

BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT
ACKLINGTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN

(SUBMISSION VERSION 2024 – 2036)

March 2024

Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Basic Conditions Statement – March 2024

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement sets out how the Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), hereafter referred to as ‘the Regulations’, and how the basic conditions have been met as prescribed by Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) (the 1990 Act). The statement has been prepared by Acklington Parish Council as the qualifying body for the designated neighbourhood plan area and is submitted alongside the submission version of the Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the Consultation Statement, and other submission documents as set out below.

2.0 Submission Documents

2.1 All the documents required by part 5, paragraph 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) are submitted with the Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Those submission documents consist of the following:

i) The proposed neighbourhood development plan

2.2 The Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan (Submission Version 2024 – 2036) is submitted along with this statement.

ii) A map or statement which identifies the area to which the proposed neighbourhood development plan relates

2.3 A Policies Map is submitted with the neighbourhood plan, showing detail in relation to relevant policies in the Plan. The Policies Map was produced by Northumberland County Council for the Parish Council. It is considered that the maps included within the Neighbourhood Plan give enough clarity to give accurate context to the policies contained in the Plan.

2.4 The Policies Map covers the Neighbourhood Area and identifies sites in relation to specific policies:

- Local Green Spaces in Acklington and Guyzance
- Community Facilities in the Neighbourhood Area
- Non-Designated Heritage Assets including a Historic Core for Acklington
- Existing Conservation Area boundary for Guyzance
- Existing Coastal Mitigation areas (7km/10km from the coast)
- Woodland and natural environment designations to interpret Policy ANP4

iii) A Consultation Statement

2.5 A Consultation Statement is submitted with the Plan, which details the consultation that was carried out throughout the development of the Plan and how this consultation informed the development of policies in the Plan. The document contains details of the persons and bodies consulted about the neighbourhood plan; it also explains how they were consulted. The appendices cover in detail the consultation process and Appendix F contains a full list of responses made by people and organisations who were consulted at the Regulation 14 stage. It also sets out how these concerns have been subsequently addressed in policies and changes to policies in the neighbourhood plan.

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iv) A statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act; (otherwise known as the Basic Conditions statement)

2.6 This statement is the Basic Conditions statement. The basic conditions are identified in part 4 of this statement.

v) An environmental report prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; or where it has been determined under regulation 9(1) of those Regulations that the plan proposal is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), a statement of reasons for that determination.

2.7 A screening opinion was sought from Northumberland County Council during the Plan preparation period. The Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan was screened out and so a Strategic Environmental Assessment was not required. The screening opinion is included in the list of submission documents.

2.8 A screening opinion was also sought under the Habitats Regulations as to whether an Appropriate Assessment would be required. No policies were screened in, as there are no policies related to the provision of new housing or allocation of housing sites or other units of accommodation which may lead to increased recreational disturbance impacts on coastal sites.'

2.9 A copy of both screening opinions is submitted with the Plan.

3.0 Legislative Requirements

3.1 Legislative Requirements are set out in the Localism Act (2011), the Town and Country Planning Act (as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A and 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act) and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). Each requirement is addressed as follows:

i) The draft Plan is Being Submitted by a qualifying body

3.2 This submission draft Plan is submitted by Acklington Parish Council who are the qualifying body. The Plan has been prepared by the Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, which was given delegated authority by the Parish Council to produce the Plan. Regular feedback to the Parish Council has taken place. The Chair of the Steering Group was Mr. Bill Byatt. The Parish Council clerk attended the meetings and minutes were kept on the website during the preparation period. The Parish Council were regularly updated on the progress of the Plan, and a Terms of Reference was adopted and used to ensure transparency and proper conduct of affairs at all times. The Steering Group meetings were also attended by Northumberland County Council's Neighbourhood Planning Officer (Mr. Rob Naples).

3.3 The Parish of Acklington (forming the Plan area for the Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan) is entirely within the Northumberland County area. A Neighbourhood Area application was submitted under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (part 2 section 6) to Northumberland County Council who approved the application on 7th February 2018.

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3.4 The Parish of Acklington Parish was therefore designated as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of section 61(G) of the 1990 Act. Copies of the Neighbourhood Area designation documents are available on the Northumberland County Council website.

ii) What is being proposed is a neighbourhood development plan

3.5 The Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan contains policies that relate to planning matters (the use and development of land) and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended).

iii) The proposed neighbourhood plan states the period for which it is to have effect

3.6 The draft Plan identifies a 13-year period to which it relates: 2024 to 2036. This timescale is designed to fit in with the timescales set out in the Northumberland Local Plan which was adopted in March 2022.

iv) The neighbourhood plan does not deal with excluded development such as strategic county matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

3.7 None of the policies in the Plan relate to excluded development.

v) The proposed neighbourhood plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area and there are no other neighbourhood development plans in place within the neighbourhood area.

3.8 The Plan relates to the Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Area, which is the designated neighbourhood area consisting of the Parish of Acklington. The Plan does not contain policies or proposals that relate to any other area. There are no other neighbourhood plans relating to this designated neighbourhood area.

vi) The Neighbourhood Development Plan only contains policies relating to the development and use of land.

3.9 The Plan contains policies relating to the development and use of land. Other proposals that are not related to the development and use of land that have been raised by the local community in response to consultations will be considered separately by the Parish Council but have been included in the Plan in a separate section entitled 'Community Projects'. This section of the Plan is not subject to examination and does not form part of the development plan for the purposes of determining planning applications.

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4.0 Basic Conditions

4.1 A Neighbourhood Plan will be considered to have met the Basic Conditions if:

1. Having appropriate regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan;
2. The ‘making’ of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
3. The ‘making’ of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
4. The ‘making’ of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, retained EU obligations as incorporated into UK law. There are 4 directives that may be of particular relevance to neighbourhood planning: Directive 2001/43/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive); Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (often referred to as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive); Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (often referred to as the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives respectively).
5. Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan. The following prescribed condition relates to neighbourhood plans: Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out a further Basic condition in addition to those set out in primary legislation. That the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects). (See Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)).

4.2 The Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan will be assessed against each of the identified basic conditions above:

Basic Condition 1: Having appropriate regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan.

4.3 National Planning Practice Guidance states (Paragraph: 070 Reference ID: 41-070-20190509):

‘A qualifying body is advised to set out in its basic conditions statement how they have had regard to national policy and considered whether a particular policy is or is not relevant. A qualifying body is encouraged to set out the particular national policies that it has considered, and how the policies in a draft neighbourhood plan or the development proposals in an Order take account of national policy and advice.’

4.4 How the Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State is contained in Table 1 which sets out those particular national policies and guidance in the NPPF that have a

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bearing on policies in the submission Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Basic Condition 2: The ‘making’ of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development

- 4.5 The meaning of ‘sustainable development’ in this context is set out in paragraph 8 of the NPPF. Paragraph 8 identifies three objectives (economic objectives, social objectives and environmental objectives), the combination of which, contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The objective of sustainable development can be summarised as ‘meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.¹ There are several objectives set out in the Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the combination of which contribute to the delivery of ‘sustainable development’. Five objectives were identified as a result of the community consultation exercises and are listed below:

Objective 1: To ensure that new development is **sustainable**, meets **local needs**, and is in keeping with the **scale and design** of existing buildings and places and **preserves the beauty of the open countryside**, valued **local landscapes and dark skies**.

Objective 2: To support the local community by the **protection of existing, and the encouragement of new community facilities** and by the maintenance of **green spaces, outdoor recreation areas** and the network of **local footpaths and bridleways**.

Objective 3: To **support and encourage new local services and businesses**, while protecting the tranquil rural character of the area and the amenity of residents

Objective 4: To **enhance the natural environment** by ensuring that new development delivers a net gain for biodiversity and that areas of value to wildlife are protected.

Objective 5: To ensure that new development **preserves and enhances the significance of the historic environment** in the parish.

- 4.6 The Plan contains 7 policies, which in combination, seek to deliver the vision and the objectives identified above which relate to the three areas of sustainable development identified in the NPPF of delivering economic, social and environmental objectives. How the policies deliver these objectives is summarised below:

Economic Objectives

NPPF Para 8: ‘to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure’ [para 8 NPPF]

- 4.7 Policy ANP3 identifies community facilities that will be protected and supported. These facilities are also in some cases local businesses.

¹ Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly – referred in paragraph 7 of the NPPF

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Social Objectives:

NPPF Para 8: ‘to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being’

- 4.8 Policy ANP1 is about design in Acklington village and seeks to ensure that new development will be well-designed, resulting in a built environment that reflects the desire of the local community to live in an area that is both attractive and well-related to existing development.
- 4.9 Policy ANP2 seeks to address issues in the Neighbourhood Area related to lack of permanent occupancy housing, and the rapid increase in second homes and holiday lets which is of concern to the communities living in those areas, and resulting in a loss, particularly of smaller more affordable dwellings suitable for younger families.
- 4.10 Policy ANP5 lists Local Green Spaces which have been identified by residents in the Neighbourhood Area as being special. These spaces are important to retaining a strong, vibrant and healthy community.

Environmental Objectives:

NPPF Para 8: ‘to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land; helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution and mitigating and adapting to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.’

- 4.11 Most of the policies in the plan have an environmental objective: Policy ANP4 is about biodiversity, woodlands and hedgerows and reflects the very strong support for the protection of the natural environment that came through at all stages of consultation.
- 4.12 Other policies are specifically related to the historic environment, in particular Policy ANP1 which refers to the historic core of Acklington and Policy ANP6 which is about the Guyzance Conservation Area. Policy ANP7 identifies non-designated heritage assets in the Neighbourhood Area, and these are listed in Appendix A of the Plan.
- 4.13 In combination, it is considered that this Plan will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development as defined in the NPPF and the Plan therefore meets the second Basic Condition. Table 1 further assesses each policy in the Plan against the objective of delivering sustainable development.

Basic Condition 3: That the Neighbourhood Plan is in General Conformity with Strategic Local Policy

- 4.14 The Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan area lies entirely within Northumberland County Council. On 31st March 2022, the County Council adopted the Northumberland Local Plan (NLP). This Plan contains strategic and non-strategic policies. A list of strategic policies is provided in Appendix A.
- 4.15 The neighbourhood plan must be in ‘general conformity’ with strategic policy. Paragraph 074² of the National Planning Practice Guidance explains what is meant by

² (Reference ID: 41-074- 20140306)

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‘general conformity’:

‘When considering whether a policy is in general conformity a qualifying body, independent examiner, or local planning authority, should consider the following:

- *whether the neighbourhood plan policy or development proposal supports and upholds the general principle that the strategic policy is concerned with.*
- *the degree, if any, of conflict between the draft neighbourhood plan policy or development proposal and the strategic policy.*
- *whether the draft neighbourhood plan policy or development proposal provides an additional level of detail and/or a distinct local approach to that set out in the strategic policy without undermining that policy.*
- *the rationale for the approach taken in the draft neighbourhood plan and the evidence to justify that approach.’*

- 4.16 The Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan is only required to be in conformity with strategic policies. In this Basic Conditions Statement each policy in the plan has been tested against the relevant strategic policies in the Northumberland Local Plan and is set out in detail in Table 1. Policies in the neighbourhood plan are also tested against national planning policy and practice guidance as set out in the NPPF.
- 4.17 The conclusions in Table 1 confirm that the Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions in all areas. There are no areas of conflict with existing or strategic policy in the NLP. The policies in the Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan give a level of local specificity to strategic policies which is appropriate to planning at a neighbourhood level.

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Table 1: Policies in the submission Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan tested against Basic Conditions 1, 2 and 3.

Policy ANP1: Development in Acklington Village		
Basic Condition 1 (having regard to National Planning policy and Practice)	Basic Condition 2 (contributing to the achievement of sustainable development)	Basic Condition 3 (general conformity with strategic planning policy) Northumberland Local Plan (2022)
<p>This policy supports good design in new development and has regard to national planning policy that relates to design. The policy is broad ranging, and covers design, the historic environment, biodiversity and connectivity. The policy is preceded by specific advice about design and local character which should assist the interpretation of the policy.</p> <p>Chapter 12 of the NPPF is about achieving well-designed and beautiful places. The proposed policy seeks to ensure that new development in Acklington re-enforces local character and that design and biodiversity provision in new development contributes to the enhancement of the character of the village.</p>	<p>This policy contributes to the achievement of sustainable development by seeking to deliver high-quality design which will contribute to a sense of place in Acklington. The policy further promotes the retention of trees and hedgerows and identifies what is special about the historic environment in the area.</p>	<p>There are no strategic design policies in the NLP.</p>

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Policy ANP2: Principal residency		
Basic Condition 1 (having regard to National Planning policy and Practice)	Basic Condition 2 (contributing to the achievement of sustainable development)	Basic Condition 3 (general conformity with strategic planning policy) Northumberland Local Plan (2022)
<p>This policy seeks to ensure that new housing in the Neighbourhood Area meets local needs by ensuring that new housing is for principal residency only. As certain parts of the Neighbourhood Area have higher rates of second homes/holiday lets than others, the Policy has split the Neighbourhood Area into 3 distinct areas. The approach is broadly consistent with the government’s aims to increase the availability of housing. In particular, recent announcements made (19th February 2024) <i>‘Local residents will be protected from being pushed out of their communities by excessive short-term lets thanks to changes in planning rules’</i> https://www.gov.uk/government/news/short-term-lets-rules-to-protect-communities-and-keep-homes-available shows that this approach is consistent with up to date policy and proposed legislation being put forward by government.</p>	<p>This policy contributes to the achievement of sustainable development by seeking to ensure that local communities remain viable. The policy has a strong ‘social sustainability’ stance.</p>	<p>Policy HOU10 in the NLP refers to second and holiday homes. This is not identified as a strategic policy.</p>

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Policy ANP3: Community Facilities		
Basic Condition 1 (having regard to National Planning policy and Practice)	Basic Condition 2 (contributing to the achievement of sustainable development)	Basic Condition 3 (general conformity with strategic planning policy): Northumberland Local Plan (2022)
<p>Chapter 8 of the NPPF is about promoting healthy and safe communities. Paragraph 92 states that planning policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments. Part c) of paragraph 97 states that planning policies should guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community’s ability to meet its day-to-day needs. The facilities identified within Policy ANP3 have been identified by the community as being particularly important.</p> <p>This policy is in conformity with the aims set out in the NPPF regarding community facilities. It is locally specific and identifies those facilities that are particularly valued in the community.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to deliver sustainable development with an emphasis on local communities. The policy supports the retention of a list of identified community facilities and is pro-active in supporting the enhancement of the identified facilities. This policy approach contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.</p> <p>This policy will support the delivery of social objectives whilst also supporting local business.</p>	<p>There are no strategic policies in relation to community facilities in the NLP. Policy INF2 is about community services and facilities but is not identified as ‘strategic’.</p>

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Policy ANP4: Woodlands, Trees, Hedgerows and Wildlife Corridors		
Basic Condition 1 (having regard to National Planning policy and Practice)	Basic Condition 2 (contributing to the achievement of sustainable development)	Basic Condition 3 (general conformity with strategic planning policy) Northumberland Local Plan (2022)
<p>This policy identifies specific areas of habitat and biodiversity importance in the Neighbourhood Area. Specifically, it identifies ancient woodland, ancient re-planted woodland and a Woodland Priority Habitat Network. These places are all identified on the Policies Map. The policy sets a strong presumption against the loss of these areas of woodland and supports the retention of trees and hedgerows in the Neighbourhood Ara. A Wildlife Corridor consistent with a Network Enhancement Zone are also shown on the Policies Map and referenced in the policy. The evidence for the policy comes from Natural England’s mapping services (MAGIC) and the policy is consistent with the government’s policy aspirations and legislative changes in the Environment Act, to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The plan identifies which priority habitats are of importance, giving the policy a level of local specificity that is appropriate to neighbourhood planning.</p>	<p>This policy contributes to the achievement of sustainable development by seeking to deliver net-gain for biodiversity (now enshrined in law), and supporting the retention of, and enhancement to existing wildlife habitats. It also supports objectives with regard to health and economic objectives on which wildlife and biodiversity have a strong bearing.</p>	<p>Policy ANP4 reflects the approach taken in the NLP generally with regard to biodiversity. Policy ENV2 which covers biodiversity and geodiversity is identified as a strategic policy. No conflicts are identified, and Policy ANP4 gives a level of local specificity over and above that set out in NLP Policy ENV2.</p>

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Policy ANP5: Local Green Spaces		
Basic Condition 1 (having regard to National Planning policy and Practice)	Basic Condition 2 (contributing to the achievement of sustainable development)	Basic Condition 3 (general conformity with strategic planning policy) Northumberland Local Plan (2022):
<p>Policy ANP5 identifies 5 Local Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Area. Some of these spaces are in the village of Acklington, and some are in Guyzance. NPPF paragraph 105 gives local communities the opportunity to identify areas as Local Green Space, providing that the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves, and is demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife and where it is local in character and not an extensive tract of land. The Local Green Spaces identified in this Neighbourhood Plan meet the requirements set out above, and evidence is provided to demonstrate that in the form of background evidence papers. The policy states that the management of the Local Green Spaces should be consistent with those for green belts, as set out in NPPF paragraph 107.</p>	<p>The provision and retention of Local Green Spaces contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. The spaces identified are highly valued by the local community – some for recreational value, some for biodiversity value, and some for historic interest.</p> <p>The areas identified are important to sustain a vibrant and healthy community and their designation is consistent with the principles of sustainable development.</p>	<p>The policy is in general conformity with strategic policy in the NLP. Only Neighbourhood Plans can designate Local Green Space, so there is no equivalent strategic policy, although the NLP Policy STP6 (Green Infrastructure) does support the protection, improvement and extension of Northumberland’s green infrastructure, and Policy INF5 identifies several green spaces in Acklington Parish which are also identified as Local Green Spaces.</p>

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Policy ANP6: Guyzance Conservation Area		
Basic Condition 1 (having regard to National Planning policy and Practice)	Basic Condition 2 (contributing to the achievement of sustainable development)	Basic Condition 3 (general conformity with strategic planning policy) Northumberland Local Plan (2022)
<p>This policy seeks to set out clearly how future development proposals can preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Guyzance Conservation Area. Chapter 15 of the NPPF is about conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Paragraph 196 states that plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment taking into account the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness. Policy ANP6 specifically identifies significance of the Guyzance Conservation Area following a thorough appraisal of the Conservation Area Character Statement and provides a set of criteria which aim to improve the character and appearance of the conservation area. It is consistent with national planning policy and relevant legislation set out in the Acts that relate to the historic environment.</p>	<p>This policy contributes to the achievement of sustainable development by seeking to conserve the local historic environment; this delivers benefits for residents, businesses and the environment.</p>	<p>Proposed policy ANP6 is in general conformity with the NLP, and in particular with strategic Policy ENV1 (Approaches to assessing the impact of development on the natural, historic and built environment).</p>

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Policy ANP7: Non-designated heritage assets		
Basic Condition 1 (having regard to National Planning policy and Practice)	Basic Condition 2 (contributing to the achievement of sustainable development)	Basic Condition 3 (general conformity with strategic planning policy) Northumberland Local Plan (2022)
<p>This policy seeks to identify and conserve non-designated heritage assets identified in the Neighbourhood Area. Chapter 16 of the NPPF is about conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Paragraph 209 sets out the approach to determining planning applications affecting non-designated heritage assets. Policy ANP7 identifies NDHAs in the Neighbourhood Area, including a Historic Core for Acklington. The detail of these NDHAs is set out at the end of the Plan. The policy sets out the approach to be taken when determining planning applications, both of which have regard to national planning policy set out in Chapter 16.</p>	<p>This policy contributes to the achievement of sustainable development by seeking to conserve the local historic environment; this delivers benefits for residents, businesses, and the environment.</p>	<p>Proposed Policy ANP7 is in general conformity with the NLP, and with strategic Policy ENV1 (Approaches to assessing the impact of development on the natural, historic and built environment).</p>

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Basic Condition 4: The ‘making’ of the neighbourhood plan does not breach and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations as incorporated into UK law.

- 4.18 Directive 2001/42/EC requires the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive).
- 4.19 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the ‘Habitats Regulations’) requires that competent authorities assess the potential impacts of land use plans on the Natura 2000 network of European protected sites. This is to determine whether there will be any ‘likely significant effects’ on any European sites as a result of the plan’s implementation (either alone or ‘in combination’ with other plans or projects); and, if so, whether these effects will result in any adverse effects on that site’s integrity with reference to the site’s conservation objectives. The process by which the effects of a plan or programme on European sites are assessed is known as ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’ (HRA).
- 4.20 The requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment are set out in separate legislation. The Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan was screened ‘out’ for SEA. A copy of the Screening Opinion is submitted with the Plan.
- 4.21 The Plan was screened under the Habitats Regulations and all policies were screened ‘out’. The screening opinion is submitted with the Plan.

European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

- 4.22 The Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan is fully compliant with European Convention on Human Rights. There is no discrimination stated or implied, or threat to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Convention.

Basic Condition 5: Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended)

- 4.23 Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) add a basic condition for neighbourhood plans in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. Regulation 33 applies specifically to Neighbourhood Orders and therefore does not apply in this case. Regulation 32 applies to Neighbourhood Plans and requires that: ‘the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.’ Sections 4.19 to 4.21 set out how the Neighbourhood Plan was amended to take account of statutory requirements through the carrying out of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Habitats Regulations Assessment, and how the Plan has been amended accordingly.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The evidence provided in this Basic Conditions Statement concludes that this submission version of the Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan (2024-2036) meets the Basic Conditions as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012) (as amended).

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APPENDIX A: LIST OF STRATEGIC POLICIES RELEVANT TO THE ACKLINGTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA CONTAINED IN THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL PLAN 2022)

Policy STP1:	Spatial Strategy
Policy STP2:	Presumption in favour of sustainable development
Policy STP3:	Principles of sustainable development
Policy STP4:	Climate change mitigation and adaptation
Policy STP5:	Health and wellbeing
Policy STP6:	Green infrastructure
Policy STP9:	Safeguarded land
Policy ECN1:	Planning strategy for the economy
Policy ECN5:	Large-scale windfall employment development
Policy ECN6:	General employment land-allocations and safeguarding
Policy ECN12:	A strategy for rural economic growth
Policy ECN13:	Meeting rural employment needs
Policy HOU1:	Making the best use of existing buildings
Policy HOU2:	Provision of new residential development
Policy HOU3:	Housing requirements for neighbourhood areas
Policy HOU:	Housing development site allocations
Policy HO6:	Affordable housing provision
Policy HOU11:	Homes for older and vulnerable people
Policy QP1:	Design principles
Policy TRA1:	Promoting sustainable connections
Policy ENV1:	Approaches to assessing the impact of development on the natural, historic and built environment
Policy MIN1:	Environmental criteria for assessing minerals proposals
Policy MIN2:	Criteria for assessing the benefits of minerals proposals
Policy MIN3:	Mineral and landfill site restoration, aftercare and after-use
Policy MIN4:	Safeguarding mineral resources
Policy MIN6:	Safeguarding minerals related infrastructure
Policy MIN7:	Aggregate minerals
Policy MIN8:	Aggregate mineral site allocations – Sand and gravel
Policy MIN9:	Aggregate mineral site allocations – crushed rock
Policy MIN10:	Coal
Policy MIN11:	Clays
Policy MIN12:	Natural building and roofing stone
Policy MIN13:	Conventional and unconventional oil and gas
Policy MIN14:	Peat
Policy WAS1:	Principles for the location of waste re-use, recycling and recovery facilities
Policy WAS3:	Waste disposal
Policy WAS4:	Safeguarding waste management facilities
Policy INF1:	Delivering development related infrastructure

N.B. Site specific strategic policies have not been included in the above list as they do not relate to this Neighbourhood Area (Green Belt Policies and specific strategic site allocations)