

Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) &
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
Environmental Report: ADDENDUM

Final Report

**A Report for Alnwick Town Council
Prepared by the Communities & Infrastructure Team,
Northumberland County Council**

02 December 2016

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Checked by:	
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Non-technical summary

0.01 This is the non-technical summary of the Environmental Report Addendum for the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan (ADNP). This section of the Report provides a summary in non-technical language of this Addendum. The purpose of an Environmental Report is to provide information about, and an assessment of, the potential environmental and sustainability effects of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan.

0.02 The Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Northumberland County Council and this was publicised between 09 October and 23 November 2015. The County Council publicised the Plan and the Independent Examination was carried out. The Examiner's Report was published in December 2015 and since then, the Plan has been modified in accordance with the Examiner's report. However, it was considered that some policies could be modified in other ways to those suggested by the Examiner, whilst still allowing them to meet the basic conditions.

Summary of assessment of plan aims and policies

0.03 The Neighbourhood Plan aims were assessed against the SEA objectives as part of the SEA Scoping exercise. This was then set out in the SEA Scoping Report and was reproduced in the Environmental Report. This assessment showed that, on the whole, there are no significant adverse effects on the baseline resulting from the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

0.04 The County Council and the Town Council will jointly monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan using the available data. The County Council's Annual Monitoring Report will provide some data at this level.

Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Plan following Examination

0.05 Evaluating the effects of the Plan following Examination has entailed identifying the effects of those policies which were modified in variation to the Examiner's recommendations against the SEA objectives.

Assessment topic summaries

0.06 The assessment process has been carried out on a topic by topic basis, based on those policies which have been modified as a variation of the Examiner's recommendations are set out later in this addendum. The full findings of the assessment of the submission Plan, can be found in the main SEA Environmental Report. The following is an assessment which focuses on the identification and assessment of significant effects, broken down by Neighbourhood Plan topic area, and includes only those policies which were modified beyond those modifications suggested by the Examiner.

Housing

0.21 The assessment of Policy H5 against the sustainability objectives remains the same as the previous assessment. Although the policy has been modified and its requirements relaxed from the previous policy, the policy's overall sustainability remains the same.

Economy & Employment

0.22 The assessment of Policy E5 against the sustainability objectives remains the same as the previous assessment. The modification to the policy is very minor in nature, and as such, the policy's overall sustainability remains the same.

Town Centre & Retail

0.23 The assessment of Policy TCR1 against the sustainability objectives remains the same as the previous assessment. The modification to the policy is very minor in nature, and as such, the policy's overall sustainability remains the same.

Community Facilities

0.24 Policies CF5 and CF8 have been modified in variation to the modifications suggested by the Examiner. The basic thrust of both policies remains unchanged despite some rewording and rephrasing of certain requirements. It is considered that none of the modifications to the policies alter their assessment result in terms of sustainability.

Transport

0.25 Given the nature of the modifications made to the policies, the assessment against the sustainability objectives remains the same. One exception to this is that Policy TRA4 is now considered to have a neutral effect in relation to sustainability objective 4 (previously uncertain) as the policy has removed the vague reference to links to the wider network. This enabled a more definitive assessment based on existing infrastructure.

Environment

0.26 Overall, the policies set out within the environment chapter performed positively when assessed against the SEA objectives. The assessment of these modified policies remains the same as the previous assessment due to the nature of the modifications made. While Policies ENV4 and ENV8 have been the most extensively modified, the effects of the policies in terms of sustainability are considered to remain the same.

Heritage, Design & Culture

0.27 Overall, the policies set out within the heritage, design and culture chapter performed positively when assessed against the SEA objectives. Due to the nature of the policies in this chapter, there is no relationship with a number of sustainability objectives. The assessment of these modified policies remains the same as the previous assessment

due to the nature of the modifications made, with the exception of Policy HD6 which was assessed as having a neutral effect in relation to objectives four and seven where these had previously been uncertain.

Consultation

0.28 The publication of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Environmental Report allows statutory consultees, key stakeholders and those who made representations on the submission draft Plan the opportunity to comment on the contents of this Addendum to the Environmental Report.

Any comments relating to the content of the Environmental Report should be sent to Mr Bill Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk, via email at: bill.batey@btconnect.com or in writing to:

Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan
Alnwick Town Council Office
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Chapter 1: Introduction

Introduction

1.01 This document is an addendum to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report produced in 2015 in relation to the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan (ADNP). The report has been prepared by the Communities & Infrastructure Team at Northumberland County Council in order to support Alnwick Town Council in meeting the obligations set out in The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (“the Regulations”). The report is prepared on behalf of Alnwick Town Council which is the ‘responsible authority’ for the purposes of those Regulations and is the qualifying body for the purpose of Neighbourhood Planning.

1.02 The Environmental Report produced in 2015 described the approach taken in undertaking an environmental assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan and in preparing the Environmental Report as required by the Regulations. To assist in determining the need for an environmental assessment under the Regulations, the local planning authority provided its opinion regarding the need for SEA. This opinion is attached as Appendix A to the 2015 SEA Environmental Report. It is not reproduced in this Addendum.

1.03 This addendum focuses on those modifications made to the emerging Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan following its Examination. The Report of the Examiner was published in December 2015. Alnwick Town Council, together with Denwick Parish Council and Northumberland County Council, disagreed with a number of the Examiner’s recommendations and it was decided to further modify the Neighbourhood Plan in order to address issues raised by the Examiner. It is accepted that these modifications should be subject to SEA in order to confirm that the proposed modifications will enable the Neighbourhood Plan to meet the basic conditions.

1.04 This SEA Addendum has been prepared to document the implications of the proposed modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan and will be **consulted upon** alongside the revised Plan.

1.05 It is important to read this addendum alongside the main SEA Environmental Report which contains further information on the scope of the SEA and provides the context within which the Neighbourhood Plan policies have been developed.

1.06 In order to meet the ‘basic conditions’ referred to above, the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan needs to be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan. However, Alnwick Town Council, as qualifying body, agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan would be prepared having regard to the emerging Core Strategy for the county with a view to align with the strategic development plan policies as they emerge.

Accordingly, the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan SEA Scoping Report was in part derived from the Northumberland County Council Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal scoping report which accompanies the emerging Core Strategy for the county to ensure:

- (a) consistency with the emerging Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy; and
- (b) that all relevant legislation and policies are identified in the scoping process.

Scoping

1.07 Scoping sets the context for the SEA, establishing the key issues that should be a focus of the assessment and the methodologies that will be used for appraising the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan. The scope of the SEA has already been established; the SEA Scoping Report included baseline information on a range of sustainability factors and included a review of the policy context. This information was used to appraise the implications of the Neighbourhood Plan.

1.08 The scope is constantly evolving, and so there is a need to review new information and evidence at key stages of plan making to ensure that the scope remains focused on the key issues. A review of the scope of the SA relating to the emerging Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy was carried out by consultants producing the Core Strategy SA on behalf of the County Council. They have not identified any issues which require a change to the SA framework relating to the Core Strategy. Since this is a county-wide document, it is considered that the assessment of scope carried out in relation to that document is sufficient to ensure that the scope of the SEA for the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan, as set out in the SEA Scoping Report for the neighbourhood plan, remains appropriate.

Background

1.09 Following the Examination of the Plan, a number of further modifications have been proposed which are not in line with the recommendations set out in the Examiner's report. There is potential for some effects upon the environment, economy or communities. These modifications to the Plan are the focus of this addendum to the SEA.

1.10 The table on the following page sets out the policies from the Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan and includes both the Examiner's recommendations and proposed actions.

Policy deleted in accordance with examiner's recommendation

Examiner's recommendations accepted on modification or policy unchanged

Variation proposed to examiner's recommendation

Submission Draft Policy	New Policy Reference	Examiner's Recommendations	Proposed Action
Policy SD1 Planning for Sustainable Development in Alnwick and Denwick	-	Delete	Delete
Policy H1 Quantity of Housing	H1	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy H2 Location of Housing Development	H2	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy H3 Ensuring a Choice of Housing	H3	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy H4 Affordable Housing	-	Delete	Delete
Policy H5 Housing Design	H4	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy H6 Existing Stock	H5	Delete	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy H7 Housing in the Countryside	-	Delete	Delete
Policy E1 Providing for Economic Growth	E1	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy E2 Location of Economic Growth	E2	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy E3 Future Use of Existing Employment Sites	E3	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy E4 Development on South Road	E4	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy E5 Tourism Development	E5	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy E6 Employment and Training for Young People	E6	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations

Submission Draft Policy	New Policy Reference	Examiner's Recommendations	Proposed Action
Policy TCR1 Primary Shopping Frontages	TCR1	Delete	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy TCR2 Development Opportunities to Support Primary Shopping Frontages	TCR2	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy TCR3 Out of Centre Retail	TCR3	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy TCR4 Local Convenience Retail	-	Delete	Delete
Policy TCR5 Market Place	TCR4	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF1 Protecting Key Community Facilities	CF1	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF2 Outdoor Sports and Leisure	CF2	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF3 Greensfield Playing Pitches	CF3	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF4 Developing Greensfield for Education and Recreation	CF4	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF5 Future Development of the Middle Schools	CF5	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF6 Dual Use of Greensfield Facilities	CF6	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF7 Facilities for Older People	CF7	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF8 Safeguarding Health and Medical Facilities	-	Delete	Delete
Policy CF9 Public Toilet Facilities	CF8	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy TRA1 Walking	TRA1	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy TRA2 Cycling	TRA2	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations

Submission Draft Policy	New Policy Reference	Examiner's Recommendations	Proposed Action
Policy TRA3 Alnwick Bus Station	TRA3	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy TRA4 Goods and Services	-	Delete	Delete
Policy TRA5 Transport Links	TRA4	Delete	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy TRA6 Environmental Impacts	-	Delete	Delete
Policy TRA7 Maintenance	-	Delete	Delete
Policy TRA8 Traffic Management	-	Delete	Delete
Policy TRA9 Parking	TRA5	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy ENV1 Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	-	Delete	Delete
Policy ENV2 Providing New Green Space Through Development	ENV1	Delete	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy ENV3 Safeguarding Green Space on Middle School Sites	-	Delete	Delete
Policy ENV4 Protecting Green Space	ENV2	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy ENV5 Local Green Space	ENV3	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy ENV6 Areas for Nature Conservation	-	Delete	Delete
Policy ENV7 Protecting Biodiversity	ENV4	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy ENV8 Future Allotment Provision	ENV5	No change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy ENV9 Protecting Trees	ENV6	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy ENV10 Landscaping of New Developments	ENV7	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy ENV11 Protecting Green Infrastructure	ENV8	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations

Submission Draft Policy	New Policy Reference	Examiner's Recommendations	Proposed Action
Policy ENV12 Sustainable Drainage Systems	ENV9	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy ENV13 Small Scale Renewable Energy	ENV10	No change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy ENV14 Energy Conservation in New Housing	-	Delete	Delete
Policy ENV15 Reducing Light Pollution	ENV11	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy ENV16 Recycling Facilities	-	Delete	Delete
Policy HD1 Protecting Landscape Setting	HD1	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy HD2 Heritage Assets at Risk	HD2	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy HD3 Protecting Designated Heritage Assets	-	Delete	Delete
Policy HD4 Protecting Non-Designated Heritage Assets	HD3	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy HD5 Enforcing Protection of Heritage Assets	-	Delete	Delete
Policy HD6 The Approaches to the Town	HD4	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy HD7 Design in the Wider Town	HD5	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy HD8 Protecting Town Gateways	HD6	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy HD9 Design in the Historic Centre	HD7	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy HD10 Vital Historic Spaces	-	Delete	Delete
Policy HD11 Streetscape Design	-	Delete	Delete

1.11 It is clear, from the above table, that the Examiner recommended modifications to a large number of policies. The justification for these is set out in the Examiner's report. It is considered unnecessary to include those policies modified by the Examiner in this SEA Addendum as they were modified by the Examiner in order to, in his view, meet the basic conditions. Therefore, this Addendum only seeks to assess those policies where modification has not been in line with the Examiner's recommendations.

1.12 In order to avoid confusion when reading this Addendum alongside the SEA Environmental Report which was submitted with the Plan for Examination, the policy numbers used in the assessment tables in this Addendum are the ***new policy numbers***.

Scoping

1.13 Scoping sets the context for the SEA, establishing the key issues that should be a focus of the assessment and the methodologies that will be used for appraising the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan. The scope of the SEA has already been established; the SEA Scoping Report included baseline information on a range of sustainability factors and included a review of the policy context. This information was used to appraise the implications of the Neighbourhood Plan.

1.14 The scope is constantly evolving, and so there is a need to review new information and evidence at key stages of plan making to ensure that the scope remains focused on the key issues. A review of the scope of the SA relating to the emerging Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy was carried out by consultants producing the Core Strategy SA on behalf of the County Council. They have not identified any issues which require a change to the SA framework relating to the Core Strategy. Since this is a county-wide document, it is considered that the assessment of scope carried out in relation to that document is sufficient to ensure that the scope of the SEA for the Alwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan, as set out in the SEA Scoping Report for the neighbourhood plan, remains appropriate.

Definition of the SEA framework

2.13 The SEA Regulations do not specifically require the use of objectives or indicators in the SEA; however, they are a recognised way in which environmental effects can be described, analysed and compared. Each SEA objective should be a statement of what is intended, specifying a desired direction of environmental change.

2.14 During the scoping stage, the SEA objectives and appraisal questions were formulated to help focus the environmental assessment on the most important issues. The SEA objectives were developed by reviewing the environmental objectives of plans and programmes with the potential to affect the Plan area, and by analysing the baseline information to identify environmental problems and opportunities. The objectives were refined having taken account of comments received during the consultation on the contents of the Scoping Report.

Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Objectives and guiding questions		
SEA objectives		Guiding questions
1	To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation to and mitigation against its possible effects	Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gas? Will it reduce flood risk? Will it help mitigate existing level of flood risk? Will it increase 'Green Contributions' (SUDS, trees etc.)? Will it encourage new energy efficiency measures?
SEA objectives		Guiding questions
2	To protect and enhance the local distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes	Will it keep the distinctive character of the townscape? Will it retain / enhance landscape character including that of the historic park and garden and historic landscape character?
3	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	Will it preserve and enhance local heritage and buildings and their settings? Will it allow the cultural heritage to be enjoyed by residents and visitors while retaining its integrity? Will it reduce the 'risk of decline' to the conservation area?
4	To protect and enhance biodiversity, taking account of the wider ecological	Will it ensure that the wider ecological network of international, national and local sites, priority habitats and wildlife corridors are not adversely affected? Will it adversely affect the wider ecological network of international, national and local sites, priority habitats and

	network	<p>wildlife corridors?</p> <p>Will it meet specified targets in line with the Local BAP?</p> <p>Will it protect and increase the amount of tree cover?</p> <p>Will it protect statutory designated sites within or beyond the area?</p> <p>Will it protect non-statutory sites of local importance?</p> <p>Will there be a net positive effect on ecosystems – e.g. through ecosystem services?</p> <p>Will it protect and enhance the quality of rivers and inland waters?</p> <p>Does it comply with integrated catchment management plans?</p> <p>Will it impact on soil quality?</p>
5	To protect and enhance water quality	<p>Does it comply with integrated catchment management plans?</p> <p>Will it impact on groundwater quality?</p>
6	To improve air quality	<p>Will it impact on air quality?</p> <p>Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases?</p>
7	To use natural resources prudently and reduce waste.	<p>Will it reduce waste production?</p> <p>Will it help maintain or increase the reuse of previously developed land and buildings in proportional terms?</p> <p>Will it increase the use of recycled / reclaimed materials in construction?</p> <p>Will it encourage recycling, reuse and the use of renewable resources?</p> <p>Will it increase water conservation?</p>

SEA objectives		Guiding questions
8	To move towards greater health, wellbeing, safety, equality and inclusiveness within the community and for those visiting the area	<p>Will it promote a safe lifestyle? Will it promote a healthy lifestyle? Will it reduce accidents? Will it add to opportunities for exercise, fresh air etc.? Will it reduce social isolation? Will it reduce crime? Will its implementation produce outcomes acceptable to all sections of the community?</p>
9	To maximise opportunities for people to live in suitable, decent and affordable homes	<p>Will it provide a wide range of housing types and tenure across the area? Will it encourage housing that is affordable for sale or rent? Will it provide sufficient homes within the community? Will it ensure housing is of a decent standard across all tenures? Will it reduce homelessness? Will it reduce the number of vacant properties?</p>
10	To strengthen and maintain a resilient local economy and the diversity and quality of education, training and employment opportunities for all sections of society.	<p>Will it attract new inward investment? Will it increase business start-ups and continuity? Will it generate new employment? Will it protect existing jobs and business? Will it strengthen the local economy? Will this reduce unemployment? Will it help stem the relative growth in out-commuting? Will ensure that people have access to learning opportunities? Will it increase the use of ICT? Will it help retain younger people within the area? Will it reduce the outward migration of higher level skills? Will it increase the inward migration of higher level skills? Will it broaden the appeal of the town centre and help to revitalise and re-invent its role?</p>
11	To improve the quality and range of accessible community services and facilities.	<p>Will improve learning opportunities? Will it reduce isolation from services? Will it increase the amount of recreational facilities and open space? Will it develop and sustain community identity? Will it strengthen the links between communities within and beyond the plan area?</p>
12	To improve sustainable access across the area to homes, jobs and services	<p>Will it improve the integration of transport mode provision? Will it improve transport infrastructure? Will it link residential and employment developments with services? Will it reduce road congestion? Will it encourage use of alternative transport modes such as walking and cycling? Will it reduce trip generation by car and/or contribute to the</p>

	<p>increased use of non-car modes?</p> <p>Will it reduce conflicts between different modes of transport?</p> <p>Will it reduce the incidence of accidents relating to any mode of transport?</p> <p>Will it include measures to promote road safety?</p> <p>Will it include measures to reduce casualties resulting from any mode of transport?</p>
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2.15 The table below shows the scoring methodology used in order to assess the Neighbourhood Plan Aims (objectives), alternatives, policies and proposals against the SEA objectives.

Table 1: SEA significance scores and criteria

Score	Description	Key
Major positive effect	The aim/policy addresses all the elements that are required to protect the environment and address the relevant sustainability issues in the Plan area and would help achieve the applicable SEA objective. The aim/policy also sets out how, where and when these policies will be implemented. They will have a positive impact in relation to characteristics of the effect and the sensitivity of the receptors.	✓✓
Minor positive effect	The aim/policy addresses all the elements that are required to protect the environment and address the sustainability issues in the Plan area and would help achieve the applicable SEA objective.	✓
Uncertain effect	It is unclear whether there is the potential for a negative or positive effect on the SEA objective.	?
Major negative effect	The aim/policy conflicts with some of the SEA objectives. The aim/policy also sets out how, where and when these policies will be implemented and these will have a negative effect in relation to characteristics of the effect and the sensitivity of the receptors.	XX
Minor negative effect	The aim/policy conflicts with some of the SEA objective.	X
Neutral effect	The aim/policy does not have an effect on the achievement of the SEA objective.	0
No relationship	The aim/policy does not relate to the achievement of the SEA objective.	-

Chapter 5: Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policies

5.01 The following tables show an assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan policies against the SEA objectives using a scoring system. These are grouped together under their subject headings as they appear in the Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan. Each Neighbourhood Plan policy was assessed against each of the SEA objectives, resulting in 12 separate assessments for each policy. The assessment of each policy looks at how the policy scores in sustainability terms overall (against the suite of SEA objectives).

5.02 Table 1 on page 26 shows SEA significance scores and criteria, which explains the rationale behind each of the scores used throughout the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan SEA process.

5.03 It was agreed with the Neighbourhood Plan Group that, due to the specific nature of the assessment itself, together with the need to ensure a consistent approach, that the assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan would be carried out by Northumberland County Council Officers. The assessment was then carried out under this arrangement and the results were subsequently presented to the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Group. A number of the assessments made were challenged by the Group and these were then subject to review by County Council Officers. The final assessment included within the Environmental Report was agreed and endorsed by the Neighbourhood Plan Group and was used to revise the Neighbourhood Plan policies where recommendations were made.

5.04 The assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan policies was revised to take account of the alterations made to the Neighbourhood Plan following the Pre-Submission consultation; the assessment contained within this document therefore relates to the Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Assessment of policies

5.05 The following tables show an assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan policies against the SEA objectives using a scoring system. These are grouped together under their respective subject headings within the Plan. The table above shows SEA significance scores and criteria and explains the rationale behind each of the scores used throughout the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan process.

Housing

		Sustainability Objectives											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
✓✓	Major positive effect	To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation to and mitigation against its possible effects	To protect and enhance the local distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	To protect and enhance biodiversity, taking account of the wider ecological network	To protect and enhance water quality	To improve air quality	To use natural resources prudently and reduce waste	To move towards greater health, wellbeing, safety, equality and inclusiveness within the community and for those visiting the area.	To maximise opportunities for people to live in suitable, decent and affordable homes	To strengthen and maintain a resilient local economy and the diversity and quality of employment opportunities for all sections of society	To improve the quality and range of accessible community services and facilities	To improve sustainable access across the area to homes, jobs and services
✓	Minor positive effect												
XX	Major negative effect												
X	Minor negative effect												
?	Uncertain effect												
0	Neutral Effect												
-	No relationship												
Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Policy													
Policy H5: Existing Stock		✓	✓✓	✓✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓✓	-	-	-
<p>Summary: The assessment of Policy H5 against the sustainability objectives remains the same as the previous assessment. Although the policy has been modified and its requirements relaxed from the previous policy, the policy's overall sustainability remains the same.</p>													

Economy and Employment

		Sustainability Objectives											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
✓✓	Major positive effect	To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation to and mitigation against its possible effects	To protect and enhance the local distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	To protect and enhance biodiversity, taking account of the wider ecological network	To protect and enhance water quality	To improve air quality	To use natural resources prudently and reduce waste	To move towards greater health, wellbeing, safety, equality and inclusiveness within the community and for those visiting the area.	To maximise opportunities for people to live in suitable, decent and affordable homes	To strengthen and maintain a resilient local economy and the diversity and quality of employment opportunities for all sections of society	To improve the quality and range of accessible community services and facilities	To improve sustainable access across the area to homes, jobs and services
✓	Minor positive effect												
XX	Major negative effect												
X	Minor negative effect												
?	Uncertain effect												
0	Neutral Effect												
-	No relationship												
Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Policy													
Policy E5: Tourism Development		✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	0	-	✓✓	✓	✓
<p>Summary: The assessment of Policy E5 against the sustainability objectives remains the same as the previous assessment. The modification to the policy is very minor in nature, and as such, the policy's overall sustainability remains the same.</p>													

Town Centre and Retail

		Sustainability Objectives											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
✓✓	Major positive effect	To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation to and mitigation against its possible effects	To protect and enhance the local distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	To protect and enhance biodiversity, taking account of the wider ecological network	To protect and enhance water quality	To improve air quality	To use natural resources prudently and reduce waste	To move towards greater health, wellbeing, safety, equality and inclusiveness within the community and for those visiting the area.	To maximise opportunities for people to live in suitable, decent and affordable homes	To strengthen and maintain a resilient local economy and the diversity and quality of employment opportunities for all sections of society	To improve the quality and range of accessible community services and facilities	To improve sustainable access across the area to homes, jobs and services
✓	Minor positive effect												
XX	Major negative effect												
X	Minor negative effect												
?	Uncertain effect												
0	Neutral Effect												
-	No relationship												
Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Policy													
Policy TCR1: Primary Shopping Frontages		-	✓	✓	-	0	0	-	✓	-	✓✓	✓	-
<p>Summary: The assessment of Policy TCR1 against the sustainability objectives remains the same as the previous assessment. The modification to the policy is very minor in nature, and as such, the policy's overall sustainability remains the same.</p>													

Community Facilities

		Sustainability Objectives											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
✓✓	Major positive effect	To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation to and mitigation against its possible effects	To protect and enhance the local distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	To protect and enhance biodiversity, taking account of the wider ecological network	To protect and enhance water quality	To improve air quality	To use natural resources prudently and reduce waste	To move towards greater health, wellbeing, safety, equality and inclusiveness within the community and for those visiting the area.	To maximise opportunities for people to live in suitable, decent and affordable homes	To strengthen and maintain a resilient local economy and the diversity and quality of employment opportunities for all sections of society	To improve the quality and range of accessible community services and facilities	To improve sustainable access across the area to homes, jobs and services
✓	Minor positive effect												
XX	Major negative effect												
X	Minor negative effect												
?	Uncertain effect												
0	Neutral Effect												
-	No relationship												
Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Policy													
Policy CF5: Future Development of the Middle Schools		?	✓	✓	?	0	0	?	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓
Policy CF8: Public Toilet Facilities		-	-	?	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-
<p>Summary: Policies CF5 and CF8 have been modified in variation to the modifications suggested by the Examiner. The basic thrust of both policies remains unchanged despite some rewording and rephrasing of certain requirements. It is considered that none of the modifications to the policies alter their assessment result in terms of sustainability.</p>													

Transport

		Sustainability Objectives											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
✓✓	Major positive effect	To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation to and mitigation against its possible effects	To protect and enhance the local distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	To protect and enhance biodiversity, taking account of the wider ecological network	To protect and enhance water quality	To improve air quality	To use natural resources prudently and reduce waste	To move towards greater health, wellbeing, safety, equality and inclusiveness within the community and for those visiting the area.	To maximise opportunities for people to live in suitable, decent and affordable homes	To strengthen and maintain a resilient local economy and the diversity and quality of employment opportunities for all sections of society	To improve the quality and range of accessible community services and facilities	To improve sustainable access across the area to homes, jobs and services
✓	Minor positive effect												
XX	Major negative effect												
X	Minor negative effect												
?	Uncertain effect												
0	Neutral Effect												
-	No relationship												
Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Policy													
Policy TRA1: Walking		✓✓	✓	✓	0	-	✓✓	✓	✓✓	-	-	✓	✓✓
Policy TRA2: Cycling		✓✓	✓	✓	0	-	✓✓	✓	✓✓	-	-	✓	✓✓
Policy TRA3: Alnwick Bus Station		✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	0	✓	-	✓	✓	✓✓
Policy TRA4: Transport Links		✓	0	✓	0	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓✓
<p>Summary: Given the nature of the modifications made to the policies, the assessment against the sustainability objectives remains the same. One exception to this is that Policy TRA4 is now considered to have a neutral effect in relation to sustainability objective 4 (previously uncertain) as the policy has removed the vague reference to links to the wider network. This enabled a more definitive assessment based on existing infrastructure.</p>													

Environment

	Sustainability Objectives											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
✓✓	Major positive effect											
✓	Minor positive effect											
XX	Major negative effect											
X	Minor negative effect											
?	Uncertain effect											
0	Neutral Effect											
-	No relationship											
Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Policy												
Policy ENV1	0	✓	✓	✓✓	0	0	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-
Policy ENV2	0	✓	-	✓✓	0	0	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-
Policy ENV4	0	✓	✓	✓✓	0	0	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
Policy ENV8	✓	✓	0	✓✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓
Policy ENV11	✓	0	-	-	0	✓	✓✓	0	0	0	-	-
<p>Summary: Overall, the policies set out within the environment chapter performed positively when assessed against the SEA objectives. The assessment of these modified policies remains the same as the previous assessment due to the nature of the modifications made. While Policies ENV4 and ENV8 have been the most extensively modified, the effects of the policies in terms of sustainability are considered to remain the same.</p>												

Heritage, Design and Culture

		Sustainability Objectives											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
✓✓	Major positive effect	To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation to and mitigation against its possible effects	To protect and enhance the local distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	To protect and enhance biodiversity, taking account of the wider ecological network	To protect and enhance water quality	To improve air quality	To use natural resources prudently and reduce waste	To move towards greater health, wellbeing, safety, equality and inclusiveness within the community and for those visiting the area.	To maximise opportunities for people to live in suitable, decent and affordable homes	To strengthen and maintain a resilient local economy and the diversity and quality of employment opportunities for all sections of society	To improve the quality and range of accessible community services and facilities	To improve sustainable access across the area to homes, jobs and services
✓	Minor positive effect												
XX	Major negative effect												
X	Minor negative effect												
?	Uncertain effect												
0	Neutral Effect												
-	No relationship												
Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Policy													
Policy HD4		0	✓✓	✓	0	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-
Policy HD5		0	✓✓	✓✓	0	-	-	✓	✓✓	✓	?	-	-
Policy HD6		0	✓✓	✓✓	0	-	-	0	✓	0	0	-	-
Policy HD7		0	✓✓	✓✓	0	-	-	✓	✓✓	✓	?	-	-
<p>Summary: Overall, the policies set out within the heritage, design and culture chapter performed positively when assessed against the SEA objectives. Due to the nature of the policies in this chapter, there is no relationship with a number of sustainability objectives. The assessment of these modified policies remains the same as the previous assessment due to the nature of the modifications made, with the exception of Policy HD6 which was assessed as having a neutral effect in relation to objectives four and seven where these had previously been uncertain.</p>													

Chapter 7: Next Steps

7.01 The publication of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Environmental Report allows statutory consultees, key stakeholders and those who made representations on the submission draft Plan the opportunity to comment on the contents of this Addendum to the Environmental Report.

7.03 Any comments relating to the content of this Addendum should be sent to Bill Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk to Alnwick Town Council:

Bill.Batey@btconnect.com or in writing to:

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