



Final Screening Report

Pre-Submission Draft Bassingham Parish Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitats Regulation Assessment

June 2026

On behalf of Bassingham Parish Council in relation to the Pre-Submission Draft
Bassingham Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Date of assessment:	15 July 2026
Date/ version of neighbourhood development plan to which Screening Report applies:	Pre-Submission Draft Bassingham Parish Neighbourhood Plan, April 2026

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Overview

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) to which this Screening Report applies:

Bassingham Parish Neighbourhood Plan Review

Version/ date of NDP to which this Screening Report applies:

Pre-Submission Draft Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan, April 2026

Neighbourhood area to which the NDP applies:

Bassingham Neighbourhood Area. This draft NDP applies to the entirety of the Neighbourhood Area.

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Acronyms

ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
NKDC	North Kesteven District Council
ECJ	European Court of Justice
EU	European Union
EUWA	European Union (Withdrawal) Act
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IRZ	Impact Risk Zone
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NCA	National Character Area
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Bassingham Parish Council is in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan Review, 'the Neighbourhood Plan Review'. To be 'made', a Neighbourhood Plan must meet certain Basic Conditions. These include that the making of the plan "*does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.*" One of these obligations relates to Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'. This is often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.
- 1.2. The SEA Directive seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing plans and programmes. The SEA Directive is transposed into English law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (the 'SEA Regulations') and it is these regulations that the plan will need to be compatible with.
- 1.3. This report considers whether there is a need to undertake a full SEA for the Neighbourhood Plan Review.
- 1.4. However, this Screening Report is not just about SEA. Another element of the Basic Conditions relates to Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, often referred to as the Habitats Directive. Under the Habitats Regulations which implement the Directive, an assessment referred to as 'an appropriate assessment' must be undertaken if the plan in question is likely to have a significant effect on a European protected wildlife site. This forms part of a wider assessment known as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).
- 1.5. Therefore, this report also considers whether there is a need to undertake a full HRA for the Neighbourhood Plan.

2. Legislative Background and Screening Process

- 2.1. The UK left the EU on 31st January 2020. Under the UK-EU Withdrawal Act 2018 (EUWA), a transition period ended on 31st December 2020, during which time all EU law continued to apply to the UK. During the transition period the UK needed to continue following domestic law that implements EU law, or directly applicable EU law that is given effect through the EUWA 2018. Beyond the transition period, the SEA Regulations will continue to apply as before unless and until new legislation is introduced.
- 2.2. The Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill became law from 26 October 2023. The Act proposes the replacement of the current SEA regime with a new requirement for an Environmental Outcomes Report. The specific requirements will be set out in forthcoming regulations, along with information about transition arrangements. At present, the requirement for SEA remains as set out in existing legislation.
- 2.3. A key stage in the neighbourhood planning process is determining whether SEA is required. The process for deciding whether SEA is necessary is referred to as 'screening'.
- 2.4. SEA is a process with specific documents that are consulted on and considered through the decision-making process. Failure to adhere to the process and generate the required documents may increase the risk of legal challenge to the adoption of that plan.
- 2.5. The SEA Regulations set out a series of sequential steps that must be undertaken as part of any SEA. Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC details the criteria for determining whether plans are likely to have significant environmental effects. These criteria are outlined in **Appendix 1**.

- 2.6. The (former) Department of the Environment produced a flow chart diagram¹ which sets out the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required. The flow chart diagram is provided in **Appendix 2**.
- 2.7. More recently, the national Planning Practice Guide reflects the SEA Regulations in a six-stage flowchart process for undertaking SEA for a Neighbourhood Plan (see **Appendix 3**).
- 2.8. These various pieces of law and guidance have been used to help prepare this report. **Section 6** provides firstly, a screening assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan, against the assessment criteria in **Appendix 1** to identify the significance of effects which may arise as a result of the plan's implementation.
- 2.9. Secondly, it applies the SEA Directive to the Neighbourhood Plan, as per the flow chart in **Appendix 2**, to determine if a SEA is required.
- 2.10. To decide whether a SEA is required, North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) needs to consider the following sorts of issues:
 - How the policies in the NDP might affect the environment, community or economy;
 - Whether the policies are likely to adversely affect a "sensitive area", such as a European Site (Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar) or a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserve (NNR) etc.;
 - Whether the policies propose a higher level of development than what is set out in the existing development plan and that has been assessed by the SEA or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of that plan;
 - Whether the implementation of the policies is likely to lead to new development;
 - Whether the cumulative impact of the policies taken together may give rise to a significant effect.
- 2.11. Not every Neighbourhood Plan will need SEA. However, when a parish or town council submits a plan proposal to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) it is mandatory to provide, either:
 - a statement of reasons as to why SEA was not required; or
 - if SEA is required, an Environmental Report (a key output of the SEA process).
- 2.12. As a rule of thumb, SEA is more likely to be necessary if both of the following two elements apply:
 - a Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for development (for example, for housing, employment etc.); **and**
 - the neighbourhood area contains sensitive environmental assets (a SSSI or a National Landscape, for example) that may be affected by the policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.13. In light of these two considerations, it is very unlikely that a Neighbourhood Plan would require SEA if the plan were not allocating land for development (which isn't already allocated in the Local Plan or with consent). This is because allocating land for development is more likely to generate physical changes which lead to significant effects.
- 2.14. In terms of HRA, a decision by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) (People Over Wind & Sweetman vs. Coillte Teoranta) in April 2018 has had a significant impact on the HRA process for both Neighbourhood Plans and Local Plans. In short, the ECJ ruled that to determine whether it is necessary to carry out a full HRA of the implications of a plan, it is not appropriate to take account of mitigation measures at the screening stage. Rather, consideration of mitigation will need to occur at the full appropriate assessment stage.
- 2.15. Following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union (EU), decisions by the ECJ are no longer legally binding but may continue to be relevant².

¹ Department of the Environment, A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005)

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/16/section/6/enacted>

- 2.16. A consequence of the ECJ's decision is that mitigation measures set out in a plan cannot be used at the screening stage to conclude there will be 'no likely significant effects' on European Sites. Therefore, if a Neighbourhood Plan includes measures to counter the plan's effects on European Sites these should, in effect, be ignored at the screening stage.
- 2.17. Previously, plan-making in the UK has followed case law as set out in *Application of Hart District Council; vs. Secretary of the State for Communities and Local Government* in 2008, which concluded that: *'anything which encourages the proponents of plans and projects to incorporate mitigation measures at the earliest possible stage in the evolution of their plan or project is surely to be encouraged'*.
- 2.18. The Government has acknowledged that the ECJ's ruling has caused uncertainty in preparing Neighbourhood Plans and could result in more plans requiring a full SEA or HRA. In December 2018, The Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018³ came into force, amending the Basic Conditions and allowing affected NDPs and Orders to proceed.
- 2.19. For the avoidance of doubt, this screening report has been undertaken in accordance with the ECJ's ruling, insofar as the effects of any mitigation measures set out in the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan (April 2026) have not been considered.
- 2.20. The SEA Directive requires that if an eligible plan or programme requires an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive, then that plan, or programme will also require a SEA. It is therefore advisable to check whether an assessment under the Habitats Regulations is required by undertaking HRA screening at the same time as screening for SEA. That is what has been done in this document.
- 2.21. Returning to the purpose of this document, there are three recommended steps in the initial screening process:
 1. Prepare a screening report (this document);
 2. Request a screening opinion from the consultation bodies in light of this report; and
 3. Considering their responses, determine whether the plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment (and therefore require SEA).
- 2.22. Whilst it is not prescribed, in most instances the LPA, which is NKDC in this case, will undertake SEA screening for a Neighbourhood Plan. This is because the LPA will ultimately be responsible for ensuring that the SEA requirements have been met prior to the Neighbourhood Plan being made. **It is confirmed that NKDC prepared this Screening Report.**
- 2.23. The Neighbourhood Plan should be screened as soon as there is sufficient information available to consider whether the proposed content of the plan or its likely intent (e.g., will it allocate development sites or not?) are likely to lead to significant effects to effectively inform the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.24. The purpose of this report, therefore, is to undertake a screening exercise to determine whether the Bassingham Parish Neighbourhood Plan Review (April 2026) requires a full SEA and/ or HRA. The screening exercise will therefore support the Neighbourhood Plan in satisfying the Basic Conditions and can be submitted as part of the evidence base which will accompany the Neighbourhood Plan. Bassingham Parish Council is the 'Qualifying Body' for the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area (which is coterminous with the Bassingham parish boundary). Only Bassingham Parish Council has the legal right to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.25. Please note that this draft screening report uses the term 'European Site' when referring collectively to SPAs, SACs, and Ramsar sites. The National Planning Policy Framework

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/1307/contents/made>

(NPPF) also expects candidate SACs, potential SPAs and Ramsar sites to be included within the assessment.

- 2.26. For the purposes of SEA, the statutory bodies are executive non-departmental public bodies with responsibilities for managing the environment on government's behalf, namely:
 - The Environment Agency;
 - Historic England; and
 - Natural England
- 2.27. The statutory bodies will be requested to review and make representations during consultation on this draft screening report.

3. Strategic Planning Context

- 3.1. The Basic Conditions require a Neighbourhood Plan to be in *general conformity* with the strategic policies contained in the development plan (primarily, the Local Plan) for the area. Through its strategic policies, the Local Plan effectively defines the parameters within which a Neighbourhood Plan may operate.
- 3.2. Throughout their preparation, Local Plans are subject to SEA (generally incorporated through a Sustainability Appraisal (SA)) and HRA. Where a Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan, it is likely that many of the environmental effects of the plan will have already been considered through the Local Plan plan-making process.
- 3.3. National policy states that evidence should be proportionate and should not repeat policy assessment already undertaken. It is therefore relevant to consider the strategic policy context for the purpose of avoiding duplication.

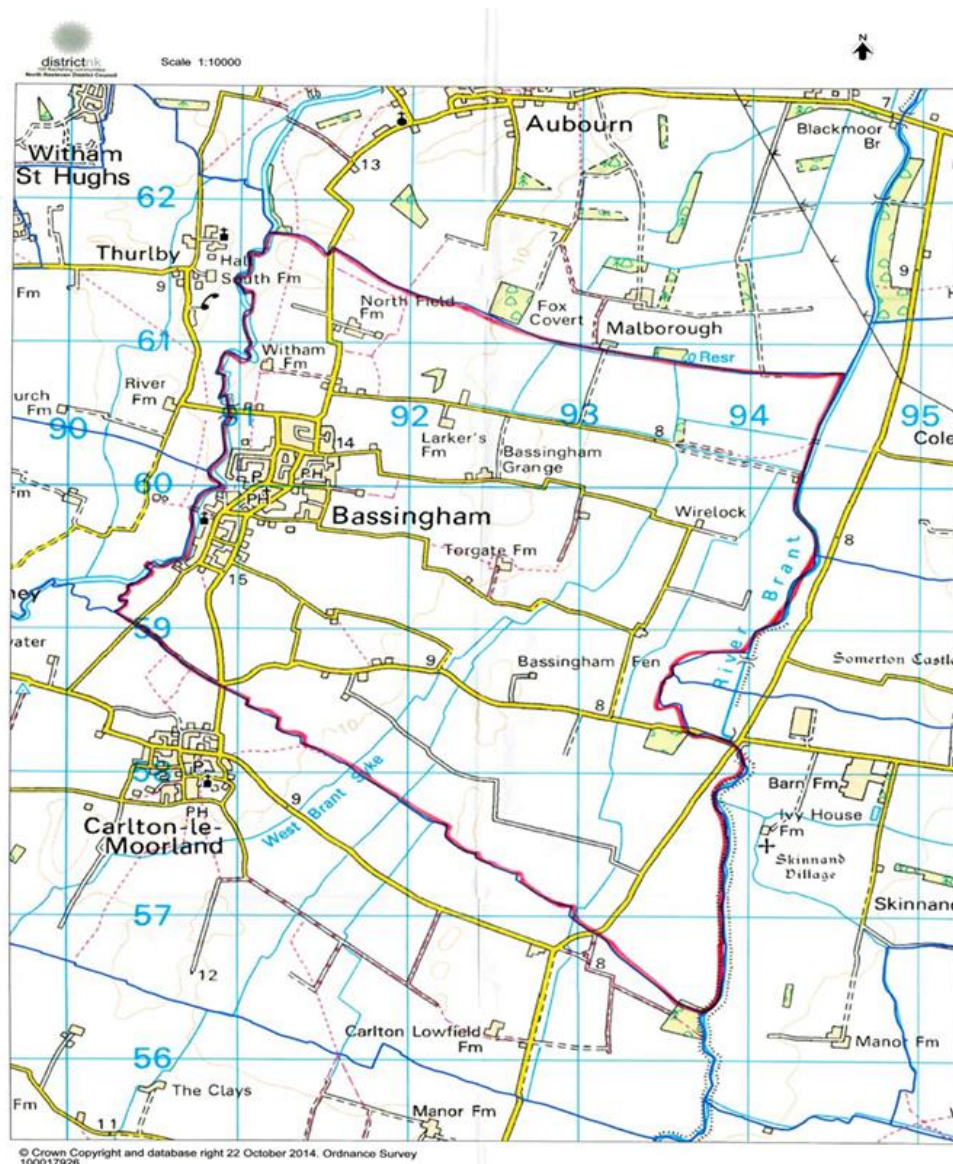
Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, April 2023

- 3.4. The spatial strategy in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan seeks to concentrate growth on the three main urban areas with limited growth in the villages to support their role and function depending on their position in the settlement hierarchy. Bassingham is identified as a medium village in the settlement hierarchy where, typically, development is expected to be small scale and limited.
- 3.5. Development within medium villages is expected to be located on allocated sites of 10 or more dwellings in the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan or on sites of up to 10 dwellings, in appropriate locations within or adjacent to the developed footprint. There are two development allocations for Bassingham within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan; Land south of Torgate Road and east of Carlton Road for 24 dwellings, ref NK/BAS/007 and Land at Whites Lane for 35 dwellings, ref NK/BAS/010, both of which are also shown in the made Neighbourhood Plan, 2017.

4. Summary of the Neighbourhood Plan (April 2026 version)

- 4.1. The subject of this screening report is the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan Review. The Neighbourhood Plan Review has been prepared by Bassingham Parish Council, the 'qualifying body' for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.
- 4.2. The Bassingham Neighbourhood Area was formally designated by NKDC on 15 January 2015 and is shown in **Map 1** below. The first Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan was "made" on 23 November 2017, since when, the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework and guidance have been reviewed. The Parish Council have therefore sought to update the "made" Neighbourhood Plan to take into account the above changes.

Map 1: Boundary of the designated Bassingham Neighbourhood Area



Source: *Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan*

- 4.3. The purpose of this document is to screen the Neighbourhood Plan Review. The Neighbourhood Plan and supporting information are available to view and download from Bassingham Parish Council's website⁴. Where necessary, please refer to the Neighbourhood Plan alongside this screening report.
- 4.4. The "made" Neighbourhood Plan set out a vision for Bassingham in 2017, which was broken down into 5 topic specific core objectives. The vision and objectives have remained the same in the 2025 review. The objectives are:
- **Housing and Growth**
Provide new housing as required by the Local Plan and integrate new housing into the existing built form and character of Bassingham.

⁴ Available at: <https://bassinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

- **Environment, Design and Sustainability**
New development should reinforce the character and quality of Bassingham and result in energy efficient and sustainable development. Maintain and enhance the existing open space and green infrastructure network within the village, and ensure new development includes a level of open space green infrastructure to match the existing standards of provision in the village. Facilitate sustainable energy, without compromising the inherent landscape and countryside quality surrounding the village.
- **Community Life**
Protect existing key facilities.
- **Transport**
Connect new housing into Bassingham with good pedestrian, cycle and bus connections. Plan public transport to better meet user's needs. Ensure new development does not result in a decrease in road safety.
- **Employment and Businesses**
Provide opportunities for new start and micro businesses to locate in the village.

4.5. To deliver the vision and objectives, the Neighbourhood Plan proposes 11 policies, which are summarised in **Table 1** below. Note that the table provides a summary of the policies intent, not the actual policy wording.

Table 1: The Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Policy	Summary
HG1: Delivering Future Housing Supply	The policy supports infill development within the Bassingham Settlement Boundary (referred to in policy HG3 and the key diagram), provided it does not conflict with other relevant policies in the Development Plan The policy has not changed from that in the “made” Neighbourhood Plan.
Deleted Policy	The original policy HG2: Development of major committed site at Whites Lane has now been deleted along with the supporting text.
HG2: Development of Reserve Site, “Land at Carlton Road/Torgate Lane”	The policy (formally HG3) identifies a reserved site for up to 24 dwellings if monitoring indicates a shortfall. It requires any proposal to be accompanied by a Design Brief addressing the points set out in Appendix 1. The policy has not changed from that in the “made” Neighbourhood Plan.
HG3: Settlement Boundary	The policy (formally HG4) refers to the Bassingham Settlement Boundary defined in the Key Diagram, with development outside of the boundary regarded as being in the countryside. The policy has not changed from that in the “made” Neighbourhood Plan.
T1: Transport Considerations in New Developments	The policy lists transport expectations for new developments, requiring information on how new and extended accessible and safe walking and cycling routes, traffic calming, links to public transport and assessment of traffic impacts have been considered. The policy has not changed from that in the “made” neighbourhood Plan other than the introductory sentence which now refers to the relevant Local Plan policies rather than saying where appropriate and proportionate.

Policy	Summary
EB1: Accommodating New Start and Micro Businesses	The policy supports the provision of employment uses, provided that conversions are sympathetic and well designed, do not unacceptably impact the amenity of adjoining property, provide adequate parking and meets the requirements of other relevant policies. The policy is largely unchanged from that in the “made” Neighbourhood Plan other than updating reference to use classes and removing “and” from the list.
CL1: Protection of Locally Valued Key Facilities	The policy seeks to protect existing facilities which are identified in Table 1 and on the Key Diagram, with any loss requiring adequate justification. The policy has not changed from that in the “made” Neighbourhood Plan other than adding the Homes Parish Woodland to the list of those locally valued key facilities in Table 1 and on the Key Diagram.
ES1: Achieving Design Quality	The policy seeks to achieve high quality and inclusive design in new development in keeping with the distinctive character of Bassingham. It also requires development to demonstrate how it would design out crime in a Design and Access Statement where one is required. The policy has not changed from that in the “made” Neighbourhood Plan.
ES2: Achieving Green Design	The policy supports development which takes into account the green design initiatives listed. The policy has not changed from that in the “made” Neighbourhood Plan.
ES3: Built Heritage, Listed Buildings and Bassingham Conversation Area	The policy supports development which conserves and where appropriate enhances heritage assets. The policy has not changed from that in the “made” Neighbourhood Plan.
ES4: Landscape and Countryside Surrounding the Village	The policy supports development outside of the settlement boundary that demonstrate how it has addressed the lists of considerations for the protection and enhancement of the surrounding landscape and green infrastructure network, and which is consistent with the appropriate policies in the Local Plan. The policy has not changed from that in the “made” Neighbourhood Plan other than updating the policy numbers for the Local Plan.
ES5: Renewable Energy Schemes	The policy supports renewable energy schemes provided they meet a list of requirements that seek to protect public safety, amenity, character and landscape. The policy has not changed from that in the “made” Neighbourhood Plan.

5. The Environmental Characteristics of the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan Area

- 5.1. To determine the likely significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan Review on the environment, it is important to consider the characteristics of the area likely to be affected and the key areas of sensitivity. Enough information needs to be included in the screening report

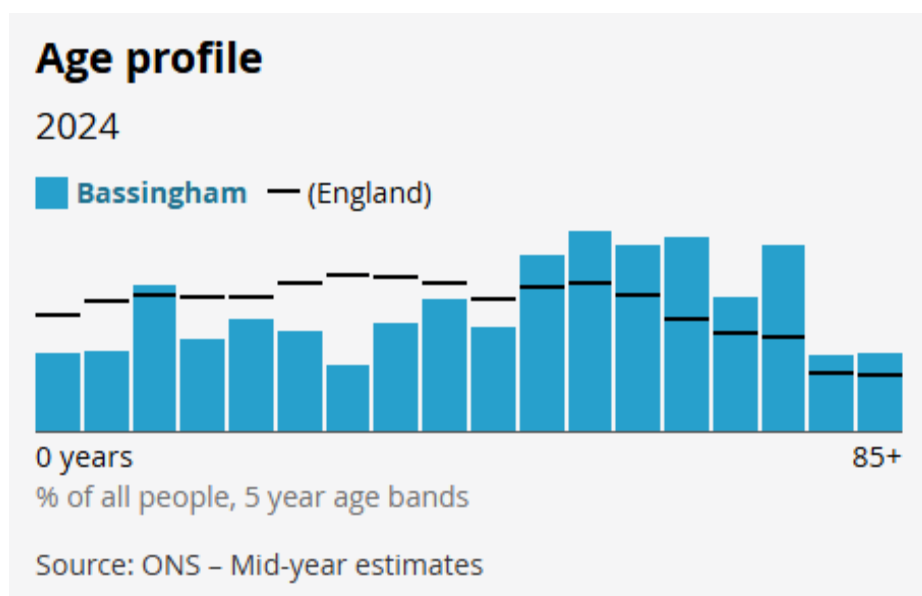
to allow the consultation bodies to take a view on the likely significant effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan Review.

- 5.2. The following paragraphs provide a high-level contextual overview of environmental issues and key areas of sensitivity in and around the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area. A range of sources of information have been used to gather this information, including Office for National Statistics, DEFRA Magic Maps, Environment Agency Flood Risk Maps for Planning, and the Neighbourhood Plan's own evidence base.

Population and human health

- 5.3. The total population of Bassingham parish at the time of ONS mid-year estimates 2024⁵ was 1,473 people, an increase of 3.4% from 2011. 54.1% of the total population were female and 45.9% were male, similar to the average for Lincolnshire as a whole and the England average of 51% and 49%.
- 5.4. The age profile for Bassingham Parish from the ONS mid-year estimates 2024 reveals that it differs from the England average in that it has far fewer younger people and noticeably more people aged over 50 and significantly more people aged 65 and over and 75 and over. This can be seen clearly in **Figure 1** below.

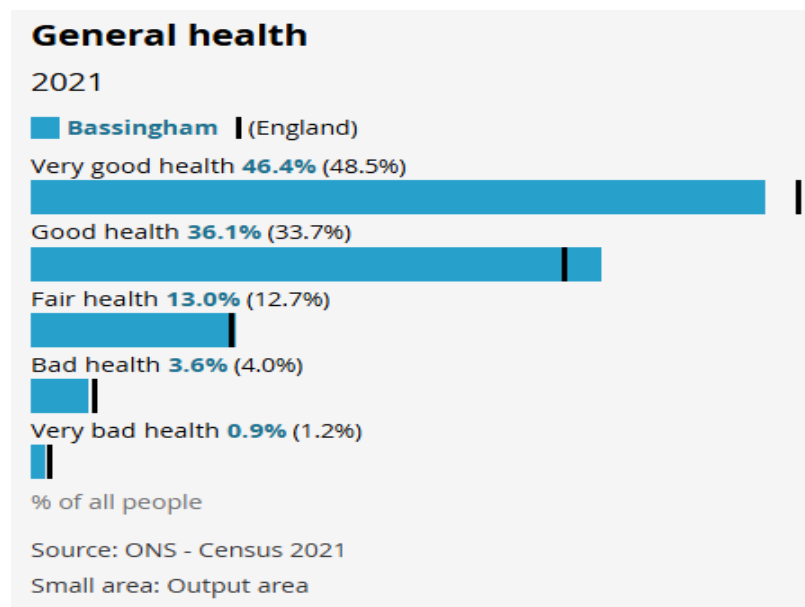
Figure 1: Age profile of Bassingham residents from the ONS – Mid-year estimates 2024



⁵ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census>

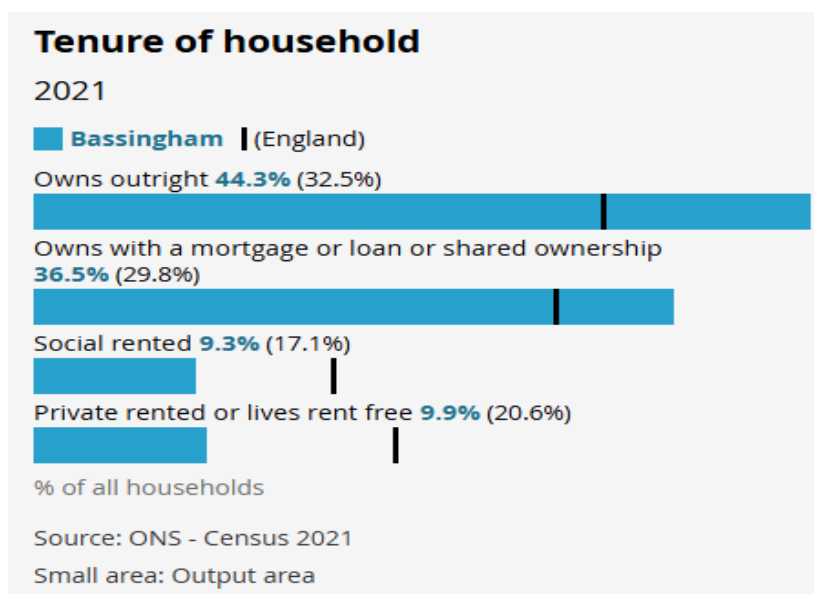
- 5.5. Life expectancy at birth in North Kesteven District is above the England average for males and around the England average for females⁶. 46.4% of the parish population described their health as 'very good', slightly above those for Lincolnshire as a whole and 36.1% described their health as 'good', similar to those for Lincolnshire as a whole.
- 5.6. 20.3% of the parish population were classed as disabled under the Equality Act. This figure is higher than the figure for North Kesteven (18.7%) and the England average of 17.3%.

Figure 2: General Health of Bassingham residents on 2021 Census Day



- 5.7. The 2021 Census recorded a total of 635 households (rounded to the nearest 10 households) within the parish of Bassingham. 44.3% of households were owned outright (higher than that for North Kesteven at 40% and much higher than England at 32.5%), as shown in **Figure 3** below.

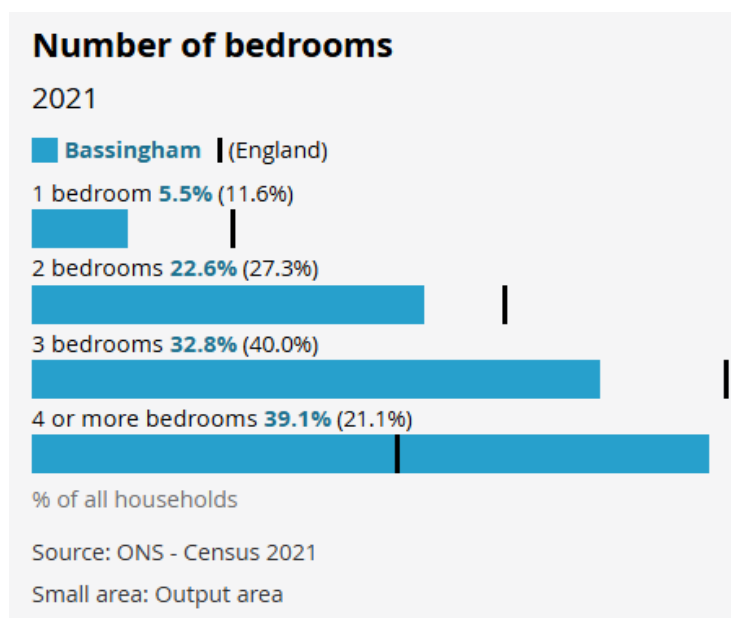
Figure 3 Tenure of households Bassingham Parish on 2021 Census Day



⁶ Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, access online at <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles>

- 5.8. There are a significantly higher proportion of 4 or more bedroom households within Bassingham Parish (39.1%) compared to the North Kesteven average of 27.4% and significantly more than the England average of 21.1%. The proportion of 1, 2 and 3 bedroomed households is significantly less than the England average, whilst the number of 2 bedroom households are similar to those for the North Kesteven average (24.6%) and the number of 1 bedroomed households are greater than the average for North Kesteven (3.4%).

Figure 4 Number of bedrooms as a % of all households



Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Internationally Designated Sites

- 5.9. There are no European Sites within the boundary of the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area, however, the Birklands and Bilhaugh Special Area of Conservation is approximately 30km⁷ from the centre of the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area:
- 5.10. There are no proposed Ramsar sites, possible Special Areas of Conservation, or potential Special Protection Areas in proximity to the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area.

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

- 5.11. There are no NNRs or SSSIs within the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area.
- 5.12. Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) are a GIS tool developed by Natural England to make a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks posed by development proposals to: SSSIs, SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites. The tool reflects Natural England's current understanding of SSSI sensitivities and pressures. The IRZ tool includes 'notes' that provide additional advice for development types that should be followed.
- 5.13. There are no IRZs that extend across the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area.

⁷ Click [here](#) to view European Sites within 30km of the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area

Locally Designated Sites

- 5.14. There are no Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) within the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area.
- 5.15. There is a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) located along the western boundary of the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area:
- River Witham, Aubourn to Beckingham
- 5.16. LWSs are defined areas, identified and selected locally for their nature conservation value based on important, distinctive and threatened habitats and species within a national, regional and importantly a local context. LWSs are areas of land important for their wildlife and can be found on public and private land. They vary in shape, size and may encompass a variety of different habitat types. The habitats and species present are often because of past management, and many sites provide a refuge for rare or threatened plants and animals.

Ancient Woodland

- 5.17. There are no areas of ancient and semi natural woodland or ancient replanted woodland within or adjacent to the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area.
- 5.18. The Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory⁸ maps the oldest and most important trees in the UK. It is a live database where records are provided by members of the public and verified by the Woodland Trust. Within the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area, there are eight notable trees currently recorded on the database. Two wild cherries, a wild apple, holly, common lime, common yew, common hawthorn and a white willow.

Priority Habitats

- 5.19. Priority Habitats are those which have been deemed to be of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity, being listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, and with maintenance and restoration of these habitats being promoted through agri-environment schemes.
- 5.20. Areas of priority habitat within the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area have been recorded and mapped by Natural England and include areas of deciduous woodland, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, traditional orchard and areas with no main habitat but additional habitats present.

Landscape

National Character Areas (NCAs)

- 5.21. The Bassingham Neighbourhood Area falls within the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCAs.⁹
- 5.22. The Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland cover, the NCA offers long, open views. The southern and eastern edges of the Vales are defined by the adjoining escarpments of the Lincolnshire Edge and the

⁸ <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

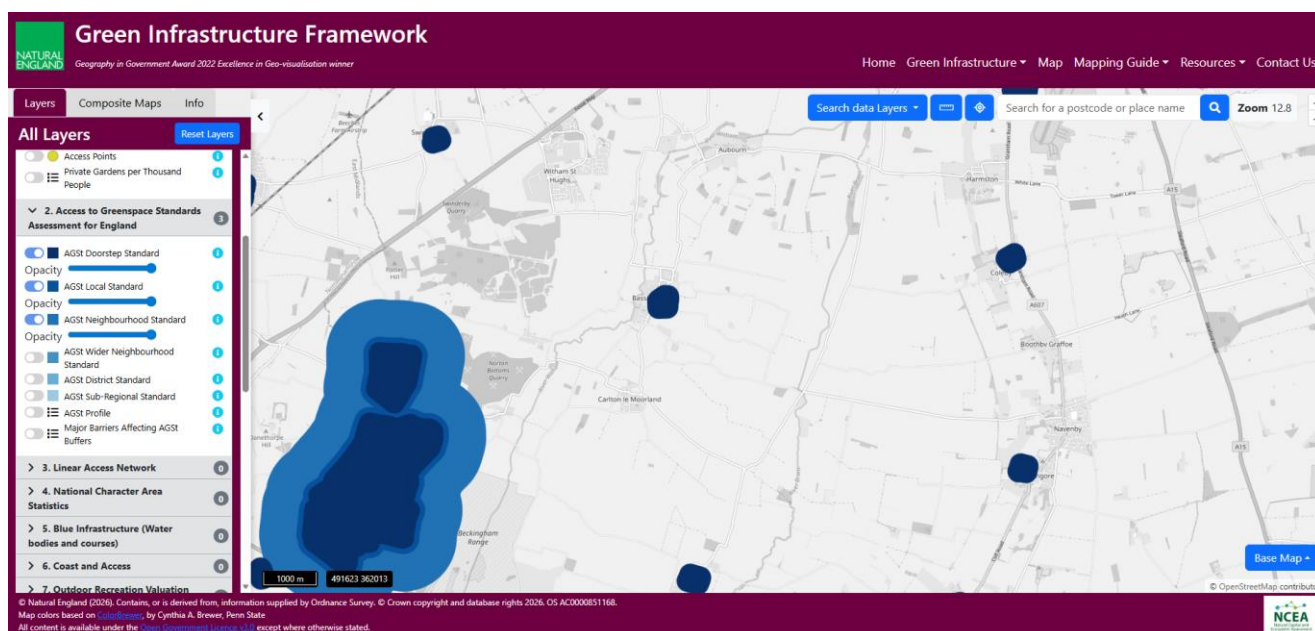
⁹ [48. Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area Profile](#)

Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds NCA. The area's generally fertile soils and good quality agricultural land have supported a diversity of farming over a long period but, because of this, little semi-natural habitat remains. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain provide a strong feature running through the landscape. It is the greatest biodiversity resource, being a major corridor for wildlife moving through the area and supporting a variety of wetland habitats. It also provides flood storage as well as large amounts of cooling water for local power stations.

Green Infrastructure

- 5.23. Natural England's Green Infrastructure Map is a useful source of evidence to help understand current green infrastructure provision. The mapping shows residents in the settlement of Bassingham have no access to a natural greenspace of at least 10ha within 1km or of at least 2ha within 300m. There is limited access to a smaller natural greenspace closer to home (ANGSt Doorstep standard), as shown in **Figure 5** below.

Figure 5: Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard buffers for Bassingham parish



Source: Natural England

Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

- 5.24. There is one Conservation Area within the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area: Bassingham Conservation Area covers a large part of Bassingham village¹⁰ and represents an important concentration of historic features within the Neighbourhood Area.
- 5.25. There are 12 listed buildings within the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area (1 Grade II* and 11 Grade II).¹¹ All are within the village of Bassingham.
- 5.26. There are no Scheduled Monuments or Historic Parks and Gardens within the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area.

¹⁰ [Map of Bassingham Conservation Area](#)

¹¹ <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

- 5.27. NKDC maintains a list of sensitive buildings/ buildings of local interest that is currently in the process of being reviewed. Buildings of local interest have no statutory protection in legislation but are recognised in the NPPF as non-designated heritage assets.

Soil, Air and Water

- 5.28. There are three main soil types in the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area according to the national soil map¹²:

- Naturally wet very acid sandy and loamy soils;
- Slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils; and
- Loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater.

There are also small areas of:

- Lime-rice loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage; and
- Loamy and sandy soils with naturally high groundwater and a peaty surface.

- 5.29. The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into six grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality. The ALC data does not distinguish between grades 3a and 3b (instead simply referring to Grade 3). More detailed assessment would be required to identify subgrades 3a and 3b. Good to moderate agricultural land (Grade 3) is to be found across the majority of the parish and there are two small pockets of very good agricultural land (Grade 2) to the south and south east of Bassingham Village.¹³

- 5.30. Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) are designated because they are not likely to achieve national air quality objectives. At the time of preparing this report, there were no AQMA within the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area. Indeed, there are no AQMA within North Kesteven district¹⁴.

- 5.31. The Environment Agency has assessed water company areas and determined whether they are either in 'not serious' or in 'serious' water stress.¹⁵ Water stress applies both to the natural environment and to public water supplies. Both will be affected by climate change. The Bassingham Neighbourhood Area falls within the Anglian Water company area, which has been classified as seriously water stressed.

- 5.32. According to the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning,¹⁶ within the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area there are extensive areas of fluvial flood risk (i.e. areas located in Flood Zones 2 and 3) as shown in **Figure 6** below. Most of the areas of higher flood risk are associated with the River Brant which forms the eastern boundary of the parish, whilst some areas of higher flood risk are associated with the River Witham which forms the western boundary of the parish. Land to the east of the parish, west of the River Brant is used for water storage. Most of Bassingham village and land around it to the north, east and south is in Flood Zone 1.

- 5.33. There are small pockets throughout the Neighbourhood Area at risk of surface water flooding, mainly in the half of the parish towards the boundary with the River Brant.

¹² [Click here](#) to view on DEFRA's Magic Map

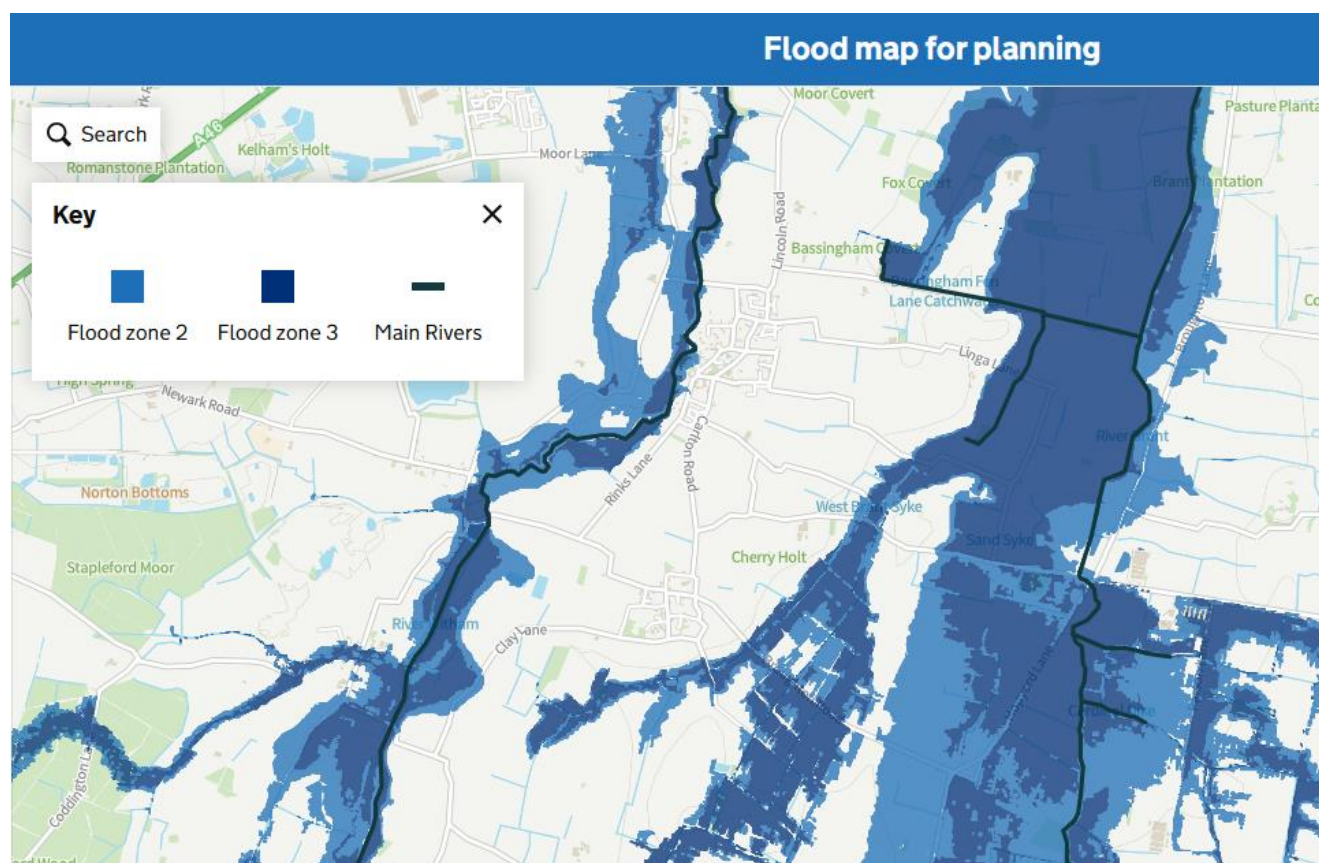
¹³ [Click here](#) to view a map of Agricultural Land Classification

¹⁴ <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/maps/>

¹⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-stressed-areas-2021-classification>

¹⁶ <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/map>

Figure 6 Extent of flood risk from rivers in the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area



Source: Environment Agency

- 5.34. Source Protection Zones for groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs used for public drinking water supply have been designated by the Environment Agency. These zones show the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area. Generally, the closer the activity, the greater the risk. Three main zones (inner, outer and total catchment) have been applied to groundwater sources with a fourth zone of special interest occasionally applied. An Inner zone (Zone 1) is defined as the 50 day travel time from any point below the water table to the source. This zone has a minimum radius of 50 metres.
- 5.35. There are no Source Protection Zones within the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area.¹⁷
- 5.36. There are two Water Framework Directive (WFD) Catchment water bodies within the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan area. These are Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant Water Body and the Brant – Lower Water Body. Both have a moderate ecological status.¹⁸

Climatic factors

- 5.37. The UK climate is changing. In 2019 North Kesteven District Council declared a climate emergency reporting that the district will continue to experience hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters, making it essential to rapidly reduce emissions now to stay within the national and local carbon budgets to minimise further disruption. North Kesteven are working

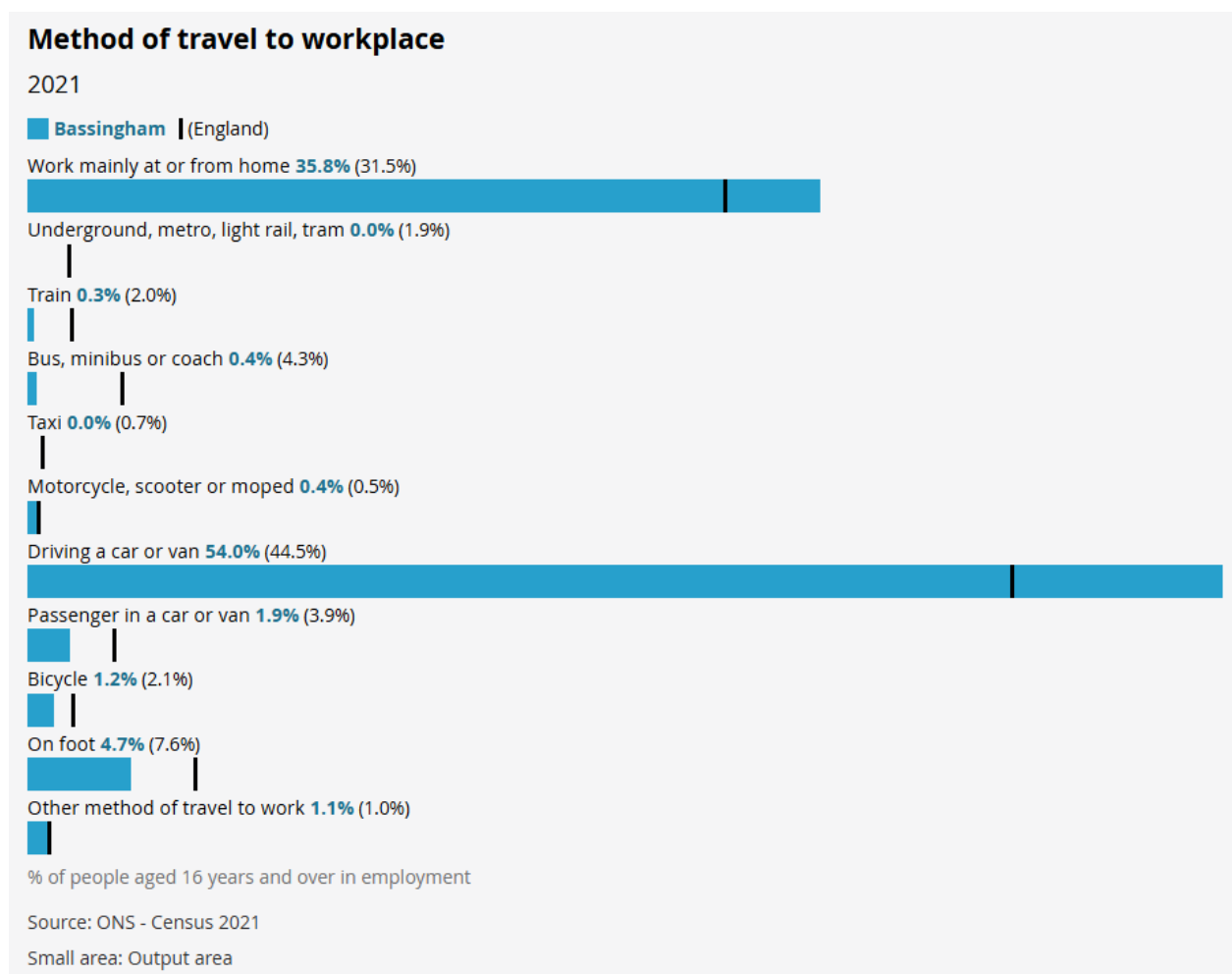
¹⁷ [Click here](#) to view on DEFRA's Magic Map

¹⁸ [Click here](#) to view river basin management plan data on Catchment Data Explorer

towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions producing a Climate Emergency Strategy and related Climate Emergency Action Plan in 2020, that was refreshed in 2022 and again in 2024.¹⁹

- 5.38. Car ownership is high in the Neighbourhood Area, with only 8% of all households recorded in the 2021 Census with no cars or vans in the household compared to an England average of 23.5%. This is reflected in the method of travel to workplace recorded through the Census (**Figure 7**), where 54% of all people aged 16 years and over in employment travelled to work by driving a car or van. This is above the England average of 44.5%, but just below the North Kesteven average of 57.9%.

Figure 7 Method of travel to place of work in Bassingham Parish on 2021 Census Day (% of people aged 16 and over in employment)



Source: ONS

Materials assets

- 5.39. The SEA Directive does not define what is meant by 'material assets' and it can be interpreted in several ways. This screening report takes material assets to include a range of social, physical and environmental infrastructure, such as schools, health facilities, roads, railways, bus services, wastewater treatment works, flood defences etc. Impacts on materials assets are likely to relate to several other SEA topics.

¹⁹ [Climate emergency strategy and action plan | North Kesteven District Council \(n-kesteven.gov.uk\)](https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/climate-emergency-strategy-and-action-plan)

- 5.40. Whilst there are a number of services and facilities in Bassingham village. It has a primary school and pre-school, medical centre and dispensary, Greens Store and Post Office, Spar local convenience store and butchery, community hall and surrounding recreation areas, two public houses, parish woodland, care centre and a church. It also has a limited bus service which runs hourly throughout the day. The Neighbourhood Plan lists and maps community facilities in Table 1 and the Key Diagram.

6. Determination of likely significant environment effects - SEA Screening

- 6.1. Once data on environmental issues and sensitivities has been gathered, it is then possible to determine whether there would be any likely significant effects (positive or negative) on the environment. The 'responsible authority' in the case of SEA must determine whether a plan or programme, in this case the Neighbourhood Plan, is likely to have a significant environmental effect with reference to specified criteria.

- 6.2. The following section sets out an assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan against these criteria, considering the area characteristics outlined in Section 5 above.

- 6.3. When the Plan is read as a whole, and tested against the SEA themes (as set out in Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive), the following conclusions are drawn:

Population and human health:

- 6.4. Overall, the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant negative impact on population and human health as no new sites are specifically allocated for development within the plan over and above those already allocated in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. Rather, it is proposed that one currently allocated site be removed. Through its various policy measures, it is likely that the needs of the population, and standards of human health, will be maintained and potentially enhanced. For example, requiring housing to meet identified local need, protecting the amenity of occupiers and adjacent occupiers and providing facilities that will enhance the well-being of the local community via draft Policy HG1, HG2 and ES1; seeking to protect and improve public rights of way and footpaths and providing safe walking and cycling routes via draft Policy T1 and supporting the protection of community facilities, including woodland and recreation areas and seeking to prevent their loss via draft Policy CL1. These policies provide opportunities for residents to partake in activities to support their physical and mental health and wellbeing, however, these effects are not likely to be 'significant' for the purposes of SEA.

Biodiversity, flora and fauna:

- 6.5. Overall, the potential for significant negative impacts on biodiversity, flora and fauna to arise from the implementation of the plan are unlikely as the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate new sites for development and other opportunities for development broadly aligned with the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2023. The environmental effects of the Local Plan policies and allocations were subject to SEA and HRA and have therefore already been considered through the plan-making process.
- 6.6. It is expected that the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan will help to protect and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna in the Neighbourhood Area through the various policy measures it employs, particularly draft Policy ES4: Landscape and Countryside Surrounding the Village, which requires development outside of the Settlement Boundary to demonstrate how the development would contribute to the green infrastructure network and draft Policy HG2: Reserved Site, "Land at Carlton Road/ Torgate Lane", which requires any proposals for the site to address the requirements of the design brief as set out in Appendix 1.

Landscape:

- 6.7. There are no nationally designated landscapes within the Neighbourhood Area. The Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate new sites for development and therefore, with the policies in the existing Local Plan and this proposed Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered unlikely that the plan would result in a significant impact on the local landscape. Draft Policies HG1: Delivering Future Housing Supply and HG3: Settlement Boundary requires development to be located within the settlement boundary of Bassingham Village, with development outside the boundary regarded as being in the countryside and subject to those landscape policies in Draft Policy ES4: Landscape and Countryside Surrounding the Village.

Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage:

- 6.8. As highlighted in paragraphs 5.24 to 5.27 above, the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area has several assets of national significance, which have been afforded statutory designations.
- 6.9. The Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any new land or sites for development. Opportunities for infill and windfall development exist within the Settlement Boundary and windfall development in the countryside surrounding the village, subject to consistency with Local Plan Policies S1, S4 and S5. For such development, considering the heritage related policies in the Local Plan, and this proposed Neighbourhood Plan (draft Policies HG1: Delivering Future Housing Supply, ES1: Achieving Design Quality, ES3: Heritage Assets and ES4: Landscape and Countryside Surrounding the Village), it is considered unlikely that any future development that may come forward within the Neighbourhood Area would adversely impact any heritage assets or their settings.

Soil, air or water:

- 6.10. There are currently no 'significant' air quality issues and no Source Protection Zones in the neighbourhood area. The majority of Bassingham Village and the land around it to the north, east and south falls within Flood Risk Zone 1 and therefore fluvial flood risk is relatively low. There are extensive areas in Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 along the eastern boundary of the neighbourhood plan area associated with the River Brant and some to the western boundary, adjacent to the River Witham. There are small pockets of surface water flooding across the area, mainly to the west and the boundary with the River Brant. However, as the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan does not include any new specific site allocations, it is unlikely that significant effects on soil, air or water would arise as a result of its implementation.

Climate Factors:

- 6.11. Climatic factors involve the consideration of a plan or programme in relation to climate change. Climate change adaptation and mitigation are closely interrelated and are closely linked to other environmental issues.
- 6.12. Draft Policy HG2 requires the allocated reserved site at Carlton Road/ Torgate Lane to address the requirements of the design brief set out in Appendix 1. The design brief provides practical solutions for the provision of sustainable homes and buildings that respond to and are resilient to the climate emergency, including retention of existing trees and hedgerows and planting of native species, the integration of SuDS and linking green spaces, a requirement to provide pedestrian and cycle links to encourage active travel and requiring consideration of opportunities to integrate energy efficient design elements into the built fabric of dwellings. Draft Policy T1: Transport Consideration in New Development requires the provision of safe cycling and walking routes, linking to services and facilities and the surrounding countryside and consideration of how any proposals would link to public transport encouraging access by means other than the private car. Draft Policy CL1 seeks to protect

locally valued key facilities and EB1 encourages the provision of new office space, studio space and small shops and service outlets, which may have a positive effect on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport by reducing the need to travel as well as reducing the length of journeys. Policies ES1 and ES2 aim to encourage high quality, inclusive and green design with energy efficiency, fabric first approach to building materials, reducing air permeability of the building fabric, improved energy management, improved passive solar gain, incorporation of photovoltaics and other forms of renewable energy and the incorporation of water recycling measures. Draft Policy ES5 is supportive of renewable energy proposals provided they do not detract from the surrounding setting and environment and do not adversely affect existing amenities or adjoining land users.

- 6.13. Overall, it is considered unlikely that implementing the policies in the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan would give rise to significant effects on climate factors.

Material assets:

- 6.14. The SEA Directive does not define what is meant by 'material assets' and it can be interpreted in a number of ways. This screening report takes material assets to include a range of social, physical and environmental infrastructure, such as schools, health facilities, roads, railways, bus services, wastewater treatment works, flood defences, etc. Impacts on materials assets are likely to relate to several other SEA topics. The Neighbourhood Plan does not include any new specific site allocations and many of the policies within it seek to protect and where opportunities arise, enhance infrastructure, services and facilities which is likely to have a positive effect on this SEA issue.

Conclusion:

- 6.15. Following review, and in conclusion, it is considered **unlikely** that implementation of the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan will result in significant environmental effects. The main reason for this conclusion is that the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan is not proposing any new additional site allocations or any other policies which are likely to lead to new additional significant growth opportunities that are not already allocated in the Local Plan. In addition, implementation of all other policies or proposals within the draft Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan are not considered likely to result in any significant environmental effects, especially when compared with the baseline position of the Neighbourhood Plan not proceeding, and in some areas may have a positive impact.
- 6.16. **Figure 8** provides assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan to identify likely significant effects on the environment. The first column uses the SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004 (as set out in **Appendix 1**).

Figure 8: Assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment

The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to —	Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan (April 2026)	Likely significant environmental effect
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	The Neighbourhood Plan would, if adopted, form part of the Statutory Development Plan and contribute to the framework for future development projects. However, the Neighbourhood Plan would only apply to a small geographical area (the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area) where a limited number of proposals are anticipated over the plan period; and, of those proposals, such proposals are already anticipated and tested via existing plans and programmes (such as the Central	None

	Lincolnshire Local Plan 2023). The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate any additional land for residential or other forms of development.	
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies set out in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2023. The Neighbourhood Plan must also have regard to the NPPF and Practice Guidance. The Neighbourhood Plan would not influence other plans and programmes to a significant degree due to the locally specific nature of the policies contained within the plan. Once 'made' the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory development plan and will be used in conjunction with the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan to determine planning applications.	None
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	It is a Basic Condition that a Neighbourhood Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The proposed Neighbourhood Plan includes policies which promote environmental considerations and promote opportunities for sustainable development. However, the scale of development identified is not expected to exceed that which has been identified and assessed through the preparation of existing plans and programmes.	None
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	Baseline information in relation to Bassingham parish was described in Section 5 above. There are no specific environmental problems relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan that have not been identified and assessed through the higher-level Local Plan 2023 and accompanying SA/SEA.	None
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The Neighbourhood Plan is not relevant to the implementation of Community legislation on the environment.	None
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—	Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan (April 2026)	Likely significant environmental effect
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	The effects of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan are expected to be minimal in terms of probability, duration and frequency. Any effects will be indirect due to the Neighbourhood Plan not allocating additional land for development.	None

	This has been tested through the SA/ SEA of the Local Plan 2023. As the draft Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate additional sites for housing or other forms of development, the effects of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan are uncertain to a certain extent, as they will depend on windfall sites that may come forward. However, such windfall sites are expected to be limited to small scale, infill development, and therefore the effects are not likely to be significant and are expected to be minimal. It is likely that some policies may result in positive effects by helping to preserve and enhance the environmental features within the Neighbourhood Area.	
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	The cumulative effects of development sites identified by the Neighbourhood Plan have been considered through the Local Plan process, namely the SA and HRA. The cumulative effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan, both between the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan and with other plans and programmes, are expected to be very limited in nature and scale, as the plan does not identify a quantum of growth, nor allocate specific land or sites for additional housing or other forms of development.	None
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The Neighbourhood Plan focuses on Bassingham parish only. The Neighbourhood Plan is not expected to give rise to any transboundary effects. Transboundary effects under the SEA Regulations refers transboundary effects on other EU Member States; therefore, they are not relevant to this Neighbourhood Plan.	None
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	The Neighbourhood Plan is not expected to pose any risks to human health or the environment: the effects of policies within the Neighbourhood Plan may, if any, enhance these elements.	None
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The population of Bassingham parish at the time of ONS mid-year estimates 2024²⁰ was 1,473 people The Bassingham Neighbourhood Area is coterminous with Bassingham civil parish, which includes Bassingham village. The extent of any effects of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan are expected to be limited to the immediate local area, the extent of which is, therefore, spatially small and covering a relatively small population.	None
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to—	The scale of growth proposed by the Neighbourhood Plan reflects that proposed by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The effects of this growth upon the environment have therefore been assessed through the	None

²⁰ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census>

(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	HRA and SA of the Local Plan, and other supporting evidence base documents. The key natural and cultural heritage characteristics of the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area are provided in Section 5 above. As highlighted in Section 6 above, it is considered unlikely that the Neighbourhood Plan would adversely impact the special natural characteristics or cultural heritage of the Neighbourhood Area. The draft Neighbourhood Plan is not expected to exceed environmental quality standards or lead to intensive land use.	
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	There are no protected areas or landscapes within the Neighbourhood Area of a national or international protection status, such as a National Landscape or National Park. Therefore, the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in any significant adverse effects.	None

- 6.17. **Figure 9** applies the advice prepared by the (former) Department of Environment to ascertain whether a full SEA is required for a plan or programme. Please note that as the questions have been answered using the flow diagram, some of the questions may not be applicable because of previous answers: where this is the case, the response is stated as N/A ('not applicable').

Figure 9: Application of the SEA Directive to Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan

Criteria	Response: Yes/ No/ Not applicable	Details
1. Is the NDP subject to preparation and/ or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	Yes	The preparation and adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Bassingham Parish Council it will be adopted by NKDC as the local authority. GO TO CRITERIA 2
2. Is the NDP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Yes	Whilst the production of a Neighbourhood Plan is not a requirement and is optional, it will, if made, form part of the Development Plan for the NKDC area. It is therefore important that this screening process considers the potential effects. GO TO CRITERIA 3
3. Is the NDP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town	Yes – Town & Country Planning/ land use;	The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared for town and country planning and land use. It does not set a framework for future

Criteria	Response: Yes/ No/ Not applicable	Details
and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive?	No - EIA Directive Annex I & II	development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive. GO TO CRITERIA 4.
4. Will the NDP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?	No	See Section 7. The Neighbourhood Plan will not require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive. GO TO CRITERIA 6
5. Does the NDP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of an NDP subject to Art. 3.2?	N/A	
6. Does the NDP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)?	Yes	Alongside the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, once 'made' the Neighbourhood Plan will set the framework for development consents in the neighbourhood area. GO TO CRITERIA 8
7. Is the NDP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7?	N/A	
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	No	The extent to which implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan will result in likely significant environmental effects is assessed in Section 6 and Figure 8 of this screening report. The assessment identifies that no likely significant environmental effects are expected to arise through implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan. GO TO CONCLUSION
Conclusion: SEA IS NOT REQUIRED		

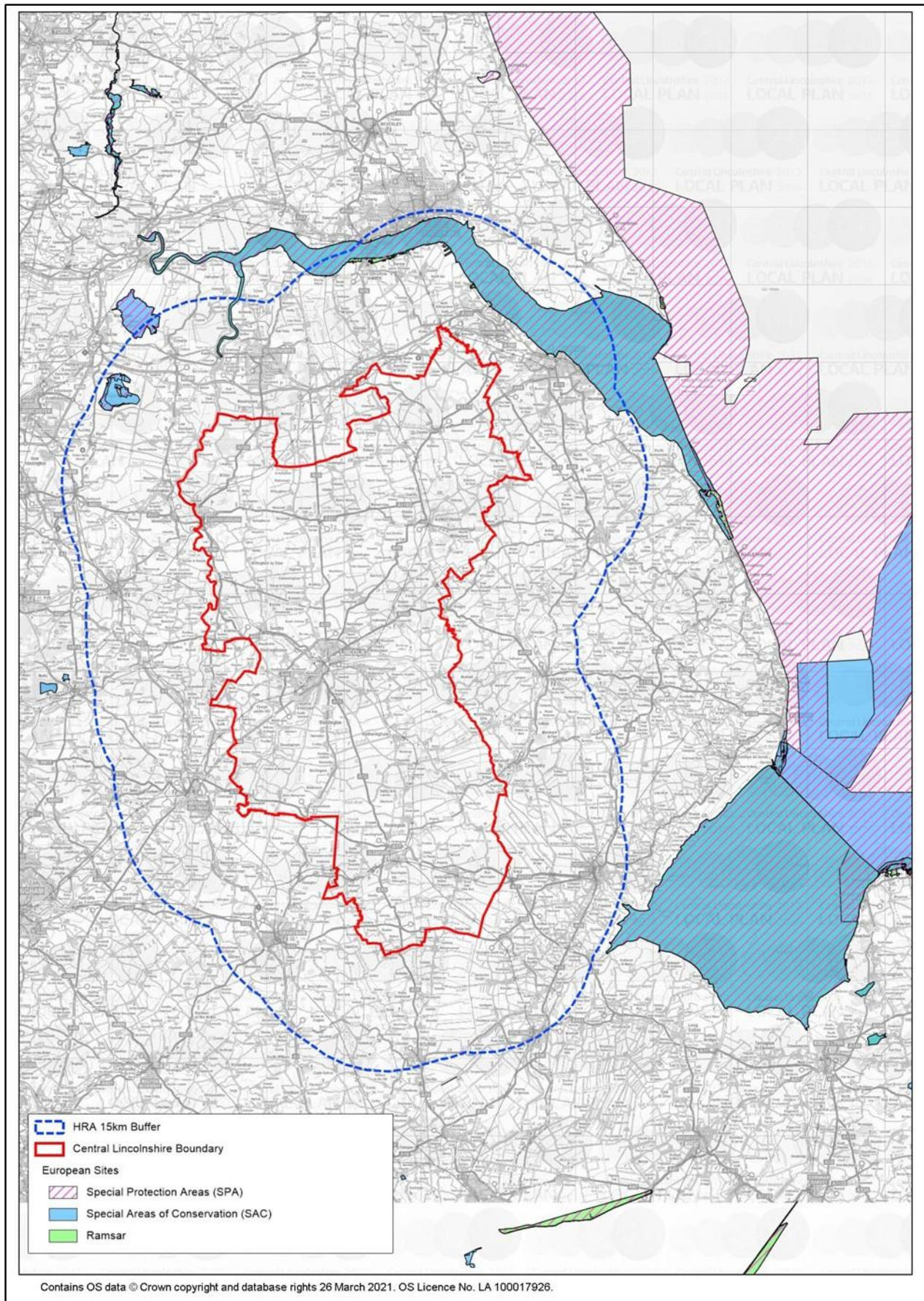
7. Determination of likely significant effects on European Sites – HRA Screening

- 7.1. HRA refers to the assessment of the potential for ‘likely significant effects’ of a plan or programme on one or more European Sites, either alone or in combination. In determining whether a proposed development plan or programme is likely to have significant effects, the competent authority must incorporate the ‘precautionary principle’ into its decision. This means that if there is any uncertainty as to whether the plan or programme would cause significant effects on a European Site, a full Appropriate Assessment would be required.
- 7.2. The HRA screening assessment therefore considers whether the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan could have likely significant effects on a European Site.
- 7.3. Government Guidance²¹ confirms that a HRA previously carried out by another competent authority can be used
- 7.4. Central Lincolnshire’s latest Habitats Regulations Assessment (March 2022) report²² accompanied the proposed submission Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (March 2022). The purpose of the HRA report was to set out the method, findings and conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (Stage 1 Screening and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment) of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The HRA was carried out by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plans Team, as the competent authority, in consultation with Natural England.
- 7.5. The following European Sites, all outside Central Lincolnshire’s administrative boundary, were scoped into the HRA for consideration:
 - Humber Estuary SPA, SAC and Ramsar
 - Thorne Moor SAC
 - Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA
 - Hatfield Moor SAC
 - The Wash SPA and Ramsar
 - The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC
- 7.6. As discussed in paragraph 5.9 above, within Bassingham parish (and consequently the Bassingham Neighbourhood Area), there are no European Sites. However, the Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to impact on areas that are beyond the Neighbourhood Area. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan HRA considered all European sites within a buffer distance of 15km of the Local Plan boundary (see Figure 9). Consideration was then given to whether more distant European sites may be connected to the plan area via effects pathways, for example through hydrological links.

²¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site#make-decision-making-quicker>

²² See <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/STA005.1a%20HRA%20Main%20Report%20Proposed%20Submission%20Draft.pdf>

Figure 9: European Sites within 15km of the Central Lincolnshire Area



Source: Central Lincolnshire

Potential for likely significant effects

- 7.7. The HRA Report prepared for the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan concluded:
- “Provided that the identified mitigation and recommendations made in this report are implemented, it is possible to conclude that the Local Plan is compliant with the Habitats Regulations and will not result in likely significant effects on the integrity of any of the European Sites identified, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects”.*
- 7.8. Natural England confirmed the HRA followed accepted methodology, was in line with relevant legislation and guidance, and agreed with the conclusion of the HRA.
- 7.9. The Neighbourhood Plan’s growth strategy reflects that of the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (April 2023). The Neighbourhood Plan does not make new site allocations and provides only limited opportunities for new development. The effects arising from planned development on the integrity of European sites have therefore been previously tested through the HRA of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

HRA Screening: Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan, April 2026

- 7.10. Having regard to the nature of the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and vulnerabilities of European Sites, this HRA screening considers that the Neighbourhood Plan is **not likely to have a significant effect** on any European Site, either alone or in combination, with other plans and projects. However, it is expected that any windfall development which the Neighbourhood Plan supports and is within the plan boundary may be required to undertake an individual project-level HRA to determine impacts on European Sites.

8. SEA and HRA Screening Conclusion

- 8.1. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any new land or sites for housing or other form of development. The effects of any potential growth have been considered previously through the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2023 and supporting evidence base, including the Sustainability Appraisal (which incorporated SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment. For the purposes of SEA screening, this evidence base is considered appropriate and relevant.
- 8.2. To take an alternative approach, such as preparing evidence bespoke to the Neighbourhood Plan would be disproportionate and result in unnecessary duplication. This would be contrary to national planning policy.
- 8.3. Several Neighbourhood Plan policies are particularly environmentally conscientious and address environmental issues positively by seeking to improve the quality of new development to reduce its impacts on the environment. However, for the purposes of SEA, these effects are not considered 'significant'.
- 8.4. Based on the findings of the screening assessment in section 6 and subject to consultation with Statutory Agencies, NKDC is of the view that the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan will not result in likely significant environmental effects. **As such, a full SEA is not required for the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan (April 2026).**
- 8.5. The assessment in section 7 also considers the effects of the Neighbourhood Plan in respect of European sites. The assessment determines that implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan is not expected to result in likely significant effects on European sites. **As such, a full HRA is not required for the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan (April 2026).**
- 8.6. If the objectives, aims and/ or policies covered by the Neighbourhood Plan should change significantly during the plan-making process, this screening process will be reviewed.

Appendix 1: SEA assessment criteria

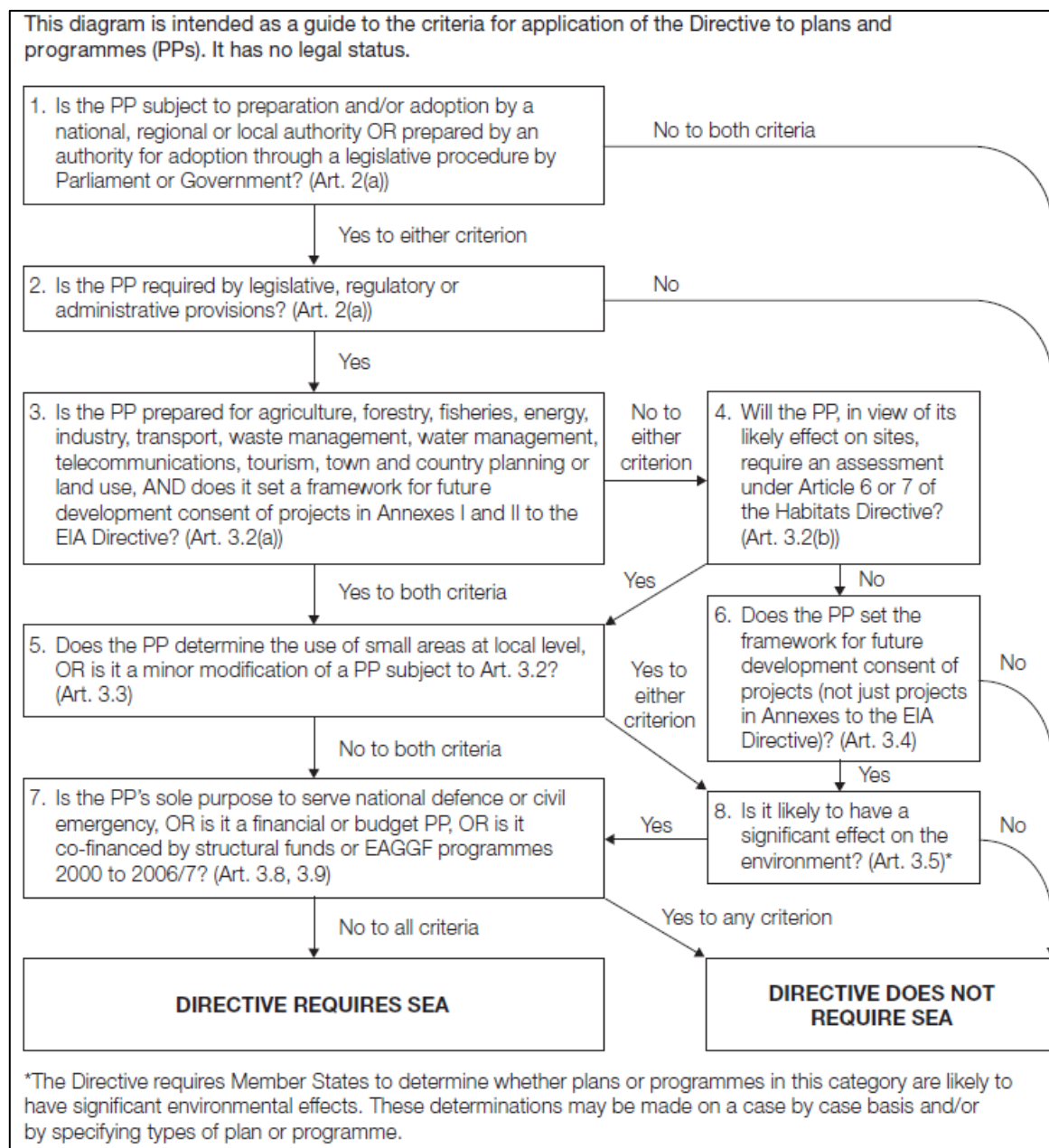
Article 3. Scope

5. Member States shall determine whether plans or programmes referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 are likely to have significant environmental effects either through case-by-case examination or by specifying types of plans and programmes or by combining both approaches. For this purpose Member States shall in all cases take into account relevant criteria set out in Annex II, in order to ensure that plans and programmes with likely significant effects on the environment are covered by this Directive.

Annex II Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
 - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;
 - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
 - the cumulative nature of the effects;
 - the transboundary nature of the effects;
 - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
 - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;
 - intensive land-use;
 - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

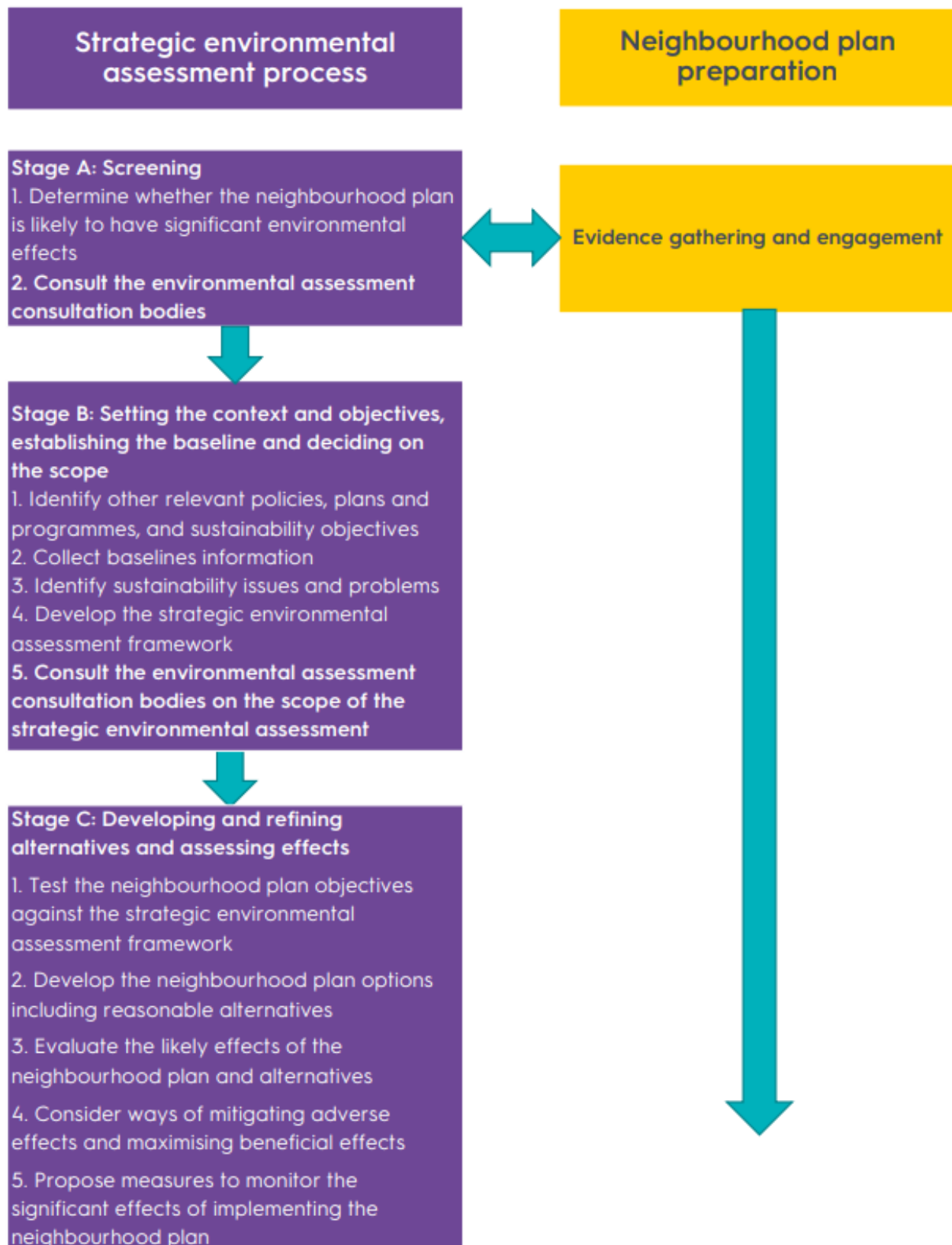
Appendix 2: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes²³

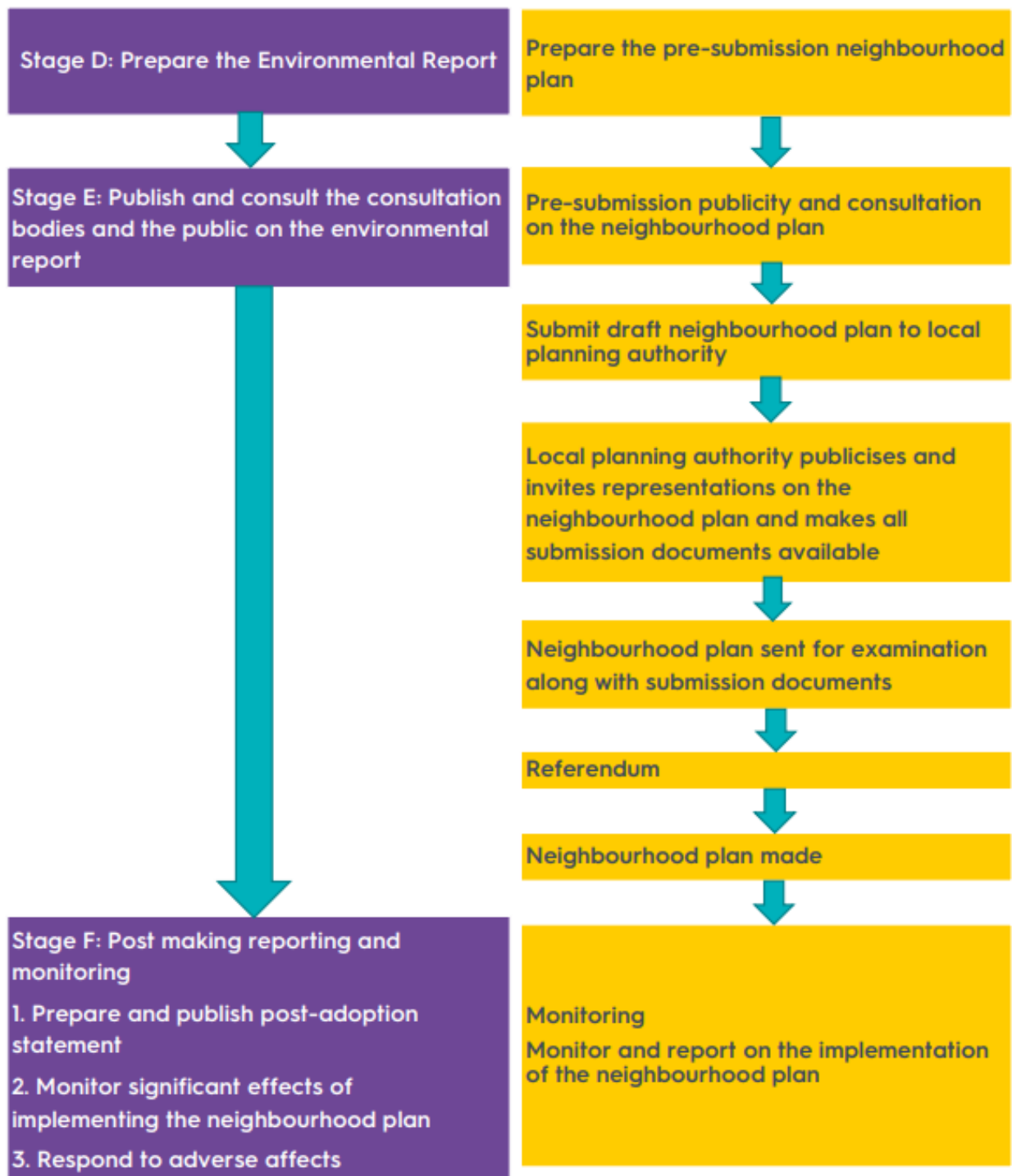


²³ Annexes I and II of Directive 2011/92/EU (as referred to in Figure 2, question 3) available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0092&from=EN> (see <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/eia-legalcontext.htm> for details of amendments). Articles 6 and 7 of the Habitats Directive (as referred to in Figure 2, question 4) available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043&from=EN>.

Appendix 3: SEA process for Neighbourhood Planning

(source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal#Strategic-environmental-assessment-process>)





Appendix 4: Consultation with Statutory Agencies

The draft SEA/ HRA Screening Report (dated May 2026) concluded that North Kesteven District Council considers that it is not likely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan Review (as drafted at the date of this assessment) and thus a SEA and/ or HRA is not required. The relevant Statutory Agencies, namely the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England, were consulted on this screening opinion on 4th June 2026 based on the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan Review in its current form. The responses received during this consultation are detailed below.

Response from the Environment Agency

Thank you for consulting us on the Strategic Environmental Assessment screening report for the Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2040.

Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints or other environmental sensitivities of interest to us.

As stated in the Draft Screening Report, most of Bassingham village and the land around it to the north, east and south are in Flood Zone 1. There are areas of fluvial flood risk (Flood Zone 2 and 3) on the eastern and western boundaries, but, as the Neighbourhood Plan does not include any new specific site allocation, we agree that it is unlikely that significant environmental effects will result from its implementation.

The Lincolnshire County Lead Local Flood Authority's Surface Water Management Plan will indicate if there are any critical drainage areas from local sources of flood risk (e.g. surface water, groundwater and sewerage) which coincide with the neighbourhood plan area.

For your information we have published joint advice with Natural England, English Heritage and the Forestry Commission on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_6524_7da381.pdf

Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact the advisor identified below.

Response from Historic England

Thank you for your consultation and the invitation to comment on the SEA Screening Document for the above Neighbourhood Plan.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage.

Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request. On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of the 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with your view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

Regarding HRA Historic England does not disagree with your conclusions but would defer to the opinions of the other statutory consultees.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at: <<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>>

I trust the above comments will be of help in taking forward the Neighbourhood Plan.

Response from Natural England

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 9 June 2026.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that:

- significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely; and,
- significant effects on Habitats sites(1), either alone or in combination, are unlikely.

The proposed neighbourhood plan is unlikely to significantly affect any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection areas (SPA), Ramsar wetland or sites in the process of becoming SACs or SPAs ('candidate SACs', 'possible SACs', 'potential SPAs') or a Ramsar wetland. The plan area is unlikely to have a significant effect on a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coast, and is unlikely to impact upon the purposes for which these areas are designated or defined.

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 is contained within the Planning Practice Guidance. This identifies three triggers that may require the production of an SEA:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require an SEA. Further information is included in Natural England's standing advice on protected species.

Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant an SEA. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission standing advice.

We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a SEA is necessary.

Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If a SEA is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.

Please send any new consultations, or further information on this consultation to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

(1): Habitats sites are those referred to in the National Planning Policy Framework (Annex 2 - glossary) as “any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites”.