to consultation with the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency) for a five-week period between July and August 2024. Comments received were reviewed and the scope of the assessment revised accordingly
2025	Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan Consultation	Evidence Gathering: The SA Scoping Report was again updated to review reflect evolving policy guidance and any further consultation comments.

3.2 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The SA framework is used to identify and evaluate the potential sustainability effects associated with the implementation of the Plan. Developed at the SA scoping stage (see SA Scoping Report (JBA Consulting, 2025) for further details on the development of the SA framework), the SA Framework is comprised of SA Objectives, decision-making criteria, and monitoring indicators. Acting as yardsticks of sustainability performance, the SA Objectives are designed to represent the topics identified in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations. Including the SEA topics in the SA Objectives helps to ensure that all environmental criteria of the SEA Regulations are represented. Consequently, the SA Objectives reflect all subject areas to ensure that the assessment process is transparent, robust, and thorough.

It is important to note that the order of SA Objectives in the SA Framework does not infer prioritisation. The SA Objectives are at a strategic level and can potentially be open-ended. To focus each objective, decision making criteria are presented in the SA Framework to be used during the appraisal of reasonable alternatives.

The SA framework is used to identify and evaluate the potential environmental issues associated with the implementation of the Local Plan. The list below summarises the purposes and requirements of SA objectives, sub-objectives, and criteria:

- **Objective:** Provide a benchmark 'intention' against which environmental effects of the plan can be tested. They need to be fit for purpose.
- **Sub-objective:** Aid the assessment of impact significance. Provide a means of ensuring that key environmental issues are considered by the assessment process.
- **Potential criteria:** Provide a means of measuring the progress towards achieving the environmental objectives over time. They need to be measurable and relevant and ideally rely on existing monitoring networks.

3.2.1 Sustainability Appraisal objectives and appraisal criteria

Sustainability Appraisal objectives and appraisal criteria have been developed for each of the sustainability receptors (see Table 3-5). The spatial strategy, proposed policies and site allocations have been assessed directly against these SA objectives to determine whether they have the potential to contribute towards or conflict with the achievement of each objective.

The SA objectives and appraisal questions were informed and developed through the baseline appraisal undertaken during the scoping process and the key environmental protection and sustainability themes identified by the plans, programmes, and policies review. These objectives were revised in response to comments received during the consultation phases on the SA Scoping Reports and previously produced Environmental Reports (see Table 3-4), and considering additional baseline information and the evolving policy context. Key changes in the SA Framework over the development of the HBBC plan include:

- Increasing the prominence of the impact of climate change in the appraisal criteria and monitoring objectives.
- Ensuring specific targets in monitoring objectives relate to current guidance/policy.
- Including reference to Green Infrastructure monitoring objective in relation to material assets.

Table 3-5: Sustainability Appraisal objectives, appraisal criteria and monitoring indicators for the Plan

SA receptor	SA objective		Appraisal criteria	Indicators
Landscape	1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	• Protect and enhance landscape character areas in accordance with management objectives. • Minimise impacts of development on rural landscape and development within Green Wedges. • Protect and enhance areas of tranquillity. • Manage and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on landscape character.	• Change in quality of landscape character and condition. • The condition and quality of new characteristics introduced to the environment. • Percentage of open countryside/Green Wedge. • Change in areas designated for their landscape value.
Biodiversity and nature conservation	2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	• Protect and enhance designated sites. • Protect and enhance priority habitats and species. • Avoid habitat fragmentation and increase connectivity of habitats. • Deliver schemes that promote habitat and species resilience and adaptability to the effects of climate change.	• Condition of designated sites. • Planning/applications refused/granted in designated sites, green wedges and wildlife corridors. • Percentage of land designated as nature conservation sites as a result of Local Plan policies. • Completed development that has resulted in the loss or creation/restoration of priority habitats.
Water environment	3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's	• Contribute to the achievement of WFD objectives. • Minimise pollution and modification to watercourses.	• Percentage of water bodies achieving 'Good' status. • Number of schemes contributing to the achievement of WFD objectives.

SA receptor	SA objective		Appraisal criteria	Indicators
		surface and groundwaters.	• Encourage sustainable and efficient management of water resources. • Protect and improve drinking water quality.	• Number of pollution incidents.
	4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	• Prevent development that is inappropriate to the Flood Zone. • All new development takes account of the latest published Climate Change allowances. • Promote and increase the use of natural flood management that result in better run-off rates.	• Number of developments accompanied by a Surface Water Management Plans. • Number of flood defence schemes planned/approved. • Planning/applications refused/granted due to flood risk concerns.
Land	5	Protect the borough's land quality and soil resources	• Reduce soil erosion and protect and enhance soil quality and quantity. • Minimise the loss of Grade 2 and Grade 3 ALC land. • Promote the use of brownfield land for development where possible. • Increase the remediation and regeneration of contaminated land.	• Area of ALC grade 2 and grade 3 land in the borough. • Planning applications approved/rejected close to and inside of Green Wedge land. • Number of land remediation schemes.
Air quality	6	Protect local air quality.	• Maintain and improve local air quality. • Reduce the impacts on air quality from transport. • Mitigate against the uses that generate NO₂ or other particulates.	• Rate of transport modal shift across Borough. • Exceedances of air quality objectives. • Nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulate emissions. • Population living in AQMAs.

SA receptor	SA objective		Appraisal criteria	Indicators
Climate	7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	- Promote measures that minimise greenhouse gas emissions, domestic, industrial and transport emissions. - Promote the development of renewable energy generation. - Minimise the likely impacts of climate change through promotion of appropriate adaptation measures in new development. - Promote measures to reduce the need to travel by car.	- Greenhouse gas emissions. - New development achieving 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' BREEAM or EcoHomes rating. - Proportion of total electricity consumption from renewable sources. - Energy and water use per household. - Condition of designated sites. - Waste to landfill, recycling and composting rates. - Peak traffic flows. % change in number of people using public transport.
Historic environment	8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	- Conserve and enhance designated heritage features. - Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of Conservation Areas and settlements. - Promote high-quality design that is sympathetic to the historical setting. - Manage the risk of encountering unknown archaeology.	- Planning permissions granted/refused that affect the setting of a designated heritage asset. - Loss or damage of heritage assets. - Number of heritage assets on the Heritage at Risk register. - Number of locally listed heritage assets at risk. - Number of planning applications where archaeological investigations were required prior to planning approval.
Population	9	Reduce social	Increase community cohesion.	Local measures of deprivation

SA receptor	SA objective		Appraisal criteria	Indicators
		deprivation	• Increase employment in deprivation hotspots. • Decrease levels of crime and the fear of crime. • Improve educational attainment rates.	• Differences in health of a population between Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOAs) • Crime rates. • % of 16 year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grade 4-9.
	10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	• Increase access to high quality healthcare facilities. • Promote active and healthy lifestyles. • Promote recreational and leisure opportunities and access to open space. • Increase regular participation in physical activities and sport.	• Life expectancy rates. • Death rates for cancer, circulatory disease, accidents and suicides. • All-age all-cause mortality rate. • Obesity levels. • Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing.
	11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	• Reduce homelessness. • Provide a supply of affordable houses that keeps pace with rising demand. • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet the needs of the community.	• Number of houses, and housing developments. • Rates of housing demand. • Homelessness rates. • Numbers of individuals living in temporary or sheltered accommodation.

SA receptor	SA objective		Appraisal criteria	Indicators
Local economy	12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	- Promote retention of existing jobs and create new employment opportunities. - Increase diversity in the range of job opportunities. - Ensure an adequate supply of a range of sites in terms of types and quality for employment uses. - Improve access to opportunities for education, learning and skills training for all sectors of the community. - Support the creation of flexible jobs to meet the changing needs of the population.	- Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development. - New business registration rates. - Employment rates. - Proportion of economically active people unemployed. - Average earnings. - Percentage of population that have attained a qualification of NVQ2 and above. - Proportion of 18-24 year olds enrolled in training, full time education or employment. % of 16 year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grade 4-9. - No. of residents attending university. - Business surveys of staff/skills shortages.
Material assets	13	Increase access to public services in the borough.	- Improve access to local facilities, including healthcare and schools. - Improve public transport services in the rural areas of the Borough. - Enhance formal green space and green infrastructure assets. - Maintain and enhance local services in rural areas.	- Number of people who have adequate access to public services. - Frequency of bus journeys through rural areas. - Hectarage of formal green space. - Counts of business and services in rural areas.

SA receptor	SA objective		Appraisal criteria	Indicators
				• Number of Green Infrastructure (GI) assets and their location in the borough. • Reduction in areas experiencing high deprivation and limited access to open space in the borough.
Mineral resources and waste	14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the borough.	• Reduce waste and increase re-use, recycling and energy produced of waste. • Improve on the proportion of waste that is sent for recycling. • Reduce volume of waste created per household.	• Waste to landfill, recycling and composting rates. • Volume of waste created per household.

3.3 Assessing impacts and impact significance of options, policies and sites

The unmitigated impacts of the HBBC Local Plan spatial strategy, proposed policies and site allocations have been identified through analysis of the baseline conditions, key sustainability issues and use of professional judgement to identify a potential significance of effect.

Significance of effect is a combination of sensitivity and impact magnitude. Sensitivity can be expressed in relative terms, based on the principle that the more sensitive the resource, the greater the magnitude of the change, and as compared with the do-nothing comparison, the greater will be the significance of effect.

3.3.1 Sensitivity

Receptor sensitivity has been measured through consideration of how the receiving environment may be affected by a plan. This includes assessment of the value and vulnerability of the receiving environment, whether environmental quality standards will be exceeded, and for example, if impacts will affect designated areas or landscapes. A guide to the range of scales used in determining sensitivity is presented in Table 3-6. For most receptors, sensitivity increases with geographic scale.

Table 3-6: Impact sensitivity

Scale	Typical criteria
International / national	Designations that have an international aspect or consideration of transboundary effects beyond national boundaries. This applies to effects and designations/receptors that have a national or international dimension.
Regional	This includes the regional and sub-regional scale, including county-wide level and regional areas.
Local	This is the district and neighbourhood scale.

3.3.2 Impact magnitude

Impact magnitude relates to the degree of change the receptor will experience, including the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact. Impact magnitude has been determined based on the susceptibility of a receptor to the type of change (see Table 3-7).

Table 3-7: Impact magnitude

Impact magnitude	Typical criteria
High	• Likely total loss of or major alteration to the receptor in question; • Provision of a new receptor/feature; or • The impact is permanent and frequent.

Impact magnitude	Typical criteria
Medium	Partial loss/alteration/improvement to one or more key features; or the impact is one of the following: • Frequent and short-term; • Frequent and reversible; • Long-term (and frequent) and reversible; • Long-term and occasional; or • Permanent and occasional.
Low	Minor loss/alteration/improvement to one or more key features of the receptor; or the impact is one of the following: • Reversible and short-term; • Reversible and occasional; or • Short-term and occasional.

3.3.3 Significant effects

The significance of effects upon each of the SA objectives will then be evaluated and used to inform option selection. The significance of effects will be scored using the seven-point scale summarised in Table 3-8. If there is high uncertainty regarding the likelihood and potential significance of an impact (either positive or negative), it will be scored as uncertain.

Table 3-8: Impact significance key

Impact significance	Impact symbol
Significant positive impact on the SA objective.	++
Minor positive impact on the SA objective.	+
Neutral impact on the SA objective.	O
Minor negative impact on the SA objective.	-
Significant negative impact on the SA objective.	--
Positive and negative impacts on the SA objective.	+ / -
Impact on the SA objective cannot be predicted.	?

The spatial options have been evaluated in light of their potential cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on the SA objectives. The assessment of these effects has been informed by the baseline data collected at the scoping stage, professional judgement, and experience with other SEAs/SAs, as well as an assessment of national, regional, and local trends.

When selecting a single value to best represent the sustainability performance, and to understand the significance of effects of a spatial option in terms of the relevant SA Objective, the modal score has been taken. Where there is not a clear modal score, a

precautionary principle has been used. This is a worst-case scenario approach. For example, if a positive effect is identified in relation to one criterion within the SA Framework and a negative effect is identified in relation to another criterion within the same SA Objective, the overall impact has been assigned as negative for that objective. It is therefore essential to appreciate that the impacts are indicative summaries, and that the accompanying assessment text provides a fuller explanation of the sustainability performance of the option. If there is high uncertainty regarding the likelihood and potential significance of an impact (either positive or negative), it will be scored as uncertain.

Within the reasonable alternative site assessments, presented in Appendix C, the likely sustainability impacts are presented per 'receptor' within each SA Objective, offering further granularity in the presentation of effects.

The assessment considers, on a strategic basis, the degree to which a location can accommodate change without adverse effects on valued or important receptors (identified in the baseline). The level of effect has been categorised as minor or major. Table 3-9 sets out the significance matrix and explains the terms used. The nature of the significant effect can be either positive or negative depending on the type of development and the design and mitigation measures proposed.

Each reasonable alternative option that has been identified in this report has been assessed for its likely significant impact against each SA Objective in the SA Framework, as per Table 3-8.

3.4 SEA topics methodologies and assumptions

Several topic specific methodologies and assumptions have been applied to the appraisal process for specific SA Objectives.

The following should be kept in mind when considering the assessment findings.

3.4.1 SA Objective 1: Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place

Specific impacts on landscape receptors will be largely determined by both the specific site conditions such as topography, and the specific design and layout and design. This assessment is desk-based only and has not been verified on site. For the purposes of this assessment, masterplans have been reviewed (where available) to inform the assessment of impacts on landscape receptors to get a general understanding of site layout.

For the purposes of the site assessment, the risk of negative impacts has been assessed based on the proximity of the proposed development sites to sensitive landscape receptors. The significance of the impact has been assessed based on the nature and value of the landscape receptor in question. Therefore, the locations of sites have been considered in relation to existing urban boundaries and Tree Preservation Orders, Country Parks and specific sensitivities identified in the Local Landscape Character Assessment (LUC, 2017).

Development proposals which coincide with footpaths, bridleways, or National Cycle Networks (NCN) may adversely alter views experienced by their users. This would be expected to have a minor negative impact on the landscape objective.

Where a development proposal would not be anticipated to impact a designated or local landscape, a negligible impact would be expected for this objective.

Views

Development proposals which may alter views of a predominantly rural or countryside landscape experienced by users of the footpaths, bridleways, or NCNs would be expected to have a minor negative impact on the landscape objective.

To consider potential visual effects of development, it has been assumed that the proposals would broadly reflect the character of nearby development of the same type. Potential views from residential properties are identified through reference to aerial mapping and the use of Google Maps.

It is anticipated that HBBC will require developers to undertake Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs) to accompany any future proposals, where appropriate. The LVIAs should seek to provide greater detail in relation to the landscape character of the site and its surroundings, the views available towards the site, the character of those views and the sensitivity and value of the relevant landscape and visual receptors.

3.4.2 SA Objective 2: Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species

The biodiversity objective considers adverse impacts of the proposed site on a network of designated and un-designated sites. Receptors include the following:

- Designated sites:
 - Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - National Nature Reserves (NNR)
 - Local Nature Sites (LNR)
- Priority habitats
- Ancient Woodland

The impact of construction and operation of development on priority habitats has been considered utilising Natural England's publicly available Priority Habitat Inventory database. Therefore, this may not accurately represent the on-site conditions for all sites assessed, or some Priority Habitats may not be considered. In absence of more detailed information, this assessment is largely based on the proximity of a site to the identified priority habitat.

Where a proposed allocation is adjacent to or within close proximity of an ecological receptor a negative effect is predicted (100m for national or regional receptors and 500m for European sites). These impacts may be direct or indirect in nature and may be limited to

the construction phase of the project and hence temporary, or related to the operational phase of the development.

Potential effects during construction on ecological receptors could include habitat degradation due to temporary disturbance from noise, air, water or light pollution. During operation, impacts on ecological receptors may result from long-term increases in traffic congestion, public disturbance, or worsening air quality.

Where proposed sites are outside of the buffer distance to designated ecological receptors, but are hydrologically connected to the site within 1km, a minor adverse effect has been assessed.

A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been undertaken alongside the SA to consider potential effects on European sites located within 15km of the borough, including:

- River Mease SAC
- Ensor's Pool SAC

3.4.3 SA Objective 3: Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters

Groundwater

Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) indicate the risk to groundwater supplies from potentially polluting activities and accidental releases of pollutants. As such, any site that is located within a groundwater SPZ could potentially have an adverse impact on groundwater quality. Development proposals located within the total catchment (Zone III), or outer zone (Zone II) of an SPZ would be likely to have a minor negative impact on groundwater quality.

Within the inner zone (Zone I) of an SPZ, the Environment Agency will normally object in principle to any planning application for a development that may physically disturb an aquifer. Therefore, a site which is located within the inner zone (Zone I) of an SPZ would likely have a major adverse effect on groundwater quality.

Development proposals located within the total catchment (Zone III) or outer zone (Zone II) would be likely to have a minor negative impact on groundwater quality.

At this stage in the Plan-making process, there are masterplans available for some of the proposed site allocations. However, the specific construction methodology has not been reviewed as this is not available for all sites. As a result, a precautionary approach has been undertaken whereby if any of the site is within the thresholds outlined above, an adverse score has been assigned.

Watercourses

Construction activities in or near watercourses have the potential to cause pollution, impact upon the bed, and riparian zone of watercourses and impact on the quality of the water. An approximate 10m buffer zone from a watercourse should be used in which no works, clearance, storage, or run-off should be permitted. However, it is considered that

development further away than this has the potential to lead to adverse impacts such as those resulting from runoff. In this assessment, a 10m buffer zone was deemed appropriate to identify minor adverse effects on water quality.

In relation to Water Framework Directive (WFD) water bodies, it is considered that development further away has the potential to lead to adverse effects such as the removal of riparian habitat, or pollution from surface water runoff. Therefore, in this assessment sites which are located within 200m of a WFD water body could have potentially minor negative impact on water quality.

Where sites are located both within 10m of watercourses, and 200m of a WFD water body there is potential for a major adverse impact on water quality within the borough.

3.4.4 SA Objective 4: Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk

Flooding from rivers

The level of fluvial flood risk present across the Plan area is based on the Environment Agency's flood risk data (EA, 2024), such that:

- Flood Zone 3: 1% or greater chance of flooding each year;
- Flood Zone 2: Between 0.1% - 1% chance of flooding each year; and
- Flood Zone 1: Less than 0.1% chance of flooding each year.

Where development proposals coincide with Flood Zone 2, a minor negative impact would be expected. Where development proposals coincide with Flood Zone 3 (either Flood Zone 3a or 3b), a major negative impact would be expected.

Where development proposals are located within Flood Zone 1, a neutral impact would be expected for this objective.

Surface water flooding

According to Environment Agency (EA, 2021), areas determined to be at high risk of pluvial flooding have more than a 3.3% chance of flooding each year, medium risk between 1% and 3.3%, and low risk between 0.1% and 1% chance. Areas determined to be at very low risk of flooding (less than 0.1% chance) would be expected to result in a neutral impact on pluvial flooding for the purposes of this assessment.

Development proposals located in areas at low risk, which do not exceed 25% of the total site area are considered to have a neutral effect on the achievement of this objective.

Allocations located in areas of medium and high risk of surface water flooding would be expected to have a minor negative impact on surface water flood risk.

Proposals located within areas of high risk of surface water flooding which exceed 25% of the total site area, can be expected to have a major negative impact on surface water flooding. pluvial flooding for the purposes of this assessment.

Exact proposed site layouts are not known for all sites and reasonable alternative at this stage; therefore a precautionary approach has been taken whereby if any part of the site is within the threshold outlined above, an adverse score has been assigned.

Where proposed sites are located outside of all flood zones, and are not located within an area of surface water flood risk, a minor positive impact is expected on this objective.

3.4.5 SA Objective 5: Protect the borough's land quality and soil resources

Brownfield or previously developed land

The NPPF promotes the effective use of land, and encourages as much use as possible of previously-developed 'brownfield' land. Therefore, proposed sites which are located wholly or partially within identified brownfield land are expected to have a positive impact on this objective.

Proposed sites which are located within previously un-developed land, or greenfield land are expected to have a negative impact on this objective as defined by the NPPF as a less effective use of land.

Agricultural land

Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) provisional data outlines the agricultural potential of land, categorising it into five grades. The Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land is defined as Grade 1 (excellent quality agricultural land), with Grade 2 (very good quality), and 3 (specifically subgrade 3a). Where proposed sites coincide with BMV land a minor negative score on land quality and soil resources is expected. As there is no spatial data relating to subtype Grade 3a, for the purposes of this assessment we have applied the precautionary principle and have assumed the presence of subtype 3a where Grade 3 is present.

Where proposals result in the loss of 20ha or more, Natural England must be consulted to consider the impact on BMV land. Therefore, proposed sites which meet this threshold are likely to have a major negative impact on land quality and soil resources.

Historic Landfill Sites and Permitted Waste Sites

Historic Landfill Sites and Permitted Waste Sites identify land which has either been historically utilised for, or is currently utilised for waste disposal. Broadly as a land use these areas typically experience pollution, and therefore may be used as an indicator or poor land quality.

As a result, where proposals are located within or immediately adjacent to (10m) historic or current waste sites, a minor adverse effect will be assessed against SA Objective 5.

3.4.6 SA Objective 6: Protect local air quality

It is assumed that development proposals located near main roads would expose site end users to transport associated noise and air pollution. In line with the relevant guidance, it is assumed that receptors would be most vulnerable to these impacts located within 200m of

a main road (DMRB, 2007). Negative impacts on site end users would be anticipated where residents would be exposed to air pollution. For the purposes of this assessment, main roads were identified using the Major Road Network dataset published by the Department for Transport (2021).

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) are areas where the national air quality objectives will not be met. Development proposals located within 200m of a main road or AQMA would be expected to have a minor negative impact on site end users' exposure to air pollution.

Development proposals located over 200m from a main road and AQMA would be expected to have a minor positive impact on site end users' exposure to air pollution.

3.4.7 SA Objective 7: Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Development proposals which would be likely to increase greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the local area would make it more difficult for HBBC to reduce the Plan area's contribution towards the causes of climate change. This includes developments which increase housing numbers or non-residential developments which could increase GHGs within the Plan area.

Energy consumption

At this stage of the plan-making process, there are only high level estimates for the potential number of dwellings delivered by each of the sites. In 2023, CO₂ emissions per capita in Hinckley and Bosworth were 5.7 tonnes, and the borough wide total was 656.8 kt of CO₂. Office for National Statistic (ONS) 2024 estimates the average UK household size was 2.4 residents per household. Based on this information, allocated sites which may contribute to the Borough's carbon emissions by 1% or more compared the 2017 estimate in the UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emission statistics can be expected to have a major adverse effect on SA Objective 7. Sites which contribute an additional 0.5% to the 2017 estimate, are expected to have a minor adverse effects.

Where development proposals deliver the provision of renewable energy generation, such as solar panels, or means of sustainable travel a minor positive impact has been assessed.

3.4.8 SA Objective 8: Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings

The historic environment objective considers adverse impacts of proposed development on both designated sites. Receptors include the following:

- Listed Buildings
- Scheduled Monuments
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Conservation Areas
- Heritage at Risk Register

Where a site coincides with or is in close proximity (within 10m) to a heritage receptor, direct impacts may occur due to the direct loss of the asset or loss of its immediate setting. As a result, a major adverse effect would be expected for this objective.

Where a proposed site is located within 300m to a heritage receptor, minor adverse effects are anticipated including adverse impacts on the existing setting of the asset and the character of the local area, as well as adverse impacts on views of, or from, the asset.

Where development proposals are not located in close proximity to any heritage asset or the nature of development is determined not to affect the setting or character of the nearby heritage asset, a neutral impact on this objective is anticipated.

Heritage assets identified on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register may be identified as being at risk for a number of reasons, for example, due to dilapidation of the building fabric or other sources of risk such as flood risk. Where Heritage at Risk assets could potentially be impacted by the proposed development at a site, this has been stated.

3.4.9 SA Objective 9: Reduce social deprivation

Development proposals which would result in the increased employment in areas of deprivation, increase community services or would introduce access to further education and skills in the area would be expected to result in a positive impact for this objective, through helping to address inequality and promote inclusive communities.

3.4.10 SA Objective 10: Promote a healthy and active lifestyle

Healthcare

In order to facilitate healthy and active lifestyles for existing and new residents, it is expected that the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan would seek to ensure that residents have access to NHS hospitals, GP surgeries, leisure centres and a diverse range of accessible natural habitats and the surrounding Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. Adverse impacts are anticipated where the proposed development would not be expected to facilitate active and healthy lifestyles for current or future residents.

For the purposes of this assessment, accessibility to a hospital has been taken as proximity to an NHS hospital. Distances of sites to other NHS facilities (e.g. community hospitals and treatment centres) or private hospitals has not been taken into consideration in this assessment. There is one hospital within the borough, Hinckley and Market Bosworth Community Hospital.

Development proposals located within 5km of one of these hospitals would be expected to have a minor positive impact on site end users' access to emergency health services. Development proposals located over 5km from these hospitals would be likely to have a minor negative impact on site end users' access to emergency health care.

Access to leisure centres can provide local residents with opportunities to facilitate healthy lifestyles through exercise. By siting residential developments near open greenspace and outdoor play spaces, a number of mental and physical benefits can result.

Development proposals located within 800m of a leisure centre or greenspace, would be expected to have a minor positive impact on promoting on healthy and active lifestyles. Proposals which are located within 800m of either a leisure centre or greenspace and are located within the target distance to an NHS hospital are expected to have a major positive impact.

3.4.11 SA Objective 11: Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply

HBBC has prepared evidence documents in relation to establishing housing needs over the Plan period. This includes a Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) (HBBC, 2022), as well as a Site Selection Process. Options are assessed for the extent to which they will help to meet the diverse needs of current and future residents of the Plan area. HBBC has engaged proactively with neighbouring authorities and relevant stakeholders throughout the plan-making process, and has Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs), joint evidence base work and ongoing partnership arrangements across Leicester and Leicestershire. A Statement of Common Ground relating to housing distribution following NPPF and the new standard method of December 2024 was published by the Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority in December 2025. This was an agreed approach between the constituent authorities of the broad distribution of need for housing and outlines total housing need and houses per year for each Local Planning Authority.

Development proposals which would result in an increase of 99 dwellings or less would be likely to have a minor positive impact on the local housing provision. Development proposals which would result in an increase of 100 dwellings or more would be likely to have a major positive impact on the local housing provision.

Unless otherwise stated, it is assumed development options will provide a good mix of housing type and tenure opportunities.

Development proposals which would be expected to result in a net loss of housing across the Plan area would be expected to have an adverse impact on HBBC's ability to meet the required housing demand.

Development proposals which would result in the loss of nine dwellings or less would be likely to have a minor negative impact on local housing provision. Development proposals which would result in the loss of ten dwellings or more would be likely to have a major negative impact on the local housing provision.

Development proposals which would result in no net change in dwellings would be expected to have a negligible impact on the local housing provision.

Development proposals that seek to meet the housing needs for the whole community, including older people, Gypsy and Traveller communities, and those which would increase the supply of affordable homes, would be likely to have a positive impact on this SA Objective.

3.4.12 SA Objective 12: Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability

Employment Opportunities

New residents should be situated within 5km of employment areas to ensure they have access to a range of employment opportunities capable of meeting their needs.

Development proposals which locate new residents within the target distance of a key employment area would be expected to have a minor positive impact for this objective.

Development proposals which locate new residents outside the target distance to a key employment area would be expected to have a minor negative impact for this objective.

Employment Floorspace

Development proposals which could result in a net increase in employment and / or retail floorspace would be expected to have a major positive impact on this objective.

Development proposals which could result in a net decrease in employment floorspace would be expected to have a minor negative impact on this objective.

3.4.13 SA Objective 13: Increase access to public services in the borough

It is assumed that new residents in the Plan area will require access to primary and secondary education services to help facilitate good levels of education, skills, and qualifications of residents

Where development is proposed within 800m of existing community facilities including education providers, a minor positive score is achieved against this objective. Where proposals are located within 800m from a train station, a minor positive score is achieved against this objective.

Proposals located within 800m of community facilities and the train station, a major positive score is achieved against this objective.

Under circumstances where proposals are located outside of the buffer distance for community facilities and train stations, a minor adverse effect is achieved.

Where proposals are located outside of buffer distances and located within Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) of the most 30% deprived for geographical barriers, a major adverse impact is expected for this objective.

3.4.14 SA Objective 14: Ensure sustainable management of waste in the borough

Household Waste

For this assessment, it is assumed that new residents in HBBC will have an annual waste production of 972kg per household, in line with the UK average in 2020. Between 2019 and 2020, the total waste collected by HBBC was 46,551 tonnes (Leicestershire Waste Strategy, 2022).

A minor negative impact would be expected for development proposals which would be likely to increase household waste generation by between 0.1% and 0.99% in comparison to 2020 levels. A major negative impact would be expected for development proposals which would be likely to increase household waste generation by 1% or more in comparison to 2021 levels. For developments which will result in less than 0.1% increase in waste production, a neutral impact will be achieved.

3.4.15 Limitations and difficulties encountered

Sustainability Appraisal is an important and valuable exercise in identifying and balancing potential environmental and socio-economic effects against each other. However, it does not represent the entire analysis required to determine the acceptability of a plan objective or policy and even where one policy scores positively in terms of sustainability, it may not be appropriate for other reasons.

SA is a desk-based exercise carried out to report the generic potential sustainability effects of implementing the plan. SA is a strategic level assessment and therefore does not contain as much detail as site specific Environmental Impact Assessment that might accompany a specific development proposal to support a planning application.

One factor which is not reflected in the SA scoring is the likelihood of implementation. Some of these options have much less certainty of delivery than others. The feasibility and likelihood of delivery has been looked at through other assessments, including the site assessment. SA is a useful tool used in raising awareness of potential effects to inform the content of the Plan.

Interpretation of some spatial objectives and spatial strategy options was required to enable the appraisal to be completed. Any assumptions made in this interpretation are described above or in the individual appraisal tables. Where required, clarification was sought from HBBC on the scope of individual objectives and options.

Inevitably, a degree of professional judgement has been required in undertaking the policy appraisals to determine the 'significance' of effects based on the based on baseline data available and likely evolution of the baseline.

3.5 Sustainability Appraisal details

The SA process was undertaken between April and July 2026.

Completion of the SA is the responsibility of HBBC. The Council appointed a team of consultants from JBA Consulting to prepare the SA on its behalf, and the consultant team worked closely with the Planning Team at the Council to complete the work.

4 SA Findings for the Plan Spatial Development Strategy

4.1 Introduction

The Development Strategy sets out the overarching spatial approach for how growth and development will be delivered and managed across the Plan area over the plan period. It establishes the principles of sustainable development and defines the settlement hierarchy, identifying the role and function of different places in accommodating growth.

The Spatial Development Strategy includes policies guiding the selection and distribution of development sites, the delineation of settlement boundaries and the safeguarding of land for future development potential. It allocates sites for housing and employment uses to meet identified needs, while also setting out provisions for development in the countryside. However, it should be noted the SA of the individual site allocations is detailed in Chapter 6.

The spatial Development Strategy also includes mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the Local Plan to ensure its continued effectiveness. Collectively, the strategy policies for each tier of the hierarchy provide a clear framework for directing development to appropriate locations, supporting sustainable patterns of growth and protecting the character and function of rural and urban areas.

The Spatial Development Strategy for the borough is set out in Policies PS01 to PS24. As detailed in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1: Spatial Development Strategy policies

Policy number	Policy name
PS01	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development
PS02	Hinckley Western Link Road
PS03	Nuneaton Parkway
PS04	Delivering Sustainable Growth
PS05	Housing Development Sites
PS06	Strategic Site: Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)
PS07	Strategic Site: Barwell Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)
PS08	Strategic Site: Lindley Meadows, Land North of Watling Street, A5
PS09	Strategic site: Land North of Normandy Way, 'Hinckley North', Hinckley
PS10	Strategic Site: Land West of Hollycroft Grange, Hinckley
PS11	Strategic site: South of the A47, Earl Shilton
PS12	Strategic Site: Land South of Desford, Desford
PS13	Employment Development Sites

Policy number	Policy name
PS14	Strategic B8 Employment Site: HIN004 Land at Wapping and Harrow Farm, Watling Street, Hinckley
PS15	Strategic B8 Employment Site BURB001 Land South of Soar Brook, Burbage
PS16	Strategic B8 Employment Site BURB002 Land East of Hinckley Park, Burbage
PS17	Strategic B8 Employment Site MARK004 Land at Cliffe Hill Farm, (Junction 22 M1) Markfield
PS18	Circumstances for an early review of the Local Plan
PS19	Strategy for the Urban Areas
PS20	Strategy for the Key Rural Centres
PS21	Strategy for the Rural Villages
PS22	Strategy for the Rural Hamlets
PS23	Development in the Countryside
PS24	Small-scale Residential Development Immediately Adjacent to the Settlement Boundary

A summary of the assessment scores and findings for these Spatial Development Strategy policies is provided in Table 4-2. The full assessment narrative is provided in Appendix A.

Table 4-2: Summary assessment of Spatial Development Strategy policies

Policy Number	1 Landscape	2 Biodiversity	3 Water quality & quantity	4 Flood risk	5 Land quality & soils	6 Air quality	7 Climate	8 Historic environment	9 Social deprivation	10 Healthy & active lifestyle	11 Housing supply & access	12 Economy & Employability	13 Public services access	14 Waste
PS01	+	+	O	O	O	O	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	O
PS02	-	-	-	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O
PS03	-	-	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	O	O	+	++	O
PS04	-	O	O	O	+	O	+	O	O	+	++	++	+	O

Policy Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Landscape	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land quality & soils	Air quality	Climate	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply & access	Economy & Employability	Public services access	Waste
PS05	+/-	-	O	-	-	O	O	O	O	O	++	O	+	O
PS06	-	O	O	O	-	O	O	O	+	+	++	++	++	O
PS07	O	O	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	++	+	++	++	O
PS08	+/-	+	O	O	-	O	O	+	+	+	++	O	++	O
PS09	+	+	O	O	-	O	O	O	+	+	+	O	+	O
PS10	-	+	O	O	-	O	O	+	+	++	++	O	++	O
PS11	+/-	++	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	++	++	+	+	O
PS12	+/-	+	O	+	O	O	+	O	+	++	++	O	++	+
PS13	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	++	O	O
PS14	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	-	-	+/-	O	+	O	O	++	O	O
PS15	+/-	+/-	O	+	-	-	+/-	+	+	O	O	++	O	O
PS16	+/-	+/-	O	+	-	-	+/-	O	+	O	O	++	O	O
PS17	-	-	O	+	O	-	+/-	O	O	O	O	+	O	O
PS18	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	+	O	O	O
PS19	+	+	O	O	O	-	O	O	+	+	+	+	+	O
PS20	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	+	+	O
PS21	-	-	O	-	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	+	+	O
PS22	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O
PS23	+/-	-	O	O	O	+/-	+/-	O	O	+	+	+	+	+
PS24	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	+	O	O	O	O

4.2 Summary of Spatial Development Strategy policy assessment

From a review of the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Spatial Development Strategy policies, strong positive outcomes are anticipated in relation to SA Objectives relating to housing delivery and affordability, economy and employment, access to services and infrastructure, healthy and active lifestyles and climate change. The Spatial Development Strategy drives development across the borough through its proposal for large-scale strategic allocations for both residential and employment land, delivering a strongly positive

outcome for SA Objectives 11 and 12. Strategic masterplanning also helps to deliver public services and infrastructure across these strategic sites, resulting in a strong positive outcome for SA Objective 13. An emphasis on provision of green infrastructure, open space, active travel and sustainable transport provides positive outcomes for health and welfare of the local community and climate change mitigation (SA objectives 7, 9 and 10).

However, some negative impacts were highlighted through the assessment. In relation to landscape, frequent minor to significant negative effects were highlighted in association with unmitigated development of greenfield sites or in rural edges (SA Objective 1). Mixed effects were also highlighted in relation to biodiversity, again through unmitigated development of greenfield sites (SA Objective 2). The focus on urban centres for development does, however, reduce this negative impact slightly. In order to offset these potential negative impacts appropriate mitigation will need to be included as part of site design, for example to buffer to sensitive habitats and to preserve important sight lines and green spaces.

Development of Grade 2-3 agricultural land also resulted in negative impacts for some strategic sites in relation to SA Objective 5). In relation to flood risk, the development of large sites with increased impermeable surfaces was assessed as potentially resulting in minor negative impacts (SA objective 4), with uncertainty also arising over what flood mitigation requirements would be necessary at later stages of delivery. Increased traffic growth and strategic road infrastructure could also result in negative impacts in relation to air quality (SA Objective 6).

Overall, the assessment of the spatial development strategy shows a clear balance between economic/social benefits, and impacts on environmental receptors.

4.3 Recommendations

Overarching recommendations to help improve the sustainability performance of the HBBC Local Plan Spatial Development Strategy policies are as follows:

- Where negative effects have been assessed, in particular in relation to landscape and biodiversity SA Objectives, it will be necessary to ensure that appropriate mitigation is included to offset negative impacts as far as possible. This could include strengthening policy wording to consider additional provisions to mitigate adverse effects. This could include placing specific requirements for relevant development proposals for strategic sites.
- In the instances where uncertain effects have been reported, or where both positive and negative impacts may occur, further work could be done to strengthen the policy to clarify effects. Where possible these effects should be more clearly identified and understood in further stages of the Plan making process.

4.4 Reasonable alternative principles

The SEA Regulations require HBBC to identify '*reasonable alternatives for all policies and proposals, where feasible*'. Alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. Alternatives to the overarching spatial Development Management strategy were identified through consideration of different spatial strategy options considered at earlier stages of the plan-making process. Six spatial strategy options were considered at early stages of the plan-making process, which were:

- **Option 1:** Neighbourhood Development Plan led spatial distribution – parish councils work with HBBC to guide local development through Neighbourhood Development Plans.
- **Option 2:** Core Strategy approach – continue with current strategy with no new Local Plan developed.
- **Option 3:** Key transport and accessibility corridors – focus growth around key transport corridors.
- **Option 4:** Garden village/new town – build a new, self-sufficient community with a minimum of 1,500 homes and other facilities including a primary school, shops, public house, and health facilities.
- **Option 5:** Proportionate growth of key rural centre – distribute development amongst key rural centres of a pro-rata basis, as well as sustainable development of urban areas.
- **Option 6:** A mix of the above options.

A summary of the assessment scores and findings for these alternative spatial strategy options are provided in Table 4-3. The full assessment narrative is provided in SA Appendix A. To identify the best performing option, no attempt should be made to sum the different SA 'scores' across each SA Objective since they are intrinsically different and not directly comparable. For the purposes of the summary tables presented, a modal score has been recorded.

Table 4-3: Assessment of alternative spatial strategy options

Alternative Considered	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Landscape	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land quality & soils	Air quality	Climate	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply & access	Economy & Employability	Public services access	Waste
Option 1	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+/-	-
Option 2	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	+	+	+	++	+	+	-
Option 3	+	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	+	+	+	++	++	+	-

Alternative Considered	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Landscape	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land quality & soils	Air quality	Climate	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply & access	Economy & Employability	Public services access	Waste
Option 1	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+/-	-
Option 4	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	+	+	++	++	+	-
Option 5	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	+	+	++	+	+	-
Option 6	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	+	+	+	++	+	+	-

The appraisal of the alternative spatial strategy options identified a range of potential impacts, which are summarised as follows:

- All alternative spatial strategy options are likely to have a negative impact, sometimes significant, on several of the SA objectives; most notably in relation to biodiversity, water resources/quality, soil resources, air quality and climate change. These impacts are associated with loss of land for development, the effects of construction, population increase and increasing demand for resources, and lasting impacts once new development is in use i.e., further environmental disturbance, emissions and energy use. In addition, all strategy options are likely to have a negative effect in relation to waste management as significant new development could place additional pressures on existing waste management facilities.
- Conversely, the alternative spatial strategy options generally support the SA social and economic objectives, particularly those relating to the provision of housing, reducing social deprivation, and promotion of a sustainable and diverse economy. Positive outcomes may also be realised in relation to the protection of landscape character and heritage assets due to a potential to promote development in areas such as brownfield sites, and a focus on high-quality sustainable design (as required by the NPPF).
- No one single spatial strategy approach is considered to have clearly better outcomes. However, spatial strategy options 2 (Core Strategy approach) and 3 (Key transport corridors) may present slightly lower risks in relation to the SA environmental objectives and have slightly greater benefits in relation to the SA social and economic objectives. Conversely, spatial strategy option 4 (Garden village/new town) is considered to have the potential for a range of significant negative effects in relation to several of the SA environmental objectives, and also a minor negative landscape impact that is neutral for other options.

5 SA Findings for the Development Management Policies

5.1 Introduction

Table 5-1 lists the 54 HBBC development management policies. The sustainability performance of these policies is set out in Appendix B.

5.2 Development management policy assessment

Table 5-1: Development management policies assessed as part of this SA assessment

Policy number	Policy name
Chapter 7: Healthy Place-Making and High Quality Design	
HPD01	High Quality Design and Design Code Requirements
HPD02	Design Principles
HPD03	Enabling Active Design and Sustainable Travel Choice
HPD04	Preventing Pollution
HPD05	Health and Wellbeing
HPD06	Hot Food Takeaways and Fast-Food Outlets
HPD07	Waste, Recycling and Refuse: Storage, Access and Collection
Chapter 8: Delivering Housing and Housing to meet different needs	
HH01	Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
HH02	Affordable Housing
HH03	Housing Mix, Size and Type
HH04	Space Standards
HH05	Housing Density
HH06	Accessible Housing
HH07	Redundant Rural Buildings
HH08	Self-Build and Custom Housing
HH09	Rural Needs Housing
Chapter 9: Infrastructure, Transport, Highways and Utilities	
IU01	Infrastructure and Delivery
IU02	Water Supply and Wastewater Management
IU03	Telecommunications Infrastructure

Policy number	Policy name
IU04	Highways and Transportation
IU05	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
Chapter 10: Natural Environment	
NE01	Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity
NE02	Enhancing Biodiversity and Habitat Connectivity
NE03	Blue Infrastructure
NE04	Landscape Character and Sensitivity
NE05	Green Wedges
NE06	National Forest and Charnwood Forest
NE07	Trees, Hedgerows & Woodlands
NE08	Local Green Space
NE09	Soils and Best & Most Versatile Agricultural Land
NE10	Blue Infrastructure
Chapter 11: Heritage and Conservation	
HC01	Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment
HC02	Heritage Assets
HC03	Preserving the Boroughs Archaeology
Chapter 12: Energy, Resources & Resilience	
ER01	Net Zero Carbon: New Residential Development
ER02	Net Zero Carbon: New Non-Residential Development
ER03	Overheating in new buildings
ER04	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation
ER05	Embodied Carbon and Waste
ER06	Flood Risk
ER07	Sustainable Drainage Systems
Chapter 13: Economic Prosperity	
EP01	Existing Employment Areas
EP02	New Employment Development on non-allocated sites
EP03	Education and Skills for a Strong Local Workforce
EP04	Growing and Diversifying the Rural Economy

Policy number	Policy name
EP05	MIRA Technology Park: Employment and Enterprise Zone Development
Chapter 14: Supporting Our Communities & Towns	
CT01	Hinckley Town Censoatre
CT02	Vitalising Borough, Local and Neighbourhood Centres
CT03	Sequential and Impact Tests
CT04	High Quality Shop Fronts and Advertisements
Chapter 15: Leisure, Sport and Tourism	
LST01	Community, Cultural and Tourism Facilities
LST02	Twycross Zoo Special Policy Area
LST03	Open Space Provision
LST04	Sport and Recreation Facilities: Outdoor and Indoor Provision

5.3 Overview of development management policy assessment

The impact matrices for all development management policy assessments are presented in Table 5-2 below. These impacts should be read in conjunction with the assessment text narratives in Appendix B, as well as the topic specific methodology and assumptions presented in section 3.4.

Table 5-2: Impact matrix for development management policy assessment

Alternative Considered	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Landscape	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land quality & soils	Air quality	Climate	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply & access	Economy & Employability	Public services access	Waste
Chapter 7: Healthy Place-Making and High Quality Design														
HPD01	+	+	O	+	O	O	+	O	+	+	O	O	O	O
HPD02	+	+	O	+	O	O	+	O	+	+	O	O	O	O
HPD03	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	O	+	O	O	+	O
HPD04	+	+	+	O	+	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	O	O

Alternative Considered	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Landscape	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land quality & soils	Air quality	Climate	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply & access	Economy & Employability	Public services access	Waste
HPD05	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	++	+	O	+	O
HPD06	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	+/-	O	O
HPD07	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	O	O	+	+
Chapter 8: Delivering Housing and Housing to meet different needs														
HH01	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	+	O	O	+
HH02	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	++	O	+	+	O	O
HH03	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	+	O	O	O
HH04	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	+	O	O
HH05	+/-	+/-	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	+	+	+	+
HH06	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	+	+	++	O
HH07	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O
HH08	O	O	O	+	O	O	+	O	+	O	+	+	O	O
HH09	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	++	O	++	++	O	O
Chapter 9: Infrastructure, Transport, Highways and Utilities														
IU01	O	+/-	+	+	O	O	O	O	++	++	O	O	++	+
IU02	O	O	++	O	O	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
IU03	?	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O
IU04	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	+	O	O	O	++	O
IU05	O	O	O	O	O	++	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Chapter 10: Natural Environment														
NE01	+	++	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
NE02	+	++	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	+	-	O	+	O
NE03	+	+	O	+	O	+	+	+	O	+	O	O	+	O
NE04	+	++	++	++	O	O	+	+	O	+	O	O	+	O
NE05	++	+	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	O
NE06	++	++	O	O	+	+	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	O
NE07	++	++	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

Alternative Considered	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Landscape	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land quality & soils	Air quality	Climate	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply & access	Economy & Employability	Public services access	Waste
NE08	O	++	O	O	O	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
NE09	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	++	O
NE10	+	+	O	+	++	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Chapter 11: Heritage and Conservation														
HC01	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	++	O	O	O	O	O	O
HC02	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	+/-	O	O	O	O	O	O
HC03	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O
Chapter 12: Energy, Resources & Resilience														
ER01	O	O	O	O	O	++	++	O	+	O	O	O	O	O
ER02	O	O	O	O	O	++	++	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
ER03	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	O
ER04	+/-	O	O	O	O	++	++	O	O	+	O	O	+	O
ER05	O	O	O	O	O	O	++	O	O	O	+	+	O	++
ER06	+ / -	+ / -	++	++	O	O	++	O	O	O	+	O	O	O
ER07	++	++	++	++	+	O	++	+	O	++	O	O	O	O
Chapter 13: Economic Prosperity														
EP01	+/-	+/-	O	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	++	O	O
EP02	+/-	+/-	O	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	++	O	O
EP03	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	++	+	O
EP04	+/-	-	O	O	O	O	+/-	O	O	O	O	+	O	O
EP05	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	++	O	O
Chapter 14: Supporting Our Communities & Towns														
CT01	+	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	+	+	O	++	+	O
CT02	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	+	+	O
CT03	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	+	+	O
CT04	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	++	O	O	O	+	O	O
Chapter 15: Leisure, Sport and Tourism														

Alternative Considered	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Landscape	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land quality & soils	Air quality	Climate	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply & access	Economy & Employability	Public services access	Waste
LST01	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	++	0
LST02	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
LST03	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	0
LST04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	0

5.4 Summary of development management policy assessment

As a whole, there have been a limited number of adverse effects identified in the development management policy assessment. The vast majority of impacts identified are either neutral or positive, with a small number of mixed or uncertain effects. A consistent, strong positive outcome was identified for policies promoting environmental enhancement and climate resilience (SA Objectives 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7), for example through protecting biodiversity (policies NE01, NE02 and NE08), promoting blue/green infrastructure and SuDS (policies NE03, NE04 and ER07) and net zero and energy policies (ER01, ER02 and ER04).

Major positive impacts were also identified in relation to healthy and active lifestyles (SA Objective 11) through promotion of active open space and sports provision (HPD03, LST03 and LST04) and through undertaking Health Impact Assessments as part of developments (HPD05 and HPD06). Positive effects are also identified for reducing social deprivation (SA Objective 9) and access to public services (SA Objective 13), with affordable housing promoted by policies HH02, HH03 and HH09, and infrastructure and service provision promoted through policies IU01 and LST01. Strong positive impacts are also associated with SA Objective 12 relating to employment and employability, particularly through policies HH09, EP01, EP02, EP03, EP05 and CT01.

Across the policy assessment, there were only two policies which were assessed as having adverse impacts in relation to one SA objective:

- NE02 Enhancing Biodiversity and Habitat Connectivity – in relation to SA Objective 11 (Housing affordability and supply) a minor negative impact was identified as it was considered that the drive to deliver BNG as part of developments could become costly and discourage development, thereby impacting on affordable housing supply.

- EP04 Growing and Diversifying the Rural Economy – in relation to SA Objective 2 (Biodiversity) a minor negative impact was identified as the policy supports new rural development, and where this occurs on greenfield land it could lead to habitat fragmentation or habitat loss.

Mixed outcomes were determined for some policies, particularly in relation to landscape and biodiversity objectives (SA Objectives 1 and 2), particularly in relation to development of rural areas and where infrastructure and renewable energy development impacts on landscapes.

It is important to consider the likely mitigating effects of national legislation and consenting regimes. The policies within this assessment have been assessed individually, supplementary policies which may also interact with that policy in relation to development management have not been assessed in-combination.

5.5 Recommendations

Overarching recommendations to help improve the sustainability performance of the HBBC Local Plan policies are as follows:

- In the instances where uncertain or mixed effects have been reported, further work could be done to strengthen the policy to clarify effects. Where possible these effects should be more clearly identified and understood in further stages of the Plan making process.

6 Site Assessments

6.1 Introduction

Table 6-1 lists the 30 preferred site allocations that are being considered for development as part of the HBBC Local Plan. The sustainability performance of these policies is set out in Appendix C.

6.2 Site assessment

Table 6-1: Preferred site allocations considered for development which have been assessed as part of this SA

Site reference	Name of site
Preferred Regulation 19 allocation	
AS1029, AS1031 A, AS1031 B, LPR199	Land North of Normandy Way, 'Hinckley North'
LPR138	Land at Brick Kiln Street (the former Cadent site)
LPR31	Land West of Hollycroft Grange
LPR22	Land at Wapping and Harrow Farm, Watling Street (A5)
AS58	Barwell Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)
LPR44	Land adjoining Hinckley Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW), Brookfield Road
AS237	Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)
LPR216 and LPR200	Land South of Thurlaston Lane and East of the A47 and Land South East of the A47
AS455 (phase 2)	Land North of Barton Road, Barlestone
LPR107	Land South of Markfield Road, Ratby
LPR139	Land South of Station Road (Phase 2), Market Bosworth
LPR70	Land East of Ratby Lane and South of Jacqueline Road, Markfield
LPR94	Land South of London Road (Site A), Markfield
LPR95	Land at Cliffe Hill Farm (Junction 22), Markfield
LPR235	New Settlement: Land at Lindley Meadows
LPR185	Land South of New Barn Farm, Kirkby Road, Barwell
LPR259	Land East of Hinckley Park, Burbage
LPR16 A	Land South of Soar Brook, Burbage

Site reference	Name of site
LPR241	Land at Start Farm, Burbage
LPR221	Land West of Station Road, Bagworth
LPR86	Land off Barns Way and North of Leicester Lane, Desford
LPR151 A	Land South of Desford, Desford
LPR207	Land North West of Old Farm Lane and South of Bosworth Lane, Newbold Verdon
LPR190	Land South of Arnolds Crescent, Newbold Verdon
LPR146 A & B	Land South of Sacheverell Way, Groby
LPR134 A	Land North of Glenfield, Groby (Parcel A)
LPR94 B	Land South of London Road and West of Ratby Lane (Site B), Markfield
LPR181	Land Between the A5 and Northwood Farm, Wood Lane, Higham on the Hill
AS33	Land off Warwick Close, St Peters Drive and Sharp's Close, Thornton
LPR243	Land at Wiggs Farm, Wood Lane/Station Road, Bagworth

6.3 Overview of site assessment

The impact matrices for the site allocation assessments are presented in

Table 6-2 below. These impacts should be read in conjunction with the assessment text narratives in Appendix C, as well as the topic specific methodology and assumptions presented in section 3.4.

Table 6-2: Impact matrix for development management policy assessment

Site Reference	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Landscape	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land quality & soils	Air quality	Climate	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply & access	Economy & Employability	Public services access	Waste
AS1029, AS1031 A, AS1031 B, LPR199	--	O	O	-	-	-	--	-	O	++	++	+	+	--
LPR138	+	O	O	-	?	+	O	-	O	++	++	--	++	-
LPR31	-	-	-	-	-	+	--	--	O	++	++	+	--	?
LPR22	-	--	-	--	?	-	?	-	O	++	O	++	--	?
AS58	--	-	-	--	-	-	--	-	++	++	++	+	+	--
LPR44	+	--	--	--	?	+	?	-	O	++	O	++	-	?
AS237	--	O	--	-	?	-	--	-	O	++	++	++	+	--
LPR216 and LPR200	-	--	--	--	?	-	--	-	++	++	++	+	-	--
AS455 (phase 2)	-	O	O	-	?	-	O	O	?	+	++	+	+	-
LPR107	-	O	O	-	?	+	--	--	++	+	++	+	+	--
LPR139	-	-	O	-	-	+	O	-	O	+	++	+	++	-
LPR70	--	O	O	-	--	-	O	O	O	+	++	+	+	-
LPR94 A	--	O	O	+	--	-	O	O	O	+	++	+	+	-
LPR95	-	O	O	-	?	-	?	O	O	++	O	++	-	?
LPR235 A	--	--	-	-	?	-	--	-	+	++	++	+	-	--
LPR185	-	O	O	+	?	+	O	O	+	++	+	+	-	-
LPR259	-	--	-	--	?	+	?	-	O	+	O	++	-	?
LPR16 A	-	-	--	--	?	+	?	--	++	-	O	++	-	?

Site Reference	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Landscape	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land quality & soils	Air quality	Climate	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply & access	Economy & Employability	Public services access	Waste
LPR241	-	-	O	-	?	--	?	O	O	+	O	++	-	?
LPR221	-	O	O	-	-	+	O	O	O	++	+	+	--	O
LPR86	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	-	O	+	+	+	+	-
LPR151 A	--	-	O	-	?	+	--	-	++	+	++	+	+	--
LPR207	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	-	++	+	++	+	+	-
LPR190	-	O	--	-	?	+	O	-	O	+	++	+	+	-
LPR146 A & B	--	O	-	-	?	+	O	O	O	+	++	+	+	-
LPR134 A	-	O	O	-	?	-	?	O	O	+	O	++	+	?
LPR94 B	-	O	O	-	-	+	O	O	++	+	+	+	+	-
LPR181	-	-	O	-	-	+	O	-	O	+	+	+/-	+	-
AS33	-	O	-	O	?	+	O	-	O	+	+	+	+	-
LPR243	-	O	O	+	?	+	?	O	O	+	O	++	--	?

6.4 Summary of site allocations assessment

In summary, the following conclusions can be drawn in relation to the preferred sites assessment for each individual SA Objective:

- **SA Objective 1 – Landscape** – There is a strong negative overall trend as most preferred sites are outside settlement boundaries, often on greenfield land. The larger sites and strategic sites are generally assessed as having the greatest landscape impact. The smaller edge-of-settlement sites typically show minor adverse effects.
- **SA Objective 2 – Biodiversity** – There is a mixed result in relation to the biodiversity SA objective, with sites generally scored neutral. However, where priority habitats such as woodlands or grazing marshes occur there are consistently negative scores.

- **SA Objective 3 – Water quality and Quantity** – The majority of sites were assessed as having a neutral outcome, particularly where no SPZs or WFD water bodies were present. Where these receptors are present, significant potential negative impacts were identified.
- **SA Objective 4 – Flood Risk** – in relation to this objective there was a general minor adverse trend observed, with widespread surface water issues identified, but these generally applied to less than 25% of the site area. Major adverse impacts were only identified where there is extensive flood risk coverage.
- **SA Objective 5 – Land Quality and Soils** – This receptor generally had an uncertain impact, however, potential adverse impacts may occur where Grade 3 agricultural land would be lost as a result of the development.
- **SA Objective 6 – Air Quality** – This objective resulted in a mixed, but generally positive outcome. The more urban or previously developed sites often resulted in positive or neutral impacts, however, sites near major roads shows minor negative effects.
- **SA Objective 7 – Climate** – The assessment in relation to this objective showed a strong negative trend, with larger sites contributing significantly to borough-wide emission increases. This correlation with site size meant that the smaller sites were often scored neutral.
- **SA Objective 8 – Historic Environment** – The assessment in relation to this objective resulted in generally minor adverse impacts, with occasional major adverse impacts where sites fell in a conservation area.
- **SA Objective 9 – Social Deprivation** – This assessment returned mixed results, but for those sites where Masterplans were available the scoring generally improved. Major positive impacts were identified for the large sites which provided on-site infrastructure. Where no facilities were proposed neutral impacts are likely to occur.
- **SA Objective 10 – Healthy and Active Lifestyles** – The assessment resulted in a strong positive response across nearly all sites, due to their consistency with access to greenspace, footpaths and healthcare facilities. Many sites had a strongly positive result.
- **SA Objective 11 – Housing Supply and Access** – This objective also resulted in a strong positive result, with the larger allocations in particular delivering major positive effects.
- **SA Objective 12 – Economy and Employability** – This objective returned a mixed, but generally positive result. Employment allocations clearly delivered major positive impacts, and many housing allocations returned minor positive impacts due to their proximity to employment sites.
- **SA Objective 13 – Public Service Access** – This assessment returned mixed results, generally with urban sites returning a major positive impact, and those on the periphery of urban areas, or in rural sites, returning negative results due to access constraints.

- **SA Objective 14 – Waste** – This objective returned consistently negative results, directly proportional to the housing numbers to be delivered, with larger sites therefore returning major adverse impacts.

When reviewing the sustainability impact of the preferred site allocations in the HBBC Local Plan as a whole, the plan strongly delivers positive impacts in relation to housing, health and employment, in particular where clear masterplanning is driving delivery of community assets and infrastructure. However, there are environmental trade-offs in delivery of the site allocations, particularly in relation to landscape, climate change, waste and the loss of agricultural land. This balance between adverse and positive effects of the preferred site allocations is not untypical of local plans. This highlights the challenges many Local Plans have in identifying sites that deliver both for the environment and for the local community.

In general, uncertain impacts relate to limited understanding of how employment site allocations will perform in relation to waste generation and greenhouse gas emissions. Further uncertainties arise in relation to a lack of data relating to brownfield site distribution across the borough and where masterplans are not available.

It is important to consider the likely mitigating effects of national legislation and consenting regimes. The site allocations within this assessment have been assessed individually, supplementary policies which may also interact with that site allocation in relation to development management have not been assessed in-combination.

6.5 Recommendations

Overarching recommendations to help improve the sustainability performance of the HBBC Local Plan preferred site allocations are as follows:

- In the instances where uncertain effects have been reported, further information should be reviewed on how specific aspects of the site allocation will perform (i.e. likely waste generation and greenhouse gas emissions from employment site allocations, brownfield site distribution). Where possible these effects should be more clearly identified and understood in further stages of the Plan making process.
- Where adverse effects have been assessed, policies in the Local Plan should be included to help mitigate adverse effects, in particular in relation to potential impacts of site allocations on landscape, climate change, waste and land use.
- Policies should encourage the optimisation of habitat creation and enhancement, ensuring alignment with target habitat types and biodiversity outcomes.

6.6 Reasonable alternatives

HBBC have identified 62 reasonable alternative sites where the housing need could be met. The SA assessments of the sustainability performance of the 61 reasonable alternative sites are also provided in Appendix C.

Each appraisal includes an SA impact matrix which provides an indication of the nature and magnitude of impacts for each alternative site. The assessment considered the potential impacts of the allocation of the site with the influence of the draft Local Plan policies in place. Assessment narratives follow the impact matrices for each alternative site, within which the finding of the appraisal and the rationale for the recorded impacts are described.

The 61 reasonable alternative sites identified by HBBC and assessed in this SA are set out in Table 6-3.

Table 6-3: Reasonable alternative site references and addresses

Site reference	Site address
LPR231	New Settlement: Land off Atherstone Road (A444) and Ashby Road (B4116), 'Norton Heath'
AS705	Laurel Farm, Land south of Leicester Road, Groby
AS616	Land to North of Main Road, Sheepy Magna
AS618	Land to South of Main Road, Sheepy Magna
AS36	Land at Thornton Nurseries, South of Reservoir Road, Thornton
AS22	Land at Manor Farm, Main Street, Thornton
LPR47	Land to the East of Stoke Road (Middlefield Farm), Hinckley
LPR48	Land to the West of Stoke Road, Hinckley
LPR92	Land adjoining Normandy Way and Wykin Road, Hinckley
AS173	Highcross Building, Regent Street
LPR144 A	Land to the North of Normandy Fields, Normandy Way, Hinckley (Site A)
LPR144 B	Land North of Normandy Fields, Normandy Way, Hinckley (Site B)
LPR252	Land off A5 Watling Street, Hinckley
LPR268	Land Adjacent to the Ashby Canal, Hinckley
AS86	Barwell Business Centre, Arthur Street, Barwell
AS612	Land fronting Ashby and Hinckley Road (adjacent Barwell House Farm), Barwell
LPR21	Land East of Woodgate Road, Burbage
LPR26 B	Land off Sketchley Lane, Burbage (Parcel B)
LPR131	Land at Burbage Fields Farm, Burbage
AS120	Land West of Bullfurlong Lane (South of Westminster Dr), Burbage
AS126	Land at Whitehouse Farm, Workhouse Lane, Burbage
LPR16 B	Land North of Soar Brook, Burbage
LPR254	Land West of Shilton Road, Earl Shilton (Parcel 1)
LPR255	Land West of Shilton Road, Earl Shilton (Parcel 2)
LPR205	Land North of Earl Shilton, Earl Shilton
AS591	Land adjacent to Farm Cottage, Spring Gardens, Earl Shilton
LPR54	Land East of Swedish Cottage, Leicester Road, Earl Shilton

Site reference	Site address
AS235	Land to the Rear of Alexander Avenue, Earl Shilton
LPR126	Land Adjacent to Barlestone Garage, Newbold Road, Barlestone
LPR232 A	Land to rear of 82 -94 Newbold Road, Barlestone (Option A)
LPR179	Land to the rear of 100-114 Newbold Road, Barlestone
LPR204	Land North West of Heath Farm, Barlestone
AS615 B	Land at Church Farm, Barlestone
AS4241	Land off Spinney Drive and South of Brookside, Barlestone
LPR83	Land South of Hunts Lane (Phase 2), Desford
LPR85	Land North of Hunts Lane, Desford
LPR24	Land West of Neovia Caterpillar Plant, West of Peckleton Lane, Desford
LPR153	Land South of Cedar Drive, Market Bosworth
AS392	Land North of Station Road, Market Bosworth
LPR149	Land off York Close, Market Bosworth
LPR196	Land at Windmill Rise, Groby
LPR30	Land East of Groby Cemetery and Ratby Road, Groby
LPR49 A & LP49 B	Land North of Markfield Road (A50) (A and B Parcel), Groby
LPR152 + part of LPR227	Land North of Groby Road, Anstey and Land at Anstey Lane, Groby
LPR96	Land East of Ratby Lane, Markfield
LPR93	Land South of Forest Road, Markfield
LPR43	Land at Hill Lane, Markfield
LPR98	Land North of Barlestone Road, Newbold Verdon
LPR263	Land North of Desford Road, Newbold Verdon
AS445	Land South of Desford Road, Newbold Verdon
LPR1	Land West of Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding
LPR189	Land at the Corner of Hinckley Road and Stoke Road, Stoke Golding
LPR41	Land East of Wykin Lane, Stoke Golding
LPR183	Land at Willow Farm, Stoke Golding
AS541	Land at Stoke Field Farm, Stoke Golding
AS518	Land at The Rectory, Church Lane, Sheepy Magna
LPR80	Land at Fox Covert Farm, Main Street, Congerstone
LPR81	Land North of Bosworth Road, Congerstone
LPR82	Land North of Congerstone and East of Shakerstone Road, Congerstone
LPR121	Land South of South Lane, Bardon, Stanton Under Bardon

Site reference	Site address
LPR64	Land Rear of Lea Farm, Twycross
AS519	Land off Oakfield Way and Meadow Close, Sheepy Magna

6.7 Overview of reasonable alternative site assessments

The impact matrices for all reasonable alternative site assessments are presented in Table 6-4. These impacts should be read in conjunction with the assessment text narratives in Appendix C, which are presented with impacts per receptor within each SA Objective, as well as the topic specific methodologies and assumptions detailed in Section 3.4.

Table 6-4: Impact matrix of the 61 reasonable alternative sites

Alternative Site Reference	1 Landscape	2 Biodiversity	3 Water quality & quantity	4 Flood risk	5 Land quality & soils	6 Air quality	7 Climate	8 Historic environment	9 Social deprivation	10 Healthy & active lifestyle	11 Housing supply & access	12 Economy & Employability	13 Public services access	14 Waste
LPR231	--	-	--	-	-	-	--	-	++	+	++	++	+	--
AS705	--	O	O	-	-	-	O	O	?	+	+	+	+	-
AS616	--	O	O	-	?	+	O	O	?	+	+	+	+	O
AS618	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	-	O	+	+	+	+	-
AS36	-	O	--	O	?	+	O	-	?	+	+	+	+	O
AS22	-	O	-	O	?	+	O	-	?	-	+	+	+	O
LPR47	-	O	O	O	?	+	-	O	+	++	++	+	+	-
LPR48	-	O	O	-	?	-	-	O	+	++	++	+	+	-
LPR92	--	O	O	-	?	-	--	-	?	++	++	+	+	--
AS173	+	O	O	--	?	+	O	--	?	++	+	+	++	O
LPR144 A	-	O	O	-	?	-	O	-	O	++	+	+	+	-
LPR144 B	-	-	O	O	?	-	?	-	O	++	O	++	+	?
LPR252	--	--	O	-	?	+	--	-	?	++	++	+	+	--
LPR268	-	--	-	-	?	+	?	--	?	++	?	+	--	?
AS86	-	O	O	O	?	+	O	--	?	++	+	+	+	-
AS612	-	O	O	O	?	+	O	-	?	++	+	+	-	-

Alternative Site Reference	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Landscape	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land quality & soils	Air quality	Climate	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply & access	Economy & Employability	Public services access	Waste
LPR21	-	-	O	O	?	+	O	-	O	++	+	+	+	O
LPR26 B	-	-	O	O	?	+	O	O	?	++	+	+	-	-
LPR131	-	-	O	O	?	+	O	O	+	++	++	+	+	-
AS120	-	-	O	O	?	-	-	O	O	++	+	+	+	-
AS126	-	O	O	O	?	+	O	O	?	+	+	+	+	-
LPR16 B	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	-	?	++	++	+	+	-
LPR254	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	-	O	++	++	+	-	-
LPR255	O	O	O	+	?	+	O	O	O	++	++	+	-	-
LPR205	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	O	++	++	+	-	-
AS591	O	O	O	O	?	+	O	-	?	++	+	+	-	-
LPR54	-	O	O	+	?	+	O	-	?	++	+	+	-	-
AS235	-	O	-	-	?	+	O	O	?	++	+	+	+	-
LPR126	-	O	-	-	?	+	O	O	O	+	+	+	+	-
LPR232 A	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	O	O	+	+	+	+	-
LPR179	+	O	O	+	?	+	O	O	?	+	+	+	+	-
LPR204	-	O	O	+	?	+	O	O	?	+	+	+	-	O
AS615 B	-	O	O	O	?	+	O	-	?	+	+	+	+	O
AS4241	-	-	O	-	?	+	O	-	O	+	+	+	+	-
LPR83	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	O	O	+	+	+	O	-
LPR85	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	-	O	+	+	+	O	-
LPR24	-	-	O	-	?	+	?	-	+	+	O	++	+	?
LPR153	-	-	O	+	?	+	O	-	O	+	+	+	+	O
AS392	-	-	O	-	?	+	O	-	O	+	++	+	++	-
LPR149	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	-	O	+	++	+	+	-
LPR196	+	O	O	-	?	-	O	-	?	+	+	-	+	-
LPR30	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	O	?	+	++	+	+	-

Alternative Site Reference	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Landscape	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land quality & soils	Air quality	Climate	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply & access	Economy & Employability	Public services access	Waste
LPR49 A & LP49 B	-	O	-	--	?	-	?	O	O	+	O	++	+	?
LPR152 + part of LPR227	-	O	O	-	?	+	-	O	O	+	++	++	+	-
LPR96	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	O	O	+	++	+	+	-
LPR93	-	O	O	+	?	+	O	--	+	+	+	+	+	-
LPR43	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	-	?	+	+	O	+	-
LPR98	-	O	O	-	?	+	-	-	O	+	++	+	+	-
LPR263	--	--	O	-	?	+	--	O	O	+	++	+	+	--
AS445	-	--	--	-	?	+	-	O	O	+	++	+	+	-
LPR1	-	O	O	+	?	+	O	O	?	++	+	+	+	-
LPR189	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	O	?	++	+	+	+	-
LPR41	-	-	O	O	?	+	O	-	O	++	+	+	+	-
LPR183	-	-	O	O	?	+	O	-	?	++	+	+	+	O
AS541	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	O	?	++	++	+	+	-
AS518	+	O	-	-	?	+	O	-	?	+	+	+	O	O
LPR80	+	O	O	-	?	+	O	--	?	+	+	+	O	-
LPR81	-	O	O	-	?	+	O	--	?	+	+	+	O	-
LPR82	-	O	O	+	?	+	O	--	?	+	+	+	O	O
LPR121	-	O	O	-	-	+	?	O	?	++	O	++	-	?
LPR64	-	-	O	+	?	+	O	-	O	+	+	+	O	-
AS519	-	-	-	-	-	+	O	-	?	+	+	+	+	-

6.8 Summary of reasonable alternative site assessment

In summary, the following conclusions can be drawn for the reasonable alternative sites assessment for each individual SA Objective, and taking into account the results of the preferred sites assessment:

- **SA Objective 1 – Landscape** – The overall trend in relation to this objective is predominantly negative, as with that for the preferred sites. However, many of the alternative sites are much smaller than the preferred sites and so consequentially have minor adverse, rather than major adverse, impacts. The larger alternative sites still also have major adverse impacts.
- **SA Objective 2 – Biodiversity** – The results in relation to the biodiversity objective are more variable than that of the preferred sites, with many having a neutral outcome. Some major adverse impacts occur where priority habitats or waterways are present.
- **SA Objective 3 – Water quality and Quantity** – This objective results in more instances of major adverse impacts in comparison to the preferred sites as several sites are in proximity to WFD watercourses and so greater hydrological constraints arise.
- **SA Objective 4 – Flood Risk** – Generally the assessment for the flood risk objective results in a minor adverse or neutral impact, comparable to that of the preferred sites.
- **SA Objective 5 – Land Quality and Soils** – This objective resulted in a consistently negative or uncertain results, again comparable with the results of the assessment undertaken for the preferred sites. This is due to a lack of information on brownfield site distribution across the borough, and also a reliance on site delivery on Grade 2 and 3 agricultural land.
- **SA Objective 6 – Air Quality** – This objective returned a mixed result, most frequently positive or neutral. Again this is a similar conclusion to that for the preferred sites.
- **SA Objective 7 – Climate** – The results for this objective were highly variable. Very large sites show strongly negative impacts, whereas smaller sites had largely neutral impacts. There was a greater spread of outcomes than in comparison to the preferred sites.
- **SA Objective 8 – Historic Environment** – This objective resulted in mainly uncertain or neutral impacts, again consistent with the results for the preferred options.
- **SA Objective 9 – Social Deprivation** – The assessment for the social deprivation objective resulted in uncertain or neutral impacts. Fewer alternative sites had comprehensive masterplans and so they performed more weakly than the preferred sites, most of which had masterplans, as the alternative sites could not ensure there would be provision of community facilities on the site.
- **SA Objective 10 – Healthy and Active Lifestyles** – This objective resulted in a consistently strongly positive result, similar to the preferred sites, primarily due to reliable access to greenspace.

- **SA Objective 11 – Housing Supply and Access** – This objective resulted in a generally positive result, but there was more variability than observed in the assessment of the preferred sites. Smaller sites generally had a minor positive impact, and large sites a major positive impact.
- **SA Objective 12 – Economy and Employability** – The assessment returned a generally positive impact, but this was overall a weaker result than that of the preferred sites, with a greater reliance on being in close proximity to employment sites, than including employment opportunities within the allocation.
- **SA Objective 13 – Public Service Access** – The result in relation to public service provision was mixed, and generally weaker than that of the preferred sites. Many alternative sites were outside key service centres, and so performed more weakly and more frequent minor adverse impacts were observed.
- **SA Objective 14 – Waste** – The negative trends observed with the preferred sites persisted with the alternative sites, resulting in a similar outcome of a generally adverse impact, the magnitude of which was linked to site size.

In summary as a whole, whilst environmental impacts associated with the alternative site allocations are marginally less severe than those associated with the preferred sites, this is a result of the size of the allocations being smaller and therefore having a smaller impact. Due to this they would also not therefore deliver the housing needs for the borough. The alternative sites are also less consistent in the delivery of strategic benefits, in particular in relation to public services, social infrastructure and employment opportunities, in comparison to the preferred sites.

6.9 Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

As described in Section 1.5 a HRA to consider whether the Local Plan, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, will have any likely significant effects on any European sites has been conducted. The most likely effects of the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan on European sites are related to pressures from new development including changes to surface and ground water levels/quality (surface run-off, pollution events).

The Screening Assessment determined that the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan is not likely to have significant effects, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, on the following European site:

- Ensor's Pool SAC

Potential significant effects as a result of changes in water quality (due to surface water runoff) were identified for the following sites:

- River Mease SAC

The Assessment identified that the existing policies and provisions in the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan, in relation to SuDS, preventing pollution and protecting biodiversity, will ensure that the Local Plan will have no adverse effects on these European sites.

7 Monitoring and Next Steps

7.1 Monitoring and the predicted significant effects of the Plan

The significant sustainability effects of implementing the Local Plan must be monitored to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. The SA Framework contained in this report includes suggested indicators to monitor each of the sustainability objectives. These are shown in Table 7-1 below; however, these may not all be collected due to resource limitation and difficulty in data availability or collection.

Guidance stipulates that it is not necessary to monitor everything included within the SA Framework, but that monitoring should focus on significant sustainability effects.

Upon adoption, the Plan will be accompanied by an Adoption Statement, which will outline those monitoring indicators most appropriate for future monitoring of the Plan in line with Regulation 16 of the SEA Regulations 2004.

Table 7-1: Monitoring indicators for the SA Framework

SA Receptor	SA Objective		Monitoring Indicators
Landscape	1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	• Change in quality of landscape character and condition. • The condition and quality of new characteristics introduced to the environment. • Percentage of open countryside/Green Wedge. • Change in areas designated for their landscape value.
Biodiversity and nature conservation	2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	• Condition of designated sites. • Planning/applications refused/granted in designated sites, green wedges and wildlife corridors. • Percentage of land designated as nature conservation sites as a result of Local Plan policies. • Completed development that has resulted in the loss or creation/restoration of priority habitats.
Water environment	3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the	• Percentage of water bodies achieving 'Good' status. • Number of schemes contributing to the achievement of WFD objectives.

SA Receptor	SA Objective		Monitoring Indicators
		Borough's surface and groundwaters.	Number of pollution incidents.
	4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	- Number of developments accompanied by a Surface Water Management Plans. - Number of flood defence schemes planned/approved. - Planning/applications refused/granted due to flood risk concerns.
Land	5	Protect the borough's land quality and soil resources	- Area of ALC grade 2 and grade 3 land in the borough. - Planning applications approved/rejected close to and inside of Green Wedge land. - Number of land remediation schemes.
Air quality	6	Protect local air quality	- Rate of transport modal shift across Borough. - Exceedances of air quality objectives. - Nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulate emissions. - Population living in AQMAs.
Climate	7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	- Greenhouse gas emissions. - New development achieving 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' BREEAM or EcoHomes rating. - Proportion of total electricity consumption from renewable sources. - Energy and water use per household. - Condition of designated sites. - Waste to landfill, recycling and composting rates. - Peak traffic flows. % change in number of people using public transport.

SA Receptor	SA Objective		Monitoring Indicators
Historic environment	8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	• Planning permissions granted/refused that affect the setting of a designated heritage asset. • Loss or damage of heritage assets. • Number of heritage assets on the Heritage at Risk register. • Number of locally listed heritage assets at risk. • Number of planning applications where archaeological investigations were required prior to planning approval.
Population	9	Reduce social deprivation	• Local measures of deprivation • Differences in health of a population between LSOAs • Crime rates. • % of 16 year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grade 4-9.
	10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle	• Life expectancy rates. • Death rates for cancer, circulatory disease, accidents and suicides. • All-age all-cause mortality rate. • Obesity levels. • Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing.
	11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply	• Number of houses, and housing developments. • Rates of housing demand. • Homelessness rates. • Numbers of individuals living in temporary or sheltered accommodation.

SA Receptor	SA Objective		Monitoring Indicators
Local economy	12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	• Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development. • New business registration rates. • Employment rates. • Proportion of economically active people unemployed. • Average earnings. • Percentage of population that have attained a qualification of NVQ2 and above. • Proportion of 18-24 year olds enrolled in training, full time education or employment. • % of 16 year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grade 4-9. • No. of residents attending university. • Business surveys of staff/skills shortages.
Material assets	13	Increase access to public services in the borough.	• Number of people who have adequate access to public services. • Frequency of bus journeys through rural areas. • Hectarage of formal green space. • Counts of business and services in rural areas. • Number of GI assets and their location in the borough. • Reduction in areas experiencing high deprivation and limited access to open space in the borough.
Mineral and resources and waste	14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the borough.	• Waste to landfill, recycling and composting rates. • Volume of waste created per household.

7.2 Consultation

A key aspect of the SA process is consultation. The SA process provides a mechanism to ensure that stakeholder engagement requirements are achieved by providing interested parties/organisations and the public an opportunity to inform the process and comment on decisions taken. Stakeholder engagement also ensures that economic, environmental, and social issues, constraints, and opportunities are identified and assessed throughout the development of the Local Plan.

This Sustainability Appraisal Report will form part of the public consultation on the Local Plan. It will be sent to the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) and will be available for view on HBBC's website alongside the draft Local Plan.

7.3 Next steps

The Sustainability Appraisal Report will now be published for public and stakeholder consultation alongside the Local Plan. The Local Plan and SA Report will then be submitted for independent examination.

A Appraisal of Spatial Development Strategy

B Appraisal of Development Management Policies

C Appraisal of Site Allocations and Reasonable Alternatives

References

Barton, H., Grant. M. & Guise. R., 2010. Shaping Neighbourhoods: For local health and global sustainability, January 2010.

HBBC, 2025. Local Development Scheme 2024-2025. Available at: https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/8481/local_development_scheme_march_2025 Accessed 17th June 2026.

HBBC, 2022. Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). Available at: https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/8322/shelaa_report_2022 Accessed 2nd September 2024.

JBA Consulting, 2025. Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/8657/sustainability_appraisal_scoping_report_update_october_2025 Accessed 17th June 2026.

LUC, 2017. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Landscape Character Assessment. https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/5886/landscape_character_assessment_-_2017_part_1 Accessed 17th June 2026.

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2020. Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal> Accessed 17th June 2026.

ODPM, 2005. A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78ec0740f0b62b22cbddd2/practicalguides_ea.pdf Accessed 17th June 2026.

RTPI, 2018. Strategic environmental assessment - improving the effectiveness and efficiency of SEA/SA for land use plans. <https://www.thenbs.com/PublicationIndex/documents/details?Pub=RTPI&DocId=320551> Accessed 17th June 2026.

Offices at

Bristol
Coleshill
Doncaster
Dublin
Edinburgh
Exeter
Glasgow
Haywards Heath
Isle of Man
Leeds
Limerick
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newport
Peterborough
Portsmouth
Saltaire
Skipton
Tadcaster
Thirsk
Wallingford
Warrington

Registered Office
1 Broughton Park
Old Lane North
Broughton
SKIPTON
North Yorkshire
BD23 3FD
United Kingdom

+44(0)1756 799919
info@jbaconsulting.com
www.jbaconsulting.com
Follow us:  

Jeremy Benn
Associates Limited
Registered in England
3246693

JBA Group Ltd is
certified to:
ISO 9001:2015
ISO 14001:2015
ISO 27001:2013
ISO 45001:2018